

The Journal and Courier

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Kansas is the Sunflower State, and a single sunflower stalk at Burns, Kansas, bore 233 blooms at one time. A firm in Omaha, Nebraska, advertised the other day "the most highly sensational bargain sale of fine shoes since Adam went barefoot."

One of the stations of the railroad which is to be built from the Red Sea to the top of Mount Sinai will be on the spot where it is supposed Moses stood when he received the two tables of the law from Jehovah.

A chronic Bryantite of Deering, Maine, decided to give himself an object lesson in the silver problem. He placed a silver dollar where an engine would run over it, then he battered it out of all semblance of its original shape, and took it to a dealer in old metals. The dealer tested and weighed it and offered him thirty cents for it. He was cured.

They are in earnest in New Orleans about yellow fever. No less than 25,000 citizens have been enrolled for sanitary work in the city. There is a sanitary committee for each ward, 40 district committees and a captain to each square, or block, whose duty it is to look after streets, gutters and premises. The public schools remain closed and the theatres are empty. Altogether, New Orleans is pretty thoroughly scared.

The university of Missouri receives \$23,023 from the estate of the late John C. Conley under the operation of a law recently passed by the Legislature which provides that if a man dies leaving no father, mother or direct lineal descendant, a certain per cent. of his estate, excluding any amount left for charitable or religious purposes, must go to the State university. Mr. Conley's remote heirs will, however, contest the constitutionality of the law to the court of last resort.

It isn't profitable just now to ignore the Massachusetts anti-oleomargarine law. The fines, aggregating \$2,500, imposed upon four Boston dealers for selling oleomargarine colored in imitation of butter, in defiance of the State law, is an indication that when a law is put upon the statute book of Massachusetts it is intended to be enforced. The federal officers had long hunted these very offenders, but in vain. The State authorities, however, were persistent, and finally brought them to book. There was a pretence at "original package business," but a little investigation showed that it was wholly a myth.

Farmers in this fertile country who are sometimes unable to "make both ends meet" would do well to study the methods and processes of Belgian farmers. Six million of people in Belgium live on a territory about equal to the State of Maryland, and a farm of two acres is enough to support a man and his family and enable him to lay by something for a rainy day. An article in Colman's Rural World tells something of the methods of the Belgian farmer and gives an interesting insight into rural thrift and economy in the most densely settled country of Europe. Describing the typical two-acre farm in Belgium, the article says the thrifty Belgian makes the most of every inch by heavy manuring and allowing no waste places. A patch of wheat or rye and barley, another of potatoes, etc., and other garden truck, even the sloping sides of the ditches for irrigation being utilized, and the general result is that with thrift and economy the farmer provides about everything his family needs except a few groceries and clothes, while the surplus products more than supply his other wants and leave a balance to his credit, which grows each year.

It is related that Dempsey Waggy, a farmer of Madison county, Indiana, has raised corn this year from seeds which, he says, were taken out of a mound-builder's tomb in Arkansas, estimated to be two thousand years old. The stalks of the corn are from ten to twelve feet in height, according to a correspondent of the Chicago Record, and are somewhat on the order of a tree, being as thick at the ground as a man's wrist. Three feet from the ground they shoot out three long, palm-like leaves. The leaves are heavy and very solid, resembling a cactus leaf. Some of them are five feet long from tip to tip. These are the only leaves on the stalk. About two feet further

up are the ears of corn. Many stalks bear six ears, and none has fewer than four ears. At this rate it is figured that the average yield to the acre would be about two hundred and fifty bushels. Above the ears the stalk continues three or four feet, and is topped with an elaborate tassel. The husks surrounding the ears are heavy, and as the corn matures they break and curl back, revealing a firm, yellow-grained ear. The grains are solid and are exceptionally good for feeding.

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST. It has been many moons since a school district meeting in New Haven was as large as the one held last evening, and perhaps no such meeting has been more vociferous. It was made plain at the meeting that there are many people in New Haven really interested in the schools and their cost. Much of the talk was right to the point, and if any of it was too pointed no great harm was done. It is high time that school affairs were discussed with vigor and directness, and if there could be some more such meetings as that of last evening they would do good and help to clear up the situation. But there will be no more, because the meeting was not adjourned subject to the call of the chairman, and the wondrous new charter says that "after this act takes effect no meeting of the New Haven city school district shall be held for any purpose whatever," except the meeting that was held last evening. Perhaps, however, if the citizens get interested enough they will be allowed to get together somewhere and talk over their school troubles and triumphs. Net outcome of the last and noisiest meeting of the New Haven city school district, a three-mill tax.

