



Georgia's Convict Law.

The next General Assembly relative to the disposal of the convicts will provide for a general stockade system that will permit of the constant improvement of the country roads during workable weather and afford other means of employment during severe weather.

How best to settle the convict question has been the text of many lectures and innumerable editorials, and the trend of popular opinion is towards the above outlined plan. Clarke County is not to wait for the general measure, however, and it will have perfected a similar system long before the State machinery is put in motion. The Good Roads movement is constantly growing, and soon the State of Georgia will be as conspicuous for her graded highways as she is now for her dangerous gullies.—Banner, Athens, Ga.

Good Roads and Prosperity.

Good roads are as essential to the prosperity of the country as the proper machinery for cultivation is to the farmer. A farm that is easily accessible, by reason of good roads, is worth double to the owner what it would be otherwise. In no country are good roads so easily obtainable, with so little cost as they are here, and in no State is so little attention paid to them. Little chuckholes are left until they become dangerous, a plank breaks in a culvert and it goes until some valuable animal has become crippled. Road overseers start in some work by tearing up the road and then leave it unfinished for months while the public is compelled to drive around the obstruction. Our road laws are faulty, we admit, and under them it perhaps is impossible to have good highways, but at the same time it is within our power to elect men to the somewhat humble and not very lucrative office of road overseer who will take an interest in working the roads. Let property owners and neighbors in each respective district get together before election day, and decide upon some man who will fill the office right, and not leave it until the last day, and then perhaps by a dozen votes put some one in who cares little and has no interest whatever to prompt him.—Leader, Irving, Kan.

Winter Resort Roads.

The advantage of having good roads at summer resorts was never so strongly shown as during the present season. And what is true of northern summer resorts is equally true of southern winter resorts. The locality that can offer the very best roads will present a strong drawing card. People with enough money and leisure to go on extended outings, will, in most instances, desire to do more or less riding and driving. This is particularly true of winter resorts, inasmuch as boating constitutes a small part of winter pastimes.

Many of the southern towns and cities are realizing the true condition of things, and are taking steps toward making the needed improvements. The wheelmen of Atlanta, Ga., are looking forward with no little interest to the reorganization of the Good Roads Club, which takes place on Oct. 16.

It is the intention of those at the head of the club to obtain the hearty co-operation of all wheelmen, and when this has been done and the club fully organized, it will be able to work much good in that city. The club has for its object, as its name indicates, the building of and keeping in repair good roads throughout that city and county.

Other towns in the "Sunny South" are looking after their best interests by providing fine streets and good roads. No town with highways of mud or sand need apply. People do not care to go on an outing and pay for such luxuries.

Tibetan Animals.

There are wild cattle in that country almost as big as elephants, splendid creatures, covered everywhere but on the back with shaggy hair a good four palms long. They are partly black, partly white, and really wonderfully fine creatures, and the hair or wool is extremely fine and white, finer and whiter than silk. Messer Marco brought some to Venice as a great curiosity, and so it was reckoned by those who saw it. There are also plenty of them tame, which have been caught young. These people use commonly for burden and general work, and in the plow as well; and at the latter they will do full twice as much work as any other cattle, being such very strong beasts.

In this country, too, is found the best musk in the world; and I will tell you how it is produced. There exists in that region a kind of wild animal like a gazelle. It has feet and tail like the gazelle's, and stag's hair of a very coarse kind, but no horns. It has four tusks, two below and two above, about three inches long, and slender in form, one pair growing upward, and the other downward. It is a very pretty creature. The musk is found in this way: When the creature has been taken they find between the flesh and the skin something like an imposture full of blood, which they cut out and remove

ATHLETES OF THE DEEP.

Eight Hundred Pounds Tossed Through the Air.

"Speaking of jumping," said an old seaman, "let me tell you of the greatest jump ever seen. It was many years ago, and we had experienced bad luck for several weeks, when one morning we sighted a big whale, and two boats set off in a race to see who would get there first.

"Suddenly the whale rose not a hundred yards away, and headed directly for us. The mate gave orders to stop, and we sat still, expecting that the monster would rise near us. The harpooner stood with his iron ready to throw, while we grasped our oars, nervously prepared to jump at the word 'stern all,' that nearly always came when a whale was harpooned. Not a word was spoken, and suddenly a mountain of black appeared, which seemed to shut off the entire horizon. Up it went until I distinctly saw a seventy-foot whale over twenty feet in the air above us.

