Baxter Springs News

CHAS. L. SMITH, Editor & Owner.

BAXTER SPRINGS - - KANSAS

That kidnaped girl who returned of her own accord should claim the $5,000 reward.

When will automobilists learn that a reckless joy ride generally means death so some one?

Maybe up on Mars they regard the earth as such small potatoes that they never look this way.

News that the fur crop has been a failure in the far west is not worrying the women of the east.

The way of the smuggler, when he is found out, is fully as hard as that of the ordinary transgressor.

Unfortunately the crop of peach basket hats has not been in the least spoiled by the frosts of criticism.

Oh, well, dandelions are such pretty things that it's a shame to get a backache digging 'em out of the lawn.

Often a man will think very little of the hereafter until his time comes to die, and then he can think of nothing else.

Existence of one "popular" song can be forgiven for preventing a "big time" for the physician and the undertaker.

Turkey knew she could not possibly get a worse sultan than Abdul Hamid, and the masses, therefore, welcomed a change.

A New York jury valued a broker's teeth at $1,000 each. With false ones costing only $20 a set some one can knock out all of ours.

Now they say the meat packers are going into the business of manufacturing shoes. It would be just like them to hog the whole thing.

Astronomers are now basing their hopes on the assumption that Mars is as well advanced in telescopes as it appears to be in canals.

Great Britain has established a food inspection bureau after the American plan. It has still to learn the value of strict pure-food laws, however.

A Norwegian inventor sends typewriting by wireless. In the past only the thrilling glances of the blonde typist could be sent in this manner.

One difference between high and low society is that the domestic discords of the former end in the divorce court and of the latter in the police court.

Anything that will tend to make ice cream healthy and harmless should be welcomed. It may also be time to take recognition of the fact that you can't gauge the purity of soda water by the fizzing noise it makes.

There seems to be an increasing tendency to restrict athletics at colleges and universities in favor of scholastic work. As if any interest would be taken in the higher education with record-breaking teams and championship trophies cut out of the curriculum.

It was announced in the Belgain parliament that the government has no power to stop King Leopold from selling works of art, treasures, etc. The prospect, however, of getting rid of the old monarch by voluntary retirement ought to strike the people as a good return on the investment.

It has been discovered that "smuggling trunks" with false bottoms are manufactured in Paris expressly for the American trade. One of these, belonging to a wealthy Boston woman, was seized by the customs officers in New York and found to conceal $3,000 worth of handsome gowns. This shows that the quickening of the national conscience, of which so much is being made, isn't quite swift enough as yet.

None but the brave deserve the fair, and Cupid has always taken peculiar delight in mating the embryo naval and military heroes with fair brides. Hence, the recent order that midshipmen must not marry during the six years of their course is a solar plexus for the little blind boy, while as for the president, who signed the bill, parting so many fondly beating hearts, he will be denounced by scores of pouting rosy lips as "a mean old thing."

Mr. Wu, who is the Chinese minister at Washington, is also the accredited representative of his government to Peru. He is going to that country to present his credentials, and incidentally will open negotiations looking to the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and other South American countries. This is indicative of China's new and progressive policy. And Mr. Wu may be counted on as a potent factor in extending Chinese relations with contemporary nations.

Romances of Progress

By Albert Payson Terhune

GUTENBERG—Father of Newspaper and Book.

John Gutenberg, son of an exiled nobleman of Mainz, had an idea. The good people of Strasburg, where the young man lived, early in the fifteenth century, gave little credence to any of his theories. For Gutenberg was what would nowadays be known as a "get-rich-quick" crank. He had floated several schemes, borrowed money to perfect them, and had in every case failed to accomplish more than the impoverishing of himself and his backers.

Gutenberg's newest idea had come to him on seeing a full set of playing cards which had been constructed by means of stamps, or dies, instead of by hand. To the world at large this labor-saving process seemed wonderful. But it meant nothing more than that to any one except Gutenberg. It set him, however, to thinking.

If a collection of blocks with various designs carved on them could be used to mark 52 cards, why could not a similar set of blocks be made, each bearing one of the letters of the alphabet, and used for printing words, sentences, even whole pages?

A Discovery and How It was Made.

