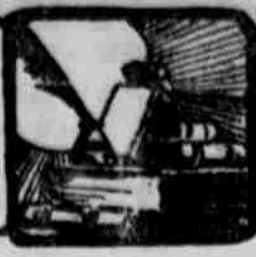




# EDITORIALS



OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

## Country and City.

**A**PAPER published near the southern boundary of Missouri speaks of the great advantages to farmers of the telephone where it has been introduced. The improvement, it is remarked, "places city and country in immediate communication, rendering unnecessary four-fifths of the trips that have been made on country roads." Highways may be muddy and weather stormy, but the world can be rung up according to the necessities of the moment, facilitating business and social life, and saving an immense amount of time and effort. A marked tendency of the age is to bring the country into closer touch with the centers of population. Electric roads are multiplying and make their way into neighborhoods that could not hope for steam lines. Rural free delivery of the mails is moving onward with great strides. Over 20,000 routes are in operation. Missouri alone has 1,200. Farmers get their letters and the daily newspapers delivered almost at their doors. Each day's events reach the country promptly, and the old rural isolation is disappearing. Means of ready travel grow better and keep on extending, and the good roads organizations gain constantly in active support.

Within a dozen years electric transit in the cities has more than doubled the area suitable for town residences. Cities themselves are spreading farther into the country, of which suburban sections are a pleasing modification. Labor on the farm has been rendered easier by ingenious machinery. All whose memories stretch back to pioneer days can bear witness to the enormous advance toward bringing country and city closer together. Progress in that respect proceeds at an accelerated pace. Going to the city or taking a run into the country is a commonplace incident. How far the space between will eventually be annihilated is beyond the range of conjecture, but the old lines of separation are disappearing in so many ways that the future relations of country and city are full of hopeful interest.

There is a reflex side to the drift of the population to the cities. Love of country life is a natural and general feeling. The merchant who comes to the city as a youth to make his fortune often returns to the country when he retires, and dreams of doing it all through his business career. He would hardly be willing to admit the deep tenderness of the memories of the old farm. All the remoteness of that quiet nook has passed away. You can "ring up" the farmer of to-day and find that he is abreast with the current news and that he has it in printed details, thanks to the rural delivery carrier.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## Leap Year Over Half Gone.

**W**E do not wish to urge anyone to rash and precipitate action, but it is our duty to call the attention of young ladies, and, indeed, of all unmarried ladies, to the exceptional privileges which immemorial custom allows them in the quaternary period through which we are so rapidly passing. The number of weddings shows no increase over ordinary years, and it is to be feared that the feminine world has not realized how little potential energy there is in water which has passed the mill. The decay of the peculiar customs of Leap Year is strongly evidenced by the almost complete lack of jokes on the subject in the newspapers, since it is well known that topical humor lingers long after the vanishing of its cause.

So far from Leap Year sinking into noxious desuetude, it might be expected that its peculiar privileges would be more widely used than ever before, now our young women are becoming more adventurous and also much harder to suit. The requirements for admission to matrimony imposed on the young men by the opposite sex have risen as rapidly as the standard of scholarship in the universities, and a young man whose attainments a few years ago would have been considered sufficient to qualify him for the position of master of a household would nowadays have to be content with his degree of bachelor.

Really, it is not at all certain that women do not do most of the proposing every year. Very little is known about this mysterious though important topic, anyway. Each person's experiences are limited to a comparatively few instances, and these are always regarded by both parties as exceptional in all respects. Novels are alto-

## Saved for the Fish Trade.

The fish man drove into the yard a few days after the new summer residents had taken possession of their home, and seeing an open door he stepped in and confronted the mistress of the house.

"Gettin' settled, I s'pose," he said agreeably, allowing his gaze to wander from two half-unpacked trunks to a table loaded with miscellaneous articles. "Well, take your time, take your time; there's plenty of it up here! I understand your husband's a doctor, ma'am."

"Yes, he is," said the summer resident, who in spite of warnings from city neighbors that she had better display no haughtiness of spirit under questioning, was unable to put much cordiality into her tone.