"The mate was the first to regain his senses, and gave the command, 'stern all.' Just as we were ready to spring overboard the boat shot back several feet, and the next second the gigantic animal dived into the ocean, just grazing us, having completely passed over the boat."

Such gigantic jumps are rare. A similar one was recorded by a well-known Admiral in the British navy. A battleship was lying in the harbor of Bermuda, when all hands were attracted by the appearance of a very large whale suddenly showing itself in the harbor, and appearing very much alarmed by the shallow water. The Admiral, who was then only a midshipman, joined a boat's crew that started in pursuit, and just as they were about to strike the whale disappeared out of sight leaving a deep, whirlpool round which the boat shot. Another moment and the whale came up, having, in all probability, struck the bottom, and went into the air like a rocket.

Gambling is on the Wane.

"I don't know why it is, but the American mania for gambling is dying out," said Tom Brewer, one of the best known of the Denver sports, at the Arlington. "Take horse racing, and over two-thirds of the tracks are closed. The breeding of fast horses is not nearly so profitable as it used to be and there is not one race where there were ten, twenty years ago. Then faro. It is a fact that there are not as many open faro rooms in the United States as there were in Chicago or Denver alone a few years ago. I have not seen a keno card for ten years. There are a few rooms, but they are comparatively small. Poker is played privately and in clubs. There are a few poker rooms where strangers can get into a game, in all large cities, but there are not one-fourth as many as ten years ago, and the games are very much smaller, only occasionally a game being played for heavy stakes. The places of these are taken to some extent by crap rooms of a much lower order, but that is being rapidly forced out of existence. There is probably less gambling among Americans now than among men of any other leading nationality."—Washington Star.

Truth.

There is seldom sufficient attention paid to certain stages of wrong-doing. Some of it is intentional and deliberate, some careless and thoughtless, some the blundering of ignorance. In the general condemnation of the first and most culpable it is easy to forget the other stages, and to fail to recognize the easy way in which they merge into each other.

This is very manifest in the many transgressions of truthfulness in word which are prevalent among us. From the premeditated lie, destined expressly to deceive, to the light exaggeration, or even the poorly chosen expression which fails to convey the exact meaning, there is indeed a wide range; nor is any one wise enough to measure the degree of culpability in any special stage.

Some make the intention the only limit of criticism; but not only is it difficult to discover this in any particular case, but it is also impossible to say at what stage thoughtlessness becomes culpable, or how far ignorance might have been prevented.

This Is Hard to Believe.

A queer story is told of an English naturalist, who died in 1890, and was buried at Blanky, in Lincolnshire. Among his pets was a large gray bat. This bat was permitted to enter the tomb, and was sealed up alive along with the corpse of his dead master. In 1896 the vault was opened, and to the surprise of all the bat was alive and fat. On four different occasions since the relatives of the dead man have looked after the welfare of his pet, and each time it has been reported that the bat was still in the land of the living, although occupying quarters with the dead. It was last seen in 1892.

Oh, What Happy Days!

Barbers in the early days of the Christian era were not permitted to talk while shaving a patron. Indeed, silence was so much appreciated by persons while under the barber's hands that mutes were preferred for this service.

A woman's fashionable call occupies twenty minutes; five minutes in a chair and fifteen minutes at the door.

SHIPPING PERISHABLE GOODS.

Valuable Points Which Experience Has Brought Out.

A study of the methods of protecting from injury during transportation, or while in storage, various food products and other perishable articles is interesting, especially to those engaged in a business in which this matter must be duly considered as a question of dollars and cents. Different conditions of temperature are the basis of such study. Severe extremes of heat and cold may be encountered, while only a short distance is covered. It is possible, even under the worst conditions, so to pack any kind of perishable goods that the danger of loss by reason of decay, breakage, leakage and similar causes is much lessened.

Gog and Magog.

