

FACTS IN TABLOID FORM.

Three-fourths of typhoid patients are under 30.

In Madagascar everyone wears silk, which is cheaper there than linen.

Great Britain has 500,000 horses available for the purposes of warfare.

Plans are being made for the electrification of the more important State Railways of Sweden.

New Jersey gets \$8,000,000 a year from its oyster beds, but could get \$40,000,000 from the same source if the available tide land was properly needed and cultivated.

The Radium Institute of Heidelberg, to be opened before the end of the year, will be the first of its kind to begin actual work, as an endowment has been raised for it.

After having been in use since 1750, the Testament used at the Essex sessions court at Shefford, England, has now been replaced by a new one, the gift of E. North Buxton.

The bottle that keeps its contents hot or cold for hours was no cheap invention. The glass vacuum jacket was first devised by Lord Dewar in 1855 for his experiments in liquefying air and gas.

Poison from eating vanilla sauces or ice cream thus flavored is not unknown. Vanilla favors the growth of certain poisonous germs. Vanilla sauces and ice cream should be eaten when first cooked or frozen.

Lucerne is to be sole station for Switzerland, and a station house is to be erected at a cost of 700,000 francs. It is hoped soon to establish regular communication between this town and Friedrichshafen.

That pear tree with which Count Zeppelin's airship lately came into collision has been sold to an ebionist at Stuttgart. This artist proposes to work the tree up and sell the articles as souvenirs of the event in the form of backs for books, pin trays and rulers. Counterfeits of the same nature are already on the market.

A manufacturing house makes light, strong paper garments for hospital use—buttons and cloth edges. There are paper bottles. Paper horsehoes more durable and lighter than steel, stuck on with cement, not nailed. Thus it is invention, not pity and prayer, that relieves the pain and thralldom of man and beast. Paper reinforced with wire mesh makes houses, boats, hospitals, etc.; is fire proof, waterproof, heat and cold proof.—New York Press.

Brown and gypsy moths are causing great damage in various parts of New England. People at last have learned that if they would preserve their shade and forest trees they must fight the moths, and official moth destroyers are coming to be regular of fceholders. The little things have become such a pest that municipal and State machinery is working with that of the federal government in the effort to stop their onward march.

A big British doctor finds that the parts of the body in which cancer starts, such as the lower lip, liver, etc., are highly electric and radio-active. A piece of the lower lip, if laid on a photo film, darkens it the same as does radium, but if a piece of the lung—cancer seldom comes in the lung—is put on the photo film nothing happens. So the doctor argues that high electric flesh is the main secret of cancer. Woman's flesh is more electric than man's; cancer is commoner in women.—New York Press.

It will be great satisfaction to those who are fighting for the preservation of the Adirondack forests to learn that the first two of the oil-burning locomotives to be used have proved signal success. The only complaint against them is based upon the rapidity with which oil makes steam, but this is hardly a serious difficulty. If this reform can reduce the number of fires by 20 per cent, as is expected, it will prove the most effective means yet devised to prevent the devastation of the north woods by flames.—Troy (N. Y.) Record.

The first successful towing of canal boats by automobile was accomplished recently on the Lehigh canal. Owing to the liability of the towline to snap in the effort to start, George B. Plummer, a Camden automobile expert, equipped a seven-ton motor truck of 45-horse power with spiral springs. Six barges with 800 tons of cargo were taken from Allentown to Bethlehem in an hour. Present lock capacity and speed limitations considered, it is estimated that automobiles, compared with mules, will handle double the number of boats in half the time.—Philadelphia Record.

An idea of what the Panama canal construction means to one industry in this country may be gleaned from the fact that almost a million tons of cement will be used in the gigantic work. Shipments have already begun in steamers owned by the government, which will carry about 8,000 tons at a trip. It is estimated that it will take about four years to deliver the 4,800,000 barrels of cement contracted for at the present rate of shipment. The government will profit by using its own vessels instead of chartered ships, as there will be no charges for demurrage in case loading or unloading is delayed by storms.

"In my Bohemian days it was my fortune—or misfortune, as the case may be—to meet often and to know well the American bard, Walt Whitman," writes William Winter. "It is scarcely necessary to say that he did not impress me as anything other than what he was, a commonplace, uncouth and sometimes obnoxiously coarse writer, trying to be original by using a formless style, and celebrating the proletarians who make the world almost uninhabitable by their vulgarity. With reference to me, Walt's views were expressed in a sentence that, doubtless, he intended as the perfection of contemptuous indifference. 'Willie,' he said, 'is a young Longfellow.'"

Most of those who say they do the best they know how, don't.

