CHRISTMAS WEEK.

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On Deck XMAS WEEK

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Santa Claus' Headquarters Xmas Week.

—THE—

Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co.

418 WABASHA STREET.

FAST WITH MILLIONS.

ROBBED BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND DIED A TRAMP.

An Eldest Son Who Betrayed a Sacred Trust, and the Trouble He Caused.

The court calendar is a dry-looking, unromantic affair, but many are the tales of joy and of woe that are hidden in the single lines of its record, says the New York Press. One of a thousand of the interesting stories, replete with human interest, a Press man discovered the other day in the United States court calendar. It was the record of a case brought by one Henry C. Clapp against certain property holders in O'Brien county, Iowa. It appears on its face to be an action to recover 6,000 acres of land near Des Moines, Io., but in reality Mr. Clapp and his brothers and sisters claim that this land was never legally sold to the people who now occupy it. Their story of how it came into the possession of the hundreds of inhabitants in two towns which have been built on the land is a peculiar one, full of romance and tragedy.

One of New York's best known citizens thirty years ago was Hawley D. Clapp. Mr. Clapp was an enterprising business man, and was engaged in several enterprises. He made money fast. He put up the first $100,000 to build the Gilbert elevated railroad. Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Clapp were staunch friends for many years, and together they brought about the success of the first "L" road in the city.

Brought Gould to Terms.

When Jay Gould wanted the "L" roads of New York very badly he looked about for the stock that was held by numerous shareholders. He needed just 1,000 shares to give him control of the Gilbert "L" road. Mr. Clapp held these shares, and it is said he is the only man who ever brought Jay Gould down from his own price.

Mr. Clapp was lessee of the Rossmore hotel at Broadway and Forty-second street at the time. When Jay Gould called, he offered a bonus of $50,000 for the 1,000 shares he needed so badly.

"My price is $300,000," said Mr. Clapp, who knew when he had a good thing.

The Wizard of Wall street went away indignant and insulted. He declared it was robbery to ask such a price, forgetting the fact that he was planning at the time to rob Cyrus W. Field of $2,000,000.

But he returned again.

"I will give you $250,000, and not one penny more," said the financier.

"Mr. Gould, my price is $300,000."

Finally, after declaring that it was the worst case of robbery he had ever heard of, he paid Mr. Clapp $300,000 for the 1,000 shares, and this gave him the control of the "L" system of the city, or at least the portion of it he was after at that time. He later on performed his great juggling act with the Fields and their millions.

Mr. Clapp was a member of the board of education, one of the founders of the New York Steam Heating company, and at one time was reputed to be worth $5,000,000. He was in California way back in the fifties. On his way East he stopped at Des Moines, Io., at the time a small village. He was a great believer in the lands of Iowa, and before he left Des Moines he had secured 6,000 acres at a few dollars an acre. He kept his taxes paid up to the time of his death, in 1878.

Robbed by the Man He Trusted.

When Mr. Clapp died at the Rossmore hotel he left a fortune of a couple of millions of dollars at least. His eldest son, Robert Clapp, was appointed his sole executor. Then the trouble began for the rest of Mr. Clapp's family. Robert Clapp lost his head when he assumed control of the Clapp fortune. He soon became known as "Wine Bob" from his great extravagance in buying champagne. He branched out as a horseman and a man about town. Next came cards, and the Clapp fortune vanished all of a sudden along with the executor. When the courts came to look into the matter they found that the eldest son had robbed his brothers and sisters of their entire fortune. He had been keeping them misinformed for four years by paying them a handsome income, but it came out of the capital.

"Wine Bob" disappeared as completely as though the earth had swallowed him. He had sold real estate without the consent of the other heirs, and it was his bogus sale of the Iowa land that the other members of the Clapp family are now requesting the courts to annul. After the bogus sale of land by Robert Clapp, speculators took it in hand, and two towns have sprung up on the 6,000 acres. Today the land is valued at close to $2,000,000. It is needless to add that the townspeople who have built their little homes on the Clapp acres are watching the progress of the case in the courts with the greatest anxiety. They purchased their home sites in good faith, but it looks as though the title was worthless. Robert Clapp having sold the land without consulting the heirs, and forging their signatures to the deeds.

He Died a Tramp.

About six months ago came news of the executor who had betrayed his trust. He had become a tramp and had wandered from town to town in the West, homeless and shunned. While stealing a ride on the bumpers of a train in Southern California he was killed. Papers found on his person will furnish the contestants in the present action excellent proof of his wrongdoing in selling the land in Iowa without the consent or knowledge of his brothers and sisters. The lawyer who appears for Mrs. Henry C. Clapp in the suit is Robert V. Boyd, of No. 18 Wall street. He believes the courts will shortly decide in favor of the plaintiffs.

