

EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

Let Sickness Do All the Hunting.

It is a good rule not to cure a disease until you get it. We have all become so learned lately in germs and symptoms and surgical operations that, like the man who reads the "doctor book," we imagine that we have 'em all. As a rule, when a man is sick, he knows it. It is not necessary to keep a Sherlock Holmes watch on our system, lest some deadly disease get hold of you and hurry you to the silent tomb before you find it out.

It is said that a little New York girl is dead as a result of a bubble of air being driven into her heart by a physician administering antitoxin serum as a precaution against diphtheria. This might have been the right thing to do. No mere layman dare venture an opinion on the subject. But it illustrates the general eagerness to "take something" for the most appalling disease we can think of, the moment we feel the first possible symptom. If we see a man slip on a banana peel, we have an immediate inclination to put our own leg in splints "just as a precaution."

What we want is a cheerful and optimistic outlook. "The goblins" are less apt to catch us if we stop watching out. We should pay more attention to the superb health we are feeling in nine-tenths of our anatomy than to the possible ache, which may develop into a pain which could then be regarded as a symptom, that may be bothering our other tenth. There is no sense in going out of our way to meet illness. When sickness gets here, we will need no careful weighing of evidence to find it out.—Montreal Star.

Courtesy.

We are living in a busy, bustling, active age. Some critics call it a selfish period, with each man caring only for himself. The little amenities, the old-fashioned courtesies, are regarded as a squandering of time, energy and breath. They might be capitalized to advantage in some form of asset for use in business.

This is an unfortunate attitude, and mistaken one, short-sighted, illogical and profitless. The courteous man in business wastes nothing when he considers the sensibilities of his patron or client or subordinate. He is daily accumulating a capital in good will and friendship worth far more than the petty profits that might possibly have been made in the course of the minutes spent in courteous intercourse. As between two shops, or offices, the intending buyer or seller or patient or seeker after counsel will instinctively choose the one in which in the past he has been the more cordially greeted, or courteously dismissed, or obligingly served, or considerably disappointed.

That is the business side of the case. There is a moral side as well. It is a duty, whether specifically taught or not, on the part of every man to deal gently with his fellows. Life's difficulties come fast enough and hard enough without being increased by the churlishness or thoughtlessness of others. "As I to you," thinks the wise and just man, "so you to me." Reciprocity and retaliation are closely akin. The kindly impulse to return smile for smile is as spontaneous as the temptation to "get even." It should be even more so, more a matter of course.—Washington Star.

Government Crop Reports.

It may be worth while to inquire whether the people of the United States get the worth of the money they spend every year on crop reports. It would be well to have a specific return as to the cost of the crop report service and of the methods by which the information used in securing the figures that are ultimately published by the government as showing crop conditions are obtained.

Every farmer who raises more grain and more cotton than he uses has an individual interest in knowing, at the earliest possible moment, what is the outlook for the crops while they are growing and what is the general result when they have been harvested. Our present system of dealing in the important farm products results practically in the sale of the great bulk of every commodity months in advance of the delivery to the buyers. What the farmer wants to know is the probable supply that the trade can count upon getting, not at the harvest but during and at the end of what is called the crop year—that is, the time

beginning with the arrival of the new crop and the beginning of the delivery of the next crop.

If the farmers and factors who buy from the farmers through the country regard the government crop reports as more accurate than the reports that are obtained by the private agencies that gather information concerning the crops, and if the producers generally desire the continuation of the government's activity in this matter, the cost of gathering statistics and estimating the results therefrom should not be considered as furnishing a sufficient argument against the service. But, if the chief beneficiaries are merely the speculators, the sooner the service is cut off the better.—Chicago Post.

The Lewis Banking Enterprise.

PERHAPS the most extraordinary feature of the colossal banking enterprise inaugurated by E. G. Lewis, of St. Louis, was the evident avidity with which the public went into the scheme. Lewis was the publisher of two magazines widely circulated in the rural districts. Through these publications he unfolded to his subscribers the details of his plan for "banking by mail," solicited subscriptions for the bank's stock and invited deposits. Within a little more than a year he secured a capital of \$2,000,000 from 65,000 stockholders and acquired about 500,000 depositors. The postoffice authorities, who have now put a stop to his operations, declare that Lewis himself did not invest a dollar of his own money in the concern. Instead, he loaned to himself and to various enterprises in which he was interested vast sums of the bank's funds, some of these "investments" it is said, being decidedly insecure.

