The Brattleboro Reformer

Published Every Evening
Except Sunday at
The American Building Annex,
Main Street,
Brattleboro, Vermont.
Address All Communications to
The Reformer.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Single Copies ..... Three Cents
One Week ..... Eighteen Cents
One Month ..... Seventy-Five Cents
One Year ..... Eight Dollars

Entered in the postoffice at Brattleboro as second class matter.

The Reformer Telephone Number is
127
For Business Office and Editorial Rooms.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Transient advertising—Run of paper, 50 cents an inch for first insertion, 30 cents an inch for each subsequent insertion. Limited space on first page at double rates.

Space rates on application.

Classified advertisements—Five cents a line first insertion with 50 per cent discount for each subsequent insertion without change of copy. Minimum charge 20 cents. Cash with order.

Reading Notices—Twenty cents per line first insertion with 50 per cent discount for each subsequent insertion without change of copy. Reading notices are published at foot of local items.

TO THE SUBSCRIBERS.

It is the aim of the management to secure efficient service in the delivery of the paper each night, and it solicits the co-operation of subscribers to that end. Prompt reports should be given of each failure to receive the paper on the morning following the omission, in person, by telephone or postal card, thus enabling the cause of the error to be promptly and accurately discovered and the proper remedy immediately applied. It is only by this method that the publisher can secure the desired service.

Member of The Associated Press.

The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news despatches credited to it and not otherwise credited in this paper and also the local news published herein.

The Reformer is on sale every evening by the following news dealers:
Brattleboro, Brattleboro News Co., C. W. Cleaveland, S. L. Purinton (Esteyville), Brooks House Pharmacy, Allen's Depot Newsstand, Gilbert J. Pollica, 297 South Main St. (Fort Dummer district).
West Brattleboro, J. L. Stockwell.
East Dummerston, M. E. Brown.
Putney, M. G. Williams.
Newfane, N. M. Batchelder.
West Townshend, C. H. Grout.
South Londonerry, F. H. Tyler.
South Vernon, E. B. Buffum.
Northfield, Mass., Thompson Bros.
West Chesterfield, N. H., Mrs. W. Streeter.
Hinsdale, N. H., W. H. Lyman
Greenfield, Mass., Greenfield News Co.
Greenfield, Mass., C. A. Hays.

TUESDAY JAN. 4, 1921.

A START AT DISARMAMENT.

The way to disarm, as a practical New York paper remarks, is to disarm. The way to cut down the cost of armament is to cut down the cost of armament not in the indefinite future, but in the living present.

Great Britain has adopted this simple, practical policy, making an immediate cut of 50 per cent in its army and navy budgets for next year. This move is precisely in line with Senator Borah's plan for a 50 per cent reduction in new naval construction for the next five years by a triple agreement on the part of America, Great Britain and Japan.

There is every indication that Britain would gladly extend this economical policy to cover the proposed five-year period. Utterances in Japan suggest that that country would welcome a similar move, if Japanese statesmen were persuaded that they could take it safely. They are simply afraid of American armament. Everything hinges on the United States. Our government can determine the armament policy of these three powers, and then by inevitable consequence the policy of the other big powers and all the little ones.

Such work as this was expected of the league of nations. The league has felt it useless to take up the disarmament question without the co-operation of the United States. Whether or not this country is going to join the league, there is no need to wait.

The main thing is to make a start at disarmament, and the United States can make that start now, without any danger to itself, thereby easing the burden of the whole world and saving itself a heap of money.

DISPLAY AND CRIME.

It would be hard to say how much the increasing custom of wearing expensive jewelry at all hours and places and of displaying fat purses in public has to do with the increase in crime, but doubtless it is enough to warrant some checking of these habits.

There was a time, not long ago, when comparatively few of the very wealthy and socially prominent possessed jewels of any size or note, and these were worn upon state occasions only, while simpler ideas of shopping and entertainment made the carrying of large sums of ready money unnecessary. Today the possession of costly jewelry is almost as common as the ownership of dishes or furniture, and it is worn at all hours of the day and night, regardless of time or fitness. The fat purse is the natural accompaniment of such exhibition.

Under the old regime the highwayman had to search for a victim. Today it is an even chance that any man or woman walking along the city street will repay attack, while a few minutes of observation in any crowd will reveal numberless promising candidates. The field which heretofore afforded recompense for only a few is now the happy hunting ground for an increasing number of the criminal minded.

A good many excellent people would be indignant if told that their innocent vanity was largely responsible for the crime increase, but a little calm consideration should convince them, since the thing which makes them conspicuous to the merchant and the passer-by as financially successful marks them likewise to the observant thief.