Ten years ago the name of "Wine Bob" was known in every haunt of the gay set of New York. Today he lies in an unmarked grave in the far West, having paid the penalty of going the pace.

UPSET

The Aeroplane Theory With the Picture of the Flying Bird.

New York World.

A beautiful theory was built up upon Mr. Maxim's duck, which has since been confirmed by Prof. Langley, of Washington, who has watched the flight of a goose.

This theory, in short, was that birds do not fly. It is a wonder that nobody ever thought of this before, and the flying machine men who have been making machines with huge wings in imitation of the bird have been shown to be on the wrong track.

Mr. Maxim's machine, which cost $25,000, and upon which he expects to be able to soar over land and sea, has no wings. Neither has it a gas bag. It is supposed to rise into the air on the aeroplane principle, being driven forward by an immense pair of propellers. The "planes" are big sheets set horizontally, and which cut into the air edgewise and sustain the machine by means of their immense resisting surface.

It has been supposed that birds similarly navigated the air. For hours at a time Mr. Maxim says he has observed birds floating about in the upper atmosphere without a perceptible movement of the wings. If these birds were able to travel at such great speed without flapping their wings, it was apparent that they were sailing on their wings, which they merely kept outstretched in order to prevent them from falling down. This beautiful theory seemed plausible and reasonable.

But now along comes a man with an instantaneous camera and takes a snap shot of an albatross which was accompanying a steamer in the Pacific ocean. The photograph upsets the aeroplane theory. It shows that the albatross had a distinct up-and-down movement of its wings, and that it apparently sustained itself in the air by flapping its wings, the downward thrust of which sufficed to raise the weight of its great body.

Thus the albatross in moving upward in the air does so like a man going up stairs. Every flap of its immense wings raises it just so much. The snap shot camera caught the bird just as its wings had reached the highest point and before the downward thrust began. The plate shows that the wings were extended almost vertically, while the position of the body was horizontal.

Undoubtedly the albatross does use his wings as aeroplanes, but the question is now raised if a flying machine can succeed which is built of the aeroplane principle alone. The bird seems to combine the aeroplane principle with that of a motor for raising itself by its wings.

The flying machines which are now in fashion among up-to-date inventors rely altogether upon aeroplanes, as before they relied upon gas bags, but photography has come to their aid with a distinct contribution to the subject. It is supposed that the action of the wings of an albatross is so rapid that, like the horse in running, all the movements cannot be seen by the naked eye, and that only photography will disclose every attitude taken in its flight.

The Lorgnette.

The girl whose eyes are as bright as stars should not be expected to wear a lorgnette, but she does. She wears one of silver or steel, if she is moderately poor; of gold if she is wealthy. These gold lorgnettes are studded with jewels, and often have miniatures painted on them. One seen recently was of plain gold without carving of any kind. In one end the owner's monogram was placed, all in tiny rubies, set off admirably by the plain background. The chain which was fastened to the gorgeous affair was strung with rubies at intervals of five inches. The lorgnette cost $150 and the chain $75.

Complete Your Series.

We now have the complete set of "Queer People;" 500 pictures, printed in colors. Interesting and instructive. Eight parts; 10 cents per part. GLOBE, St. Paul; Herald, Wabasha; News, Zumbrota; Journal, Stillwater.

Through a Bayou.

Chicago Record.

"Hello, Stinson," said his caller, "what in thunder are you putting on those rubber boots for? Going off hunting?"

"No," said the Chicago resident, pointing out of the window after having pulled a boot leg up to his hip. "I am just going to run across the street."

THE GLOBE'S LABOR FORUM.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES COUNCIL ST. PAUL

SWITCH INSPECTION.

Review of the Work Done by the Labor Bureau.

The legislature of 1887 enacted a law requiring all railways in Minnesota to guard the frogs, switches and guard rails in the yard so as to thoroughly protect and prevent the feet of employes and other persons from being caught therein. A severe penalty was imposed for failure so to block and protect all these places in railroad yards. After several years' trial of the law the railway employes in 1893 asked to have the bureau of labor authorized to inspect and look after the condition of those switches. So fully was the need of inspection established that all factory acts passed in the United States have provided for inspection to enforce them. But no such authority was created in Minnesota. In 1893 the railroad employes, in asking for inspection on railways, declared that the law was not properly observed. To meet the requests of these employes the bureau of labor was authorized to have its factory inspectors inspect railroad switches as well as factories. The bureau of labor, after a year and a half of work along the line contemplated by the law of 1893, has tabulated the results of its work in that department. A steady improvement has been noticed for the whole of the two-year period.

