

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

THE FARMER'S SON AND THE CITY.

WHY do farmers' sons leave the country to find employment in cities? The drift of population toward cities has been so marked in the last decade that the United States industrial commission has made a special study of the question. The farmer's son is just like the son of anybody else. He likes to know what is going on in the great world, and he realizes that if he remains on the farm always and has not the means to travel, his knowledge of the world will be narrow. The country boy has a bright mind. In the common schools he learns of the deeds of public men, and he aspires to be a great man some day himself. He goes away to college and takes high rank. Other professions than farming are open to him and he may choose one of them. Both of the United States Senators from Indiana were farmer boys and scores of other successful public men, who were raised on farms, could be named.

But what does it matter if the tendency is to move from the farm to the city? Population will adjust itself. When the farmer boy finds that the city does not hold out superior advantages, he will remain on the farm. Doubtless many a young man from the country makes a mistake when he goes to a city with the belief that he can make an easier and better living. It will not take long to discover that the country has its advantages, too. When he finds himself ordered about by an employer from ten to twelve hours a day, he will begin to appreciate the independence of farm life. Before he leaves the farm a salary of \$15 a week may seem large, when he is receiving scarcely more than that for a month's work, but after he pays the innumerable bills that a city man must pay, he will find that the \$15 a week salary is not half so large as he imagined it.

The farmer boy may be influenced by what he reads of "hayseeds" and by the prevalent newspaper cartoons of lawskickered ploughmen. Yet if he stops to think, he knows that the city-bred fellow is the greenest creature on earth when he goes into the country and can't tell corn from wheat or pumpkins from sour apples. If newspapers were published in the country, there would be some of the funniest city-fool cartoons that a man ever shook his sides over. The country holds out more inducements than it did a few years ago, and the inducements will be still greater. Just as soon as it is clear that the farm offers equal or better opportunities than the city, the farmer boy will stop drifting toward the city. The matter will adjust itself. Just now there is a reaction in favor of the farm.—Indianapolis Sun.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

ALONG with his excellent recommendation that the Department of Commerce and Labor investigate thoroughly conditions of child labor throughout the United States, President Roosevelt in his message urges that the subject of women's employment in gainful occupations be carefully studied by the same department. Many enlightened women of this country are eager for such an inquiry by the government. Doubtless it is in response to their arguments that the President makes his strong presentation of the importance of this matter.

Formerly woman worked in the home and only in the home. To create and maintain the home by the toil of her hands applied directly to fireside industries was her absorbing care. But the factories have taken those industries from the fireside and woman has followed them into the factories. The result has been that the woman who has been relieved of such work is not bound to her fireside as was the housewife of former generations, while the woman in the factory has few or no family ties. As the President

TREES' EFFECT ON CLIMATE.

Deforestation Causes Acid Wastes and Sometimes Floods.

Whether forests exercise a perceptible influence upon the climate is an old question, and even to-day it is not definitely settled. In many countries a drying up of the climate has occurred, which is shown perhaps most strikingly in almost the whole of Africa. That deforesting has assumed constantly growing proportions in almost every part of the world is still more apparent. The climate of Greece, where to-day only 16 per cent of area is covered with forests, has deteriorated. An increase of temperature and decrease of rain are noted, compared with ancient times, especially in Attica, which was thickly covered with forests about 3,000 years ago, and where hardly any rain now falls, while the heat in the open air attains a degree which would make the Olympian games almost an impossibility.

A similar condition exists in the peninsula of Sinai, where thousands of years ago the people of Israel lived in a luxuriant and fertile country and where to-day only forestless deserts abound. Palmyra, also once a flourishing oasis in the Syrian desert, presents to-day only a desolate waste of stones and ruins.