That black bear on Mt. Greylock might as well give up the ghost. The hunting party organized to go after him have been notified that it was not allowable to use firearms on the reserve and are now going after bruin with bows and arrows and long swords. Somebody ought to take along a falcon.

A good portion of the country is now engaged in the pleasant pastime of picking out postmasters and there are doubtless many present postmasters who found after being picked that the postoffice as a pastime was not as pleasant as predicted.

Burlington reports that the summer tourist season in that city for 1920 broke all previous records. Besides having great scenic beauty to offer the traveler, they are also located on what has been for the past year an extremely popular tourist route.

The Vermont legislature for 1921 cranks up tomorrow for what will probably be a three months' run. A short session is usually prophesied, but it is pretty sure to hold until the call of "sugaring" and spring's work begins to be felt.

According to statistics compiled, lynchings were less numerous in 1920 than in 1919, only 61 having been victims as against 83 last year. "Only 61" carries enough disgrace for a yearly record.

Two Montpelier men serving time in the state prison have been pardoned by Governor Clement but refuse to go home. Having tried both places, they have made their choice.

See that your automobile is also writing it 1921.

What is so rare as a spring day in January?

Befogging The Issue.

(Rutland Herald.)

The Morrisville Messenger, desirous of lending a right hand to the plan of Representative Charles H. Stearns of Johnson for tearing down the educational system of Vermont, has the following:

One trouble with our rural schools today is too much consolidation.

Almost $100,000 spent annually for transportation alone.

As a Richmond mother said with tears in her eyes at a meeting of school directors, called to see about re-establishing a school in her district, "I want my children near home. I do not like the company they are in or the things they learn going to and from the central school. It is ruining their characters."

There you have it. She is only one of thousands of mothers who feel the same way.

There are several significant things about this little "sob story" of the esteemed and venerable contemporary. The good mother does not like the company her children get into on their way to school.

Does she expect that the school directors or the town or the state can guarantee the desirability of every child that goes to a public school?

It is a mother's natural repulsion from things coarse, unlovely or disillusionizing, but it isn't practical. All children must go to school in this state, and they all should go to school. The sooner a child finds out that there are boys and girls of all kinds in this world and learns to pick and choose his friends the better for him.

What this tearful mother wants is a private school of three or four hand-picked pupils and a teacher she can hire herself. It is a lovely idea but it is not reasonable and it is not good democracy.

Furthermore, she was before the right tribunal to secure a remedy for existing abuses, if there are abuses, in Richmond or elsewhere. The school board can give the "sob sister" a school just as soon as the required number of three "residents" petition therefor and produce a minimum of five children.

Think of it: Two more sobbing mothers on those who don't sob, with five children among them, can get such a school if the local directors see fit to establish it, yet the contemporary brings forward this terrible example as an argument against the system as it stands now.

Repeal the transportation law? Very well. Then there must be some sort of a law to govern the situation. What law does the contemporary propose? A law to make it mandatory on the school directors to establish such schools, whether they have money to do it or not or whether the majority of the taxpayers want it or not?

The Messenger knows better. It knows that such a law would merely make conditions worse and could not possibly be enforced.

The sooner these tear-em-down advocates "hit the grit" and get down to practical conditions the better off they will be. Sob sister stuff such as the foregoing is a mere smoke screen for the Stearns slogan: "Restore the Johnson normal school or fight!"

Farm Help and Plural Marriage!

(Rutland Herald.)

The Vergennes Enterprise and Vermonter claims authentic record for the following suggestion, said to have been received by the governor of Colorado from one George Smith:

"I offer you something to help the farmers, and you can lead all the other governors if you can get it made a law. It is, let the city men have one wife and the farmers have two wives. You see, one could help the other, and a farmer could more surely raise boys to work the farm, and not need to hire at high wages. Then the farmers could sell crops cheap and make money, and living in cities would be cheaper, and many young men would leave cities to be on a farm and have two wives. A farmer can't get any help unless it is born and raised on a farm. You would be a better man than Lincoln if you can get the United States to let all the farmers have two wives."

The contemporary says that this sugwith scant respect wherever promulgestion receives but little support from the press and probably it is treated gated, but the history of rural development in ancient times, down to the tremendous agricultural progress of Utah in this country, might indicate that the idea, repugnant as it is to our American ideals of the home and community, is not so much of a joke as it seems at first blush.

