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BURLINGTON, THURSDAY, AUG. 18.

WANTED.

When you want anything, advertise in the new special column of this paper. Some bargains are offered there this week which it will pay you to read about. See page two. This paper has more than 25,000 readers every week and one cent a word will reach them all.

The Toledo Blade says that "there are 90,000,000 people in the United States according to report, and yet nobody seems to be crowded." Except in the list of politicians in both parties throughout the country who do not know where they are at.

Uncle Horace Johnson, the famous seer of Winsted, Conn., says that "from the second to the twenty-sixth of September be prepared for a disturbance of great force. It will be generally severe along the coast. Mariners should be on the lookout. A tidal wave will be in order." Who would suppose the Vermont election would disturb things like that?

The Northfield News offers the following excellent advice in connection with the election of members of the Legislature: "For candidates for representative to the General Assembly, let each party nominate its best man. If this plan is followed in every town the next Legislature will be a mighty force in the advancement of Vermont's best interests."

Speaker Cannon will not be ousted. He announces his candidacy for reelection to the speakership, and in reply to the report that President Taft contemplates the reorganization of the party including the elimination of Cannon and Aldrich, he makes the characteristic rejoinder that he does not believe the President ever said any such thing, and that the statement was made by a member of the Ananias club. He added, "God hates a coward and I intend to die with my boots on." Whatever one may think about "Uncle Joe's" infinite variety, apparently age cannot wither him.

SURE CROPS IN VERMONT.

Seed time and harvest are guaranteed the human race, but not all over the earth at the same time. There is always plenty to eat, but it is not always evenly distributed.

Vermont is fortunate enough to be located in a region in which seed time and harvest as regards all of its staple crops follow each other with greater regularity and certainty than are experienced in almost any other section of the country.

When we speak of the tremendous advantages which some parts of the West have over our own State, we forget how often the farmers of that section have their seed time, only to be disappointed in the harvest, as is the case in some parts of the American and Canadian Northwest at the present time.

Certainty of crop results is a valuable and important asset that is often not fully appreciated, and it is one of the factors of the farming situation in Vermont which should be strongly emphasized.

Farming in Vermont is rapidly coming into its own where modern methods are adopted, and thorough cultivation and fertilization are coming to replace larger farms as watchwords.

BETTER FIRE PROTECTION.

There are many sides to the question of sufficient protection against loss of property by fire and one of those is brought out by the following editorial paragraph from the Rutland News:

"Vermont has no more estates of summer residents than it wants. In fact it is anxious to multiply the number of city people who will seek a summer home in this State. Consequently it is regarded peculiarly in the light of a misfortune when a really magnificent place like that of Philip B. Jennings at Bennington Center is destroyed by fire. While it is believed that Mr. Jennings's loyalty to and love of Vermont will lead him to restore his place in the near future, nevertheless it would be the desire of every Vermonter to guarantee to its visitors and transient residents immunity from loss."

The people of the villages and larger towns in Vermont should promptly face the fact that considerations of economy alone will dictate the adoption of every reasonable precaution against the destruction of homes as well as business buildings by fire. Moreover it will pay those centers of population which have summer residents to look carefully after fire protection in order to retain families who bring a large amount of money annually into Vermont and put it in circulation among our business and laboring people.

It is no secret that the insurance companies are more and more scrutinizing risks and either rejecting those which are questionable or else making rates according to the great chances taken. This is purely a matter of business, with property owners as well as with insurance companies, which properly make a reduction in rates when adequate measures are adopted for the protection of property from destruction by fire.

A BRIGHTER REPUBLICAN OUTLOOK.

The announced determination of President Taft to rid himself and his administration of those factors which have been provocative of what has come to be known as extreme insurgentism has been promptly followed by a constantly brightening outlook for republican success in the coming elections.

Ours is a country of progress and the party which stands still by "standing pat" is pretty sure to be discarded. President Taft plainly started out with a determination to be a progressive republican, and if the ultra-conservatives in Congress had kept pace with him instead of trying so hard to block his program in connection with tariff revision and forcing him to compromise much, if not all, of the present factional troubles in the party would have been avoided. The President wanted Cannon to retire, but the conservative element was unable to control the situation to a certain extent, with the result which the country has witnessed.

