THE ARGUS.

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By THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL COUNCIL TRI CITY

Monday, Dec. 17, 1906.

Improve the track facilities in the lower end and the factories will come.

Government officials claim there are competing lines in E. H. Harriman's system. If E. H. finds 'em he'll spank 'em real hard for competing. What's the use of a system if there's competition?

Grover Cleveland has been suffering for a week from indigestion. One of the sad things about it is that when a man of Mr. Cleveland's build complains that his food doesn't agree with him he never succeeds in arousing much sympathy.

The Washington Star says there is "no use in getting excited over what congress may do." Nobody is likely to get much excited over what congress may do this winter—that is unless "Uncle Joe" shall stand up some morning and insist on an immediate revision of the tariff.

Governor Pennypacker of Pennsylvania objects to the term "executive department" as applied to the office of the governor. He regards it as not in keeping with the dignity of the office. It is Governor Pennypacker's contention that as his office is at the head of the state government it is entitled to distinction over the mere "departments," of which there are now so many.

Senator Blackburn and some other southern statesmen have been hearing of 'possum hunts near Washington almost within shadow of the capitol dome. They think of organizing a foray in that vicinity and may be expected to slip into the woods a short way up the Potomac almost any time. Complaint is made that it is practically impossible to get this delicacy in the Washington market.

Congressman Frank O. Lowden has put himself down in the congressional directory as a farmer. An eastern colleague asked him how an Illinois farmer spent his time. Mr. Lowden replied that he got up about 8 a. m., had a light breakfast, smoked a cigar and then until noon dictated letters to his stenographer and then——. At that point his hearer decided that he would like the calm joys of a rural life without any more particulars and that if there were any more farm jobs of just that sort he would take one.

This is to be a rather slow week in congress, for only six special messages are scheduled by the president. There was a time when one a month was more than enough, but we are advised that later they may come 16 a week. In explanation that we are to have but six this week it should be stated that congress likely will adjourn for the holidays about Thursday. It is a short legislative week, and the president can be depended on to do better than six specials the first time he gets a full week's sweep at them.

A Cheap Christmas Dinner.

A North Dakota woman has planned a good Christmas dinner within the reach of almost any family for the small sum of $1.25. Following is the menue:

Roast Pork, Brown Gravy,
Mashed Potatoes Baked Parsnips
Apple Cobbler, Cinnamon Sauce
Bread Butter Coffee

The cost of the several items is figured as follows: Meat, 30c; butter, 30c; lard, 10c; flour, 15c; sugar, 10c; apples, 10c; coffee, 5c; parsnips, 10c; potatoes, 5c. Such a menu would be both practicable and palatable.

Ready for Christmas.

These are days of preparation for Christmas. Unfortunately the pleasure to many that Christmas preparation should naturally bring, is marred by customs more or less mercenary. But custom should not be carried to extremes. It is not necessary that in this whirlwind Christmas shopping season you should feel compelled to buy more presents than you can afford. It is not essential that you should seek to bestow upon a friend or relative some present sure to be more valuable than you will receive in return. It is not proper to buy more than you can pay for; to go so deep into debt that you can't get out, or to rob yourself of the Christmas satisfaction every individual should enjoy.

The exchange of presents is merely in keeping with the spirit of the happy Christmas season—the season of love and charity. Proper appreciation of the event Christmas commemorates should be the most effective inspiration for proper Christmas observance. Such thought should stay excesses, prevent abuses of the happy Christmas customs, and bring the real happiness Christmas should bring and does bring to all who properly observe the festal season.

Christmas is but a few days hence. These happy holiday days can be and are made most supremely happy by their proper observance — honest Christmas effort to make others happy.

People Can't Get Coal.

The interstate commerce commission has sent an urgent request to managers of railroads in the northwest to get coal to suffering patrons along their lines. People are in cold storage in the Dakotas and in northern Wisconsin because they are out of coal and the railroads do not deliver any more. In some cities light plants have had to shut down because a supply of coal could not be had. This latter might not be considered an unmixed catastrophe by the administration in Rock Island, but the people in cities in the northwest feel differently about the matter, for they have the price.