UNUSUAL BUSINESS PRINCIPLES. Business is business, but it is encouraging to notice that occasionally business is not done in the most sordid way. For instance, there is a manufacturing concern in Dayton, Ohio, which is conducted in a liberal and humane way, and yet seems to be prosperous. Its buildings cover five acres and the persons directly and indirectly connected with it number 2,000. The company makes a patent machine, and by its industrial organization maintains a constant interest on the part of all its workmen. It has no use for a superintendent, an executive committee having charge of the business and a sub-committee having charge of each department. The proprietors, these committees, the heads of departments and their assistants meet regularly once a week for conference concerning business interests. The comfort of the employees is never overlooked, and an interest in them is constantly manifested by the concern. Three hundred women are employed, and they are required to work one hour less per day than the men, have a recess of fifteen minutes morning and afternoon and a free lunch every noon in the administration building. In this building are lunch, reading, rest, bath and toilet rooms for the use of the workers. There are more than a dozen clubs and societies among the employees, which take the name of the concern, for culture and recreation, athletic, dramatic, wheel and musical clubs, singing society, relief association and a band, all of which are given inviting and comfortable meeting places, and which in turn furnish no end of free entertainment for those of other tastes. In still other ways this business is unusual. The company has a repository for the reception of "complaints and suggestions" from everybody in its employ, and divides in prizes \$250 semi-annually among those of its workmen who make the most practical suggestions for the good of the concern. For these prizes the heads of departments or their assistants are not allowed to compete. The company finds that this arrangement is both wise and profitable. Six times a year it gives its employees an opportunity to listen to practical and helpful lectures at the expense and on the time of the company. The company looks after the sick, and takes a live interest in all who take an interest in their work and contribute to the success of the concern. That a business so carried on can be successful is against some of the rules of what is generally called and believed to be business, but it is possible that many business men might find profit as well as comfort in doing business more humanely.

TEMPERANCE LECTURE. Mr. James Whyte of the United Kingdom Alliance thinks he has found an important connection between stringent liquor laws and the death rate of Sweden and Norway. He says that for the twenty years before 1894 the average death rate per 1,000 persons living in Sweden was 17.5 per annum, and the rate for Norway 16.9 per 1,000 per annum. The consumption of alcohol by the Swedes in those years amounted to the equivalent of about 2.65 English gallons of proof spirits per head per annum; that of the Norwegians to about 1.75 gallons. Their death rate decreased gradually with the gradual decrease of the consumption of alcohol. Mr. Whyte was unable to find the death rate of Norway before the temperance legislation, but obtained the rates for Denmark and Sweden respectively for the ten years 1851-60. It was in 1855 that the temperance law in Sweden was enacted, and by 1860 it had come pretty fully into operation. For the decennium 1851-60 the death rate of the Swedes

was 21.7 per 1,000 per annum, and for those ten years the consumption of alcohol in Sweden per annum per head of the inhabitants was nearly three times as much as it is at present. The decrease in the death rate between 1851 and 1860 and the twenty years ended in 1894 was 4.2 per 1,000 per annum. He says that this saving cannot be ascribed to improved sanitation, inasmuch as the death rate in Denmark, which has as many sanitary advantages as Sweden or Norway, has only decreased 1.6 per 1,000. It was because it was seen that intemperance was sapping the health and strength of the nation, Mr. Whyte says, that the temperance law in Sweden was enacted. Just before this law came into force thirty-six per cent. of the conscripts drawn for military service had to be rejected as physically unfit; by the time the law had been thirty years in operation the proportion rejected had been reduced to twenty per cent. The improvement began soon after the law came into operation, and increased as time elapsed.

FASHION NOTES. New Blouses Above Par. Blouses that are new are welcomed, and here is one that should be of especial interest because of its novelty. It was in dark gray cashmere and was bloused all around over a blue velvet belt, yoke and collar being the same velvet. The shield-shaped front's drapery was held at the bust by a large buckle, was loose, fastening only at the belt, and was edged with blue velvet, the epaulets having the same treatment. Worn with this was an ample skirt, side-pleated all around.



