LEARNING THROUGH NECESSITY.

Chicago's Lesson Conned From the Coal Famine 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 skies have been clearer of late? Haven't they taken notice of the fact that the peaks of the tall buildings 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? Welcoming 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 enabled to see on a working day the green clumps of Garfield park far to the west and the big, rambling building of Packingtown 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 volcanic 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 spoonful at a time, so as to make the supply last as long as possible. In other words, he was getting almost perfect combustion, 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 smokestack reformed, as did its 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 General 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 increase 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 harmless character were fizzled up to a proper degree of gaseous bubbling, and the mission of the soda water fountain was a commendable one.

"Nowadays it is devoted to bromos, 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 countless nostrums which are alleged to cure anything from a headache to an ingrowing toe nail in an almost inconceivably small space of time. The tired out individual sees one of the nervine signs and mistakes his weariness for nervousness and straightway proceeds to doctor himself 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, nervousness 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 impressed upon blades of oats growing in fields. Acres and acres in all parts of the county 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 "bloodshed," which may now be looked for again. Each blade is marked, the letter, about half an inch long, being, as it seems, pressed into the leaf and discernible on the other side.—Peru (Ind.) Dispatch.

A Warm Weather Drink.

Here is a recipe for soda water powders, 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 tartaric 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.—Washington 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 mother, an unnatural son, an unnatural act, are the strongest terms of condemnation.—F. W. Robertson.

BROWNSVILLE.

Brownsville, the county sea 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 alon the river for over 300 miles, the exent of steamboat navigation. It has commercial relations with the gulf ports by the port of Brazos de Santiago, 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 Arauses Pass railway. Another frequent mode of transportation to an from Brownsville s via the Matamoros and Monterey railroad to Rio Grande City, and thence by stage to Pena Station. Brownsville is laid off squarely with treets of good width, and is built up with solid brick buildings, and has a fine city market, where all vegetables, meats, fresh fish, game, etc., are on seal at remarkably low prices The city fire department is well equipped and most effective. There are three churches, Catholic, Episcopal and Presbyterian. The educational advantages of Brownsville are unsurpassed by any town, and unequalled by few of its size. The public schoo 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 College for boys, the convent school for girls, and St. Alosyius' 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 handsomest federal buildings in the south. The postoffice in this building is very handsomely equipped. There are also many handsome private residences.

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, especially in the winter season.

MATAMOROS DIRECTORIO.

CUARTEL GENERAL DE LA CUARTA ZONA.

General de Brigada Emiliano Lo-
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Gefe del estado mayor, Teniente
.....coronel Emilio Gutierrez

Estado Mayor Especial.

...Capitan 1 ° Francisco A. Salido
plana mayor facultativa de ynge-
nieros, Teniente Samue. G Cuellar

Juez Ynstructor.

Coronel licenciado Nicolas Garcia
.....Perez
agente del ministerio publico, Te-
....niente coronel Porfirio C. Loza
capitan de puerto en Bagdad, capi
.....tan Agustin Mireles

Hospital Militar.

Director Teniente coronel Dr. Oc-
.....tabiano Obregon
Sub director mayor Dr. Maximo
..... Silva

Administracion de Corres.

Administor Fernando de Tarnova
.....Oficial Jorge Sumaya
Ecribiente Francisco R. Trevino
.....Cartero Refugio Silva
....Mozo de oficio Francisco Garza
Conductor de ferrocarril Adolfo
.....Cri o

Administracion subalterna de la renta del Timbre.

...Administrador A. A. Passement

Juzgado de 1 ° ynstancia de la tercera fraccion judicial.

.....Juez Nicolas F. Guzman
Testigo de asistencia A. Andrade
.....Ministro escritor A. Padron
Defensor de pobres J. A. Ylizalitur
.....ri

Primera colecturia de rentas del estado.

.....Colector Juan B. Zolezzi
Ministro ejecutor J. Y. Ylizaliturri

Juzgado del registro civil.

.....Juez Jorge Strothers

Hospital civil.

Director Dr. Antonio C. Guzman
Administrador Felipe G. Rivera
Ayudante 1 ° Fran isco G. Garza
.....Ayudante 2 ° N. Albear.
R. junta de vnstruccion publica.
...Presidente Dr. Miguel Barragan
.....Vocal 1 Francisco F. Canales
...Vocol 2 Dr. Severo L Guerrero
..Vocal 3 Dr. Antonio C. Guzman
.....Vocal 4 Francisco Guerra
.....Tesorero Pedro Bouchard
....Secretario Gilberto Hernandez

JUNTA DE SANIDAD.

Presidente Dr. Miguel Barragan
Delgado del consejo superior de
.....salubridad de Mexico
.....Vocal Dr. C. McManus
.....Vocal 2 Severo L. Guerrero
.....Vocal 3 Manuel Cristo.
.....Vocal 4 Antonio C. Guzman
.....Capitan de puerto A. Mireles
.....Juez civil Jorge Strother
Secretario del ayuntamiento Joa-
.....quin A. Arguelles

TIME TABLE

—OF THE—

Rio Grande R. R.

[NEW SCHEDULE.]

Passenger Train between Brownsville and Point Isabel in effect on and after June 1st, 1894.

Leaves Brownsville.....9 a. m.
" Point Isabel.....5 p. m.

From and after the above date the regular passenger train will run as follows (Sundays included.)

Leave Brownsville.....9 a. m
Arrives " .....6:30 p. m
Ar'v Point Isabel.....10:30 a. m
L've Point Isabel.....5 p. m

SIMON CELAYA.