A LIBRARY ON WHEELS



THE development of the free circulating library is one of the outstanding features of this age. Mr. Carnegie and others have scattered libraries so freely throughout the land that there is now scarcely a town or village that has not some sort of a library. But it has remained for the Washington County Library of Hagerstown, Md., to develop the limit of usefulness for the collection of books, and to demonstrate in a very practical sense that books are published to be read, not to be stored on shelves. The Washington County Library does not wait for readers to come to it; it sends out a colporteur, not only to carry books, but to spread the gospel of literature in isolated rural regions.

The itinerant library, drawn by a pair of sturdy horses, has become a familiar sight in the Washington County section of the Blue Ridge. Like the semi-annual appearance of the tin peddler's cart, its approach is an occurrence quickly heralded throughout the neighborhood. The housewife throws a sunbonnet over her head, and, followed by one or two barefooted children, runs out to the roadside to see what the good-natured bookman has brought on this round. The chickens follow hotfoot, certain that such a commotion can only mean that some appetizing dainties are about to be distributed. In the middle of this scene of domestic activity the itinerant bookman stops and descends from his lofty seat.

"Good day, Mrs. —," says he, as he winds the reins about the whip-stick. "How did you like the last book?"

"It was pretty good. I liked that part where it said, 'To be or not to be, that is the question.' That's the way lots of farmers' wives feel, I reckon. I let Mrs. — down the road apiece, take it. She said she liked the way the wind and thunder and lightning flared around in 'Macbeth,' because it reminded her of the way it flaves around her house sometimes. She says it's awful; almost tears the house off the cellar. I reckon she's right, for that's the way it blows around yere. Have you got 'The Duke's Revenge'?" I heard that book cracked up once. What do you want, Mary?" addressing the elder of the two girls.

and your other girl may be interested in it. Wouldn't you like to have it, Mary?" he inquires, turning toward the larger of the two barefooted girls with a genial smile. The smile completes the book missionary's conquest, and the barefoot miss looks up from beneath her sunbonnet, extends a hand for the book and takes it with a whispered "Thank you."

The itinerant librarian takes the name of the person to whom the book left on the last visit has been transferred, shuts the doors over his shelves, climbs to his seat, unwinds his reins and, the chickens being no longer under foot owing to the discovery that books are not good to eat, drives off up the dusty road. So he goes up and down the mountains, day after day, helping a farmer to pick out a book which will be of benefit to him in his work and opening windows upon scenes in many lands and times to the uncultivated imaginations of the young people.

Work of the Past Year.

In the course of the last nine months of 1908 each of the sixteen routes in the county was traveled twice, and some of them three or four times. Several of them require four days for the journey, while others can be covered in two or three days. Only a few can be covered in a day. New routes are constantly being mapped out, and it is expected that a second wagon will be required soon. Last year 3,700 books were circulated by the wagon. It was estimated that each of the volumes was read twice, and some of them three or four times, as it became the habit in some neighborhoods for the households to exchange with one another. When the wagon does not contain the book desired a memorandum is made and it is forwarded by mail.

The zeal of the Washington County Library in spreading the use and love of books has found expression in many other ways. The Hagerstown school children were first sent to the library once a week to listen to stories read by an assistant. Then a school circulating library was started, and the teachers throughout the county were invited to enter a race as book circulators. The school at the village bearing the startling name of Rohrer'sville last year carried off the palm, having circulated thirty books 387 times among its pupils. The county, at the instance of the Hagerstown book propagandists, established seventy-three deposit stations throughout the county for adults. As a result, according to a careful statistician, the mountaineers in 1908 perused the contents of 11,156 books 22,569 times. The library also received assistance in developing its circulation from sixteen Sunday schools.

Recommends Good Literature.

"I haven't the book you mention," says the book colporteur, opening the doors of his wagon, "but perhaps you would like 'Marius, the Epicurean,' or Gray's 'Botany.' The 'Botany' would be interesting, I think, for it describes the plants and flowers, and tells how they grow. Or, if you want a story, there's 'Kenilworth,' or 'A Tale of Two Cities.' Mary would like those books, too, I'm sure."

"Oh, no. They are two European cities, Paris and London. The book tells about some people who were mixed up with the French Revolution, and had some exciting adventures and narrow escapes."

"Well, if you say it's better than 'The Duke's Revenge' I've heard so much about, I reckon maybe we 'uns better take it."

"Here it is," replies the bookman, taking the volume down from the shelves and handing it to the woman. "Let me leave the 'Botany' with you, also. You can learn something about the flowers as they come along. Mary

Church Members Increasing According to Census Report

Church membership in the United States increased from 32.7 per cent of the population in 1890 to 39.1 per cent of the population in 1906, according to the New York Sun's digest of the report of the census of religious bodies just issued by the census bureau. The relative gain in the sixteen years is, for Protestant bodies, 1.8 per cent; for Roman Catholic, 4.4 per cent; for all other bodies together, one-tenth of 1 per cent. The number of religious denominations in the United States is given as 186, with 212,230 local religious organizations, 32,936,445 church members, and \$1,257,575,867 invested in church edifices.

