

THE ARGUS.

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Rock Island—From River to River

If a peppy disposition is what they like in Mexico, Mr. Carranza after all may be the boy to put in charge down there.

There ought to be a building boom in this country before long. We intend to have rooms to store all that wealth we are getting from Europe, you know.

Iowa suffragettes are asking farmers to contribute a couple of corn cobs for the support of their propaganda. A corned cause, so to speak, they propose making it.

Apparently there are Mexicans who think they can do in Texas what Americans and whom their state was part of the southern republic—strip up an elective revolt. As a general proposition, it is a poor risk that will not work both ways, but those deluded Mexicans will find that this is an exception.

With a degree of hilarity which is almost universal, in view of the constitution of the victim, the Burlington Gazette sprays this "Without resorting to slang, we should say that a casual glimpse of the Tribune-Kaw language would indicate that the chief is on the blips. This does have it and it is so ordered."

With Colonel Gordon's gubernatorial boom reported to be already bearing fruit, it would seem that there is not much incentive for other republican aspirants to plow the ground preparatory to planting their. It is suspected that the colonel has enjoyed certain hospitable facilities which are beyond the reach of the common herd of candidates.

Statisticians estimate that \$5,500,000 has been clipped off the high cost of living by the refusal of the interstate commerce commission to grant the railroads the latest freight increases they demanded. The trouble is the deduction is from the potential, rather than from the actual high cost of living, which is still doing business at the same old stand.

As an instrument for the execution of the will of one man, the county board contemplates a cumbersome piece of machinery. In time perhaps the people will see the wisdom of removing the superfluous gears, rods and braces, cutting down the framework and making out of it a comparatively simple, light-running and noiseless commission.

It has not been so long since we regulated the common drinking cup out of existence, at least theoretically, in Illinois. About the same time the bubbling drinking fountain came into vogue and it was supposed that this problem had been settled and Illinoisans could go about their other businesses with light hearts and clear consciences. Now up pops the United States public health service and declares that the bubbling fountain is even a greater menace to health than the old-fashioned tin cup. What's the use?

FOR CLEANER MILK.

It will be surprising to most people to know that as many as 40 milk producers in this county sell a product that is below required standards in cleanliness. This number, however, is not all of those who are charged with shortcomings by employes from the office of State Pure Food Commissioner W. Scott Matthews, who were here yesterday.

There is nothing new in the conditions which have been pointed out. Milk which is marketed in this county is as clean now as it ever has been; cleaner, in fact, because greater care is taken to make it so. That it is handled better in other ways and is in every respect superior to the milk supply of other days there is no doubt. It is a difficult matter to keep dirt out of milk, as anyone who ever has had anything to do with the handling of cows knows. And yet there are a few precautions which the state pure food department is urging upon the attention of dairymen and which will go far toward the still further improvement of the products of the dairies.

These precautions have been pointed out to the dairymen of this vicinity. Their adoption will involve but little expense and not much added inconvenience. Assurance of an improved product surely is worth the outlay. The state pure food department is doing what it can to bring dairymen standards throughout the state to a higher level. It has but 12 inspectors and obviously its progress must be slow. About all that can be done is to bring matters to the attention of local municipal authorities and trust to the latter to take up the work. It

is asking too much to expect the state department to exert the vigilance necessary to protect every community. It can only lay down general rules, and employ such means as it has at hand to educate the milk producers. It is not in position to conduct inspections with sufficient frequency to insure regard for the rules it promulgates. It is up to the local authorities to do this. Fortunately, health boards of Rock Island and Moline have cooperated freely with state officers in this work in the past, and no doubt will continue to do so in future.

WHEN NEWS IS NEWS.

Many well meaning but misinformed citizens have written The Argus asking that this paper curb the publicity that has been given the actions of the county board and the jail committee with regard to the jail controversy, advancing the argument that the county's credit may be embarrassed thereby. One reader asks that the newspaper "halt" on the jail committee he halted.

Why, bless your soul, The Argus has no quarrel with the jail committee or the county board. The actual fight is among the county lawmakers themselves. The board is made up of good men from all sections of the county, and it is not to be doubted that each is doing what he believes to be right in the premises, but the result of this divergence in judgment has brought about a breach that apparently is growing wider daily, and will not be healed until the supreme court of the state rules on the constitutionality of the law passed by the recent legislature providing that certain jails shall not be erected within 200 feet of a school.

In the meantime the county jail fight within the board and between the board and those taxpayers who are responsible for the pending litigation is the biggest piece of running news in Rock Island county at the present. The Argus is not making the news. The news is being manufactured at the court house. The Argus is kept daily in nearly every house in Rock Island county. The people of the county have voted over \$750,000 at their taxes to spend in building a new jail. They have a right to know what is happening to that \$750,000. The Argus is the agency to which they look for that information, and The Argus is not going to default in its obligation.