"Well, now, I come near bein' a doctor," said the fish man, still with a wandering gaze. "My folks wanted I should be one, all exceptin' of an aunt that had money, and was looked to to help me out financially if I took up with a profession. She spent one summer here, and she made a reg'lar study of my character an' parts, and at the end of the season she up an' told my folks that 'twouldn't do, I must go into business."

"That boy has got too much intellect to be have away on a doctor," she said; those were her very words. Now how would you like a couple o' good mack'rel all slit up an' ready for the br'iler?"—Youth's Companion.

It is unfortunate that this faith a woman has in a worthless husband can't be cashed at a grocery store.

gether unreliable, and the government has not added questions concerning the methods of matrimonial negotiations to the census queries, although many more personal and less important vital statistics are procured. It may even be doubted whether matrimonial engagements are necessarily or even commonly preceded by formal declarations, any more than are military engagements.

However that may be, we do not recommend our maidens, no matter how desirous they are, and should be, to obtain the best men for husbands, to adopt the conventional form of proposal. Breaking the ice is a disagreeable process. It is better to thaw it. And let no one abate from such maidenly maneuvers as she can advantageously use for fear lest the man should, through gallantry, accept her unwillingly. It is rare that a man is persuaded into doing anything he really does not want to do; much more rare than women think. A man's affection for the opposite sex is in the beginning general and diffuse. A man is naturally so altruistic that he normally loves all women, and on which one of them he ultimately focuses the full force of his affection depends on circumstances—and on the woman.—New York Independent.

## Fraud Orders.

**W**HEN a business concern in the United States begins suddenly to receive a large number of letters daily, it may be sure that, although no ripple has disturbed the surface, a quiet investigation is going on, and if there is anything dishonest about the business a notice will soon appear from the postmaster, to the effect that the Department at Washington has ordered the retention of all letters addressed to that man or company.

The dishonesty which is held to justify the issuing of a fraud order may not be a mere barefaced attempt to steal—an effort to get something for nothing. The charging of an excessive profit, or misleading advertising, has called forth such an order. A recent case in point is that of a company which advertised to furnish seed for an agricultural product and to buy the product at market prices. The order against the company was issued because it was learned that it sold in small quantities, for a total of \$600, seed which it bought in bulk for \$3; and because it represented the product as easy to raise, when, in fact, it is difficult.

This fearless attitude and action of the Government is of the greatest possible benefit to the country at large in two ways. It checks, indeed it stops absolutely, one kind of fraud, and it protects innocent persons from loss through that fraud. The thing on which stress should be laid is the availability of this strong arm of protection.

There is always a large number of fraudulent schemes afloat, dependent upon the publicity which they get through advertising. When one's attention is attracted by such an advertisement, he has only to call the attention of his postmaster to it, and to ask him to notify the Department at Washington. To do this in every suspicious case is a duty which every honest man owes to his neighbor as well as to himself.—Youth's Companion.

## Japanese Inventiveness.

**I**T has long been supposed that the capacity for initiation is the characteristic of Western nations alone. According to some leading anthropologists, as one goes from West to East he finds this capacity disappearing and the capacity for imitation taking its place. The Chinese and Japanese are imitators, not inventors.

But the present war between the Russians and the Japanese is rapidly proving the idea to be mere assumption. It is the Eastern rather than the Western people which, in this contest, are exhibiting the capacity for initiation and invention. Their strategy is almost faultless, and it is their own. Their artillery is astonishingly destructive, and, in some of its most deadly features, is the product of Japanese invention. Their naval tactics have been so unexpected and successful as to promise a revolution in the future methods of naval warfare. When peace comes and the Japanese carry their genius into the industrial world, they will demonstrate perhaps in a more telling way that the capacity for initiation does not diminish as one travels toward the rising Sun.—Church Standard.

## A RUSSIAN HEROINE.



MRS. E. W. VORONOBA.

Mrs. E. W. Voronoba, wife of the commandant of the maritime province dragoons, has organized at her own expense a transport system for the wounded. She has also joined the Sisters of Mercy during the war. She has even signified her willingness to go to the front and serve in the Red Cross ranks. Her purse is always open to any demand having for its object the promotion of deeds of mercy in connection with caring for wounded Russian soldiers.

