

THE CHRONICLE.

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The man who has a good memory and can forget may still hope to become a successful politician.

How soon the electric car has become "the carriage of the people!" An official report says that in Massachusetts there are one thousand seven hundred and thirty-five miles of street railway, and that only four miles of track are now traversed by horses.

Successful and delightful any girl may be, even though she cannot stay all day in the home. If it be her duty to be away, teaching in kindergarten or primary school, writing in an office or selling goods in a shop, she loses not a bit of her true worth in the household through her brave independence and her endeavor to relieve her parents of her support, observes the Ladies' Home Journal.

Popular feeling against the wanton destruction of bird life is not wholly sentimental or humanitarian. It has practical grounds also. The treasurer of the American Ornithologists' Union estimates that the ravages of insects upon growing crops involve a loss to farming interests of \$200,000,000 every year. The most effective safeguards against insect pests are the birds, and it is demonstrable that as the birds disappear the losses caused by insects steadily increase. The American farmer is prosaic, practical and but little given to sentimentalism. But he knows his friends, and among the choicest of these he counts the birds which guard his grain fields, his orchards, his vineyards and his berry patch against his insect enemies. His plea for the protection of the birds is prompted by the same sense of self-interest that impels him to keep a watchdog to guard his sheep and cattle. And it deserves to be heeded.

It is one of the grievous defects of the school system that the courses of instruction are framed for the "average pupil," when, as a matter of fact, there is no average pupil. The present tendency toward imparting more flexibility to public school curricula, to the end that the varying temperamental characteristics and mental capacities of children may be adequately accommodated, is one of the most hopeful signs in the educational world. Educators are beginning to realize that rigidity in methods of instruction is not progress; in fact, it is not instruction. Give the defective boy a chance. The dull boy who gets a low marking in school oftentimes triumphs over his physical disabilities when he gets out into the world and attains marked success in business endeavor. But it is the duty of the schools to take considerate and humane account of his defects and give him as equal chance, so far as practicable, with the more fortunate pupils.

Reports recently published of the successful 126 township mutual fire insurance companies in Minnesota have directed attention to the exceptional growth in the State of the co-operative idea in business. It began with farmers' grain elevators and co-operative creameries, and has extended to general stores, produce, and live-stock sales, lumber and fuel yards, railroad construction, and insurance. In the latter line it is estimated, comparing cost with the lowest premium rate in old-line companies for farm insurance, that the members of these mutual companies saved about \$362,000 in 1899. All the 650 butter factories in Minnesota, using the milk from 360,000 cows, are co-operative, managed by a board selected from the patrons, who are the owners. Farmers' co-operative elevators and general stores abound, especially in the south central part of the State, and there are co-operative grist and flour mills. Many communistic settlements exist, most of them in newer parts of the State, where land is cheap, and peopled mostly by immigrants from Europe.

FEW COFFINS; DEAD UNBURIED

Victims of Utah Mine Disaster
May Reach 250.

EXTREME ESTIMATE TOO LARGE

Many of the Dead Belonged to Secret Orders, and Their Remains Were Sought.

Dispatches of Thursday from Scofield, Utah, were to the effect that the extreme estimate of dead was conceded to have been too large, and it was numerically impossible to place the loss of life at 300 as there were not that many men in the mine. The probabilities are that 230 will be about the total number of dead.

There were not enough coffins in the camp to bury the dead, and to add horror to the situation the bodies were rapidly decomposing.

There were fifty bodies for which no provision for burial had been made. A joint committee of Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias spent the day among the dead, identifying members of their orders. They found about twenty of each among the dead. The school children of the city gathered a carload of flowers which were sent to Scofield in a special car at their disposal.

Subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers are coming in from all over the state, and the total now amounts to \$13,000.

PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE.

President McKinley sent the following telegram to the governor of Utah:

"EXECUTIVE MANSION, Washington, May 3.—Governor Wells, Salt Lake City, Utah: I desire to express my intense sorrow on learning the terrible calamity which has occurred at Scofield and my deep sympathy with the wives, children and friends of the unfortunate victims of the explosion."
"WILLIAM MCKINLEY."

CONDOLENCE FROM FRANCE.

The French ambassador called on President McKinley and Secretary Hay Thursday and conveyed the condolence of the French republic to the people of the United States over the mine disaster at Salt Lake City. He handed the secretary the following personal letter on the subject:

"Embassy of the French Republic in the United States, Washington, May 3, 1900.—Mr. Secretary of State: The president of the French republic has just heard of the terrible catastrophe which has taken place at Salt Lake City. He has instructed me to be his interpreter near the president of the United States of America, and to assure him of the sympathy which he feels on account of this sad event. In transmitting to me the expressions of the sentiments of President Loubet, M. Delcasse, minister of foreign affairs, likewise intrusts me to convey to the American government the expression of the profound sympathy of the government of the republic."
"Be pleased to accept, Mr. Secretary of State, the assurances of my high consideration."
"JULES CAMBON."