In Mexico, where the Spaniards cut down the forests in the mountains, droughts changing to devastating floods are now noticeable, especially in the vicinity of the City of Mexico. In upper Egypt, where only 100 years ago rain was abundant, drought now usually prevails. In Algeria, where since the middle of the last century, the forests have been cut down on a large scale, dry weather has increased, and in Venezuela, the level of Lake Tacarigua, to which Alexander Von Humboldt drew attention, has been lowered in consequence of deforestation. If these and other facts are kept in

mind the sentence, "Man traverses the earth and a desert results," is understood. It must not be forgotten, however, that this applies mainly to the influence of civilization upon appearances and is not always due to climatic changes produced by deforesting. Some authorities even deny the influence of forests on the weather and climate. It cannot be denied, however, that dense forests favor moisture and prevent the drying out of the soil to a considerable degree. At any rate, deforesting, which in modern times assumes constantly growing proportions for industrial and agricultural purposes, is of universal importance.

Germany, with a forest area of about 26 per cent, realizes annually nearly \$60,000,000 worth of timber therefrom, while the wood importations are about of the same value. The consumption of wood increases from year to year and systematic forestry has not succeeded in keeping up the forest area of Germany. If it is furthermore borne in mind that Canada, which formerly possessed more than 300,000,000 acres of forests, has to-day only a forest area of about 225,000,000 acres, it becomes evident that the question of deforestation assumes great importance. If civilization continues to change the face of the earth the problem of its wood supply will present itself like that of coal and force the finding of a suitable substitute.

SENSATIONS OF A WORM.

Being Cut in Two or Four Has Little Effect on Squirming.

Some remarkable experiments have been carried on to prove whether the lower animals suffer pain or sensations of any kind when injured, says the Kansas City Star. The most striking of these experiments were made on the common earthworm. If such a low animal be divided at its middle

says, "change and disturbance in the domestic life of the nation" has resulted from these new conditions. The decrease in marriage and in the birth rate are some of the symptoms of a revolution which may have a sinister effect upon the country in general. The result in many cases to the individual worker is equally disquieting.

These conditions affecting the individual, the nation and the race should be dealt with in the light of accurate knowledge such as a federal inquiry should secure. The 5,000,000 women who toil in gainful occupations must be protected and dangerous tendencies must be curbed.—Chicago News.

GOOD PREACHING.

DON'T put a \$5 hat on a 5-cent head. Quit taking \$5 buggy rides on \$3 a week. Eschew cheap jewelry. Get a bank account. Get a home of your own. Get some property. Get a start in the world in some way. What good is it to you that you live in cities with paved streets if you don't own anything? Don't be satisfied with the shadows of civilization; get some of the substance."

That is Booker T. Washington's advice to his people. He is getting down to fundamentals. The negro has not behind him, as the white man has, the inherited thrift of centuries. On the contrary, his people who have gone before him have had a longing for the good things of life, which longing has been denied them.

The white man is the heir to habits of prudence in expenditure. The negro has been taught, until the last forty years, to take no thought for the morrow. Considering the fact that the colored man has gone against the inbred traits of his race whenever he has tried to live within his means, he has made wonderful progress. Especially is this true of the Southern negro, who has accumulated, in eleven former slave States, more than \$300,000,000 worth of property.

And again: Is not the advice in Washington's pungent phrase also applicable to the white man? The negro is not the only type of spendthrift who takes \$5 buggy rides on \$3 wages and neglects to provide for the rainy day. And it must also be said that the preaching against shiftlessness has little effect either on white or colored ears. Moral maxims go into one ear and out at the other—with most persons. Still, the preaching must go on. A little of it finds lodgment. And here and there men are helped by it to stand on their feet as men. It is mighty good preaching, anyway.—Kansas City World.

MAKING POSTAL ENDS MEET.

THE postal deficit in the United States for the last fiscal year was over \$14,000,000, and will be large this year. It is said by the department that the rapid extension of rural free delivery is the cause of the deficit. But annual postal deficits have been the rule for a long time, and reached into some millions before a single rural delivery route was established. It was then clearly perceived and pointed out that the annual deficit was caused by the transportation of an immense amount of matter at losing rates. Some of the waste has been stopped, but a big leak there still exists. Many persons who have looked into the matter say the government pays extravagantly for transportation. Congress should investigate and stop abuses. Appropriate legislation will end the deficit.