Russian blouses are galore. In them is little chance for variety, so far as the backs are concerned, but all sorts of charges may be rung on the front. It may fasten well to one side, as did the Russian blouse of some years ago, and be finished there by a perpendicular frill under the overlapping edge. Or the fullness of the busy front may be modified by a yoke effect in front, the yoke extending to the belt in a flat piece, which may, if length of effect is desired, extend below and over the belt. Such yoke and piece is invariably heavily braided. Hussar frogging may be applied to the front and bagginess be almost obliterated except where the garment apparently gathers into the belt. When the blouse is applied to a dress bodice it may be split up the front to show an inner chemise of another material, or may be set on a delicate or transparent yoke, or even be adapted to low-cut dresses. When the blouse is to serve as an outer garment the double breasted side may turn back at the corner to show a handsome facing of fur. While at present most of the outside blouses are cloth heavily braided, later outer garments of this cut will be in all the more expensive furs, in astrakan and in plushes and velvets, the latter in brilliant colors as well as in black. In the brilliant colored plushes the effect will be heightened by rich bullion braiding, jewel incrustations and rich fur. The result will be beautiful and rich, and for suitable occasions, as sleighing, skating and outside wear over reception gowns, highly suitable. FLORETTE.

LABORIOUS. First Boy—"I say, Tommy, do you work for Robinson?" Second Boy—"I guess he thinks I do." "I say, he pays me every week."—Boston Transcript. "I have seen the time when a dime was as large as a dollar." "Well, you'll see that time again if these free silver speeches aren't turned down."—Harlem Life.

Terrific Threat—"John, if you don't quit referring to me as 'the old woman,' I'll make you sorry for it." "What will you do, dear?" "I'll be a new woman."—Indianapolis Journal.

"Hopsmith ought to take his wife with him to the Klondike." "Any special reason?" "Yes; I've noticed she always does their snow shovelling at home."—Detroit Free Press.

Keeping the Faith—"Has my boy been a Little Defender and been kind to dumb animals to-day?" "Yes, grandma. I let your canary out of the cage, and when my cat caught it, I set Towser on her."—Harlem Life.

In Good Company—"Mamma—"Now, Johnny, you must remember to use your right hand. I don't want you to become left-handed." Johnny—"Why, mamma! some of the best pitchers in the league are left handed!"—Puck.

Reporter (whipping out his note book)—"The amount he stole, you say, was \$9—?" Officer of the Company—"I didn't say \$9. I said \$9,000." Reporter (promptly correcting himself)—"He embezzled \$9,000. Go ahead."—Chicago Tribune. First Passenger—"Would you—ah—lend me your spectacles a moment, please?" Second Passenger—"Certainly, sir." First Passenger—"Ah—thank you; now, as you can see to read your paper, would you mind letting me have it, please?"—The Bits. "With the aid of my wheel," remarked the party who had hitherto done

most of the talking, "I can cover more ground than any other means." The crowd had lost both legs and arms demanded excitedly. "Did you ever try dynamite?"—Detroit Journal. A man dropped his wig on the street and a boy who was following close behind the loser, picked it up and handed it to him. "Thanks, my boy," said the owner of the wig. "You are the first genuine hair restorer I have ever seen."—Roxbury Gazette.

Working for Another Piece.—"Now, Robbie," said mamma, just before the company sat down to dinner, "remember, you must not ask for more pie." Robbie didn't; but he finished his first piece with much promptness, took a long breath, and addressed himself very audibly to the guests at his right. "Ain't that dandy pie?" he asked.—Judge.

IS GALLANTRY LANGUISHING? Observations on the Decline of Street-Car Manners in the South. It cannot be concealed that there is a growing tendency, even in the south, where masculine gallantry has held out longest, on the part of men to let women in the street care shift for themselves. It has not come to that point yet, but the movement is growing in that direction.

It is a fact that men are rapidly falling in the courtesy which was once uniformly shown to women, and the reason, to a large extent, is that men are meeting women as competitors in all fields of labor, and this fact vastly changes the social relations between the sexes. Women are claiming all sorts of equality with men, moral, political and physical, and are declaring more and more their independence. The effect on the next generation will be very marked and peculiar. The men and women of the present are affected to an overpowering extent by the influence of old ideas and training, and that is the reason they talk about street-car manners and social ethics in their relations to the sexes; but in the year 1920, just thirty-three years, or the period of one generation from the present time, people will no longer concern themselves about such matters.