In making the first round of the yards in the principal cities of the state, covering a period of about a year, 22,836 guard blocks, or places where such blocks should be placed, were inspected. Of that number 15,800, or 70 per cent, were reported in good condition; 3,728, or 17 per cent, in fair condition; 1,880, or 8 per cent, in bad condition, and 1,434, or 7 per cent, not blocked. The first inspection of the Chicago & Milwaukee yards in Stillwater showed of 216 blocks inspected only 48 good, 152 fair and 16 bad. At the first inspection of the Omaha yards at Duluth of 296 blocks inspected there were none good, 160 fair, 128 bad and 8 missing. Duluth & Iron Range at Tower showed at first of 288 blocks inspected, 64 good, 139 fair, 30 bad and 55 missing.

At the last inspection made, which covered some yards not previously visited and omitted, and some that were covered by the first inspection, 16,188 blocks were inspected, of which 14,232, or 88 per cent, were good; 1,080, or 7 per cent, fair; 682, or 4 per cent, bad, and 194, or 1 per cent, missing. During this inspection a steady improvement was shown, the Minnesota Transfer company having 849 blocks inspected, of which 810 were good, 31 fair, and only 8 bad, and none wanting; the Minneapolis Union Depot company, 205 inspected, 196 good, 9 fair, and none bad or missing; the St. Paul Union Depot company, 238 inspected, 236 good, and 2 missing.

Up to a recent date none of the railroads have constructed guards at the points of the switches. A recent device seems to obviate this risk. It has been just introduced by the Milwaukee and Omaha roads. So soon as it has had a fair trial and shows its ability to guard that point of the switch, and not endanger derailing of trains, it will be called to the attention of all roads in the state, and its adoption universally secured.

The steady improvement noted on all the railroads of the state with reference to the switch guards demonstrates the wisdom of the last legislature in authorizing their regular inspection. It should be added that Minnesota is the only state that thus inspects railroad yards.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

Japan had but one newspaper twenty-five years ago. Now it has 2,600.

It is estimated that English shops can turn out 6,400 locomotives a year.

The falling off in wages this last year, in round numbers, was $1,000,000,000.

A Hartford man has invented a new electric motor, which he claims will run over 160 miles an hour.

The American Society of Photo-Engravers has been granted a charter by the International Typographical union. This is intended to bring in the art rooms of the newspapers throughout the country.

NEWS AND NOTES.

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the trades and labor assembly was held Friday evening at Labor hall. Very little business of a public nature came before the assembly. Delegates were admitted from the typographical and musicians' unions. The grievance committee reported no trouble of any kind on hand. The condition of trade, as returned by the various unions, showed 17 fair, 5 good, 4 dull. John R. Kreigher, James A. McDaniel and John C. Stuhlman were elected delegates to the state federation. The special committee having in charge the investigation of married women teaching in the public schools reported progress, and further time was granted to complete the report. The finances of the assembly are in good shape, and its internal workings are of the most harmonious character. The new constitution having been indorsed by the majority of unions, will be confirmed and ordered printed at the next meeting. The assembly decided to extend an invitation to John Burns to visit St. Paul, and one has been forwarded to the distinguished English visitor.

The cigarmakers held a very interesting meeting Thursday evening. Frank Hoffman and Ernest Seidlitz were elected delegates to the state federation. The condition of trade was reported as improving, and the outlook for the future is far from discouraging. The report to the International union showed that the sum of $152 had been paid for out-of-work benefits during the past month.

The action of the American Federation in adopting the International Typographical union plank in reference to land monopoly, as a substitute for the original federation plank, was highly complimentary to the printers. The plank adopted by the printers and indorsed by the federation is as follows: "The abolition of the monopoly system of land holding, and substituting therefor a title of occupancy and use only." It was also complimentary to the printers to know that W. B. Prescott, president of the international union, was most prominently mentioned as an opponent to President Gompers. Mr. Prescott declined to stand as a candidate.

At the regular meeting of the barbers Monday night Gus Becker was nominated for president. The election will be held at the next meeting. A resolution was passed conveying the thanks of the union to all those who helped make the convention of the International union the success it certainly was.