Among the railroads that have received this urgent request from the interstate commission several are noted that are under the control of James J. Hill, the world's greatest railroad genius. We are pained to learn that Mr. Hill should be caught in such company as this, he at least was thought to be one man who could do better than that.

The answer is that the railroads have not the cars to handle the coal. It is an entirely insufficient answer. They should have the cars. Either get cars and tracks to do the business, or turn it over to some one who can and will. Mr. Hill knows better.

You can depend on it there is another chapter in this matter and that it will develop in a mighty short time. At what price does this coal sell after it gets to a town where it is badly needed? It may be worth while to consider that when Jim Hill Seemingly goes mad we are justified in suspecting there is method in his work.

A DISTANT BELFRY.

English Church With a Bell Tower Half a Mile Away.

It is generally supposed that the village church of East Bergholt, Suffolk, is the only one in England which possesses an entirely distinct building for its belfry. The bells of this church are hung in a shed many yards away from the church and are worked from above instead of from beneath.

The church of Warmsworth, however, a village situated about two miles from Doncaster, can boast of a belfry which is about half a mile away from the church. As the crow flies the distance between church and belfry, which is known as Bell Tower, is 2,350 feet, the distance by road being about half a mile.

The belfry is by no means a makeshift building. The tower, in fact, is said to date back to the twelfth century, and the reason of its isolation forms a rather curious story. The church was originally built on its present site to accommodate the villagers of both Warmsworth and Balby, the latter village being half a mile from the former.

The tower was then placed in Warmsworth in order that the parishioners might hear the bell, which stops ringing a quarter of an hour before the service in order to enable the bell ringer to get to the church in time.—London Strand.

The Liberty Bell.

The famous Liberty bell, which has been much exhibited and written about, was originally cast in London, for the English government restricted the industries in the American colonies to such an extent that there was no place on this side of the Atlantic where such a bell could be made. The bell's weight was 2,080 pounds. It arrived in Philadelphia in 1752. When hung up and being tried for sound, "it was cracked by a stroke of the clapper without any other violence." It was recast in Philadelphia and this prophetic motto inscribed:

"Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof."

When the British threatened the city this bell, together with those belonging to Christ church and St. Peter's, eleven in all, were taken to Allentown, Pa., to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemies. When the war ended the bell was hung again in the place whence it had rung out the news of the Declaration of Independence.

Water Cure for Constipation.

Half a pint of hot water taken half an hour before breakfast will usually keep the bowels regular. Harsh cathartics should be avoided. When a purgative is needed, take Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. They are mild and gentle in their action. For sale by all leading druggists.

DAILY STORY.

WOMAN'S DIPLOMACY.

[Original.]

Providence, who manages all things wisely and economically, wastes no talents on man for the management of woman. The wisdom of this course is that man needs no such talent until after marriage, and after marriage he has a wife to manage other women for him. The economy consists in the fact that men shall marry. A single man never appreciates the sensitiveness of the opposite sex. Woman hides her wounds, and man often stamps through her feelings with seven league boots.

An incident that occurred to me after my marriage taught me this, and since then I have invariably left the settlement of my differences with other women to my wife. I had passed middle life before marrying. I had met ladies, as other bachelors meet them, socially, but my club was my home, and I was never thrown into intimate association with any woman. But I considered myself sufficiently mild mannered and deferential to the softer sex for all ordinary social purposes. What wounds I had inflicted I did not know, nor was I conscious of having inflicted any.

The honeymoon over, my wife took me in training, and it soon became apparent that I needed a great deal of it. However, in about a year I supposed I was thoroughly educated. One day my wife informed me that her dearest friend, whom she had not seen since we had been married, was coming to visit her, and she was especially anxious that I should make a good impression. I resolved to be on my guard and put on my most affable and deferential manner.

The first evening of Miss Bland's arrival my wife, my sister and our guest sat down to a game of whist. I was of course assigned to play with Miss Bland. I got on swimmingly. I saw that my partner knew little of the game, and it gave me an opportunity to show my wife that I could pass her friend's mistakes without the slightest reference to them. I would probably have gone through the evening without trespassing on my partner's feelings had not she made a misplay that gave me an opportunity, as I thought, to make a brilliant strike in soothing her.