Who were Gog and Magog? English tradition says that they were the last of a race of giants who infested England until they were destroyed by England after the destruction of Troy. Gog and Magog, it is said, were taken captive to London, where they were chained at the door of the palace of the king. When they died, wooden images of the two giants were put in their places. In the course of time, a great fire destroyed these, but now, if you go to London, you will see in the Great Hall of one of the famous buildings—the Guildhall—two immense wooden effigies of men, called Gog and Magog.

But there are other traditions of the two giants. One is to the effect that when Alexander the Great overran Asia, he chased into the mountains of the North an impure, wicked and man-eating people who were twenty-two nations in number, and who were shut up with a rampart in which were gates of brass. One of these nations was Goth and another Magoth, from which we readily get the names of the mythical giants. It is supposed, however, that the Turks were meant by Gog and the Mongols by the children of Magog. We shall find mention made of Gog and Magog in many books, including the Bible; but there is the Great Wall and the Rampart of Gog and Magog, whatever may have been the fact that gave the names of the two giants to that portion of the structure.—St. Nicholas.

Was Man an Amphibian?

Man was said to have descended from a good many types, by different inquiries into ancient history, some going for monkeys or apes, and others for various species of animal life; but some curious cases of hereditary webbed hands and feet in human beings seem to show that our ancestors may have been amphibian.

An instance of this kind of hereditary peculiarity has been reported by Doctors W. R. Smith and J. S. Norwell, in the case of a family, nearly all the members of which were affected by a malformation of hands and feet.

In the subjects examined by those gentlemen, the second and third fingers were webbed to the tip, and the bones were disposed in an extraordinary manner.

Each foot had six toes, all more or less webbed, except the fourth, which was comparatively free.

These peculiarities have persisted through several generations, and it was found that twenty-one persons out of twenty-eight had been malformed in this way, and in all cases in both hands and feet.

Fascination of Years.

Many a woman over twenty hesitates to meet the great and inquisitive Li Hung Chang. She doesn't care to acknowledge the burden of her years which, just possibly, the viceroys, being a student of history, lays to the credit of her fascinations. Helen of Troy was over forty when she was a party to the most famous elopement on record. Cleopatra was over thirty when Antony first loved her, and ten years later her fascinations were in the ascendant. At thirty-six Aspasia was wedded to Pericles, and thirty years afterward she welded undisputed influence over men. Anne of Austria was quite thirty-eight when she was described as the landmost queen in Europe; Louis XIV, wedded Mme de Maintenon when she was forty-three years of age; Mlle. Mars, the celebrated French tragedienne, only attained the zenith of her power and influence at forty-five, and Ninon de Benclos is proverbial for her wonderful attractions at seventy-three.

Dead Man's Claim.

Among the rich mines in Leadville is one called "Dead Man's Claim." It seems a certain popular miner had died, and his friends, having decided to give him a good send-off, hired a man for \$20 to act as sexton. It was in the midst of winter; there were ten feet of snow on the ground, and the grave had to go six feet below that. The grave digger sallied forth into the snow, depositing the corpse for safe-keeping in a drift, and for three days nothing was heard from him. A delegation sent to find the fellow discovered him digging away with all his might, but found also the intended grave converted into the entrance of a shaft. Striking the earth it seems he had found pay rock worth \$60 a ton. The delegation at once staked out claims adjoining his and the deceased was forgotten. Later in the season, the snow having melted, his body was found and given an ordinary burial in another part of the camp.—Boston Journal.

Machine for Weighing Thought.

A thought-weighing machine has been invented by Prof. Mosso, an Italian physiologist, the rush of the blood to the head turning the scale. The machine is so delicate that it can measure the difference in the exertion needed to read Greek from that required for Latin.

Reason for Confidence.

Richard—But what makes you feel so sure that she will marry you?

Harry—Well, you see, her mother and I have engendered a mortal hatred of each other.—Boston Transcript.

Hippogamy in France.

The horse flesh butchers in France are doing a brisker trade than ever in equine joints.

Somehow newly married people always look just like new clothes feel.

MILES AND SITTING BULL.

An Interview Between the Two as Described by the General.

Made insolent by recent successes, Sitting Bull, in 1876, sent word to Colonel E. M. Otis, who was escorting one of Miles' supply trains, to get out of the way, as he was scaring off the buffalo. "If you don't," said the note, "I will fight you again. I want you to leave what you have got here and turn back. I mean all the rations you have got and some powder." Colonel Otis, however, kept on the Indians from time to time firing upon him.