When the family goes away on a vacation, they don't have a good time for two reasons: worrying for fear pa may have a good time at home, and that he may not send them all the money they want.

## OLD FAVORITES

Lasca.  
It's all very well to write reviews,  
And carry umbrellas, and keep dry shoes,  
And say what every one's saying here  
And wear what every one else must wear;  
But to-night I'm sick of the whole affair,  
I want free life and I want fresh air;  
And I sigh for the center after the cattle.

Lasca used to ride  
On a mouse-gray mustang close to my side.  
With blue serape and bright-belled spur;  
I laughed with joy as I looked at her!  
Little knew she of books or of creeds—  
An Ave Maria sufficed her needs;  
Little she cared, save to be by my side,  
To ride with me, and ever to ride,  
From San Saba's shore to Lavaca's tide.  
She was as bold as the billows that beat,  
She was as wild as the breezes that blow,  
From her little head to her little feet.

She was swayed in her suppleness to an' fro  
By each gust of passion; a sapling pine,  
That grows on the edge of a Kansas bluff,  
And wars with the wind when the weather is rough,  
Is like this Lasca, this love of mine.  
She was alive in every limb  
With a feeling, to the finger-tips;  
And when the sun is like a fire,  
And sky one shining soft sapphire,  
One does not drink in little sips.

Why did I leave the fresh and the free,  
That suited her and suited me?  
Listen awhile, and you will see;  
But this be sure—in earth or air,  
God and God's laws are everywhere,  
And Nemesis comes with a foot as fleet  
On the Texas trail as in Regent street.

The air was heavy, the night was hot,  
I sat by her side and quite forgot;  
Forgot the herd that were taking their rest,  
Forgot that the air was close oppress,  
That the Texas norther comes sudden and soon,  
In the dead of night or the blaze of moon;  
That once let the herd at its breath take fright,  
Nothing on earth can stop their flight;  
And woe to the rider, and woe to the steed,  
Who fall in front of their mad stampede!

Was that thunder? No, by the Lord!  
I spring to my saddle without a word.  
One foot on mine, and she clung behind,  
Away! on a wild chase down the wind!  
But never was fox-hunt half so hard,  
And never was steed so little spared,  
For we rode for our lives. You shall hear how we fared  
In Texas, down by the Rio Grande.

The mustang flew, and we urged him on;  
There was one chance left, and you have but one;  
Halt, jump to the ground, and shoot your horse;  
Crouch under his carcass, and take your chance;  
And if the steers in their frantic course  
Don't batter you both to pieces at once,  
You may thank your stars; if not, good-by.

To the open air and the open sky,  
In Texas, down by the Rio Grande!  
The cattle gained on us, and, just as I felt  
For my old six-shooter behind in my belt,  
Down came the mustang, and down came we,  
Clinging together, and—what was the rest?  
A body that spread itself on my breast,  
Two arms that shielded my dizzy head,  
Then came thunder in my ears,  
As over us surged the sea of steers,  
Blows that beat blood into my eyes,  
And when I could rise,  
Lasca was dead.

I hollowed a grave a few feet deep,  
And there in Earth's arms I laid her to sleep;  
And there she is lying, and no one knows,  
And the summer shines and the winter snows;  
For many a day the flowers have spread  
A pall of petals o'er her head;  
And I wonder why I do not care  
For things that are like the things that were.

Does half my life lie buried there  
In Texas, down by the Rio Grande?  
—Frank Desprez.

## SUBSTITUTES FOR TEA.

Leaves Found in the American Woods that Have Served Well.