This newspaper did not originate the jail on short notice, as it is supposed. It has been in the air for some time, and it is not to be doubted that it would be a mistake to build on the court house square. Other counties, in almost every instance, in erecting new jails located them off the site of the court house. The chief reason stated here was that the expense should be borne by the county, which is a reasonable proposition. Various organizations petitioned the board to buy a new site for the jail. These bodies viewed the acquisition of people who are to help pay for the improvement. But the petitioners were ignored. Then the 1909 bill was passed. The Argus never opposed involving the county in a legal fight over the jail location.

But the legal opposition appeared when the board refused to build the jail. The Argus said then, and it repeats now, that the board's whole course was to have started with a ruling on the law law was received from the supreme court. The jail would serve all purposes until that decision came.

But the dominating spirits of the board decided to take the ball by the horns, overriding those other members who impudently accused those that might seriously involve the county financially. This country's money is being spent in the face of a possible order by the supreme court to undo what has been done.

Hence the fight—and the news. The members of the county board and of the jail committee should not forget that they are the servants of the people. Their every official act should be open to public inspection. Yet the jail committee sessions, at which the taxpayers' money is being expended, are held behind closed doors. Newspaper reporters have been denied admission to these sessions. Why?

The Argus has been charged by the secretary of the jail committee with not giving truthful reports of the meetings of the jail committee. Who is to blame for that? The Argus proposes to continue printing what it can find out concerning the meetings of the jail committee, whether its representatives are allowed to attend its sessions or not.

The Argus knows its business and its premises. It hopes that the jail committee is similarly certain of its ground.

HEALTH TALKS by William Brady, M.D. The Skin Cancer. An old wart or mole or little swollen spot that stays for years and years...

There are many operations which we would not care particularly to undergo, but if we had the slightest suspicion of any little abnormality like that on our tender, cowardly hide we would have it excised in a hurry...

There are pastes and salves and ointments and applications of various kinds which assumptionally will destroy a small skin cancer, or even a big one, and if the patient has the strength and luck to survive the septic, poisonous strain upon his remaining power...

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Some Long Distance Guesses. Mr. F. W. H., aged 48, has always been what he calls "dyspeptic" but for three or four months his appetite has gone...

THE Mineral Oil Competition. Which of the several brands of purified petroleum oil do you recommend for prolonged use as a laxative?

GOOD IDEA, BUT WHY GO TO FORT SNELLING?

The Rock Island district, has been endeavoring to persuade congress that the government should take over the work of manufacturing its own ordnance and armor plate. He has insistently urged the saving that could be effected and the independence that would be assured.

The site proposed for the arsenal at Minneapolis on the Fort Snelling reservation is an excellent one, perhaps one of the finest that could be selected. The ground is high above the river, as level as a floor, and beneath it is a soft sandstone in which it would be a simple matter to excavate caves for the storage of ammunition.

If the arsenal at Fort Snelling were built on a scale comparable with the larger private ammunition plants of the country it would employ probably 15,000 men and women, and, by storing ammunition, would be able to provide the country with a reserve supply that would insure against a shortage in time of sudden need.

PROSPERITY

These timid souls who refuse to believe that we can be prosperous because there's such an awful waste of life and wealth going on in Europe should find a tonic for their torpid livers and a dispeller of their "blue devils" in the spectacle of the 10,000 or more "country buyers" in Chicago for Market Week.

These "country buyers" know a lot more about real business conditions in this country than the bankers and "captains" of industry and finance in the great cities. They know because they are "closer to the ground," as it were.

These "country buyers" now throughout Chicago impress everybody with the opinion that while business may not have been good, and is still somewhat "spotty," or "slow in spots," it is going to lose that character and be uniformly fine in the fall.

The Bridal Wreath. The bridal wreath is usually formed of myrtle branches in Germany. It is made of orange blossoms in France as well as in the United States. In Italy and the French cantons of Switzerland it is of white roses.

CHORDS AND DISCORDS

ONE of the Studebakers has been sued for divorce by his wife. Non-support is alleged. In other words, it appears that he was once a good old wagon, but he has done broke down.

TIP to those who write advertisements for the banks: Michiganander has lost \$4,000 savings of a life time while he was earning \$1.50 per day. The money was hidden in a trunk. Thieves learned the old man's secret.

HAVE you observed how belligerent the fly has been during the past few days? It would seem as though he had accepted the declaration of war against him in the same spirit in which it was offered.

WHAT has become of the old-fashioned girl who blushed when a razor was mentioned in her presence?

Right Man for the Place. J. M. C. It has just occurred to me that the Rock Island board of education has landed the right man for the job in the selection of Mr. Musselman for physical director of the public schools.

