

LEARNING THROUGH NECESSITY.
Chicago's Lesson Learned From the Coal
Tunnels Caused by the Strike.
Under the old rule that "it's an ill
wind that blows nobody good" the coal
famine has taught Chicago at least one
useful lesson.
Haven't the residents of this town
observed that the slates have been clear-
er of late? Haven't they taken notice of
the fact that the peaks of the tall build-
ings have not been so deeply clouded
with banks of floating smoke, from
which the black and sooty flakes fell on
the victims in the shaded streets? Wel-
coming the glad transformation, have
they asked themselves the reason for it?
In June, 1894, for the first time in
years persons ascending the Masonic
Temple or Auditorium tower were en-
abled to see on a working day the green
clumps of Garfield park far to the west
and the big, rambling building of Pack-
ingtown at the stock yards, four miles
to the southwest. They were visible
through a veil of smoke, it is true, but
it was a veil and not a wall of foggy,
impenetrable darkness. The same stacks
that had coughed out voluminous columns
of dense smoke now sent the faintest
gray wreaths curling upward. It was
like Sunday.
Had the factories been closed and the
fires banked? Was there less demand for
working power in the big buildings.
No to both questions.
The fact was that coal had become
very scarce and the price had increased.
Every man who burned coal was having
it fed into the fire boxes a mere spoon-
ful at a time, so as to make the supply
last as long as possible. In other words,
he was getting almost perfect combus-
tion, and consequently there was little,
if any, smoke pouring out of the stack.
He was getting the full value of his
coal, and this, it might seem, would be
a good thing for him to do whether or
not there was a coal famine.
To some minds the late improvements
in smoke consumers is proof positive
that if furnaces were fed economically
at all times the smoke would almost
disappear. It is the reckless stoker who
stuffs the furnace and then takes a long
rest who causes most of the suffering.
He did his duty when the coal famine
began because his employer metaphorically
stood over him with a club to see that
he wasted no fuel. Then the smoke-
stack reformed, as did his neighbors.
Temporarily, at least, the horror was
abated, and the prolonged strike of the
miners did that much good.—Chicago
Record.

THE SODA FOUNTAIN.
Some of the Dangers of Using It as a Gen-
eral Prescription Counter.
"Nervousness is as much a fad as
anything else," said Dr. Egbert Dixon
of Buffalo, "and the modern soda water
fountain has more to do with the in-
crease of the mania than anything else.
In days of old when soda water was first
added to the wares of the druggist it
was devoted entirely to satisfying the
public taste for something cool, sweet
and refreshing. Fruit sirups of a harm-
less character were fadded up to a pro-
per degree of gaseous bubbling, and the
mission of the soda water fountain was
a commendable one.
"Nowadays it is devoted to bromes,
nervines and lots of other things that
are made from the deadliest sort of
drugs, while they are hung with signs
inviting people to become their own
physicians by trying some of the count-
less nostrums, which are alleged to cure
anything from a headache to an grow-
ing too tall in an almost inconceivably
small space of time. The tired out in-
dividual sees one of the nervous signs
and mistakes his weariness for nervousness
and straightway proceeds to doctor him-
self with something, he knows not what,
but which, on account of its powerful
properties, braces him up and makes
him feel bright.
"The natural result follows. He takes
some more of the soda water fountain
stuff whenever he gets tired, and in a
month or so his system is on the road to
general breaking up. Drugging one's
self at a soda fountain is dangerous,
and, as I said in the beginning, nerv-
ousness is largely a fad. If supposed
sufferers from nervous attacks would
only go out and split wood for half an
hour, if men, or take a brisk walk, if
women, and then take a bath and take
a nap, there wouldn't be so much heard
of this silly rot about nervousness being
our national disease."—Washington
Star.

Another Calamity Straw.
Many people are considerably agitated
over a mysterious circumstance which is
thought to indicate disaster. It is the
appearance of the letter B plainly im-
pressed upon blades of oats growing in
fields. Acres and acres in all parts of
the country have been found to be thus
curiously marked. It is claimed that
the only other times the letter was ever
found on oats in this manner was just
before the war of 1812 and the late civil
war, and that the B stands for "blood-
shed," which may now be looked for
again. Each blade is marked, the let-
ter, about half an inch long, being, as
it seems, pressed into the leaf and dis-
cernible on the other side.—Perr (Ind.)
Dispatch.

A Warm Weather Drink.
Here is a recipe for soda water pow-
ders, which are considered excellent for
allaying thirst in warm weather. Have
put in blue paper 30 grains of carbonate
of soda, in white paper 25 grains of tar-
taric acid. Dissolve the soda powder in
half a glass of water and stir into it the
acid and drink while effervescing. If
you desire sirup, make it out of sugar
boiled in water and flavor as you like.
Dissolve the soda in the sirup.—Wash-
ington Star.

Evil.
Evil is evil because it is unnatural.
A vine which should bear olive berries
—an eye to which blue seems yellow—
would be diseased. An unnatural moth-
er, an unnatural son, an unnatural act,
are the strongest terms of condemna-
tion.—F. W. Robertson.

BROWNSVILLE.
Brownsville, the county seat of
Cameron county, is situated in the
southern part of the county on the
Rio Grande, about thirty miles above
its mouth, and directly opposite the
Mexican city of Matamoros. It has
a large trade with small towns along
the river for over 300 miles, the ex-
tent of steamboat navigation. It has
commercial relations with the gulf
ports by the port of Brazos de San-
tiago, with which it is connected by
the Rio Grande railroad. It also has
communication with the interior by
stage to Alice, connecting with the
Texas Mexican and the Aransas Pass
railway. Another frequent mode of
transportation to and from Brown-
sville is via the Matamoros and Mon-
terey railroad to Rio Grande City,
and thence by stage to Pena Station.
Brownsville is laid off squarely with
streets of good width, and is built up
with solid brick buildings, and has a
fine city market, where all vegeta-
bles, meats, fresh fish, game, etc., are
on sale at remarkably low prices.
The city fire department is well
equipped and most effective. There
are three churches, Catholic, Episco-
pal and Presbyterian. The educa-
tional advantages of Brownsville are
unsurpassed by any town, and une-
qualed by few of its size. The pub-
lic school building, valued at \$30,000,
is one of the handsomest and best
equipped in the State, and stands as
a monument to the progress of the
city. It employs fourteen teachers,
and about six hundred pupils are in
daily attendance. There are three
Catholic schools, St. Joseph's Col-
lege for boys, the convent school for
girls, and St. Aloysius' school for
boys, both of the latter being taught
by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word
convent. Another school for girls is
the Presbyterian mission school.
Among other public buildings may
be mentioned the court house, a
large and costly building which is a
credit to the county, and the custom
house, which is one of the hand-
somest federal buildings in the south.
The postoffice in this building is very
handsomely equipped. There are
also many handsome private resi-
dences.
The population numbers about
7000, about three fourths Mexican.
It is one of the prettiest little towns
in the State, and on account of its
mild and equable climate is destined
to become a popular resort, espe-
cially in the winter season.

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