The inducements which Lewis held out to the people to become stockholders and depositors were exceptional. The bank, doing business by mail and having few of the expenses ordinarily incurred by such institutions, was to be administered economically and in the interest of its patrons. It promised to afford to people living in remote districts much-needed facilities for safeguarding their money. An immense amount of mail-order business is done in this country and the bank was to increase greatly the facilities for carrying it on. Most rural postoffices do not issue money orders. The new bank, by means of a system of certified checks, was to provide a safe and easy way of remitting funds.

The eagerness with which thousands sought to grasp this opportunity to secure banking facilities is the strongest kind of evidence of the need for such facilities. The present disclosures illustrate once more the imperative need of a postal savings bank system in this country. It is only through such a system, safeguarded by the unassailable credit of the government and accessible for the use of all, that the masses of the people can find adequate means for protecting their money.—Chicago News.

Church Work in Summer.

IT has been a stock reproach of scoffers, not altogether either deserved or undeserved, that for two or three months every year religion takes a vacation and lets the devil have free course. That has been true of some churches, but not, by any means of all. Now there is a general and hearty movement to swing all Christian churches into line for the maintenance of their good works the whole year round. That is what the Federation of Churches is aiming at, so that the reproach we have cited will no longer be possible and that the nearly \$100,000,000 invested in the churches will be kept active working capital in summer as well as in winter.

Obviously, much of the church work in summer must be quite different from what it is in winter. The projectors of this movement appreciate this fact, and with wise discretion are adapting their plans to it. A large proportion of some regular church congregations are out of town. But there is work to be done for those who remain, and there is especially an opportunity at such a time to do a work for the multitudes who do not belong to the regular congregations. If such work in summer time is less strictly sectarian, dogmatic and ecclesiastical than that in winter and is more widely and generously humanitarian, philanthropic and evangelical in the highest sense of that term, so much the better, and so much the stronger should it appeal to the sympathy and support of all who love their fellow men.—New York Tribune.

THE BLACK SEA.

A Big and Famous Waterway Between Asia and Europe.

The thrashing around in the Black sea of the Russian warship Kutuz Potemkin, whose crew mutinied and whose movements terrorized the cities and towns along its banks before they

by a dozen rivers and has no tide. It is also free from obstructions and the terror of shoals and rocks never bothers the seamen. In summer it is the safest sea in the world for navigation; in winter ice discharged from the mouths of the rivers which feed it makes it dangerous. The stormy pe-

It is higher than the Mediterranean by which it is connected by the Bosphorus, the sea of Marmora and the Dardanelles. The straits of Yenikale unite it with the sea of Azov on the north. In its center the depth is from 1,500 to 2,000 feet. Odessa is the largest city along its shores, with 600,000 people; Sebastopol is its most celebrated fortress; Trebizend is its oldest settlement; Varna is the principal Turkish fortress.

The sea was named by the ancient Pontus Euxinus (inhospitable sea) because savage tribes dwelt along its shores. It is known in fable and history. The Persians, Byzantine and the Turks have dominated it from time to time. Xerxes fought engagements along its banks and the Assyrians and Babylonians have figured in the fierce contests of the long ago.

It was Russia's domineering attitude in the Black sea which led to the Crimean war fifty years ago, in which she was humiliated.

Doll-Like.

She—That little Miss Pert is just like a doll, you think?
He—Yes; when I squeezed her the other night she cried "Mamma!"—Yonkers Statesman.

When we pray, the words will be after this fashion: "O, Lord, save us from neglect and poverty in old age, and keep us away from busy men. Give us chickens and a garden to tinker with in summer, and books in winter. Amen."

OLD Favorites

The Bridge.

I stood on the bridge at midnight,
As the clocks were striking the hour,
And the moon rose o'er the city
Behind the dark church tower.

I saw her bright reflection
In the waters under me,
Like a golden goblet falling
And sinking into the sea.

And far in the hazy distance
Of that lovely night in June
The blaze of the flaming furnace
Gleamed redder than the moon.

Among the long, black rafters
The wavering shadows lay,
And the current that came from the ocean
Seemed to lift and bear them away;

As, sweeping and eddying through them,
Rose the belated tide,
And, streaming into the moonlight,
The seaweed floated wide.

And like those waters rushing
Among the wooden piers,
A flood of thoughts came o'er me
That filled my eyes with tears.

How often, Oh, how often,
In the days that had gone by,
I had stood on that bridge at midnight
And gazed on that wave and sky!