Many substitutes for tea can be found in any ordinary woods, says the Washington Star. The idea is not a new one, for many country folks made use of the substitutes in the days when the luxury of Chinese tea was not so easily afforded as now. Before the Revolution, when the colonists were in a turmoil over the stamp taxes, it was considered unpatriotic to drink tea that had paid tribute to the government, and the so-called liberty tea was the popular drink. The four-leaved loose strife was, no doubt, the herb from which this beverage was made, possibly with the

aid of various other herbs. This plant grows a foot or two high and may be recognized by its simple, upright stem, upon which the leaves are set in whorls of four or five, the yellow starlike flowers being produced on long, slender stocks from near the base of the leaves. It is common to almost every woodland. The leaves of the New Jersey tea, a low bush which grows everywhere in dry woodlands, and bears in June and July a profusion of delicate white blossoms, was also extensively used during the Revolution. An infusion of the leaves boils a bright amber color, and in looks is as attractive as the real beverage, but the taste, though astringent, is by no means lively.

Some effort has been recently made in commercial circles to revive the use of this plant as a substitute for tea. The leaves are said to contain about 10 per cent of tannin. Hemlock leaves and those of the arbor vitae have played an important part in the making of rustic tea. The arbor vitae is a tree that grows wild in great abundance in northern woods, and the old-time Maine lumbermen used frequently to resort to its leaves for tea when other herbage failed them for the purpose. It was thought to be very invigorating.

The leaves of the wintergreen, a small plant, whose bright red berries, about the size of peas, are sold on the streets under the name of teaberry, have long been used for tea. From this it takes the name by which it is known in Pennsylvania. New Englanders for some unknown reason call it checkerberry. The foliage is very aromatic, and people who like a dash of spiciness in their drink have sometimes added its flavor to real tea.

It is near of kin and similar in taste to the creeping snowberry, a small, delicate vine, abundant in the great bogs and mossy woods of the north and Alleghany regions, and this is also approved by mountain palates as a substitute for tea. Thoreau, in "The Maine Woods," tells of his Indian guide bringing it into camp one night and recommending it as the best of all substitutes for tea. "It has a slight checkerberry flavor," he records, "and we both agree that it was better than the black tea we had brought. We thought it a discovery and that it might be dried and sold in the shops."

Better known as a tea plant is the Labrador tea, or the ledum latifolia of the botanists, which grows in cold bogs and mountain woods from Pennsylvania northward. The leaves, which emit a slight, not unpleasant fragrance when bruised, are tough and leathery and covered with a rusty brown wool. Steeped, they give a wild, gamy flavor to hot water, and the drink resulting suggests a poor grade of black tea.

Sweet fern, which is such an abundant growth everywhere on sterile hillside and by mountain roads, is another famous tea plant, often known as "mountain tea." In the War of the Rebellion its use for tea was particularly prevalent in the Southern States, and many a Southern lady who was reared in luxury was reduced to drinking this poor substitute for her favorite Oolong or flowery Pekoe.

The foliage and flowers of all the golden rods are imbued with an astringent principle and are moderately stimulant, so that their suitability for the manufacture of a domestic tea was recognized by the American colonists as long ago as when George III. was king over them. One species, the fragrant-leaved golden rod, known sometimes as Blue Mountain tea, possesses, in addition, the flavor of licorice. Drunk piping hot in the wilderness it makes a pleasant feature in the camper's limited menu. This especial kind of golden rod begins to bloom quite early in the summer and is easy of recognition, even by the non-botanical, because of the licorice perfume which the leaves give out when rubbed. It is a very common species in the pine barrens of Jersey. The astringent quality, in a greater or less degree, is possessed by nearly all these plants. They also contain considerable tannic acid in their make-up. These two qualities go far to make tea the popular beverage it is.

## Took the First Tow.

The late John H. Hamline, of Chicago, was one of the foremost advocates of civil service reform in that city, says the Outlook, and was instrumental in securing the passage of the law that established the merit system there. Although the mayor who appointed the first civil service commission was notoriously hostile to the measure, and planned to render it useless, Mr. Hamline did not hesitate to accept a place on it.

"How can you compromise with the opposition," he was asked, "by getting on a commission like that, which will have no power?"

"When I am going anywhere," he replied, "I do not wait for a star. I hitch my cart to anything which happens to be going my way." It is worthy of note that having climbed aboard his cart he managed, to the mayor's amazement, to keep it straight in the path of municipal reform, and made the law effective, despite all opposition.