For centuries a process had been in use whereby such words, phrases and pictures were carved upon large blocks of wood, smeared with ink, covered with paper and subjected to a squeeze from a sort of cider-press. The result was a more or less smudgy reproduction of the carved letters or figures. Kings had been wont to use monograms carved on wood or metal to stamp signatures to state documents. In China, as early as 175 A. D. a far more advanced form of printing flourished than Europe was destined to know for more than 1,000 years thereafter.

But Gutenberg's idea far outstripped anything thus far dreamed of. For he planned (by means of many duplicates of each letter of the alphabet) the first form of "movable type." By placing, or "setting," these block letters in correct position he could make quickly in his "form."

The press he devised was of two upright timbers, with cross-pieces connecting them at bottom and top with two other cross-timbers, of which the lower supported the "form" of type. A large wooden screw ran from the upper timber down to the center of a wooden block or platen. When the "form" was put in place and inked a sheet of paper was damped and laid over it and the screw turned until the pressure stamped the inked printing letters on the paper. It was a simple, primitive affair, but it revolutionized printing and made possible all later books and newspapers. And, like most steps in progress, it was achieved through suffering.

Robbed of Fruits of His Invention.

Gutenberg induced a goldsmith, John Faust by name, to advance him 1,600 guilders to perfect the labor of making press and type. Then, in 1450, he set to work printing a Bible. This was a labor of five years. It was the first book ever printed, and came out in 1455. The experiment was proved a success. Printing was at last a known art. But no one was especially enthusiastic. The public did not realize that the discovery amounted to much. Faust demanded the return of the money he had lent. Gutenberg could not pay. Faust seized all the inventor's property, including type, presses and other machinery, and set up a printing establishment on his own account. Thus, at 50, Gutenberg was "broke," robbed of his invention and obliged to start life all over again.

He began afresh, with more borrowed money, on a new set of machinery, and was finally able to resume printing books. But now a new difficulty arose. Heretofore a guild of copyists had made a living by writing out copies of books for public sale. Monks also had gained large sums by illuminating such books. The invention of printing, of course, robbed both these classes of employment. Hence artisans and churchmen attacked Gutenberg viciously.

Worn out, childless, alone, impoverished, friendless, other men enjoying the fruits of his lifetime of labor, poor old Gutenberg, in 1468, died, having won the usual earthly martyrdom and immortal fame that seems the dual reward of nearly all great Progress-Makers.

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SHAKESPEARE --- The Man Who Revolutionized Literature

A youth of 20—the official "bad boy" of the sedate town of Stratford-on-Avon—was again in trouble. This time on a more serious charge than the beating of night watchmen or pilfering of fruit or other time-honored customs of the place. He was accused of no less an offense than the stealing of deer from the park of Sir Thomas Lucy, chief magistrate of the community.

The youth thus accused was Will Shakespeare, son of a formerly well-to-do merchant who had fallen on such financial ill-luck that this eldest son of his had been obliged to leave school at 13 and go to work.

Young Shakespeare was accused not only of stealing St. Thomas' deer, but of writing a scurrilous poem concerning the august magistrate himself. Altogether, Stratford became too hot to hold him. He ran away to London. But for that deer-stealing episode the world might never have heard of Shakespeare. And the march of progress—in literature and language as well—would have lacked its greatest impetus. Though so young, Shakespeare had been married for about two years. His wife, Anne Hathaway, was eight years his senior. Perhaps for this reason, perhaps from poverty, he left her and his children behind when he went to London.

The Fight with Poverty.

Practically penniless, the fugitive reached the metropolis and cast about him for some means of livelihood. But he had no love for routine drudgery nor experience in higher occupations. So he quickly drifted to the theaters and renewed acquaintance with some of the actors with whom he had caroused at Stratford. He picked up a few pence by holding the horses of men who came to see the plays. Later he leased out this hostler job to a number of street urchins, who became known as "Shakespeare Boys." From holding horses to picking up bits of work inside the theater was but a step. And in time he was playing small parts in various plays of the day. And so, for five years, went on his hand-to-hand battle against poverty. Play writing at that time was the crudest sort of art. Indecency, illiteracy, wretched English, poor plots and dreary stupidity were the drama's chief characterists. England, in fact, was far behind many other civilized nations in culture and literature.