How often, Oh, how often,
I had wished that the ebbing tide
Would bear me away on its bosom
O'er the ocean wild and wide!

For my heart was hot and restless,
And my life was full of care,
And the burden laid upon me
Seemed greater than I could bear.

But now it has fallen from me—
It is buried in the sea;
And only the sorrow of others
Throws its shadow over me.

Yet whenever I cross the river
On its bridge with wooden piers,
Like the odor of brine from the ocean
Comes the thought of other years.

And I think how many thousands
Of care-encumbered men,
Each bearing his burden of sorrow,
Have crossed the bridge since then.

I see the long procession
Still passing to and fro—
The young heart hot and restless,
And the old subdued and slow!

And forever and forever,
As long as the river flows,
As long as the heart has passions,
As long as life has woes,

The moon and its broken reflection
And its shadow shall appear,
As the symbol of love in heaven,
And its wavering image here.
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

LACE OF NATURE'S MAKING.

Fibrous Pith, with an Agreeable Odor and Textile Strength.

There are in all about half a dozen lace-bark trees in the world, so-called because the inner bark yields a natural lace in ready-made sheet form which can be made up in serviceable articles of apparel. Only four of these curious species of trees are of much practical value. Tourists who have stopped at Hawaii or Samoa recall the lace-bark clothing of the natives—clothing of a neat brown color when new, of remarkable strength and of a fragrant odor, like freshly cured tobacco leaf. The native "tapa" cloth, as it is called, is made from the bark of the brusonetia papifera, but is not usually included among the real lace-bark trees.

Of the lace-bark trees yielding a pure, snowy lace of utility, we have on the Pacific side of the hemisphere the sterquilia acerifolia of Australia (also called "flame tree," in allusion to its showy red flower), and in Maori Land the plagianthus betulinus. On the Atlantic side there is only one lace-yielding tree so far known—the lageta linteria of the Caribbean Islands. Of the dafne tenuifolia of South America I have never been able to discover a single specimen, despite careful search, nor have I ever met anyone who has seen the tree growing in South America.

In its natural state the lace bark is of a most delicate cream-white tint. It is probably a kind of fibrous pith. When the outer bark is removed it can be unfolded and unwound in one seamless piece, having a surface of a little more than a square yard. Washing and sun bleaching give it a dazzling white appearance. It has a faint, agreeable odor not unlike that of freshly split bamboo. The fabric is airy light. It is used in the West Indies for mantillas, cravats, collars, cuffs, window curtains; in a word, for every purpose that ordinary lace is used.

In making up shawls, veils and the like it is customary to piece two sheets of lace bark together. Delicate and apparently weak as it is in single mesh, a bit of lace bark, if rolled

into a thin string, will all but resist human strength to break it. In string, braided and rope-form, it is used for making up the light lace-bark harness of the tropics.

Despite its practical use, there is no essential demand for lace bark any more than for the edelweiss of the Alps. It has been used by the natives for hundreds of years, and yet is comparatively little known to this day. A few specimens of lace-bark articles are believed to exist in different countries of Europe. These were made some hundreds of years ago, yet, although their age is considerable, they are said to be in a good state of preservation.—Scientific American.

ODD FACTS ABOUT BARRELS.

Over 300,000,000 of Them—Manufactured and Used Annually.

The introduction of improved machinery in its manufacture has made the American cooperage business the largest in the world. There are upward of 300,000,000 barrels and circular packages manufactured in this country annually, and the demand increases so that this output must be steadily broadened in order to keep pace with the growth of the business. The largest consumption of barrels is in the cement business, which approximately demands 35,000,000 a year for the trade, while flour comes next with a demand for 22,500,000; fence staples, bolts, nuts and nails require 15,000,000, and sugar 15,000,000. Roasted coffee, spices, crockery and fruits and vegetables use up about 5,000,000 barrels a year each, while the glassware trade, baking powder companies, distilled liquor manufacturers and candy, tobacco and cheese packers are big users of barrels, averaging in each trade from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 barrels. The consumption of barrels for molasses, oil, lard and pork is also enormous, while dry paint, glue, snuff, oatmeal, screws, castings and general hardware articles annually increase the demand on the cooperage supply.

While the amount of expenditure for barrels can be closely estimated for a given year, it is not possible to say how many barrels are in actual use. The life of a barrel is put down at one year by the trade, but that is far from true. The great majority of barrels have as many lives as a cat. They begin as sugar or flour barrels and are then sold to the farmer for shipping his produce to the market. It may be they are returned to him several times, carrying potatoes or pickles to market in the first trip and then cabbage or lettuce in the next, each cargo being lighter in weight than the previous one, owing to the weakened condition of the barrels.