BILL Barnes compares Colonel Roosevelt to Bismarck. T. R. will take this as a compliment, whereas Barnes intended it as a roast.

PRESIDENT Wilson has been asked to designate the Sunday preceding Labor day as Third day. One suspects that the crackerjack trust had a hand in this agitation.

BARON Ishii has accepted the foreign portfolio in the new Japanese cabinet. If he lives up to his name he ought to prove a "busy" Ishii.

"DON'T hate a man because he has lots of money," advises a Missouri philosopher. "Cultivate his acquaintance and see if there isn't some honest way you can separate him from some of it."

If some of our girls who still persist in advising the slinker should don't straighten up before it is too late by the time they attain middle age they will find it difficult explaining to new friends that they were not struck by an automobile or a locomotive earlier in life.

LIFE'S notion of a true optimist is the man who walks smilingly through a rain storm under an umbrella while pedestrians on all sides of him are protected.

MUSIC Versus Heat. How many fellow sufferers are there hereabout who would be willing to join me in starting a movement against the purchase of planes by food merchants during the summer season when neighbors must have their windows open to keep from suffocating?

At the Scene of the Eastland. Chicago, Ill., Aug. 11.—I visited the scene of the Eastland disaster today. I talked with one of the policemen on guard.

"Horror of this affair seems to be dying out," I suggested. There were not more than a half dozen curious inside the enclosure surrounding the overturned boat.

THE Webb pawn shop does business in a central Illinois city. Come into my parlor, said the spider to the fly.

Old Al on Big Bent. Old Al Nielander, whose home is in Rock Island when it is not in Indianapolis, drops this column a note from Chicago denying rumors that he had volunteered as a nurse in the European war zone.

RESIDENT of Middletown, N. Y., when arrested on a charge of drunkenness, explained to the magistrate that he was the father of 25 children. He was forthwith dismissed, the court holding his celebration was justified.

THE sheriff of Sparta, Wis., was overwhelmed with volunteers when he called for help in running down a wood nymph said to be dressed in a "smile and a bonnet cap."

CHICAGO Herald of last Sunday printed a page of undertakers' advertisements in its prosperity section.

The Daily Story

My Odd Uncle—By Dwight Norwood.

My uncle's life had been blighted by an ill assorted marriage. In every other respect he was to be envied or would have been had it not been for his marriage. He was prosperous in business affairs and accumulated a fortune. But no children were born to him during the brief period of his marriage, and after his separation from his wife he never entered upon a second matrimonial adventure.

I was his only male relative, and after hesitating for some time between leaving his property in trust for a philanthropic work and leaving it to me, he finally came to the conclusion to allow it to accumulate through my lifetime, I to establish the foundation that he intended. But this plan was contingent on my agreeing not to marry.

His proposition to me, if accepted, would give me every comfort and luxury so long as I lived, but would deprive me of wife and children. I did not agree with my uncle on the subject of matrimony because I knew that, though a splendid man, he must be a very hard man to get on with. He seemed to be fond of me, and if I wanted anything I had only to ask him for it. Yet I dared not oppose him in any of his prejudices.

My aunt was much younger than my uncle—she was but little my senior—and, being conscious of her inability to get on with him, came to rely on me to help her manage him when a deadlock came between them. I was born old and never given to acting upon impulse, while she was sensitive and had no faculty for going around a stone wall instead of over it.

My uncle's proposition—which ignored my aunt—placed me in the position of taking what belonged rightfully to her. In making my decision I was influenced far more by what was my duty to her than to carry out my uncle's intentions.

I accepted the condition, and my uncle made his will, leaving his property in trust to me. I to have so much of the income as I chose to appropriate to myself, but in consideration of this I gave my word to him that I would never marry, and the will stipulated that in case I did marry the property was to pass out of my hands and the foundation was to be established. Under this condition for me to marry, one of the reasons being that I would be obliged to drop from affluence to poverty, a very unpleasant fall.

Before accepting to my uncle's wishes I asked my aunt if she would disapprove of my doing so, and she told me that since she could not

Sidelights on the European War

London.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—Some interesting figures regarding Great Britain's naval expenditures were made public in a Blue book just issued, although dated back to March 31, 1914.

The cost of the Iron Duke, flagship of Admiral Jellicoe, is given as \$3,725,000. The Audacious, which was sunk off the north coast several months ago, cost \$2,100,000.

It is noted that the government's decision to rush the Queen Elizabeth to completion had added an even \$1,500,000 to her estimated cost up to March 31, 1914, on which date \$7,100,000 had been spent on her. How much more it cost to complete her after that date is not specified.

On March 31, 1914, four months after the beginning of the war, there were 150 vessels of various sorts being built for the British navy.

The cost of several ships that have been mentioned during the war is given as follows: Battle cruisers—Lion.....\$9,355,000. Princess Royal.....5,840,000. Queen Mary.....5,805,000.