Rural free delivery has come to stay. It is a good thing, and ought to be broadened in its work. The people do not ask that the postoffice should turn a big net profit into the treasury, as is customary in Europe, but they want the department to pay its way, and lop off the dead weight and impositions it is saddled with. A \$14,000,000 deficit will compel attention in Congress.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

transversely only the posterior half shows those squirming and jerking movements which, anthropomorphically viewed, seem to indicate pain; the anterior half (containing the brain) crawls, as ordinarily, away. Now, if these halves be halved again the posterior segment of each squirms, while the anterior halves crawl away. This same process may be continued with precisely like result until the pieces are no longer large enough to crawl independently. The striking phenomenon is explained in part by the two sets of muscular fibres in the worm, one longitudinal, causing the squirming and jerking, and the other circular, which produce the crawling. Why in the posterior segments the former set should be stimulated and in the anterior the latter set Prof. Norman says he does not know. For its purpose the experiment seems conclusive.

The abdomen of a hermit crab may be cut in two without any "but a very slight response" from any remaining movable organ. "Limulus" stops a few seconds when 400 or 500 abdominal segments are cut away, then proceeds quietly breathing as before. Its order of events is, regularly, cessation of breathing, flexion of abdomen, pause, extension of abdomen, respiratory movements. "Geophilus" cut in two in the middle continues its crawling, the front half going forward and the rear half backward. Millipedes divided while walking do not hasten nor stop nor jerk.

Help Her on the Way.

The old world is a-rolin'
To meet the perfect day;
Help her, then, to get there
By hollerin' "Hooley!"
—Atlanta Constitution.

If there is anything missing these days, it is pretty apt to turn up chopped in the mince-meat.



Safety Attachment.

Even in this enlightened age accidents due to a failure to turn off the gas properly are still numerous enough to command attention. A safety attachment for gas burners is the recent invention of a New Jersey man, and if it will fulfill the claims advanced it is well worthy of atten-

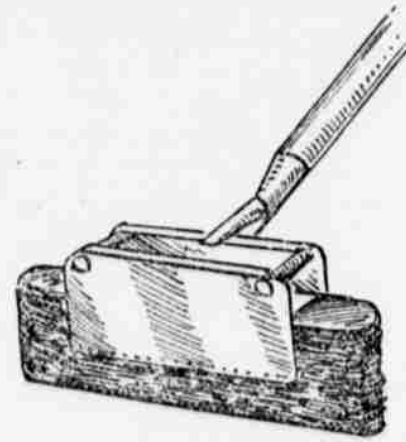


ACTS AUTOMATICALLY.

tion. Instead of employing a stop-cock the attachment regulates the flow of gas and as long as the gas is burning remains in that position, but should there be any carelessness in turning off the gas the attachment does so automatically. Whether the gas is purposely extinguished or extinguished by accident, due to a high wind or when blown out by an ignorant person, the attachment acts by gravity to close the plug. The attachment is pivoted to one end of the stopcock and consists of an arm which extends parallel with the burner, and controlled by a lever. At the top of the arm is the portion which engages with the burner being made in the shape of a ring connected to two horizontal bands. When the gas is turned off and the attachment in its normal position it is at right angles to the burner. When the lever is operated to turn on the gas the attachment closes up until the top engages with the tip of the burner. As long as the gas is burning the ring and bar at the top are caused to expand, but should the gas become extinguished by a gust of wind or otherwise the band immediately contracts and assumes a position which forces the attachment by its own weight and gravity to quickly fall to its normal position and shut off the gas.

Mop For Oiling Floors.