The total for 1906 is 186 denominations, against 145 in 1890, an increase of 41. The total number of organizations covered by the 1906 census was 212,230. This is an increase since 1890 of 47,079, or 28.5 per cent. The Protestant bodies increased 42,564, or 27.8 per cent; the Roman Catholic Church, 2,243, or 21.9 per cent; the Jewish congregations, 1,236, or 231.9 per cent, and the Latter Day Saints, 328, or 38.3 per cent.

The eastern orthodox churches increased from two organizations in 1890 to 411 in 1906. All other bodies increased 299, or 64 per cent. Of the 212,230 organizations in 1906, 164 Protestant bodies reported 195,618, or 92.2 per cent; the Roman Catholic Church, 12,428, or 5.9 per cent, and the remaining bodies 4,130, or about 2 per cent. In 1890 there were 165, 151 organizations, the Protestant bodies controlling 153,054, or 92.7 per cent; the Roman Catholic Church, 10,239, or 6.2 per cent, and the remaining bodies 1,858, or a little more than 1 per cent. The general order or rank of the principal religious bodies in 1906, with respect to the number of organizations, was:

Methodists 64,701
Baptists 54,880
Presbyterians 15,596
Lutherans 12,703
Roman Catholics 12,428
Disciples or Christians 10,942
Protestant Episcopalians 6,845
Congregationalists 5,713
Evangelical Association 2,478
United Brethren 4,394
Reformed 2,585
Adventists 2,651
Jewish congregations 1,236
Christians (Christian connection) 1,769
German Evangelical synod 1,205
Latter Day Saints 318
Friends 1,147
Dunkards 1,097

The Methodist bodies reported 39.5 per cent of the entire number of organizations and the Baptist bodies 25.9 per cent. Thus these two families embraced considerably more than one-half of the organizations in the United States. It is stated that in all Protestant bodies the membership is practically adult membership. In the

New Mexico	.....	38.7
Rhode Island	.....	74.0
Montana	.....	73.1
Massachusetts	.....	69.2
Nevada	.....	67.7
Arizona	.....	66.2
New York	.....	63.8
New Hampshire	.....	63.9
Louisiana	.....	61.3
Connecticut	.....	59.6
California	.....	58.9
Vermont	.....	55.9
Maine	.....	53.2
New Jersey	.....	51.5
Wisconsin	.....	50.5
Michigan	.....	50.1

In two states—Wyoming and Colorado—the largest proportion, although not a majority of the members, were Roman Catholics, and in one state, Idaho, the largest proportion were Latter Day Saints.

RUSSIAN JAIL HORRORS

Brutal Executions of Men Who Are Condemned to Death by Court-Martial.

SUSPENSE OF THE DOOMED.

Member of the Second Douma, Imprisoned at Sevastopol, Tells of His Gruesome Surroundings.

A touching letter has been received from M. Lomtatidze, a member of the second douma, at present imprisoned at Sevastopol, the essential parts of which, according to the London Daily News, are as follows:

"Sevastopol Prison, April 2.—It is not the first time that I have been a prisoner nor the first time that I hear and see what is done within prison walls, but that which goes on here is so far beyond the ordinary that the very recollection of it makes me speechless with horror.

"Many executions take place here. During the time I have been here—that is, from the end of last May—more than seventy persons have been executed. At the present time there are fifteen persons in the prison awaiting execution. Ninety others in this session alone are awaiting sentence. All cases to be tried by court-martial in the government of Taurus are heard in Sevastopol; hence all doomed to death are brought together here from all the ends of the government and here are executed. Such executions take place in the courtyard of the hospital.

Forced to Witness Execution.

"At times I have to see with my own eyes all the horrors, to dash myself against the walls in impotent rage, to swear, to shriek, to knock and to listen to the cynical cries of the jailers and police, with the police master at their head, all this time crowding the courtyard of the hospital.

"Those condemned to death wait several months for the execution of the sentence. Each night they expect to be taken out, so that they do not lie down to sleep until morning comes; only when it is morning, wearied out and broken with the strain, they sink down like dead and sleep all day.

"But it turns out that they will hang nobody to-day; it only seemed to the prisoners that they would. Yet it is impossible to sleep. The authorities open the cells and begin to restore order. Beatings begin; then to prevent shrieking they gag them; they curse with rich oaths; they take away bed, soap, sugar, tobacco, etc.

"Then the execution must take place in reality. That is already known from the evening, for it is seen from the number of coffins brought in how many persons will be executed at night.