The patriarchs of Bible times practiced plural marriage and supported establishments of women, varying in number from two or three of the founders of the various tribes of Israel to the seven hundred wives, princesses of the royal blood, and three hundred concubines from the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians and Hittites, "many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh," which made up the establishment or harem of King Solomon, "wisest of men."

Oriental exaggeration or free translation has probably enlarged and amplified this King Solomon story, but the practice of polygamy, so abhorrent to Anglo-Saxon ideas, comes straight from the Orient and scriptural writ to Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormons, whose institution of polygamy undoubtedly helped to solve many of the early problems of Utah.

Smith and Brigham Young never had any "help" problem. Even today, in southern Idaho and Utah, the traditions of Mormonism, while they do not effectuate in actual polygamy, may be marked by large, robust families, mostly bred to the soil and taking as naturally to agriculture as a duck takes to water.

In California, the much-hated Japanese does not openly practice polygamy, but his easy-going ways of picture marriage, divorce and frankly unmoral conditions of social contact have resulted in population increases that are giving quiet students of such things considerable concern.

To state things in practical terms, the birth rate on the farm is of the utmost importance in the progress of agriculture, but plural marriage will probably not be the solution!

In this respect, the fine old native Vermont families are at a disadvantage. The newcomers, French Canadians, Europeans or other races, are practical disbelievers in race suicide. We Vermonters, priding ourselves on the assumption that the lion's whelp is of more consequence than the rabbit's litter, run to smaller families and even no families, so that here and there—more often than we like to think of—the best of the old Vermont stock is dying out.

The answer, of course, is not polygamy, but clearly we can no longer expect our farmers' wives to bear and rear large families, do the work for a large household and at the same time take the part in home and community activities that changing conditions offer her.

More help for the farm! At last we get down to fundamentals and realize that not only must rural conditions be made more pleasant and agreeable, but that farmers' wives must have in their homes—or plants—something approximating the conveniences and labor-saving devices which are fixtures in the field, the barn and the dairy today.

The gentleman from Colorado states things a little crudely, but what lies back of his peculiar state of mind is the fact that farmers' wives neither can nor will work from daylight to dark hereafter, with Sunday a special problem of its own and holidays so few as to be forgettable.

They aren't looking for deputy wives, but are demanding modern conveniences and help enough to do their work without exhaustion and with time enough to devote to a growing family.

Mary A. Livermore, the centennial of whose birth is soon to be celebrated, attained a greater success in the lecture field than any other American woman. As a lecturer she traveled over 25,000 miles annually, visiting every state in the Union, and also England and Scotland. Her lecture topics include historical, biographical, political, religious, and reformatory subjects.

The Discarded Christmas Tree

Today's Events

Two months from today will be the day for the "big doings" in the city on the Potomac.

Centenary of the birth of John W. Hutchinson, of the famous Hutchinson family of singers.

The state of Utah celebrates its silver jubilee today, having been admitted to the Union Jan. 4, 1896.

The annual meting of the Educational association of the Methodist Episcopal church will open today in New York city.

Governor Emery J. San Souci and other Rhode Island state officials elected in November will be inducted into office today.

The twenty-fourth annual exhibition of the Vermont State Poultry association will open at St. Albans today and continue through the week.

In connection with Henry Ford's contest for the senate seat now held by Truman H. Newberry, the United States election subcommittee today will begin a recount of the entire Michigan vote in the disputed election.

In The Day's News.

Charles D. Hilles, who is mentioned for the post of secretary of the treasury in the next cabinet, first came into the public eye as private secretary to President Taft, and later attained prominence as assistant secretary of the treasury. In 1912 he served as manager of the Republican national campaign. Mr. Hilles's rise in public life is a dramatic story and intensely American in its illustration of the opportunity that, even in these days, awaits the young man who does his job well. Born in Lancaster, O., a little more than 50 years ago, he first engaged in newspaper work in his home town. Then he accepted a subordinate position at the Boys' Industrial school in Lancaster and in the course of time became superintendent of the institution, in which position he won a reputation for administrative ability that led to his appointment as head of the Juvenile asylum in New York city.

Today's Anniversaries.

1717—A triple alliance was formed by England, France and Holland, to check the ambition of Spain.

1789—Thomas Nelson, a Virginia signer of the Declaration of Independence, died in Hanover county, Va. Born at Yorktown, Va., Dec. 26, 1738.

1813—Sir Isaac Pitman, inventor of the system of shorthand writing that bears his name, born in England. Died there in 1897.

1825—Ferdinand, IV., who had a remarkable reign of 65 years as king of Naples, died. Born in 1751.