Now the President has plainly determined to stand with the progressive element in the party, and to eliminate as soon as possible the individual tariff schedules, which have caused so much discussion, particularly in connection with the "rubber" controversy between the republican Senators Bristow and Aldrich.

In other respects President Taft was able to secure the adoption of measures by Congress, which will bear favorable comparison with the record of any single session in years, and with provision for the slight changes in certain tariff schedules in question, the opponents of the President will have nothing left to talk about. President Taft plainly has the necessary backbone to do what he believes is best for the country as well as for the party, and all Americans will admire him all the more for it, with all which this implies as regards a brighter national outlook for his party.

It now behooves republicans everywhere to get together. Republicans of Vermont should make a special effort to get to the polls on September 6, which is only three weeks from next Tuesday, and make their verdict felt in relation to State and county as well as congressional issues. A big vote is greatly to be desired, and but little time remains in which to take steps to get it out.

LICENSE CONTROL BY THE PEOPLE.

The Rutland News discusses two plans of solving the license commission problem. One is to provide that where assistant judges in appointing license commissioners can not agree a third party shall be called in to help decide. The other proposition is that a State board of commissioners be substituted for the local license commissioners. This does not exhaust the possible remedies however.

The tendency of the times throughout the country is indicated by the slogan, "Back to the people." This appeals with special force to the people of Vermont who are standing more strongly than ever for their own government and according to the State republican platform any radical change in our liquor laws' local option features must be referred back to the people.

One of the strongest arguments for local option is that it enables the people of each community to determine for themselves whether liquor shall be sold as a beverage, and thus ensures public support of whatever policy is adopted each year. It follows that the people of each community know better than any man or group of men far removed how licenses should be distributed in their midst.

Moreover if local control is unsatisfactory it can be changed at the end of the year whereas our State commissions have biennial terms, and no change could be made for two years no matter how essential.

It is more important now to keep control of liquor licenses close to the people than before the big interests in so many lines of business recently began to dominate the retail trade. A single commission in control of the entire liquor license system of the State, under favorable conditions, could be converted into a powerful weapon for the big brewery interests outside of Vermont with the result that local dealers here as in various other States would be helpless in their hands and constant efforts would be made to strengthen their influence and control with all the resources at their command.

Vermont has so far escaped domination by various big interests outside of our borders, but this promises to be the most critical year in this respect in the history of Vermont legislation.

Every town, therefore, should see to it before election that its representative in the Legislature stands for home rule as opposed to encroaching foreign interests of all kinds.

SENATOR CRANE IN VERMONT.

United States Senator W. Murray Crane of Massachusetts is said to have made a visit to Vermont by automobile for the purpose of learning of political conditions in this region, and a Dalton correspondent of the New York Post comments on the matter as follows:

"It was stated here to-day that the senator had left Dalton on an automobile trip through Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. Whether this trip has any significance politically, in view of the fact that a State election in Vermont and State primaries in New Hampshire will be held three weeks from to-morrow, could not be learned from Senator Crane's office.

"The political situation in both Vermont and New Hampshire is interesting from a republican standpoint, and, while there is no fear of an overturn on either side of the Connecticut river, it is known that the national party leaders are anxious that Vermont shall not waver, and that the contest for the gubernatorial nomination in New Hampshire shall not endanger the party standing there.

"Politics in both States across the border is warming up rapidly. A heavy vote is expected to be cast in Vermont, while the contest in New Hampshire between Colonel Bertram Ellis of Keene and Robert P. Bass of Peterboro for the party nomination for governor is not only a lively one, but is regarded as the first actual test of the working of the direct primary method in an Eastern State.

"That Senator Crane, who recently made a political trip to Chicago and other points, should meet some of the party leaders in Vermont and New Hampshire somewhere in his trip, is regarded here as more than probable, so that by the time he reaches Beverly he will have added considerably to his views of the country's political map at the present time."

It will be interesting to note the results of Senator Crane's observations among the Green Mountain republicans. The State republican committee have inaugurated a campaign, but the details of the canvass are understood to be practically in charge of Mr. Lewis who was manager of Dr. Mead's preliminary campaign. Nobody doubts that Dr. Mead will be elected governor, but what seems to be worrying the national leaders is the size of our republican majority.

As we have already intimated the verdict of the people regarding national issues would naturally be recorded in connection with the election of congressmen, but any tendency of the party through disaffection regarding the State ticket to remain away from the polls would also affect the congressional vote, and the chief task before the campaign managers is to see that the republican vote is got out on election day.