When General Miles heard of this affair, he moved after Sitting Bull, and on the 21st of October found him near the head of Cedar Creek. The famous medicine man sent in a flag of truce and an interview was held between the lines, under an agreement that General Miles should take six persons with him and Sitting Bull also six.

"Sitting Bull," said the general, in telling the story to a writer, "spread out a blanket and wanted me to sit down upon it, but I stood up while he sat down. As we talked, one and another young Indian sauntered up, until there were perhaps ten or fifteen in a half circle. One of my men called attention to this. I said to Sitting Bull: 'These men are not old enough for council and unless you send them back we will stop talking.' Soon afterward the interview came to an end with nothing settled. I found out later, from a scout and interpreter named John Brughler, that one Indian muttered, 'Why don't you talk strong to him?' and that Sitting Bull replied, 'When I do that I am going to kill him.' Brughler also told me that one of the young warriors slipped a carbine up under Sitting Bull's buffalo robe. But I had in mind the fate of Canby and had instructed the troops on the ridge back to keep the spot in range."

The next day came a second interview. The general tried hard to induce the Indians to obey the government and to go to their respective reservations. Sitting Bull's answer was emphatic:

"The Great Spirit made me an Indian. He did not make me an agency Indian and I do not intend to be one."

"Seeing that further parley was useless, General Miles gave an ultimatum through the interpreter: "Tell him that either I will drive him out of the country or he will drive me out. I will take no advantage of the flag of truce and will give him fifteen minutes to get back to his lines. If my terms are not accepted by that time I will open fire."

Sitting Bull started up with a grunt and rushed out in a fury, followed by his chiefs, not stopping to shake hands. In a very short time the Indian lines were all astrive with yelling warriors and with ponies scurrying about, and presently the grass was burning here and there to stop all advance of the troops. Miles had with him only 398 rifles, while the Indians swarmed in for greater numbers in front and on the flanks, but his men went forward with a rush and the hostiles were driven two score miles to the Yellowstone, leaving some of their dead in the fight.—McClure's Magazine.

Newspapers vs. Posters.

I struck an inland Indiana town recently, and about the first thing I noticed was flaring posters announcing the appearance of a second-rate "star" at the local opera house that evening. In the course of my business I found myself in a drug store where the advance sale of seats was held, and after selling a bill of goods, asked for a ticket to the evening's performance.

"Oh," said the young man behind the counter, "those people ain't coming. They bustled last week."

"Why don't you take down or cover up the posters, then?" I asked.

"Oh, everybody knows they ain't coming. It was in the papers."

Sure enough, The management trusted to half a dozen lines in the local papers to counteract the influence of several stands of red, black and yellow posters.

And the papers did it. Probably I was the only person in the town who had asked for a ticket after the newspaper announcement.

Can you think of any better illustration of the relative value of newspaper advertising, and the other kind?—Push.

Is Marriage a Failure?

The Earl of Stafford married at St. Germain, 1624, the eldest daughter of the Count de Grammont; in his will he thus expressed himself: "I leave to the very worst of women, who is guilty of everything that is bad, the daughter of M. Grammont, a Frenchman, whom I have unfortunately married, forty-five brass halfpence worth with which to buy a pallet for supper, a greater sum than her father can often give her, he being the worst of men and his wife the worst of women. Had I only known their characters, I had never married their daughter nor made myself so unhappy."

A Lover of Breton Folklore.

Le Vicomte Honsart de la Villemarque, who died the other day at the age of 80, had done probably more than anyone in his generation to popularize the knowledge of Breton folk-lore, folk-poetry and folk-music in France. His "Barzaz Breiz," a collection of the popular songs of Brittany, with the original melodies and critical excursus and notes, is a standard work. He was the first to provide a translation of the Breton bards of the earliest epochs.

A Regiment of Plows.

One hundred and sixty plows started in a row at a recent plowing match at Darford, England.

Girls like to talk about love, because all of them know some verse they can quote about it.

SHIPPING PERISHABLE GOODS.

Valuable Points Which Experience Has Brought Out.