1846—Salvadore M. Catalano, who piloted Decatur into the harbor of Tripoli, died in Washington, D. C. Born in Sicily in 1776.

1871—The Germans bombarded the southern forts of Paris.

1896—Seven members of the dominion cabinet resigned, favoring Sir Charles Tupper for premier in place of Sir Mackenzie Bowell.

1918—Guatemala city was severely shaken by earthquake shocks.

One Year Ago Today.

Polish forces surrounded Dvinsk in a new offensive against the Bolsheviki.

Today's Birthdays.

Carter Glass, United States senator from Virginia, born at Lynchburg, Va., 63 years ago today.

Rt. Rev. Charles J. O'Reilly, Catholic bishop of Lincoln, Neb., born at St. John, N. B., 61 years ago today.

Bishop Frank M. Bristol, of the Methodist Episcopal church, born in Orleans county, N. Y., 70 years ago today.

Louis F. Hart, who is about to begin another term as governor of the state of Washington, born at High Point, Missouri, 59 years ago today.

Women have been admitted for the first time as associates of the Royal Victorian institute of architects and the Sydney institute of architects, and the new department of architecture in Sydney University has attracted a number of enthusiastic women students.

Little Benny's Note Book

By LEE PAPE.

We was having joggriffy in skool today and Skinny Martin started to make diffrent faces at me as if he was trying to say something, me making diffrent faces back at him as if I dident know wat he was tawking about, wich I dient and Skinny started to wave his hand, saying to Miss Kitty, Can I go over and say something important to Benny Potts a minnit?

I sippose you meen, may you, sed Miss Kitty, and Skinny sed, Yes mam, can I?

How meny times must I tell this class the diffrents between can and may? sed Miss Kitty, is there enybody in the room who can ixplain the diffrents?

Wich Ed Werniek waved his hand saying, Wen you wunt to be polite you say May I, but wen you jest meerly wunt to know, you say Can I?

Very brilliant but intirely rong, surely somebody in this class knows the diffrents between can and may, sed Miss Kitty.

Wich Sid Hunt waved his hand, saying, Wen a persin asks weather they may, it meens future, but if they ask weather they can, it means past.

It meens never if I happen to be the one thats asked, sed Miss Kitty, now I'll ixplain the diffrence once more, may signifies permission, wile can signifies power or ability to do a thing, now who can give me a sentence using both werds correckly?

Wich Skinny Martin waved his hand, saying, May I have the permission to have the power to go over and say something important to Benny Potts, now can I speeck to him?

You may not, sed Miss Kitty. Meening he couldent, and we kepp on with the joggriffy lessin and after skool I asked Skinny wat he wunted to tell me important, but he couldent remember.

VERMONT NEWS

Simon Saiger, a Burlington grocer, was fined $300 and costs of $8.67 in city court last week for selling cider containing more than 3 per cent of alcohol. The court remitted $250 of the fine.

A 20 per cent reduction in the price of pastry goods in Burlington went into effect yesterday morning through an agreement of local bakers at a recent meeting. The prices of cakes, doughnuts, rolls, etc., have dropped from three to eight cents a dozen.

Ernest Kittredge of Walden, who lost one hand some time ago, does more work with one than many with two. This winter he has averaged to chop a cord of wood a day, piling it, besides doing the chores at his own home and at his father's, while the latter is attending court.

Henry E. Cheney of Rutland, a Rutland railroad employe, pleaded guilty before City Judge George M. Goddard of Rutland municipal court to a charge of illegally bringing into this country from Canada 24 quarts of whiskey which he declared were for his own use during the holidays. He was fined $100 and costs.

The Queen City Cotton Co. of Burlington announced yesterday that the mill would resume operations next Monday morning and employ its 550 workers on a better than half-time basis. The company claims to be entirely without orders, but is understood to be carrying out its policy of keeping its help employed as far as possible.

Waldo Brunelle, 18, of Rutland is in the Rutland hospital suffering from a 22-calibre rifle bullet wound in his head. The wound was accidentally inflicted Saturday while Mr. Brunelle was at a camp in Mendon with a party of other lads. It is thought he was struck by a stray bullet, as some of the party were squirrel hunting in the vicinity.

WILL FIGHT EXTRADITION.

Massachusetts Wants Man Now in Jail for Smuggling.

MONTPELIER, Jan. 4.—Robert Vaughn, who was sentenced to the county jail here from federal court a month ago, is being detained for the Massachusetts authorities who charge him with breach of his parole on the grounds that he was convicted in federal court of smuggling a Chinaman into this country. He had served part of his term in prison and was then paroled. Vaughn, who has been an ideal prisoner while committed to the jail here, will fight extradition.