GLACIER RETURNS BODIES.

Within the past 50 years 500 tourists and guides have perished on Mont Blanc and the body of every one has been brought down on its slow journey of 40 years' duration with the glacier on its movement to the sea. Forty years ago the 7th of September, John C. Randall of Quincy, Mass., Dr. James B. Bean of Jonesboro, Tenn., and the Rev. George McCorkindale of Scotland, with a number of guides, were lost in a snow storm on Mont Blanc. On the 16th of the month a rescuing party found Mr. McCorkindale and two of the guides about 750 feet from the summit; about 500 feet higher they came upon Mr. Bean and another guide seated, the former with his head supported by one hand and his elbow on a knapsack. They hunted in vain for Mr. Randall and the rest of the guides. For four decades Mr. Randall's body has lain in a slow-moving coffin of ice, progressing inch by inch a few hundred feet each year; about him, entombed in ice, are five guides, faithful to the last escorting him back to Chamonix, the place from which they started 40 years ago. The Bossons glacier will give up its dead this year within a few days, or weeks at most, of the anniversary day, September 7. Four children await the return of the body of their father. Mr. Randall's widow died in 1891, but Miss Edith Randall, the second child, twice has been abroad to look with awe on the slow-moving ice tomb of her father.—The Rev. F. C. Iglehart, in the Christian Herald.

GRANDMOTHER'S GARDEN.

Grandmother's garden was gay with flax, peonies and ribbon grass, with roses and day lilies, verbenas and lady slippers, each flower in its own season. Flowers grew for grandmother, who never seemed to have any trouble over her garden. Occasionally her husband or son would spade up the ground for her and enrich the earth with manure at her bidding, but for the most part she did the work of planting and transplanting, weeding and watering with her own hands. Her flowers seemed to bloom because they loved her and because they knew the sunshine was bright and the dews were soft and the showers a delight. Daffodils, nasturtiums, sweet peas, whatever grandmother wanted she had in her garden. Her flowers were not in stiff rectangular beds; they were sometimes in masses and sometimes in a jumble of sweet wildness and gay confusion, but they were fragrant and sturdy and delicate and exquisite, and there was always plenty of them. No child peering through a fence reached out a little hand in vain for a flower. If any one was ill, grandmother had flowers to send her, and if there were a coming-out party for a young girl or bridal bells were about to ring, grandmother's garden was called upon to contribute to the decorations. When death snatched away a little one or gently closed the eyes of a tired pilgrim, grandmother had white flowers and sweet geranium leaves to send to the house of mourning. Of all the flowers in her garden none were sweeter than the dear old-fashioned pink, with its spicy breath and fringed petals—Margaret E. Sangster, in The Christian Herald.

WHAT OUR NEIGHBORS SAY

Importance of Strong Men in the Coming Session of the Vermont Legislature.

(From the Bennington Banner.)

In choosing members of the Legislature the voters of the various towns and cities of the State should remember that constitutional amendments of great importance are to be acted upon and elect their best men irrespective of personal prejudices.—Montpelier Journal.

Never before, unless it was back in war times, were there so many important matters to come before the Vermont Legislature as this year. The constitutional amendments are only one of several important items. Among them are: the proposed State road plan; to prevent the encroachments of corporations on the public service commission; to secure a workmen's compensation act or some other plan to care for the victims of industrial accidents; to develop the agricultural resources of the State and to establish one or more agricultural training schools; to revise and modernize the rules and procedure of the Legislature so that all the members may take part in the work instead of putting all the important bills in the hands of a few men; to secure a uniform and just system of weights and measures; to provide a uniform system of town accounting; to either abolish municipal courts or provide that they shall do the business to earn what they cost; to compel the fish and game department to use the money it now receives to supply fingerling trout for planting instead of sending around fry, 99 per cent. of which die; to help along the course of education especially by giving more State aid for the installation of manual training schools; to secure a low uniform rate of taxation on money loaned at a reduced rate of interest for the development of Vermont business or to help the Vermont farmer or Vermont workingman to own his farm or his house; to do all possible to prevent the Legislature from fooling away the State money for trivial things or for any raising of salaries or fees and also to prevent the frittering away of time in unpredictable discussion when there are so many live issues that need attention; to prevent any increase in State expenditures and to stop raids on the State treasury. These are only a few of the services the State needs and demands. There are other questions which we all know will come up and still more which will require intelligent study and prompt action. The man who goes to the Legislature and does his duty has hard work for every minute of his time while there.