WILL USE OWN TRACKS.

Florida Central and Peninsular Gives Southern Notice To That Effect.

The Florida Central and Peninsular railway system gave formal notice to the Southern railway Thursday that on and after May 10th it would discontinue the use of the tracks, bridge and terminals of the latter company at and near Columbia, S. C., and will operate their own trains over their own tracks all the way from Petersburg, Va., to Jacksonville and Tampa.

Track laying on the line between Richmond and Petersburg has been finished, and the new Seaboard Air Line railway will soon run through train service between New York and Tampa, using its own tracks from Richmond to the extreme southern portion of Florida.

D. B. CULBERSON DEAD.

Was Prominent Texan and Many Years a Congressman.

Ex-Congressman David B. Culberson, father of United States Senator Charles A. Culberson, of Texas, died at his home in Jefferson, Texas, Sunday.

Ex-Congressman Culberson served several times as a Democrat in the lower house of the national legislature, and was at one time a prominent candidate for the speakership. He was for a long time chairman of the judiciary committee of the house and was regarded as one of the best constitutional lawyers in public life.

PESTILENCE AND MISERY.

Cholera Now Adds Its Horrors to the Fearful Famine Raging in India.

The report received at London that cholera is strengthening its deadly hold on famine-stricken India brings the pitiful condition of that country more than ever to the public view. About 93,500,000 persons, for this is the population of the districts affected, are sweltering their squalid existences away amid pestilence and misery that show no signs of abating. Hundreds of thousands of pounds in good British gold, good German marks and American coin have been thrown into the country, but, judging from the latest advices, all this charity is merely a drop in the ocean.

The famine and its attendant complications appear to exceed in virulence any previous visitations. The viceroy, Lord Curzon, of Kedleston, and the government are making ceaseless exertions to meet the terrible emergency, but the stupendous difficulties confronting them prevent the present supplying of relief to more than five millions. In the meantime the native states are dotted with heaps of dead and dying, and the roads are crowded with ghastly bands seeking to escape from the stricken territories, but who, for lack of food and water, mostly succumb in the attempt. One of the most hopeless features of the whole affair is contained in the statement of a special correspondent at Simla, who writes:

"Ten times the total relief could be laid in a single district without fully describing its distress. All we can hope for is a succession of good years to put the people on their legs again."

The British districts are reported to be so far escaping the large starvation and mortality that mark the native states. But that their condition is not enviable is evident from the following description sent by a Bombay correspondent on the scene at Ahmedabad, a city in the presidency of Bombay:

"In an open space upward of 200 were seated, old and young, being famine personified. The smell arising from their filthy rags was sickening, and had attracted myriads of flies. Some, especially the old men, were bony frameworks. A girl suckling two children was ghastly to look at, but the little ones, with hollow temples, sunken eyes and cheeks and the napes of their necks falling in under their skulls, which seemed to overbalance their emaciated bodies, and with wisp like arms and legs, were more dreadful still. Many were suffering from disease and numbers had the fever. Those who could work were sent on where tanks were being dug; others were given a meal and passed on to the poorhouse."

This picture is from a less seriously affected part of the country. The sufferings in the remoter districts, where the famine is severe, where all the cattle have long since died, where the water is precious and where cholera has now added its dread scourge, can well be imagined.

CULTON BACK IN JAIL.

Application For Bail Refused By Judge Cantrill—Evidence Was Too Strong.

A Frankfort, Ky., special says: At the conclusion of the arguments on the motions for bail of W. H. Culton, charged with being an accessory in the murder of Governor William Goebel, Saturday night, Judge Cantrill denied the application and Culton was remanded to jail.

In rendering his decision Judge Cantrill said that the uncontradicted evidence on some of the points in the case left the court no recourse but to refuse the defendant's application for bail. Culton's trial will come up at the regular September term of court. The trials of the other accused prisoners will be held at Georgetown.

OFF FOR POPULIST CONVENTION.

Senator Butler, of North Carolina; Senator Pettigrew, of Dakota; M. C. Gavock, of Virginia; N. W. Fitzgerald, of West Virginia, and George H. Shibley, of New York, headed a party of eastern populists that left Washington over the Baltimore and Ohio railway Saturday for Sioux Falls, S. D., to attend the populist national convention.

PROHIBITION ROAST MCKINLEY.

Indiana Contingent Brings Up Subject of Army Canteen.

The prohibitionists of Indiana met in state convention at Indianapolis Wednesday to nominate a state ticket.

The platform vigorously denounces the liquor traffic and pledges perpetual war against it and invites all people in sympathy with the movement to assist by co-operation; denounces the annulment of the anti-canteen by the president and members of his cabinet and charges the president with moral cowardice in refusing to exercise his authority as commander-in-chief of the army to abolish the sale of liquor in the army.

BOERS RETIRE; BRITISH MOVE

"Tommy Atkins" Is Doing Some Hard Marching Just Now.

