The Democrat-Star

A FREAK OF NATURE.

One of nature's remarkable freaks is the fellow who has it in for the editor. He may be the man whose name you have forgotten to mention the last time he opened a keg of nails, or one who is desirous of obtaining one hundred per cent more credit for hardly doing his duty than he would deserve had he always been at his post, as he should have been, and performed his duty faithfully, or it may be the fellow whom the publication of the truth hurts, a discarded employe, a narrow, selfish politician who thinks he is the head of the universe and wants compliments because he lets you live and breathe the same air as he breathes. Whatever he is or where ever you find him he's funny, is he's not ridiculous. But he takes himself seriously and wants so to be so taken. He might divert a dollar's worth of work from you annually, that you would have had to do on credit, or cause some old delinquent subscriber who has owed you for four or five years to pay up and stop his paper. It is very hard to tell the extent of damage he might inflict.

ANALYTICAL.

At the seventh ward resgistration booth Tuesday night, an old negro applied for his certificate, says the Memphis Scimitar. The clerks propounded the usual category of questions to him regarding his age, the period of his abode in the State and city, his place of residence and like matters. Finally he was asked to name his occupation.

"I belengs to de city scrimitatory force,' was his reply.

"What sort of organization is that?" asked the bewildered clerk.

"Why, just scrimitatory, dat's all. We scriminate things."

"Well, you have sprung a new occupation on us. What kind of things do you scriminate?"

"Cats and dogs and horses and mules—evrything dat's dead 'cep'n folks," answered the negro.

Then it dawned on the clerk that he belonged to the crematory depatment of the city scavengers.

MISSISSIPPI PEARLS.

Maline (Ill.) Mail.

What is known as the Allen pearl at Prairie du Chien has attracted unusual attention. It weighed 100 grains and is said to be the largest perfect pearl ever found in the Mississippi river. It was recently purchased by William M. Moore, of Comanchie, Ia., What he paid is possibly not exactly known. A gentleman who is closely associated with Mr. Moore says he paid $3,000 for it. Mr. Moore has lived all his life on the river and has learned a good deal about pearls. He borrowed money two years ago with which to make his first purchase. Since that time he has cleared over $5,000, according to reports of persons who claim to know something of his affairs. Howes Bros., of Clinton, are among the buyers, and it is safe to say that the pearl industry between this city and the Minnesota State line nets the finders more than $20,000 a year.

The clam diggers are rushing for the upper river beds, most of them congregating in the vicinity of Prairie du Chien, where there is a bed more than ten miles long. It is on this bed that the fine pearls are found in considerable numbers. The rush up the river has been like a Klondike excitement. The houseboats have been towed up the river, and have slipped their tents and gone up on the boats. More than 1,000 are camped along the river there, and the whole business is overdone. At every town along the river scows are being made, and great is the demand for clamming outfits.

The finding of a few thousand dollars worth shells by the diggers has created a regular raid upon the river. It is safe to say that the man who sticks to his clamboat and hooks will do much better than those who spend their time hunting pearls.

"Peruna Bill" Sullivan, our Senator, comes to the front again as defendant in a breach of promise suit for $50,000 brought against him by a white lady formerly of Oxford, in which the irrepressible Senator is charged with all sorts of things. Of course he says it's an attempt to blackmail him, but attempts to blackmail are not usually accompanied by sworn affidavits. Poor Senator! he will have precious little virtue left! We regard the election of "Peruna Bill" by the Legislature as a stigma upon the fair name of Mississippi, from which it will take many years to recover. As a representative at the Nation's capitol his moral character is an insult to the decent manhood and womanhood of this commenwealth.—Lawrence County Press.

A grest many Colorado women became righteously indignant and stayed away from the polls Tuesday because partisan newspapers persisted in printing this sort of campaign advice: "Don't scratch; you'll be ashamed of it afterward; and it's sure to be found out."—Atlanta Journal.

A Chicago shoe dealer says country girls have the smallest feet; that a country girl who wears a number three shoe is compelled to wear a shoe a size or two sizes larger after living in the city a short time. So it is true that in the city there is a chance for advancement for a country girl.

Subscribe for the DEMOCRAT-STAR. All news of the county is printed.

The Democrat-Star

AN AWFUL SITUATION.

According to a report just made by the surgeon general in the Philippines there are 30,000 United States soldiers in the [illegible]. The total strength of the army there at that time was 60,[illegible] making a percentage of 47 per cent that were sick. The death rate is [illegible] says the report is very heavy.

The surgeon general has this to say on the controversial subject of insanity among the troops:

"In the army, regulars and volunteers, during the calendar years [illegible] and 1899, there were reported on the monthly reports of sick and wounded 347 cases of insanity and 32 of these cases, or 58.2 per cent were committed to the government hospital for the insane. One hundred and thirty-[illegible] cases, or 66.7 per cent of the commitment recovered in an average period of 3.9 months, thirteen were improved, six died and 48 remained unimproved. Ninety-six of the 347 cases were reported on the monthly reports of troops serving in the Pacific islands and 32 of these or 33 per cent were sent to the government hospital for the insane. Seventeen cases, or [illegible] per cent of those committed recovered in an average per cent of 3.6 months, two were improved, two died and eleven remained not improved.

GOOD WORDS FOR THE SHORT SKIRT.

New York Medical Journal.

The short skirt has been officially approved of in the monthly report of the secretary of the Connecticut State Board of Health, Dr. C. A. Lindsley. This official approval has an important bearing upon school sanitation, for in some instances school teachers have been criticised for wearing short skirts while in the discharge of their duties; whereas, as is pointed out by Dr. Lindsley, there is no inconsiderable danger of the introduction of disease germs into the schoolroom through the agency of the long skirt, which gathers much of the filth and disease germs of the street. Fortunately, the short skirt is growing to be the fashion, and for this reason, rather than on sanitary grounds, the woman school teachers will no doubt adopt it.

The State Board of Health has officially reported one case of yellow fever at Natchez, the patient being the wife of a Baptist minister. All necessary measures have been taken to prevent its spread, and no alarm need be felt from that source.

Admiral Sampson's retirement in February will not break his family's connection with the navy, for he has three sons-in-law—Lieutenants Jackson and Roy Smith and Ensign Cluverious—in the service, and his son will probably enter the Naval Academy next year.

A Baltimore court has confiscated to the State the skins of 2,500 seagulls killed in violation of the law. The skins were intended to adorn women's hats.

Walter Rothschild, of London, has a collection of 84 turtles from all parts of the world. Some, weighing over 400 pounds, are believed to be about 250 years old.

In 1845 the postage on a letter from New York to Wisconsin was 25 cents. People wrote long hand on thin paper—to get the worth of their money—but they wrote seldom.

The New Orleans directory contains the names of 793 Smiths, of whom 43 are plain John; 756 Williams; 703 Johnsons; 535 Browns, and 443 Jones'. Who would have thought that the illustrious name of Jones is fifth on the list.—New Orleans States.