METHODS OF SELECTING CANDIDATES.

(From the Deerfield Valley Times.)

It is apparent that the democratic State convention exercised good judgment in the choice of its candidates. Candidate Watson is a man of ability, of unimpeachable integrity and well regarded at home by democrats and republicans alike. The candidate for lieutenant-governor, the Rev. John B. Reardon, is one of the leading clergymen of the State, an eloquent speaker, and a man thoroughly conversant with State matters. Frank Pratt, of this county, candidate for auditor of accounts, is, without doubt, by reason of his training and experience, one of the best qualified men in the State to fill the position. If merit and fitness were to control the actions of the freemen of this State instead of party fealty, the three candidates above would each poll a good vote.

The republican newspaper bolt of Dr. Mead is assuming such proportions as to cause some comment. In looking over the list of papers withholding their support we are prompted to ask these gentlemen of the press who are justifying their refusal upon the ground that money was used in the campaign, when they became so unalterably opposed to supporting candidates who have used money in perfecting organizations to secure nominations? Do their past actions justify their present self-assured high standard of political morality.

On the whole, isn't the blame properly chargeable to the system of selecting candidates, instead of to the candidates? While the caucus and convention system is in use, is there any other plan of campaign which holds out any promise of success to a candidate than the one adopted by Dr. Mead? Are we not in a position where the man who says he wants an office and who organizes and goes after it in a systematic manner, is the one who gets it? Fleetwood tried to win by appealing directly to the people upon a progressive platform which commended itself to thinking men. Gibson tried the experiment of saying at the eleventh hour that he was a candidate for lieutenant-governor and appealing to the delegates in a dignified manner to select the man best suited for the position without regard to the personal ambitions of any candidate, when everyone knew that an early announcement and a strenuous campaign would have brought him success. They are both now engaged in meditating upon Whittier's "saddest words of tongue or pen."

A FEW FIGURES.

(From the St. Johnsbury Republican.)

Four weeks from to-day the Republican expects to announce the result of the State election.

In the month that intervenes there will naturally be the usual amount of guessing and speculation as to the vote and the probable majority for the republican candidate, for no other kind has ever been successful in Vermont, although in the big mix-up in 1902 General McCullough had a close call and was obliged to wait for the Legislature to elect him, as there was no election by popular vote.

What will be the majority for Dr. Mead and the rest of the republican ticket this year? Well, let's see.

In the 34 general elections in Vermont since 1856 the winners and the majorities have been as follows:

1856, Ryland Fletcher, 22,121.
1857, Ryland Fletcher, 14,568.
1858, Hiland Hall, 16,305.
1859, Hiland Hall, 16,790.
1860, Erastus Fairbanks, 26,347.
1861, Frederick Holbrook, 24,167.
1862, Frederick Holbrook, 25,654.
1863, J. Gregory Smith, 16,478.
1864, J. Gregory Smith, 19,802.
1865, Paul Dillingham, 18,716.
1866, Paul Dillingham, 22,822.
1867, John B. Page, 20,162.
1868, John B. Page, 20,331.
1869, P. T. Washburn, 20,673.
1870, John W. Stewart, 23,205.
1872, Julius Converse, 25,319.
1874, Asahel Peck, 20,366.
1876, Horace Fairbanks, 23,052.
1878, Redfield Proctor, 16,686.
1880, Roswell Farnham, 25,012.
1882, John L. Barstow, 19,830.
1884, Samuel E. Pingree, 21,859.
1886, E. J. Ormsbee, 18,319.
1888, William P. Dillingham, 27,618.
1890, Carroll S. Page, 12,698.
1892, Levi K. Fuller, 17,956.
1894, Urban A. Woodbury, 27,511.
1896, Josiah Grout, 26,930.
1898, Edward C. Smith, 22,773.
1900, William W. Stickney, 29,783.
1902, J. H. McCullough, legislative.
1904, Charles J. Bell, 29,543.
1906, Fletcher D. Proctor, 14,164.
1908, George H. Prouty, 26,817.