The tailors held a regular meeting Monday evening, at which Ambrose Bill, the well known hustler, was elected president. Notwithstanding discouraging circumstances and conditions the tailors are sanguine and aggressive.

The retail clerks nominated officers at their last meeting and elected W. J. Thone delegate to the state federation.

The just claims of employer and employe, under the present system and condition of things, are not satisfied. Wages and interest are decreased by the expenses of national, state and local government, while economic rent, increased by land monopoly, goes to private individuals who are in no degree factors in production. Economic rent is covered by the fiction of apartment or building "rent," just as indirect taxes are hidden under the term "cost." Labor and capital are both defrauded, thus perpetuating the struggle of the workingman against starvation, and of the employer against bankruptcy.

The degree team of Modern Woodmen hold a practice at Labor hall tomorrow evening. This team will confer the degrees before the delegates to the state convention Wednesday evening, Dec. 26.

The musical and literary entertainment and social hop to be given by the co-operative hall board at Labor hall next Friday evening gives promise of being a splendid success. Admission will be 25 cents, and a large number of tickets have been sold.

An entertainment and ball will be given by the Scandinavian and German sections of the Socialist Labor party of St. Paul at Arion hall, 71 West Third street, Sunday, Dec. 30, at 2 p. m.

There is a movement on foot to amalgamate the Brotherhood of Bookbinders with the International Typographical union bookbinders' union. The executive council of the brotherhood has issued a circular to the various unions calling for propositions on the question. The St. Paul union has appointed a committee to comply with the request of the executive council.

Meetings will be held at Labor hall during the week as follows:

Sunday—Locomotive Engineers, Division No. 150; firemen's protective union.

Tuesday—Carpenters, brotherhood of railway car men.

Wednesday—Tin, sheet iron and cornice workers.

Thursday—Bricklayers.

Friday—Journeymen horseshoers, boot and shoemakers, A. R. U. No. 180.

Saturday—Brewery workers and bakers.

The Minnesota State Federation of Labor will convene at St. Cloud this morning at 10 o'clock. The work before the convention will relate principally to the drafting of laws and recommendations concerning those now existing, to present to the coming session of the legislature. The personal liberty law, the child labor law, factory inspection law, union label law and others will receive consideration, and amendments suggested to the lawmakers whereby these enactments will be more effective than at present. The federation will also take up the question of a more perfect organization.

The meeting of the American Federation of Labor was the most important happening in the labor world during the past week. The presence of the distinguished English labor leader, John Burns, and the important events of the past summer in connection with organized labor, made the meeting of more than usual interest. The declarations, resolutions and political platform of the convention should meet with careful consideration. They are the outcome of the best thought of those interested in the emancipation of the wage-earner. The deliberations of the convention will no doubt inspire thought and stimulate action in the rank and file of those affiliated with the federation, and much good will no doubt result. It is impossible to give a summary of the work of the convention in this department today, but further attention will be given the matter next Sunday.

The conviction of Debs and other officials of the A. R. U. is another lesson to every workingman who has brains enough to think. That it will be the means of increasing interest in independent thought and action, there can be no doubt. Labor is slow to learn—loth to change from its beaten path—but events similar to the great strike of last summer and the sequel that follows by Judge Woods sentencing Debs to six months in jail for violating an injunction proceeding, rattle the dry bones and break the step of the most "conservative"—if not stupid—wage earner. Without going into the merits of the case in detail, it is defensible to assert that Debs violated no legal injunction. The proceeding of Judge Woods' court was of a grape-vine order when he enjoined the officers of the A. R. U. under the existing laws. His action smacks more of a personal ruling than a legal one, to say nothing of a just one. Again, if Debs was guilty of violating a legal injunction, and thereby responsible for the bloodshed and destruction of property which followed, which Judge Woods implies he was, why the light sentence of six months? If he was justly guilty he should have been severely punished. The sentence is an acknowledgment in itself that no actual guilt exists. It is justifiable to assert that Judge Woods made up his mind, irrespective of supporting legal right, to punish Debs because certain events transpired last summer. Not to attach the blame to any one other than the General Managers' association was in his mind, no doubt, a menace to our institutions. Labor gains by this decision of Judge Woods, and no doubt the patriotic and brilliant Debs will serve out his time with cheerfulness, full of the knowledge that his incarceration will be a daily lesson to the "free" toilers of the country—that it will teach them to regard justice with greater reverence than courts—and when this is done a change for the better will be wrought.