"The knocking of a hammer begins; they are unfastening the criminals; but to make up for this they fasten, so tightly that even blood is drawn, his hands behind his back; they bind his

COBB, NOW FIRST IN THE RACE FOR TITLE OF PREMIER SLUGGER.



legs and beat him without cessation. Guaranteed not to shriek, they carry him to a cell, a dark room, and throw him on the floor, where he lies until the scaffold is ready and the governor and other authorities arrive.

"The coffins are brought — and put near the scaffold. Ready! The condemned are carried in like logs. They are dressed in shirts and drawers; they are barefoot and trembling from cold. First, they put them on the ground, then with caution they unbind

them, freeing their legs from the ropes and stand them on their feet.

"At this time there is a noise in the prison, the funeral march is sung, soldiers run about giving orders to be silent. All this, as is to be expected, raises up in the criminal the desire to live, to live at all costs. He falls on his knees, weeps, prays, tries to kiss the people's hands.

Resists Until the End.

"The executioner comes and puts his hand on his shoulder; he falls on his

Cobb has made such strides in hitting the ball that he has passed Eddie Collins, the star of the Athletics, and is now at the head of the American league batting list.

face. The jailers rush forward and lift him up. He begins to kick, to yell and to howl. Oh, I never have heard anything like it! I do not know what howls like that; there is nothing human in it, and yet nothing of the beast. I have seen how oxen and sheep and pigs are killed; they belch; but this is something different. A few times more they kick him, they drag him up with great trouble, they struggle a little with him.

"And all this happens under my window. I have tried to get myself to sleep early, lying down at 6 o'clock, trying to go off to sleep. But this does not seem to lead to the desired end, for as soon as they begin to put up the scaffold a sentry always knocks at my door, with the warning that I am not to go to the window, otherwise they may fire and send me, without judgment, into that other world."

A German is bringing to America a circus of trained ants. The insects throw somersaults, make pyramids, dance, wrestle and fence.

England spends \$40,000,000 a year for eggs and poultry, for one-half of which she is dependent on foreigners.

Nebraska Experiment Station has kept a careful record for ten years of milk cows, and they report a net profit of \$40 from each cow a year.

Cut a chip of camphor, light it, and set it on a basin of water, when it will continue to burn and float until it is consumed.

In 1847 postage stamps were first used in the United States.

The entire native population of Siberia does not exceed 700,000.

LITTLE CURTAIN LECTURES.

If you don't care any more for women than you're always saying you don't, why do you become so mighty show-off when you meet a new bunch of women? Tell me that, Mister Crafty!

There'll come a time when you'll be sorry for treating me as if I were the dirt under your feet!

Well, you must have been busy doing something, for you didn't kill yourself writing while I was away, I must say.

Why didn't you tell me before we came out that my petticoat was showing beneath my skirt?

If only I had my life to live over again, heaven knows I'd never marry such a —, etc., etc.

When I stop to think of the sacrifices I've made all these years, and all for what? I could cry my eyes out, dead I could.

Jealous! Who, me? Pooh! If I was going to be that silly I'd take pains I became jealous of somebody!

Well, you're mighty trembly and grouchy and pale for somebody that says he's been on a fishing trip, that's all I've got to say.

Well, if you wrote to me every day I was away, as you claim, then I'm going to write to the dead letter office for those letters, that's all!

You'd just love to reduce me to your own level, but you never shall, so there!

COLT LEAPS INTO A BUGGY.



At Delaware, Ohio, a frightened colt jumped into a buggy in which were seated R. K. Willis, his wife and 10-year-old son, causing a runaway. The Willis family and the colt were thrown out in a heap. All were badly cut.

PROVERBS AND PHRASES.

Praise a fine day at night.—Irish.

There is a witness everywhere.—Greek.

Emulation plows, and rivalry reaps.—Irish.

The sweetest grapes hang highest.—Spanish.

The remembrance of past labor is sweet.—Irish.

Woe to him who is alone when he falleth.—German.

MAN WHO BROUGHT FLEET BACK FROM EAST RETIRED.



Having reached the age of 62 years, Rear Admiral C. S. Sperry has been placed on the retired list of the navy. The admiral is now engaged with the Newport conference at the war college and will continue in that duty until he has completed a certain line of work which he has mapped out. When this is finished, it is expected he will retire from active service. The admiral's last important sea command was that of the Atlantic fleet, which he brought from San Francisco by way of the Pacific Ocean and the Suez Canal to Hampton roads. He reached the rank at which he was retired about three years and three months ago.

On cigarettes to the value of \$6, 250,000 smoked in Spain last year, the government made a profit of \$2, 500,000.

The infant death rate of the fashionable end of London is 1 per cent, while that of the East End is 38 per cent.

Submarine cables cost \$41,000 a mile to lay, and the length of their life is between thirty and forty years.

In a favorable wind a fox can scent a man one-quarter of a mile away.