

The Argus.

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HOLBROOK, - ARIZONA

Possibly political combines are called things because they are not square.

Unfortunately the position Canada wants to take in this boundary dispute is on our side of the line.

Ordinarily a business enterprise gets what it can individually, but when a trust is formed they get together.

An improved style of \$2 bill is to be issued, but it will probably slip through the fingers as easily as the old kind.

Some will say since the shoemakers and glovers are going to form trusts, the nation may be further bound hand and foot in these things.

The woman who married the lawyer who had won her suit for her probably thought she might just as well turn everything over to him in a lump.

It is believed there is no law to fit the offense of that mother who flagged a fast train in order to reach the bedside of the child she thought was dying.

Perhaps if William Waldorf Astor had known elevation to the peerage was impossible he might not have become a naturalized Britisher; he is in the attitude of the man who has purchased a large-sized gold brick.

For nations, as for individuals, enough is as good as a feast. Apparently some Englishmen think so, for the House of Commons applauded the assertion, repeatedly made by members of both parties, that no one desires to add another square mile to British territory.

Some people will be just mean enough to rejoice over the statement of the comte d'Astorga, from whose family W. W. Astor claims descent, that there was no Jean Jacques d'Astorga, who, a Huguenot, was born in France in 1644 and fled to Germany later, becoming the founder of the American Astors. The count professes to be very sorry. He is aristocratic, but poor, and a cousinship with William Waldorf might—we don't say it would—prove to his advantage.

To no nation is the opening of twenty-two of its ports and harbors by Japan more important than to the United States. Until Commodore Perry anchored United States warships in a Japanese harbor in 1854 and practically compelled a treaty recognizing other nations, Japan had been closed to the rest of the world. During the last twenty years no nation has made greater progress than Japan. Now it is ambitious to be counted as one of the commercial nations.

The story that comes from the Klondike is not so rose-colored as were the stories told about this El Dorado when the boom was on. The gold product of the last year is reported to have been only \$10,000,000, or one-half the amount estimated, and sickness and destitution are thinning out the adventurers. The gamblers are apparently the only successful gold seekers in the region. The statement that reports from Alaska indicate that more gold will be found there than will ever come out of the Klondike may, however, only mean that the transportation companies reaching Alaska are endeavoring to work up a boom for themselves at the Klondike's expense.

Cunninghame Graham, himself a saucy Scot, thus gives the genesis of the modern Englishman: "Saxon stolidity, Celtic gullie, Teutonic dullness and Norman pride, all tempered with east wind, baptized with mist, narrowed by insularity, swollen with good fortune, and rendered overbearing by wealth, have worked together to produce the type." Not by any means a good-natured sketch, or a strictly truthful one, but if moral and mental heredity is insisted upon, the multiplex origin of English character must account for what is strong and good in it as well as for what is weak and bad. As for English-America, the daughter nation, it has become the great amalgamator of the world, absorbing almost every strain of Gentile blood. Yankee character is British plus two hundred and eighty years.

The percentage of illiteracy is higher in the Southern States and New Mexico and Arizona than in any other section of the country. That is due in the former to the large number of uneducated colored people; in the latter to the Mexican population. Nebraska is the banner State for education. Only 3.11 per cent. of the population of over 10 years of age are unable to read and write. Wyoming is second, with a percentage of 3.41; Iowa third, 3.61, and Kansas fourth, 3.99. Compared with this the percentage of illiterates

in Massachusetts is 6.22, exactly double that of Nebraska. In New York State it is 5.53 and in Connecticut a little less, 5.28. In Ohio it is 5.24 and in Illinois 5.25. This is due chiefly to the foreign population in the large cities and in manufacturing centers. The farmers of Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa never fail to send their children to school, while the slums of Boston, New York, Chicago and other large cities are filled with Bohemians, Hungarians, Italians and other immigrants who do not value education, and cannot read and write.

The servant girl has a new champion in no less a person than Professor Cummings of Harvard University, whose paper on the subject is the outcome of much research and thought. The servant girl question is an old one; women have tried to solve it, but in an unsystematic way, which has resulted only in spasmodic reforms. Professor Cummings' suggestion is to place domestic service in the line of a trade, governed by a union, which shall regulate hours and scale of wages, and by which the rights of employers and employees shall be defined and protected. It is more and more becoming a recognized fact that no advance can be made in domestic service until the assumed degradation which at present attends it is removed. Should servants not reside in the house, but come daily to the duties which begin and finish at regular hours, it would give the sense of freedom and independence now lacking and convert the alleged tyrannized servant into a self-respecting employe, with a better defined social status. Perhaps the time has come for men to take up the solution of a problem which women have failed to find, and if more college men will give their time to it, as has Professor Cummings, we may look for a happy ending to a perplexing controversy.