Among the tasks allotted to Shakespeare in the theaters where he acted was the rewriting of old plays for use on the stage and the adapting and "building up" of parts to suit certain famous actors. At this he achieved an instant and marvelous success—a success that none but the greatest genius of his country could ever have achieved, for he not only revised the plays in question, but transformed them into vital, brilliant productions—classics for all time—couched in sublime verse and diction and so wholly changed from their original form as to be practically new. Many of the best plays attributed to Shakespeare were thus rewritten by him from others' manuscripts. Nearly all the rest were taken almost bodily from old books, stories, poems or legends. This is not regarded as plagiarism, since to each "borrowed" plot Shakespeare gave a new setting and treatment and new diction and clothed it in his own beauty of style. In fact, of all his plays, "Love's Labor Lost" (perhaps the poorest of the lot) is said to be the only one that was wholly original with him.

Honored and Persecuted.

How the half-educated, harum-scarum country boy ever amassed the education to write such classics has always been and always must remain a mystery. But the writing of them revolutionized not only the drama but all literature as well. England took and held a position in culture equal to that of any nation. Queen Elizabeth delighted to do the new genius honor. Great men vied for the chance of becoming his patrons. His fellow actors and playwrights in turn envied and hated him.

In 1599 he left London and returned to Stratford, where he wiped off old scores and earlier disgrace by buying the finest estate in the town. There, until the his death in 1616, he lived in luxury, courted by the children of the men who had once persecuted him. Even in death his genius showed itself, for he hit on a clever plan to save his remains from the disinterment so common at that time. This four-line verse, said to have been his latest poem, was cut on his tombstone, and its wording has ever since guarded his grave from molestation:

"Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear
To dig the dust inclos-ed here.
Blest be the man who spares these stones,
But curst be he who moves my bones!"

(Copyrighted.)

NEW KINDS OF VEGETABLES.

Delicious Radishes of Unusual Size the Result of Long and Careful Experiments.

(Copyright, 1909.)

About three years ago the United States department of agriculture introduced a new radish from Japan, which immediately made its way as something both striking and valuable. It is an enormous white-skinned radish with leaves two and three feet long. The seed looks like that of the common radish, only considerably larger. This radish is known by several names, the most common of which is Sakurajima.

It is claimed to reach the weight of 30 pounds in Japan. The heaviest one they were able to grow at the Rhode Island station weighed 18 pounds, and in various tests with seed secured from various places it averaged 15 pounds, which made a pretty good sized radish.

It grows about a foot and a half long, and about eighteen inches through. Its leathery skin is easily removed, revealing beneath a crystal whiteness, very solid, and in texture like an extremely fine apple. It tastes like our earliest radishes of the highest quality. It has the rare merit of being free from rankness or biting character even in the heat of summer or fall. It never grows corky or pithy and grows equally well in every kind of soil.

The Sakurajima may be eaten in many ways. It is sliced and eaten raw, or may be boiled and served very much as we cook turnips; in China and Japan it is sliced and sprinkled with salt and allowed to stand for about twenty-four hours, then washed and served. The leaves also are edible. They may be cooked as greens, are far more delicate than kale, and are finer for this purpose than any of the well-known greens used in different portions of the country.

Unlike the smaller members of the great radish family, Sakurajima is at its best in the summer time, when all other early radishes have become unsatable. Pulled the last of November, after several hard freezes, it proved sweet and palatable.

Sea kale is not what can be termed a new garden vegetable, but it is classed among the "fancy" vegetables. It is not common, because an idea has prevailed that it cannot produce results worth while in less than four years. This has recently been proved an erroneous idea. It is a most delicious vegetable, combining as it does the flavors of asparagus, cauliflower and celery. The edible portions are the naked leaf stalks, which are forced and bleached.

They look at first sight like celery stalks, but have a distinctive taste of their own unlike any other vegetable.

It may also be cooked and served with drawn butter, in which form it resembles stewed celery, tastes something like blanched asparagus, but has withal a special and delicious flavor all its own.

Good Hay for Horse.

Many farmers still have the notion that clover hay is not fit to feed work horses. It is one of the best of hays for horses. It contains good muscle and energy-producing materials. It is almost twice as rich as timothy, hence a less amount is needed. A good way to use clover with horses is to feed it half and half with timothy. Clover hay is a good bowel regulator, and is generally beneficial if fed with caution.

Money in Farm Animals.

Live stock of all kinds is now on a high basis and no doubt will continue so for some time to come. There is money in growing farm animals, both for the animals themselves and for the good they do in producing fertilizer at home. Keep all young stock growing on pasture, and do not be afraid to feed a little grain to supplement the grass ration.