The aim of the majority of inventors at the present time is in the direction of designing some contrivance which will supplant hand labor, and in the main they are successful. One of the latest is a simple device having a clamp which holds one or more pieces of felt; the latter being saturated with oil to be applied to floors. A Massachusetts man is the patentee, an illustration of the device being shown here. Parquet floors are now in great demand, and formerly it was



FOR OILING FLOORS.

the custom to apply the oil and other substances used for surfacing the wood by hand, the process being very tedious and requiring considerable time and labor. The use of the device shown here would obviously save much of his labor. The clamp which holds the felt is made of metal, the front and rear being plates exactly alike. The upper edges of the plates are bent inward to give additional stiffness, and the lower edges also bent inward and formed with toothed projections. The plates constitute a jaw for folding and engaging the layers of felt. The two plates are connected at points above the center by a horizontal plate, the latter serving as a head and guide for the felt which can be pushed up against it and be retained in a horizontal position. The upper portions of the plates are held apart by a pair of stiff springs which surrounds two bolts connecting the plates. To release the felt the upper edges of the plates are pressed toward each other against the power of the springs. A handle attached to the rear plate serves as a mode of operation. In use the felt is saturated with oil and applied to the floor very much like a mop.

Rocking Bathub.

The ordinary bathtub is amply sufficient for the average person, but

anyone who is more fastidious, and desires something unique, can have recourse to the bathtub illustrated below, the invention of an Ohio man. The construction is such that the person sitting in the tub can rock it back and forth, causing the water to swirl over him, and, if he possesses a vivid imagination, he will think he is at the seashore taking a salt water bath, with the waves dashing over him. The body of the bathtub is supported upon rockers by uprights at the front and back. Pivoted to the front of the rockers is an arm which extends to the top of the body. A pulley is attached to this arm, through which passes a rope, the latter being secured to the body of the tub, and passing through a second pulley, connects with a handle, which is operated by the person in the tub to rock the machine, causing the water to flow up into a back portion above the seat. It will be readily seen that by pushing the handle the upper part of the arm will be pulled forward, raising the front end of the tub. The lining of the tub is arranged somewhat in the form of the seat and back of a chair, with a deeper portion for the feet. A casing extends around the back and partially along the sides, at the height of the shoulders of the occupant, when seated. A covering can be placed over this back portion and be supported upon rods, the covering having an aperture for the head, and can be used for tak-



ROCKING BATHUB.

ing Turkish baths. When used for this purpose a box for holding a lamp is hung in the front end of the tub.

SNAKE WAS BOLD.

Held Milkmaid Captive by the Ankle and Drank the Milk.

Miss Marie Czerney, daughter of prominent residents of Bon Homme County, S. D., had a thrilling adventure with a monster snake, as the result of which she narrowly escaped death by blood poison, by stepping on a rusty nail while striving to escape from the snake, says the St. Paul Dispatch.

The young woman, with a pail in her hand, went to her favorite Jersey for the purpose of doing her evening milking. During the day the animal had been picketed in a tame grass plot, and at the time of milking still bore the picket line. The Jersey appeared to be greatly annoyed by flies and mosquitoes and changed its position a number of times.

As the cow changed position Miss Czerney would follow it up, and during this operation her ankle became entangled as she supposed in the picket rope. The cow seemed to grow quieter and after milking steadily for several minutes Miss Czerney became concerned at the small amount of milk in the pail.

Fearing that the pail had sprung a leak she looked full into it and attempted to raise it, when she was horrified by the discovery that a monster snake had its head in the pail, the weight of the reptile making it difficult to raise the pail from the ground. The snake evidently had been drinking the milk about as fast as it poured into the pail.

Greatly frightened by the discovery, Miss Czerney gave a scream, sprang to her feet and made a dash for her home. But she had taken only a few steps when she made the further discovery that instead of her ankle being entangled in the picket rope, it was the snake which was entwined around her ankle. The reptile coiled so tightly and was of such weight that the young lady was thrown violently to the ground.

Finally gaining her freedom from the monster, which she was able to shake off only after superhuman efforts, she continued her flight toward home.

In her haste she stepped on a rusty nail, which penetrated the flesh to the depth of about two inches. Blood poison set in and only by the hardest kind of work was the life of the young woman saved.