I had a fine long suit, all of which I could make if I could draw my opponents' trumps; but, having only four trumps myself, all depended upon my partner husbanding hers. My wife led a small spade, and I, desiring to get the lead, put on the king. When my partner played, the trick was mine. She trumped it. I winced, but said nothing. My partner's error gave our opponents the odd trick.

"I shouldn't have trumped your trick, should I?" said Miss Bland, reddening.

My wife explained to her that to trump one's partner's trick was not considered always the best course, but that in this case it didn't matter since we were playing for fun.

I didn't see the fun in playing that way, but refrained from comment.

"Now I think of it," said Miss Bland, much mortified, "somebody told me once that to trump one's partner's trick was the worst mistake a player can make."

My wife looked at me appealingly to say something to make my partner feel easier, and it was then I tried to soothe her.

"You only trumped my king. There is a worse thing than that," I said softly.

"What is it?" asked Miss Bland.

"To trump your partner's ace."

Miss Bland cast a quick glance at me, and I cast a glance at my wife, expecting to see approval in her face. I saw a frown.

There was an ominous tremor on Miss Bland's lip, and presently she arose, left the table and went upstairs.

"Now you've done it," said my wife as she left the room to follow her friend.

I walked up and down the floor cursing myself for a fool and wondering if my wife would be able to explain matters and get me out of the scrape. I also wondered how she would manage the diplomatic task. Of course she would tell Miss Bland—what else could she tell her?—that I had intended my remark to make her blunder seem less a blunder. But had I solely so intended it? Women are quick to see a slight, and perhaps Miss Bland might have detected a trace of sarcasm in my voice. "Thank heaven," I muttered, "it's woman against woman. I'm sure the more I excused myself the worse I would make the matter."

My wife returned, but without her friend.

"Well?" I asked eagerly.

"She's coming down presently, after she's got rid of the appearance of tears."

"Tears?"

"Of course. Do you suppose her feelings are sheet iron?" Then, seeing the pain she was inflicting on me, she added, "It's all right now."

"Did you tell her I intended"—

"Nonsense! I told her nothing of your intentions."

"What did you tell her?"

"Why, I told her that you had been a bachelor all your life, had lived at clubs and all that and hadn't been used to playing cards with women—in short, that"—

"I didn't now any better."

"Yes."

"And it made her feel all right?"

"Yes."

"My love," I exclaimed, folding her in an embrace, "you're a brick. You can beat me at diplomacy every time."

Miss Bland came down, and the game proceeded. She and I became fast friends. ALEXANDER ELY.

RAILWAY TIPS.

Holiday Rates.

Dec. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31, and Jan. 1 the Rock Island will sell round trip tickets at rate of fare and one-third to the following territory: All points in Arkansas, Indian Territory, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin, nearly all points in Illinois and to certain points in Colorado, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Tennessee and Wyoming. Return limit, Jan. 7, inclusive. In order to avoid delay at depot, it is suggested that those who can should purchase tickets at city office.

Additional Holiday Rates.

In addition to regular holiday rates, the Rock Island will sell round trip tickets at rate of fare and one-third to certain points in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Ontario, and Michigan. Dates of sale, Dec. 20, 21 and 22. Limit, 30 days. For full information, call at city ticket office.

The C. M. & St. Paul offers first class train service to Chicago and Kansas City, from the tri-cities, sleeping car reservations made to any point desired.

Homeseekers' Excursions.

To points on C. M. & St. P. railway, every Tuesday, April to December, 1906. Also to Alberta, Manitoba, Michigan, Minnesota, North and South Dakotas, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Wisconsin homeseekers' territory, every Tuesday rate: One first class limited fare plus $2 for the round trip. For further information call or phone any C. M. & St. P. ticket office. Both phones.

C. M. & St. P. Excursion Rates.

Homeseekers' tickets on sale the first and third Tuesday in each month to points in Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota and to other homeseekers' territory. For further information phone or call at any C. M. & St. P. office.

It's the unexpected that happens, but we generally bring it on ourselves.—Republic Monitor.