The meeting of the Barbers' International union in St. Paul will result in benefit to the local union. The prominence given to the convention's doings and the demonstration made by the trades and labor assembly, together with the general hustling and bustling around of the entertainment committee, all helped to advertise the local union, and of course to create inquiry as to its age, strength and objects. The opportunity to answer questions concerning the barbers' union naturally afforded a chance to tell of its aspirations and purposes, and thereupon to win friends and sympathizers, for who is not interested in his fellow citizen getting a fair wage, working reasonably short hours, and in the suppression of Sunday work? The election of M. E. Murray to the presidency of the international union was very gratifying to his host of friends, and was a wise action of the convention. Mr. Murray possesses the necessary ability to fully and satisfactorily discharge the duties of the office, and is energetic, faithful and honest.

The city council of Philadelphia has adopted a provision requiring that all bids to be considered for city printing must be from only those parties paying the scale of wages adopted by the Philadelphia Typographical union. Here is a tip for the various St. Paul unions when there is a public work to be given out in which their members are affected.

Carpenters' Union No. 87 held a very enthusiastic meeting Tuesday evening. Ten new members were initiated and more are to follow. Another meeting will be held next Tuesday evening. It is the intention of the Carpenters' union to have every competent workman within its ranks before next season's work begins, and it looks as though it would succeed. A general invitation is extended to all carpenters to attend the meeting next Tuesday evening at Labor hall.

The Boston Herald has always during its existence consistently maintained that under natural conditions there should be no contention between labor and capital. It has asserted the identity of their interests by adopting for a time the "profit-sharing" plan of compensation, which demonstrated the fairness of the wages received by its employes. The Herald some years ago recognized the theoretical accuracy of Mr. George's political economy, and still proclaims that labor and capital should take up the fight against land monopoly. The immense capital and business of the Herald, and its firm belief in the right and propriety of labor to organize have a score of times proved an essential condition to the existence of the Boston typographical union.

The trades-union movement is ever pressing onward and upward, and the workers are massed together in the union of their trades. The progress made may not be as accelerated as we may wish, but it is advancing and moving forward in exactly the same ratio that the intelligence of our fellow-workers will admit, and though the day may be somewhat distant, we are surely nearing it when the humanizing influences of the trades-union movement shall be fully recognized, and for the ethics of industry, society and the state.—Federationist.

During his stay in America, John Burns, the English labor leader and member of parliament, will deliver addresses at the following places at the dates affixed: Omaha, Dec. 17; Chicago, Dec. 19; St. Louis, Dec. 21; Indianapolis, Dec. 22; Cincinnati, Dec. 23; Nelsonville, O., Dec. 24; Detroit, Dec. 25; Cleveland, Dec. 26; Pittsburg, Dec. 27; Washington, Dec. 29 and 30; Philadelphia, Dec. 31; Boston, Jan. 2.

The carpenters' union, at its meeting Tuesday evening last, had an animated discussion of the land question, and also of taxation. Various members related experiences going to show that, while land depreciates in value, taxes continue to go up, making it almost impossible for a wage earner to possess a home of his own. In the discussion of trade matters it was shown that a large majority of contractors have no objection to the carpenters organizing, and some express themselves decidedly in favor of the union's idea of a uniform number of hours and wages.

Terre Haute loses the headquarters of the Brotherhood of Firemen, which it has held for so many years. The grand trustees decided to remove the headquarters to Peoria, Ill. Eighteen cities competed for the honor, and the trustees visited most of them. The bid of Peoria was considered the most favorable, and was accepted chiefly on account of the low rent offered, which is practically free, and because the bid for printing the firemen's magazine was low. The change will be made as soon after Jan. 1 as possible, and the headquarters will remain at Peoria at least for a term of five years, as the bid was made on that basis.

INDUSTRIAL NOTATIONS.

Europe has 51,801 breweries.

Fairland, Ind., hasn't a saloon.

Vanderbilt has a $15,000 piano.

Michigan federation meets Dec. 4.

Topeka switchmen have organized.

Brooklyn bartenders are organized.

Cincinnati has a German press club.

England has Chinese house servants.

Australia uses American ax handles.

Louisville has a terpsichorean union.

There are 6,000 union longshore men.

New York Hebrew hatters organized.

St. Louis has a business men's league.

Nashville Times printers won a strike.

Cincinnati horseshoers work ten hours.

New York has a Hebrew bakers' union.

'Frisco seamen won advance in wages.

St. Louis has an electric car ambulance.

Des Moines unions held a mass meeting.

Nashville colored teachers are organized.

Cincinnati carpenters gets from $2 to $3 a day.

Cincinnati gas fitters get from $3 to $4 a day.