This shows that the largest majority ever given a candidate for governor in Vermont was the phenomenal 36,930 given Josiah Grout in 1896, and was the people's first vigorous voice of protest after a sample of democratic national rule. The 29,783 given Governor Stickney in 1900 and the 29,543 given Governor Bell in 1904, were top-notch majorities and close seconds, both forecasting the republican landslides in the national election the following November.

The smallest majority by popular vote was the 12,698 given Governor Page after the bitter fight in 1890, but his administration was like a magic touch, for it gave the State the first real, modern, business-like impulse toward the "New Vermont" of these later days and made the present day activities more easily realized.

Governor McCullough's total vote in 1902 was 31,964. Clement had 28,206 and came nearer the winning line than any "opposition" candidate ever put up to make trouble for the dominant party. That year McCetterick, the simon-pure democratic candidate, had ony 7,364 and there were 2,504 scattering.

Speaking of the scattering vote, in 1878, there were only 4 scattering votes and Governor Steward defeated Homer W. Heaton, the democratic candidate, by 21,305 majority. In 1902, the rest of the fellows beside the two leading candidates numbered 11,570.

In 1901, the democratic candidate against Frederick Holbrook had only 5,732 in the whole State, but then there was real war, and it was no time to dabble with experiments or to throw away one's vote.

Gov. J. Gregory Smith in 1884 had a total vote of 32,052, and a majority of 19,802. In 1886, his son, Edward C. Smith, had a total vote of 38,558 and a majority of 22,773. Paul Dillingham in 1886 received 34,117 votes and had a majority of 22,822. Twenty-two years later his son, William P. Dillingham, had 48,522 votes and a majority of 27,618. In 1878, Redfield Proctor had 37,312 votes and a majority of 16,686. Twenty-eight years later his son, Fletcher D. Proctor, had 42,332 and a majority of 14,164.

Vermont democrats have headed their ticket with some pretty good men, from Henry Keyes back in 1856 down to Charles D. Watson in 1910, but somehow their proposition has always been found to be wormy when bitten into.

In 1860, John G. Saxe, the poet, received 11,791 votes, but Erastus Fairbanks was elected by a majority of 26,347. Twenty years after, Edward J. Phelps, later minister to England under President Cleveland, received 21,245, but Governor Farnham's majority was 25,012. In 1892, Bradley B. Smalley had 19,216. In 1894, George W. Smith had 14,143 to Urban A. Woodbury's 42,663, which went to prove that a whole hotel bill is more popular than a dish of Hanover crackers, even if the total is the Van Ness House. In 1898, John H. Senter, that real thoroughbred democrat, had 14,686 votes, but the railroad won and the name of Governor Smith, the younger, was added to the list of Vermont executives. But the most thoroughly democratic piece of consolation in the whole list occurred in 1906, when Percival W. Clement, running on the third rail of a democratic ticket, received the largest democratic vote ever cast for a democratic candidate in the State, and he wasn't a democrat at that!

Now as to averages. The average republican majority in the 34 elections since 1856, not including the McCullough election in 1902, when the election was by the Legislature, is 21,388. The vote is naturally larger in presidential years. The average majority in the last 14 elections in presidential years is 24,606. The average majority in the last 19 "off year" elections, not including 1902, is 19,457.

What are the prospects for 1910? The last "off-year" majority was 14,164. The average "off-year" majority is 19,457. The average of these two is 16,810 1-2. Why wouldn't that be a satisfactory figure for Dr. Mead's majority this year? Or, to make the estimate very conservative, let's cut off the 1-2 and make it an even 16,800, for we understand that the St. Johnsbury Caledonian has decided not to support or vote for the head of the republican ticket.

Paste these figures in your scrapbook. They will be handy for reference during the coming month. Of course, we would not feel badly or be very much surprised if the majority actually rolls up a little above the average, say to 20,000. Would you?

PROSPECTIVE CHANGE IN THE LIQUOR LAW.

(From the Rutland News.)

There is no doubt that the local option liquor law will come up for radical change at the forthcoming session of the Vermont Legislature. Some provision will unquestionably be made to avoid a repetition of the deadlock of the county assistant judges this spring over the appointment of license commissioners for this city. While it is improbable that another similar situation would develop very soon, nevertheless a weakness in the law was disclosed by the Rutland incident.