WILLIAMS SENIOR SUED.

Defendant in Case for $15,000 Damages in Auto Fatality.

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass., Jan. 4.—Suits aggregating $15,000 in damages sought have been entered in the superior court against Theodore S. Heyman of New York, a senior at Williams college, whose auto on the night of Sept. 28 struck and killed Gaspard Richards of North Adams and injured Joseph Chenaille of this town.

One suit for $10,000 is entered by Adele Richards, widow of the man killed, while the other, for $5,000, is entered by Chenaille in his own behalf. Following the accident Heyman was fined $200 in the district court on a charge of operating an automobile in a way to endanger the lives and safety of the public.

WILD GEESE FLY NORTH.

Unusually Mild Weather Apparently Fools Many Flocks of Birds.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—The unreasonably mild weather is fooling the birds as well as humans, according to recently seen numerous "wedges" of wild geese flying north. It is believed that they may have stopped their annual migration south, and, misled by the mild winter, turned north again.

Dr. William T. Hornaday, director of the Bronx Zoological garden, when asked about the matter, said:

"It is perfectly reasonable to believe the mild weather had deceived those foolish birds into thinking that Spring has come. When they reach Canada they will receive a shock that will convince them they have made a mistake and head them back south again."

MAKING WORK FOR ALL.

Those Who Would Spread It Out Invite Attention to Great Inventions.

Advocates of the practice of spreading work out so that there may be enough jobs to go around are invited by a writer in a recent issue of a little bulletin called the Industrial Digest, published weekly in this city, to recall the circumstances attending the inventions of Hargreave, Arkwright and Watts. Seeking a night's lodging in Lancashire, Arkwright, a barber by trade, discovered Hargreave busily engaged in the dead of night and in the utmost secrecy trying to evolve a spinning wheel that would turn out eight threads at one time. The secrecy was necessitated by the fact that James Hargreave stood in actual danger of the attacks of the village spinners and weavers, who had already invaded his home and destroyed one machine which he had succeeded in making.

Hargreave's spindle jenny became a fact, and Arkwright, discovering that he had an inventive mind, improved Hargreave's machine. Watts having invented his steam engine, a factory was established by Arkwright and his improved spindles were steam-perated. The death knell of the cottage industry of the weavers and spinners had sounded, but, cotton users the world over, including the workers in the mills themselves have greatly benefited, says the writer, who calls attention to the fact that "examples of 'ca'canny' as practiced by workmen are familiar to English industrial interests," and that a similar spirit of caution in doing work so as to provide jobs for all has been and still is being evidenced here.

Scarcer 'n Hen's Teeth.

After trying in vain for months to get a house in Denver, Mr. Newcomer set out one day with a find-a-house-or-die look on his face. He wandered about all day without being successful, until at last his steps led him to the Platte river. "Ah!" he said, in utter despair, "how tempting it looks!" He was almost inclined to plunge in and end it all. Suddenly he heard a splash and, looking around, saw his friend Green struggling in the water. Without attempting to save him he rushed off to the rental agency. "Quick!" he gasped, "Green has fallen in the river. Can I have his house?" "Sorry," said the agent, "I've already let it to the man who pushed him in."—Denver Field and Farm.

Got it Back On Him.

At one of the western camps a rookie had been made the victim of so much guying that he had long since given up the idea of taking any statements seriously. One night while on guard, a tall figure loomed out of the darkness.

"Who's there?" challenged the recruit.

"Major Moses," replied the figure.

"Glad to meet you, Mose. Advance and give the Ten Commandments."—American Legion Weekly.

A prominent critic has aroused a storm of protest from women of the dramatic profession by declaring that the American stage of a generation ago possessed a far larger number of capable actresses than it does today.

A prominent critic has aroused a storm menting on the efficiency of women in industry, says: "If the war had lasted another two years I would have undertaken to build a dreadnought with female labor."

Gastronomic Geography.

I think of Philadelphia,
Then instantly of scrapple,
And any town in old Vermont
Suggests a big red apple;
Boston, baked beans, and New Orleans,
Shrimp salad celebrated,
While Jacksonville brings pleasant thoughts
Of oranges all crated.

With Sacramento purple prunes
In cream appear before me,
Chicago stands for rare roast beef
And sirloin in its glory,
And with the breath of violets
And traffic's hurly-burly,
New York presents the oyster served
Upon the half shell pearly.
—N. Y. Herald.