ROBERTS TAKES BRANDFORT.

The Irish-American Brigade Is Discovered Fighting Under Kruger's Colors.

London advices of Friday contained the following "war" news:

The mounted infantry with Lord Roberts, among which are the Canadians, have picketed their horses on the south bank of the Vet river 18 miles north of Brandfort. The head of Lord Roberts' column has thus advanced thirty-two miles north of Bloemfontein.

Little powder was spent. The British work was hard marching, the Boers retiring out of the reach of British shells. The correspondents supplement Lord Roberts' plain statements with a few details. As General Hutton, with the first mounted infantry brigade, drew near Brandfort, he saw a khaki-clad body of troops ahead of him. He was surprised, but thought they must be British. Soon, however, they opened fire upon the men, who replied heavily. They were the Irish-American brigade from Lourenzo Marques, and it is reported that the Irish lost heavily.

The Boer flag was flying over Brandfort as the British entered the town. Several British wounded were found in the hospital. The Boer postmaster gave up the keys of the public buildings to Captain Ross.

Lord Kitchener arrived at Brandfort at noon and Lord Roberts at dusk. General French's cavalry is sweeping the country northward. The expectation is that the infantry advance will be continued toward Kroonstad immediately. Although no prisoners were taken and although no hot pursuit was attempted, the news greatly cheers London. Nevertheless, it has not been received with the fine rapture that attended the first successes of Lord Roberts.

Brabant's division now occupies a strong position on a range of hills on the Ladybrand road, about twenty miles from Wepener. The troops are confronted by a large force of Boers who recently occupied Wepener and who have now been located in the mountain known in the Free State as Zwartlapherg. Friday morning the Borderers Horse, under Colonel Maxwell, came in contact with the Boer outposts, but returned to camp after having located the enemy. Later a group of 500 Boers was discovered marching past the Boer position, but the British were unable to tell whether they were friend or enemy until they had disappeared in a hollow a few miles away, when they proved to be a Boer command.

General Hunter's crossing the Vaal at Winlorton brings the relief of Mafeking, 195 miles beyond, almost within a calculated interval. It is now regarded as quite possible that Mafeking may be succored before the queen's birthday.

The debate in parliament on the Spion kop dispatches proved a disappointment to the supporters of the government. The ministerial papers confess to a certain amount of inconsistency and weakness in the statements of the spokesmen of the government. On the other hand, as The Standard points out, the opposition professes to be well satisfied with the debate, as they believe it has injured the government and has rendered Lord Lansdowne's continuance at the war office difficult.

Wepener is to be garrisoned with a strong force from General Chermide's division, commanded by Lord Castle-town.

Henry F. Lucy, writing in The Daily News, says he has ascertained that Sir Alfred Milner's letter against ladies visiting South Africa was written as the result of an intimation from Queen Victoria.

FOUR KILLED; SIXTEEN WOUNDED

Filipino Surprise Reconnoitering Party of Twenty-Sixth Infantry.

A dispatch received in Manila Thursday from Iloilo reports that a desperate fight took place at Leambanao, in the center of the island of Panay. It appears that a reconnoitering party of the Twenty-sixth infantry was surrounded and that four of the Americans were killed and that sixteen others severely wounded were left on the field. The remainder of the soldiers had a narrow escape. The dispatch adds that re-enforcements were sent from Iloilo as soon as news of the affair was received, whereupon the Filipinos retreated to mountains.

Cures Talk

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Patagonian Floating Stones.

The surprising phenomenon of heavy stones floating on water was observed last summer in southwest Patagonia by Drs. Nordenskiold and Borge. In a river were seen numerous clusters of small fragments of bituminous slate that had been broken from the cliffs and were floating on the water, and with a single cast of the net 700 of them, some of them more than half an inch in diameter, were obtained. The specific gravity of the pieces was nearly three times that of the water. The top of the stones was dry, and when this became wet they immediately sank. The cause of the phenomenon is somewhat complex. Minute bubbles held by a microscopic film of seaweed probably contributed to the effect, which was chiefly due to the repellent action of the greasy surface. It is suggested that floating stones may have played a hitherto unsuspected part in geology, as ocean currents may have transported them long distances, forming new strata far from the original source.

A Boy's Revenge.

The present German Emperor, then a small boy, attended the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales. He was under the charge of his two uncles, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Connaught. As may be expected, young William fidgeted sadly, and consequently received an occasional warning tap on the shoulder. But how he did revenge himself! His uncles were in Highland dress, and the future emperor slyly knelt down and bit into their bare legs with great earnestness.

Thoroughly at Home.

Jiggs—I called to see Brassey last night, but he wasn't at home.
Biggs—Oh, yes, he was.
Jiggs—I tell you he wasn't. He wasn't at home all evening.
Biggs—He was perfectly at home all evening. He monopolized our easiest chair and kept his feet on the piano stool.—Philadelphia Press.



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