A study of the methods of protecting from injury during transportation, or while in storage, various food products and other perishable articles is interesting, especially to those engaged in a business in which this matter must be duly considered as a question of dollars and cents. Different conditions of temperature are the basis of such study. Severe extremes of heat and cold may be encountered, while only a short distance is covered. It is possible, even under the worst conditions, so to pack any kind of perishable goods that the danger of loss by reason of decay, breakage, leakage and similar causes is much lessened.

Articles recognized as perishable include all fruits and vegetables, milk and other dairy products, fish, fresh meats, poultry, game, clams, oysters and other shell fish, canned or bottled groceries, wines, hop and malt liquors, various mineral waters, medicines and liquid drugs which, instead of alcohol, have water for a base, ink, mullage and kindred articles. In shipping any of these and similar goods, the point to be observed is protection from excessive cold and frost, as well as extreme heat. Precaution must be taken to have in the car a good circulation of air, in which gases generated by such goods may be carried off. Temperatures at which the different commodities are liable to damage vary materially with the nature of goods.

Favorable conditions for one article will be bad for another, and the condition of all goods when shipped is a matter of much importance.

Another point to be considered is whether the train is to be sent through direct from one point to another, or to be sidetracked along the line. Produce, like potatoes, for instance, will stand a much lower temperature when the car in which they are shipped is in motion. When at a standstill the effect of cold is quickly felt. In the West cars containing perishable goods are sometimes covered on the north side with a canvas to protect them from the cold winds which sweep down across the prairies.

Express companies do a large business in the shipping of fish, though, of course, much is sent all about the country by freight. If sent by express, fish is packed in barrels with ice. By freight, fish is sent packed in boxes and casks holding from 500 to 1,000 pounds. If an entire car load is to be shipped, bins are sometimes built in the car, and are well supplied with ice, the quantity of ice being about half the weight of the fish. Experience has shown that the most favorable temperature for shipping fish is about that of melting ice. If properly packed, under good conditions, fish may be kept in a marketable state for a month after they are caught and boxed in ice. It is by this means that passengers on transatlantic steamers are enabled to be served with good and palatable fish during an entire voyage. Cities in the West may be supplied in like manner with fish of various kinds which live only in Eastern waters.

Shelled oysters, if sent in their own liquor, packed in perfectly tight barrels, will not be spoiled, even if they become frozen. Clams freeze more readily than do oysters, and thicker clams and oysters will stand cold better than will the lean ones. Should they freeze while being shipped in their shells it is safest to allow them to thaw out gradually in a moderately cool place. Clams and oysters will stand a journey better during a snow storm than when the weather is fair and the wind high. In extreme weather, barrels in which these things are shipped are lined with tough paper. Oysters in their shells, if stored in a dark place where they are sprinkled occasionally with ice water, and where the temperature is but little above freezing, may be kept in good condition for at least two months.

In shipping fruit a uniform temperature of from 40 to 50 degrees is best for keeping the fruit in good condition. If it is packed with care, and handled in like manner, fruit may be kept in an excellent state of preservation for from twenty to thirty days. It will stand long journeys, too. Strawberries have been shipped from Florida to Chicago and other far-away places, put into cold storage on arrival, and found to be in perfect condition four weeks after they were picked. Oranges, if slightly frozen, may be placed in a cool room to thaw out gradually, a process which makes them sweeter, and this is thought by some people to give an improved flavor to the fruit. When thawed out after being frozen solid, oranges will be found to have acquired a flavor which is unpleasantly sweet. A simple method of thawing out oranges is to place them in cold water as soon as received, and they will then thaw in a gradual way. All fruit will stand 15 degrees more cold if it is wrapped in thick brown paper.

Seeds of the peach, plum, walnut, and other kinds of trees will germinate and sprout better in the spring if they have been frozen first in the winter. A temperature below zero does not injure bulbous plants such as hyacinths, lilies, tulips and the like. Cut flowers should keep well for several days in a temperature a little above freezing.—Boston Transcript.

Vice Versa.

Diner—Walter, there is a slight mistake. I ordered a spring chicken and a dottle of 1884 wine.

Walter—Yes, sir.

Diner—You have brought me some wine of last spring and a chicken of 1884.—Paris Messenger.

A widow seems to mourn as much for a bad husband as for a good one.