London.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)—One of the sights of London is the arrival of wounded soldiers at Charing Cross station. The crowd gathers there about 5 o'clock every afternoon. Although not a day has passed since the early part of the war without the arrival of a varying number of victims of shot, shell and gas, the crowd never lessens.

Charing Cross station used to be the brightest and most interesting station in London, for most of the travel with the continent passed there. It stands just off Trafalgar square in the Strand, near the center of the west end shopping district. Before the arrival of the Red Cross train, the ambulance motors form in a line in a narrow side street. Ordinary motor cars are used for the slightly wounded, and ambulances for the badly wounded.

The platform in the great station are kept clear, but the sight-seers, who are largely women, gather in the forecourt waiting for the big Iron gates to open and let out the stream of slow moving cars, which pass from the side street into the station and then out.

People are attracted to Charing Cross less from curiosity than to show their sympathy. The men in the crowd always raise their hats as the wounded go by.

Philadelphia.—Fruit growers of Palestine stand to lose \$50,000,000 because of the European war, according

benefit by her husband's property she preferred that I should do so. However, before accepting the proposition I made bold to tell him plainly that his separation from his wife was principally his own fault and that he was doing her a great injustice to leave her property, or, rather, its income, to me instead of to her. I expected that this would alter his determination, but was surprised that it had no effect whatever to deter him from his purpose. Indeed, it seemed to confirm him in it.

I did not promise not to turn over a part of the income from his estate to his wife. My privilege to do so would have satisfied me with the position I assumed had it not been that I was pledged to celibacy. Moreover, there was a woman whom I wished to marry. When the papers had been signed I informed my uncle of this fact, though I did not tell him who that woman was. He merely said, "You should thank me, my boy, for saving you from a life of misery."

Upon the completion of the agreement my uncle gave me the position of his right hand man that I might be prepared to manage his estate after his death. He was certainly a very queer man, and no one could tell what he would do. Two years after our compact he was taken suddenly ill. He called for me and said, "I have been told by my doctor that I have but a few days at most to live. The approach of death has made a change in my feelings. It is a part of a new plan I have made that you should marry."

I looked at him in astonishment. When I had recovered from my surprise I said to him: "If I marry there is but one woman in the world I will make my wife."

"You will marry the woman I intend you shall marry or I will make a new will, leaving you out in the cold. He was very weak, and I knew there was no time to waste.

"Whom do you require that I shall marry?" I asked. "The woman whose life I have made miserable."

"My heart came up into my throat, but I controlled any expression of my emotion.

"Have you obtained her consent?" "Yes."

"Very well, I will not stand in the way of your doing this last act of justice."

I have always been balanced between two opinions as to the prime motive of my uncle's act. Either he was so perverse that he wished to marry me to a woman I did not love, thus separating me from one I did love, or he had observed the love that had sprung up between me and the woman he had put away. But to do him justice I believe he was repentant toward her.

to a letter received here from George Klat, general commissioner of commerce with headquarters at Jaffa, and made public today. The letter says: "Our trees are dying for want of watering and for want of petroleum to spray them. The absence of the protecting spray has brought more disaster. We have been visited with a plague of locusts, and trees and vegetation alone at \$50,000,000."

"The Ottoman government seized every bit of petroleum we had on hand. This was a heavy blow to us in two ways. We have become somewhat modern here and recently have had petroleum for small engines which pumped water from the wells. With the oil supply gone, we went back to the old custom of drawing water by horse power—rather donkey-power. But we were again troubled, for the Turkish authorities seized all lumber in sight. We found ourselves with no lumber to construct sluice boxes and gutters to carry the water to the gardens. Most of the men have been drafted into the Turkish fighting ranks and the women have worked heroically to save the crops. Unless something is done and done quickly, we fear famine and starvation."

Berlin.—The recent report in these dispatches that Signor Ferrati-Fantani, the New York Metropolitan Opera company tenor, was fighting with the Italian army, was in part erroneous, as it is learned that he was released from service after a single week with the army, and has gone to the United States.

Aug. 13 In History.

1493—Alleged date of the first known printing with movable type.

1521—Cortez captured the City of Mexico.

1704—Battle of Blenheim.

"New tell us all about the war. And what they fought each other for?" "Why, that I cannot tell," said he. "But 'twas a famous victory!"

The battle in Bavaria was fought between the Austrian and English troops under Marlborough and Prince Eugene, and the French and Bavarians, led by Marshal Tallard and the elector of Bavaria. The latter were defeated.

1805—Beginning of an earthquake in Central America which within 100 days destroyed four cities and the fleets along the entire coast; deaths counted at 40,000.

1914—United States senate ratified peace treaties with Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Peru, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil and Chile. German march in Belgium checked by French and Belgians.