Connecticut jewelers have a state association.

Tacoma Union is run on the co-operative plan.

New York suspender makers are reorganizing.

Savannah has a negro longshoremen's union.

Cleveland bakers run an employment bureau.

Winchester (Mass.) has a $500,000 mausoleum.

St. Louis women shoeworkers have formed a union.

Maple cordwood is $4 a cord at Green Bay, Wis.

American Railway union is gaining ground in the East.

The Sicilian authorities are allotting land to laborers.

Nickel barber shops are multiplying at Kansas City.

International cigarmakers have a surplus of $450,000.

Manistee, Mich., pays $6.50 a ton for anthracite coal.

Mexican cattle are being shipped to the United States.

The Yale Union and Kent clubs debated the single tax.

Thirty per cent of the union molders of Cleveland, O., are idle.

Spokane unions are fighting the American Protective association.

Detroit hackmen have forced the bus owners to take out licenses.

Brooklyn cigarmakers say union men are not buying union cigars.

New Hampshire central labor unions have formed a state association.

San Jose, Cal., will vote upon the question of closing saloons Sunday.

Portland, Or., miners struck for the reinstatement of a union man.

The government of New South Wales is loaning money at 5 per cent.

The government of Victoria owns and operates the railroads in the colony.

Employes of the United States Glass company have been on strike eighteen months.

Canada offers big inducements to Norwegian colonists to settle in the Northwest.

Cincinnati barbers are allowed 40 per cent commission, or salaries of from $10 to $15 a week.

The Cooks and Pastry Cooks' Association of New York has nearly 200 members and a fund of $8,000.

The Cloakmakers' union and the United Hebrew Trades of New York have settled their differences.

At Detroit seven of the labor candidates were successful in getting an indorsement from the old parties.

Prison-made goods brought into New York state need not be branded "Convict-Made," according to the decision of an Elmira judge.

DIGGING FOR SMELT.

Queer Experience of a Visitor to the Maine Shore.

Boston Journal.

"I have just returned from a little trip to the Maine shore," remarked a Boston sportsman. "About a week ago I found myself at Ogunquit, a quiet little place about thirty miles this side of Portland. It was a dirty, misty day, and, as there was nothing going on at the hotel, I slipped into a mackintosh and strolled down to the beach, where the surf was pounding in with terrific din. The tide was at lowest ebb, and so I had quite a long walk to reach the water's edge. For a while I watched the breakers rolling over each other, and then I started for a little walk along the sand, but a few feet from the water.

"Presently I was surprised on looking around to find a number of very small and almost transparent fish, which I took to be young smelt, writhing about in the water, and near the tracks I had left in the soft sand. At first I thought they had been washed up by the surf, but in a moment I noticed that this could not have been possibly, for the water had not reached so high a mark on the beach.

"I was much puzzled by the phenomenon, and a possible solution of the mystery was not suggested to me until one of the little smelts which I had picked up and held in my hand dropped to the ground and disappeared as if he had melted. More curious still, I began searching for him, but he was nowhere in sight. Then I began prodding the sand with my stick, and the next thing I knew had literally unearthed my little fish, or one exactly like him.

"By digging in the sand I had turned up in walking I discovered another. It seemed they had actually been buried, and to prove it I made a little hole with my finger at a smooth and undisturbed spot and thrust the head of one of the two smelts in it. With a twist and a squirm he disappeared. I dug him up fully two inches away. Still I was not quite satisfied, so I went to a spot a rod or more away and there I turned up more of the little smelts. The sand was very soft and by digging down three or four inches I found it so wet as to be but little more solid than some thick liquid. On the whole though, it struck me as being a very strange discovery, as I had never heard of such a thing before, and I spent an hour or more digging three-inch fishes out of the ground."

BAROMETER

That Gives a Sure Sign as to the Crooked Population.

Chicago Record.

It has come to be pretty well understood in the police department that the first cold snap of winter will demonstrate whether much trouble is to be anticipated from sandbaggers and highway robbers.

Many a tramp becomes a desperado when he finds himself penniless in the streets on a cold night. When there is a great amount of want and misery in the city the sudden advent of cold weather is sure to produce what is annually called an epidemic of crime.

The recent cold snap was not attended by any large number of crimes, and indications are that the number of loose and worthless characters in Chicago has greatly decreased during the last year. The lodging house vote in the First and Eighteenth wards showed a great decrease over one year ago, and up to date there has not been the usual number of "footpad" cases reported to the police. There is reason to believe that the city will be under better control during November and December than it has been of late years. As a rule, by the end of December the "crooks" have either been run out of town, sent to the bridewell or permanently established in winter quarters. So long as they have soup and a place to sleep they are not ordinarily dangerous.