Take Care of the Colts.

Don't let the colts go out into pasture skin poor. Keep them in good flesh with hay and grain foods. Corn and clover hay are about the best feeds for these young animals, and they will eat them all the year round. Dry clover hay is relished by all cattle and horses even when on good summer pasture, and it is a good thing to give them a daily feed of it.

A Good Rotation.

A good rotation for mixed farming is wheat, clover, meadow one year, cow pasture for one year, corn and oats one year. This makes a six-year rotation. Where there are permanent pastures on the farm one year can be cut out by not pasturing the clover the second year.

Asparagus Seed.

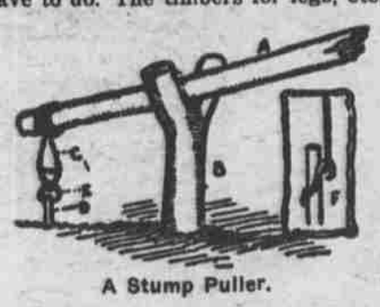
Asparagus seed is slow to germinate but it will nearly all grow, nevertheless. It will start quicker if it is first soaked in warm water. Radish seed mixed with it will mark the rows so a cultivator can be used.

ROAD AND FARM IMPROVEMENT

HOME-MADE STUMP PULLER.

Contrivance for the Extermination of "Grubs" of all Kinds, from Big Pine Down.

This part of Michigan is yet new, so we have a great many stumps to deal with, of all kinds and sizes, from the monstrous pine down to the small hardwood, or "grubs," as the latter are called here. The illustration shows the general construction of a kind of machine which is in general use here for pulling stumps, says a writer in the Rural New Yorker. I cannot give sizes, because they are made in all sorts to suit the work they have to do. The timbers for legs, etc.,



A Stump Puller.

do not need to be sawed or hewed, a round pole will do as well, if it is only stout enough. A blacksmith can make the irons, and any farmer who is handy with tools can put one up, the one thing important to know being that every part must be very strong and rigid, as the strain is something immense. The tackle block at the bottom (on the "shoe") is single; the others may be double, triple or even quadruple, according to the power needed to do the work. The large clevis, hanging from the lever, can be changed to different holes, as shown, to give more or less power, as needed. The tackle blocks should be iron or steel, and a half-inch wire cable is much better than a hemp rope. The way to use the apparatus will readily suggest itself from the picture.

DESTROYING THE BUGS' NESTS

Contrivance for the Destruction of Plant-Destroying Insects and Their Nests.

Take a piece of tin or sheet iron and make it into a sort of funnel; the wider the opening at the top the better it will be. Fasten this funnel to any pole of sufficient length to reach the caterpillar webs, and

drive a wire nail up through the pole at A so that the sharp end projects an inch or two into the funnel. This is to hold the oil-saturated corn cob which is used to burn the nests.

Now, when your machine is complete, light the fire, hold the fire and funnel directly beneath the nest to be burned, and the rest is evident. The great advantage of this device is that the funnel catches all caterpillars which fall. Max M. Lutton.

Scarcity of Farm Help.

The great problem of farming communities to-day is the scarcity of farm help, which makes it increasingly difficult for the farmer to leave home. It hardly seems possible that within a few hours' ride of our great cities, help cannot be secured, but our farmer friends assure us that it is easier to pick bank notes off blackberry bushes than to find a man to milk cows and take care of stock on the farm—and yet there are thousands in the cities who are serving long hours at unwholesome work for the merest pittance, who might regain health and manhood by taking up country work.—National Magazine.

PROPER CARE OF HORSES.

Many horses are ruined by being brought into the barn too hot and left to stand in a cold draught or hitched to a post to stand.

A good currying occasionally does not make a sleek horse. It takes every-day grooming to open the pores, soften the skin and produce a good, healthy, sleek coat.

The colt's training must begin shortly after birth. A halter should be put on so he can be caught and handled every day. Never tease him.

Regularity of work counts in everything, and especially in the handling of animals.

The horse that is worked regularly acquires strong muscles and tough shoulders.

Many farmers allow their work horses to remain idle for several days or weeks at a time, and then immediately put them into hard service.

It is a better plan to arrange some work for the horses daily. In this way their bodies never become soft and weak, hence they seldom become ill or injured and are always in training for efficient service.