The greater number of women at work in proportion to the men the more stringent the competition, and it can easily be seen that, according to the figures shown, the day might come when there would be no street-car manners, but every individual would look out for himself or herself, as the case may be. But even should chivalry be extinguished from human manners, there will always remain the Christian grace of charity; so, in the time to come, able-bodied young men and women who have seats in the cars will rise to give their places to old men and women, and to others who may be sick or disabled.—New Orleans Picayune.

SHIPPED AS A CATTLEMAN. How a Woman From New York Secured Passage to England.

Officers of the steamer Irbal, which arrived Saturday from Liverpool, report that one of the "bull pushers" taken out on the steamer Sedgemore on her last trip was a woman disguised as a man. The Sedgemore sailed on August 28, and arrived at Liverpool September 7. The woman was shipped as Harry Webber by John J. Gillman, 428 South Charles street, who ships cattlemen.

The fact that he was a woman was unsuspected, it is said, until the Sedgemore was almost entering the Mersey, she having worked as well as the best of the cattlemen, according to the story of the second mate of the ship. In attempting to lift a 200-pound bale of hay she injured herself internally and began to spit blood. She was taken before Captain Bartlett, to whom she confessed that she was a woman, that her name was Hannah Webber, and that she shipped as a cattleman in order to reach some relatives living in Sheffield. She said she had been performing in variety theatres in the United States for four years as a character vocalist and male impersonator, that she became ill, was sent to a hospital, and when she was discharged, penniless, took the only way possible to reach her friends.

She said she came to America eleven years ago with her father and mother. Her father and mother were both physicians. Both died, and left to her own resources, Miss Webber said she took an engagement in a San Francisco music hall and traveled all over the United States. Her career came to an end when singing not long ago at one of the New York halls. She had done her first turn, in spite of feeling very ill, but was unable to take up the second. It was then discovered that she had fever, and she was taken unconscious to a metropolitan hospital, wearing the man's clothes in which she had been performing. She was discharged, according to her story, in the same attire in which she made her way to Baltimore and shipped on the Sedgemore.

At the office of Mr. John J. Gillman yesterday it was said that five days before the Sedgemore sailed for Liverpool "Harry" Webber applied at the office to be shipped as cattleman on the first steamer to leave for England. For five days "he" laid about the office, smoking cigarettes and chewing tobacco, appearing to enjoy them thoroughly.

Webber had arrived in Baltimore, it was said, as a cattle tender on a cattle train which had come from Chicago, and was placed on board the Sedgemore with the other cattlemen without suspicion that "he" was a woman. William Johnson & Co., owners of the Sedgemore, are said to have furnished transportation for Miss Webber to Sheffield, where, according to her statement, she has relatives.—Baltimore Sun.

MODERN AMERICA AND THE POWERS.

Is the outlook such that our present civilization, with its benefits, is most likely to be insured by universal disarmament, the clamor for which rises ominously—the word is used advisedly—among our latter-day cries? None shares more heartily than the writer the aspiration for the day when nations shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks; but is European civilization, including America, so situated that it can afford to relax into an artificial peace, resting not upon the working of national consciences, as questions arise, but upon a permanent tribunal, an external, if self-imposed authority—

The realization in modern policy of the ideal of the mediæval papacy? The outlook—the signs of the times, what are they? It is not given to human vision, peering into the future, to see more than as through a glass, darkly; men as trees walking, one cannot say certainly whither. Yet signs may be noted, even if they cannot be fully or precisely interpreted; and among them I should certainly say is to be observed the general outward impulse of all the civilized nations of the first order of greatness—except our own. Bound and swathed in the traditions of our own eighteenth century, when we were as truly external to the European world as we are now a part of it, we, under the specious plea of peace and plenty—fullness of bread—had an ideal of isolation, and refuse to recognize the solidarity of interest with which the world of European civilization must not only look forward to, but go out to meet, the future that, whether near or remote, seems to await it. I say we do so; I should more surely express my thought by saying that the outward impulse already is in the majority of the nation, as shown when particular occasions arouse their attention, but that it is as yet retarded, and that those whose views of national policy are governed by maxims framed in the infancy of the republic.—From "A Twentieth Century Outlook," by A. T. Mahan, in Harper's Magazine for September.

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