As the News views it, there is no objection to permitting the assistant county judges to continue as the appointing power, providing some other man is named by the law to act with them to avoid a deadlock. This paper has suggested before the provision that the appointing power might safely rest with the two assistant judges in company with the mayor, in the case of a city, and the first selectman in the case of a town voting license.

Under this plan the appointment of commissioners would not be subject entirely to local prejudices or local control and the possibility of a tie-up would be eliminated. The plan would reduce to a minimum the importance of the liquor question as a bone of contention in every town and city, which would be a much desired end.

Another plan that is suggested is that of a State license commission. The Burlington News has the following to say regarding this plan:

"It is understood that an effort will be made at the coming session of the Legislature to make a radical change in the liquor license law by providing for a State commission to perform the duties now performed by local license boards.

"It is argued that the Rutland scandal of last spring is a proof that a change is desirable, and another proof is the alleged graft here and there through the State; that the present system has not worked well, generally or in detail, and that in New Hampshire, where conditions are much the same as in Vermont, the State commission plan has proved a gratifying success.

"On the other hand, it is claimed that the proposed change would be an added remove from local self government and that it is desirable that license commissioners should be persons familiar with local conditions and local applicants.

"The question is one which should have careful consideration, in time which will intervene before the assembling of the Legislature."

PROGRESSIVE REPUBLICANS.

(From the Bennington Banner.)

The Banner to-day prints in another column an address to voters issued by the republican State committee. Most of this document is of very little importance, but the paragraphs calling attention to the progressive parts of the republican platform are of real interest and value. As the Banner has previously stated there are a good many people more or less offended with the head of the republican ticket though not as many as some people profess to think. On the other hand the progressive element in the Republican party has succeeded in getting into the platform some better features than were even there before and the outcome not only of the campaign, which in the long run is only a small matter, but of the development of the State depends on how this progressive element in the Republican party is backed up by the rank and file of the voters. The Democratic party in Vermont is so weak numerically that even with the best intentions in the world it can accomplish little or nothing of itself. Whatever progress is made must of necessity be made through the progressive branch of the dominant party. Voters should bear these facts in mind in studying the issues of the campaign during the coming four weeks.

The Vermont State election occurs four weeks from to-day and to date there are no signs of a very intense campaign. There will undoubtedly be the usual number of hot local contests which will bring out the vote for the State ticket. If it were not for these local contests there would be a heavy falling off in the State vote this year in both parties.

THE CROP OUTLOOK.

(From the Landmark.)

The present crop outlook, so far as this section of Vermont is concerned, is decidedly encouraging and reassuring. The long continued drouth was broken into shreds by the big rainfall of last Thursday and the roots of growing plants given their needed moisture.

But in speaking of the drouth it is pertinent to here remark that in reality, so far as the White River valley counts, there was no real crop injuring drouth such as is reported to have been the fact in many sections of New England. Corn, potatoes, oats, and garden crops were not halted in their growth, save in isolated instances here in the White River valley. This was because of the depth and retentativeness of its soil. The point of retentativeness of moisture gives to Vermont soil one of its most valuable features. While crops were burning and drying up in other sections of New England, those in Vermont sent their roots down a little deeper and there found the needed moisture. All citizens of Vermont should remember this feature of its soil when telling of the State and its farming advantages, for if the real merits of Vermont as a farming State were but made known more people would settle here and the crying need of Vermont is more people.

Already there is harvested one of the largest crops of hay known in the State for many a year and its quality is of the best. Oats are in process of harvesting and they also are fine, both as regards their grain and straw. Corn upon the whole here in the White River valley is above the average at this time of the year, notwithstanding its late planting. The recent rains would also seem to make quite sure a second crop of grass, and if this is secured it will enable farmers to winter if they choose, more than the usual number of cattle and horses. To date, the potato crop hereabouts is full of promise of a big crop.

THE STORY TELLER.

ANOTHER CUSTOMER.

Looking more needy and seedy than ever, Sir Percival Lackcash strode into his son's costly tailor's. The proprietor welcomed him with a beaming countenance.

"Ahem!" choked Sir Percival, Bart. "My son informs me that you have permitted him to run a bill here for three years. Is this correct?"

"It is, Sir Percival," fawned the proprietor.

"Well, I have come——"

"Oh, pray, Sir Percival," oozed the proprietor, bowing and kowtowing before the noble bart. "I assure you there is really not the slightest hurry!"