Not Only Offers, But Invites

The return for exchange or refund of money on all or any goods purchased, and with the greatest freedom. What other store but the "Plymouth" will do this on Holiday Goods? "Plymouth Corner," Seventh and Robert.

A Quaint German Custom.

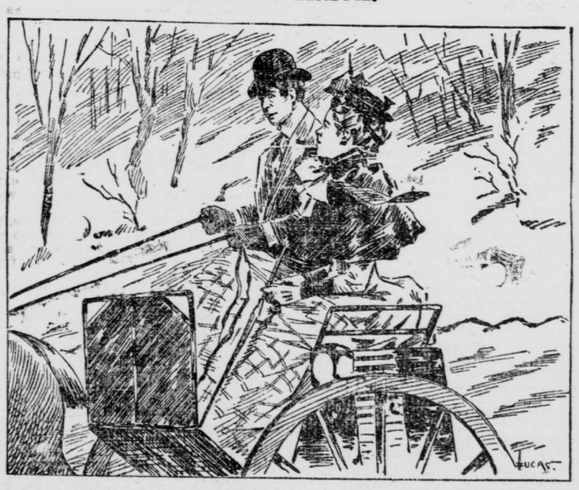
As soon as she is able to run about, each daughter of a German farmer's family is presented with a linen bag, marked with her own name, into which she puts all the feathers she can pick up. Not the slightest downy bit escapes her, and the sooner the bag is filled the greater praise shegets from her parents. The bag being full, it is emptied into a larger one which hangs in the garret or elsewhere, and when there are feathers enough they are made into pillows or bolsters, or beds, or cushions for easy chairs. We waste a great deal in this country. Although we do not keep so many geese as Germans keep, chicken feathers are plentifully strewn about most farms and make good beds.

Egg Tongs.

Hardware.

A useful article for placing an egg in a saucepan, or taking it out, called the "grip" egg tongs, is being brought out in England. It consists of two parallel grips attached to a wire holder, which can be grasped by the fingers, and thus the egg can be safely handled without burning the hand.

ANOTHER TRACK.



Lou—You know that plug-ugly of a horse I sold the other day for $10?

Sue—Yes, what of him?

Lou—He's on the track now.

Sue—What's his time?

Lou—Forty minutes to the mile. It's a car track.

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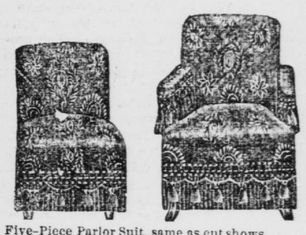

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THE MATINEE KISS.

GIRLS AND THEATER OSCULATION DISCUSSED.

Cynics Think the More They Dislike Each Other the More Fervid the Embrace.

There isn't much that men don' know as to the way in which men kiss girls, says the New York Herald. What they never stop to consider is how girls kiss girls. If you stand outside a New York theater after a matinee and watch the young women saying adieu to each other, you will see every variety of osculation known to connoisseurs. The less they like each other the warmer is the salute, cynics say.

"Mamie and I never did care for one another very much," says a young woman to another, "but it's worse since I got my new cape. The things she's been saying about me are just as horrid as they can be. Why, Mamie!" she exclaims, as she sights a girl just ahead of her, "is that you, dear?" Then they fall upon each other's shoulders and kiss.

It is a matinee kiss, and it doesn't count.

When girls come out of the theaters where tragedy has been played, and where the stage has been left littered with corpses, stiff and stark in their gray and white make-up, there is something a little hysterical in their kiss. The women who have just left the grewsome dead house like to feel the pressure of a warm cheek against their warm lips. It shows them that there is at least something left alive after the fiery onslaughts that the tragedian has been making with his broadsword and dagger upon helpless humanity. They grab each other wildly, and sometimes there are three or four kisses exchanged before they let go to wipe out the chilly feeling caused by the cadavers they have just seen.

"He looked at me twice," said a little pink and white idiot in a pretty bonnet to another girl from whom she was parting. She is speaking about the dignified tenor in the well-fitting tights, whose wife and eight children are at home, wondering if father will bring them home a pocketful of nice things from the free lunch counter for their Thanksgiving. "He looked at me twice. I'm sure he was thinking about me when he sang that serenade." Then the girls kiss. It is a little ecstatic; just about the way in which the pink and white idiot thinks she might kiss the tenor after their engagement had been ratified by the stern, but ultimately forgiving parents of the twain.