Already census statisticians are speculating on the new center of population of the United States to be revealed by the coming census. The steady westward course of this invisible point for the last half century makes it practicable to determine within reasonable exactness its location next year. In 1850 it was in West Virginia, south of Parkersburg. Thence it crossed into Ohio at the next census and traversed that State by slow stages until in 1880 it had reached Cincinnati. In 1890 it crossed into Indiana, still closely following the thirty-ninth parallel, and reached a point a few miles south of Greensburg. Its rate of progress westward has been at about the average rate of five miles per year, having traveled 505 miles since the taking of the first census. At this rate of progress during the coming century it will cross into Illinois. Some claim, however, that this Western march of population will be checked soon and that possibly the next census will mark nearly, if not quite, its extreme Western advance. Considering the growth of Western States and Territories, however, this does not seem probable. It is more likely that the limit will be reached somewhere in Illinois the coming century. Within a few decades Chicago will be the nearest the center of population of the United States of any city of consequence, and thus the star of empire will shine in the zenith of the inland metropolis of the country.

"For the first time in history," writes Hon. A. W. Tourgee, "the world's labor is able to produce more than the world can consume." This result has been reached by the application of skilled industry to the development of the ample resources of nature—the gift of the All-Father to His human children. Inventive genius—planting, harvesting and manufacturing by mechanical methods—has made it possible for one man's labor to supply the means of life and comfort to hundreds; and the same inventive genius, calling to its help vast combinations of capital, has created conduits for the distribution and exchange of commodities over large spaces of the globe, by land and sea. Naturally, the nations that are most intelligent and enterprising render the largest service and reap the largest benefits. Naturally, also, a small minority of any population become captains of industry, and directors of the great financial operations which fill the sluices of business, and make the mighty wheels go round. This situation makes two things possible. The strong and prosperous nations have it in their power to crowd and oppress the lower or slower races that still make up the large majority of mankind, and the few men whose genius for management, or advantage of position, places them in the lead, can compel their fellows to pay them undue tributes and to depend on them for permission to live on the planet. In short, we have reached a condition where the human multitudes, by generous, equitable dealing, might live with less exhausting labor and more rational happiness than ever before; and yet it is a condition where the selfish use of power may easily create new and cruel forms of tyranny and serfdom, which must be the seeds of conflict and revolution. It is a good time for men and nations to ponder the principle of noblesse oblige.

MME. LABORI.

Wife of the Wounded Counsel for Captain Dreyfus.

Mme. Margaret Labori, wife of the wounded counsel for Dreyfus, is remembered in America as the wife of De Pachmann, the Russian pianist, who has coined so many dollars in America. The advocate's wife was an Australian girl, her maiden name being Margaret Oakey. Her family went to England when the girl was quite young, and there she soon evinced a wonderful talent for music. When she was 18 Miss Oakey attended one of Pachmann's concerts in London, and eventually the pianist became her teacher. The impressionable girl fell in love with the Russian. After they were married they came to this country, playing in concerts together.

Concert-goers found Mme. de Pachmann a beautiful woman. They saw a fine head, splendidly poised and crowned with soft brown hair, loosely coiled. Her face was classic in its features, her figure lithe and graceful. She played superbly, too, with a finished elegance and marvelous brilliancy. Her touch was at all times smooth, and often dainty. It was a great disappointment to music lovers in this country and in Europe when De Pachmann's infidelity forced his



MADAME LABORI.

wife to sue for divorce. When this was secured Mme. de Pachmann retired from the concert stage, and shortly afterward married M. Labori, whose confidante in all his great cases she since has been.

HIS HOME IN A TREE.

A Michigan Man Who Dwells in a Large Linden Stump.

Mr. Stears, the occupant of this tree house, has spent most of his life in Detroit. He was a first-class cabinetmaker, and received the highest wages. He went to Pere Marquette, Mason County, about three years ago, and soon made this tree house, which has given him such notoriety. It is a large linden stump sawed off about fifteen feet from the ground. The walls are sealed and papered and are covered with pictures. One circular seat extends around the



MR. STEARS.

room from door to window. Mr. Stears has an oil stove inside to keep out the dampness. He plays about fifteen different musical instruments by note. He has nearly reached the allotted age of man, but does not appear to be more than 45 years old.



HOME OF MR. STEARS.

Stable Manure.

Facts about stable manure, or, rather, freshly stated conclusions, form an important part of Bulletin 58, Massachusetts experiment station. Of the three common conditions of barnyard manure, half-rotted manure is the most valuable, and well-rotted manure the least, because of their relative amount of nitrates. Manure should be kept packed away from the air as tightly as possible, and if rotted should be plowed under just before planting, otherwise several months before that time. The more litter used in the manure, the greater liability to loss of nitrogen. The use of bedding material free from decomposable organic matter is a means of protection against loss of nitrogen. As a matter of fact, many intelligent farmers long since reached the conclusion that manure is never worth any more than immediately after it is voided, and that the sooner it can be got onto the land the better. Of course, the sooner this is done the less the liability to loss of nitrogen, irrespective of the kind of bedding used.

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