"Quite so!" returned the impecunious baronet serenely. "And, as I was saying, I have come to order a suit of clothes myself!"—Answers.

LABOR-SAVING DEVICES.

"Boy," demanded the industrious farmer as he came in from milking, "what are you doing with the door open such a cold day as this?"

"So the breeze will sweep the hall out, dad," drawled the lazy son. "I feel too tired to help ma out with the broom today."

"Wall, I swan! And what's the cat doing rubbing against your shoes, son?"

"Oh, don't disturb her, dad. "She'll brush them up nicely while she's purring and I won't have the trouble of polishing them."

"By crickety! You deserve the prize for laziness. And sitting by an open window reading such a day as this! What's the idea of that?"

"Oh, it's so convenient to have the wind turn the pages of this novel, dad. I feel awfully tired to-day."

And then and there the old farmer vowed he would never send another son to college as long as he lived.—Chicago News.

WASTING TIME.

A colored man was brought before a police judge charged with stealing chickens. He pleaded guilty and received sentence, when the judge asked how it was he managed to lift these chickens right under the window of the owner's house when there was a dog in the yard.

"Hit wouldn't be no use, judge," said the man, "to try to 'splain dis thing to yo' all. Ef you was to try it you like as not would get yer hide full of shot an' get no chickens, nuther. Ef you want to engage in any rascality, judge, yo' better stick to de bench, whar' yo' am familiar."—Youth's Companion.

BASE CANARD.

Spring chickens were scarce, and they had killed the ancient game cock for Sunday dinner.

"Ah," said the old farmer reverently, "this certainly was a game chicken. In fact, he was the bravest in two States."

The star boarder glared at the carcass of the deceased fowl.

"If I only had an ax," he mumbled.

"And what would you do with an ax?" demanded the farmer, curiously.

"I'd assassinate the man that started that expression: 'The bravest are the tenderest.'"—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

OUR KALEIDOSCOPE.

KEEPING COOL.

All the long day I think about the snow,
The whitened pond, the frost king's frozen lair,
The berg's cold sides, the gleaming icy floe,
The tempest's bluster and the north wind's blare.

All the night long I dream of Greenland's shores,
The ice thatched cottage of the Eskimo,
The ice bound sledge, the somber sky that lowers,
The winter's night that moves so chill and slow.

I muse and dream of Arctic ice and chill
Until my veins run cold these summer nights,
And often wake and fancy that the shrill
North wind roars through my bones and bites.

And toss oft times, while others will with heat
And lean all limply like a wetted rag
I have to put on my half frozen feet
An extra blanket and hot water bag.

—I. F. Ferris in New York Sun.

THE RAGGED OLD HAMMOCK.

As dear to the heart of the Irish is shamrock,
So thoughts of the games that we played come to me;
But best of them all was the ragged old hammock
That swung 'neath the shade of the old apple tree.

The big apple tree, with its wide-spreading branches,
Was just the best place for a hammock to swing;
The ropes were so strong they allowed it no chances
To tumble us out or disasters to bring.

The ragged old hammock, the faded old hammock,
The "comfy" old hammock where we used to swing.

—Estelle May Nolte, in Judge.

A PROVOKING SITUATION.

"Are you going to Reno for your divorce?"

"I can't. My husband is there."

"In Reno?"

"Yes. He went there to see the fight and can't get away. It's awfully provoking."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

"Hush! hush! my boy, you mustn't call your playmate a liar.'"

"That's all right, ma. I don't really mean it. We're playing government and I'm being investigated."—Detroit Free Press.

IT ALWAYS SEEMS SO.

Teacher—Which is the shortest month of the year?

Pupil—August, miss.

August?

Yes, miss, it's the last month before school begins.—Boston Transcript.

THE INVALID.

Mother—Oh, Effie! What has happened to your dolly?

Effie—The doctor says it's nervous breakdown. He prescribed mucilage.—St. Louis Republic.

NOT A MERMAID.

He—What's that I hear? You want more new shoes?

She—Certainly! I can't go around without shoes. When you married me you didn't think you were getting a mermaid, did you?—Yonkers Statesman.

FOREWARNED.

Hostess—Mr. Squibbs is going to sing a comic song.

Guest—I knew something would happen. I upset the salt at the dinner table.—Stray Stories.