That's a matinee kiss, too. It doesn't count, either. They never do, or rarely. Women don't waste kisses that are any good upon other women, it has been said, but perhaps that is too strong.

Matinee women have a right, if they care to kiss, to do so until they are black in the face. There is nothing in constitution, statute or common law prohibiting it. But that isn't any reason why they should block up the gangway while they are doing it. Their favorite standing place while administering their farewell salutes is right in the doorway. There ought to be special exits for men attending the theater alone, or with their wives, and who consequently haven't any one to kiss. Then the feminine kissers could encumber the other exits as much as they pleased.

"I'm so glad, dear, we saw that play," says Mrs. Lipz to Mrs. Phace—kiss—"I'd always wanted"—kiss—"to see it"—kiss. "Isn't he perfectly lovely?"—kiss.

"Yes, dear"—kiss—"give my love to the children"—kiss.

An Exasperating Practice.

And all the while half a hundred angry men are waiting their turn—not for a kiss, but to climb out of the theater in some way or other. But they have to wait. Matinee kisses can't be dispensed with because a lot of mere men want to scramble out and run to their offices for a few moments to have a last dab at some unfinished business.

Note how the chronic old maid—she has seen forty-five summers—doses some young miss with a last long, lingering salute, which the young miss thinks she could do very well without. But the old maid has to kiss some one or something after the sentimental play has aroused her weaker emotions and made her potato chip of a heart moisten and swell out. Not having her dog there, she has to kiss the nearest object, just as a gouty man subject to spells of temper buys a lay figure, has the face painted to resemble some pet enemy, and then kicks pieces off it every time he feels mad. One kisses and the other kicks.

"What do I think of the matinee kiss?" repeated the manager. "Well, I don't hesitate to say that it is the apotheosis of feminine depravity."

"How do you spell apotheosis and what does it mean?"

"Never you mind how I spell apotheosis," growled the manager savagely, "and never mind what it means. What I mean is that it is the perfection of hypocrisy. Even if they do feel slobbery and maudlin after the show, they ought not to make it a pretext for hugging and kissing each other.

"The more kissing there is in the play the more there is outside the doors after it is over. I suppose it's catching, like all bad habits. Some of 'em kiss each other to see if each other have been drinking, and then they go away and talk about it. Bah! Just look at that mob out there."

Kissing Bee On.

The matinee was just over and the kissing bee was on. There they were all pecking away at each other's faces, generally hitting the target that they aimed for. Smack! Smack! Smack! It seemed as if the little explosions would never cease.

"I call it pretty," said a box office man, who is young and sanguine that every seat he sells is on the aisle. "See how they bill and coo, like so many doves. It is one of the privileges of the theatrical profession to see the matinee kissing matches. Of course they mean it, or they wouldn't do it. Perhaps they could find some better material to practice on, though," and he looked a little self-conscious.

This is the correct way to give the matinee kiss: Jenny, on seeing Emma, rushes up, grins furiously, grabs Emma's hand and holds it up almost as high as her chin, and then administers the salute. Both smile as if they were never so happy before in their lives. Sometimes, while the kiss is being delivered, the left hand rests on the other one's shoulder or is placed around the neck. Nothing is said but "Oh! Jenny!" and "Oh! Em-ma!" The words come out like escaping steam.

On parting after the show the same sort of a performance is repeated.

Sometimes when girls part after the matinee they don't kiss at all. Neither do they kiss on meeting at the theater doors before the matinee.

But that is when they are real friends.

Cheerless.

Washington Star.

"This government is going to the dogs," he remarked with a sob that could not have been otherwise than genuine.

"Oh, I shouldn't say that. Every nation has its periods of unrest."

"Yes, but this ain't any period. This is an exclamation point."

A Grave Doubt Dispelled.

Atlanta Constitution.

"Look here, what's all this talk erbout 'ballot reform?' Anything in it?"

"Reckon there is."

"Don't mean prohibition does it?"

"Oh, no!"

"Well, that's all right. Here, John roll in another barrel o' licker an' open the polls?"

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The Strain Too Much for Her.

New York Press.

"Scribbler's wife has become insane."

"By Jove, I'm not surprised!"

"Why not?"

"The last time I saw him he was writing the libretto of a comic opera. I'll bet he has been reading it to her."

In Society.

Detroit Free Press.

Jane—Are you going to have a good time this winter?

Kittie—I'm afraid not. Fred insists on announcing our engagement.

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