Finally, the barrel may serve out its life work as a garbage receptacle and be burned in the end in some tenement house to keep out the winter's chill. Thus it may be said that a barrel serves a more useful career than almost any other manufactured article and its life is much longer than a season.

The demand for barrels is steadily increasing because modern machinery has made it possible to make them for the trade cheaper than almost any other form of package. That it is the most convenient form of package has long been acknowledged. The ancient cooper's art was a skilled one, and the work of cutting out the staves and then assembling them required long practice and apprenticeship. Today machinery performs in a fraction of the time what hand labor did so slowly and clumsily.

The modern veneer machines have been instrumental in reducing the cost of barrels. Hand labor is eliminated here to such an extent that the work of feeding the machines constitutes most of the requirements of the operators. The staves are cut to the required thickness by the machines and then pressed into shape by hydraulic pressure until they are ready for the assembling machine.

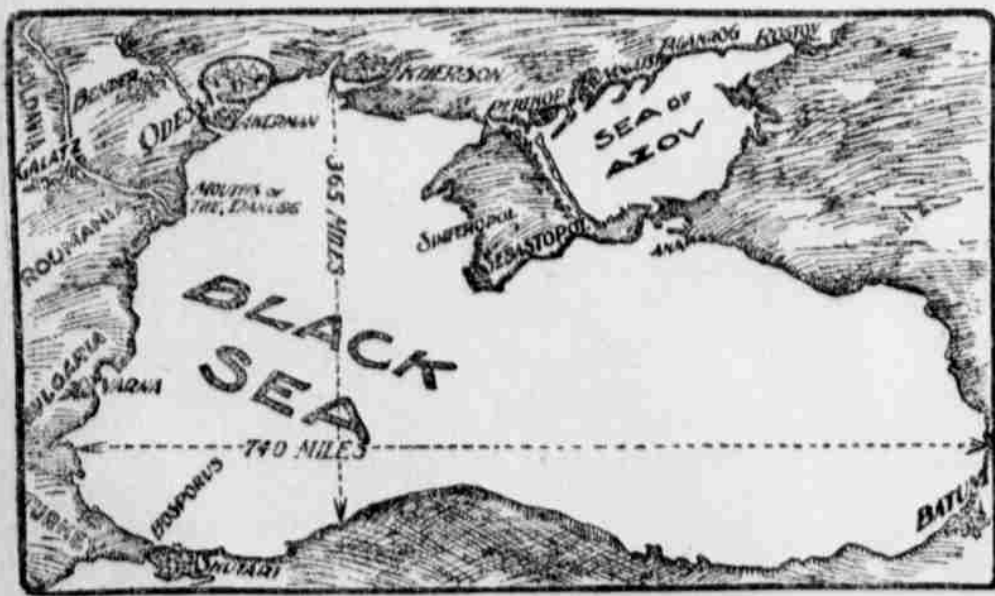
A feature of barrel-making in this country is the grading of the circular packages so that all the lumber brought to the factories can be utilized. One class of barrels must be absolutely watertight, without a flaw of any kind in their staves. Barrels made for oil, whisky and paint trade must not only be flawless but they must have a resistance power equal to a lateral pressure of 500 pounds. In order to secure this the staves must be put to a rigid test beforehand and they must be cured, so there will be no danger of shrinkage and damage when put into use. Lumber used for this work must be carefully selected and it must be cured by nature's slow but sure process.

Up Against It.

"See here," asserted the angry Power, "you fellows sunk a friendly vessel."

"Well," replied Russia, wearily, "we don't seem to be able to sink an unfriendly vessel. Got to sink something, haven't we?"—Evening Bulletin.

If a woman speaks her mind freely, her husband learns that earning the money to buy the necessities of life isn't half the work of sewing and cooking them.



sunk the warship and sought escape ashore, draws attention to this famous inland stretch of water. Its surface is 180,000 miles or over 22 times the size of Massachusetts, or equal to that of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Louisiana combined. One island dots its surface, the Isle of Serpents. It is 700 miles long and 400 broad. It is fed

riod then is in and so severe are some of the wind visitations that vessels will not leave port when they are raging. In one of these, on Nov. 14, 1854, forty vessels of the allied powers of Europe, then besieging Sebastopol, were sunk, 1,100 lives were lost and property worth many millions was destroyed.