

# EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

**Country and City.**  
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. High ways 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 making 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 is tired and weary of doing it all through his business career. He would hardly be willing to admit the deep-rootedness of the memories of the old farm. All the remoteness of that quiet nook has passed away. You can "dig 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.

WE 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 quarter-year 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 also

either unreliable, and the government has not added questions concerning the methods of matrimonial negotiation 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 abstain 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.

WHEN 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 \$900, 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 afoot, 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.

IT 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.

## Science AND INVENTION

A new Swiss watch contains a tiny hard rubber phonograph plate which calls out the hours loud enough to be heard twenty feet away. Sentiment can be had by having the words recorded on the plate in the tones of a dear friend—as those of a man's wife or children.

The amount of albumen necessary in man's food has been proven by French physiologists to be much less than has been supposed. From three to five ounces daily was thought to be required, but later investigators found that two and one-half and even one and one-half ounces would suffice. In the new experiments, continued for thirty-eight days, the real need was shown to be less than one ounce per day.

Eucaine, the new local anesthetic, is adapted for many operations where chloroform cannot be used on account of heart weakness. It is injected under the skin at the point of incision. Cutting may begin in a few moments without pain, and more of the drug is dropped in at intervals of a few minutes as new portions of tissue are exposed. A recent successful operation in London was continued an hour and a half.

A recent French invention is a ship's compass so mounted that as it swings round with the variations in the pointing of the vessel it produces automatically, through electric connections, a chart on a sheet of paper, by consulting which the ship's officers can see what the course was at any moment of the voyage. The same apparatus also registers the speed of the vessel by recording the number of revolutions of the screws, each stroke of the piston closing an electric current.

The accelerometer, designed for measuring the power exerted in starting a train and to indicate the proper speed for curves, is the invention of F. M. Gilley, a teacher of physics. It consists essentially of two glass vessels connected by a tube and containing liquid, such as mercury and red alcohol. As the train starts, the liquid passing from the forward glass to the rear one—shown by suitable graduations—indicates the force exerted, and in the same way the instrument, when slaced on its side, makes evident the jerk or centrifugal force in rounding a curve.

Joseph Wharton, of Philadelphia, suggests, in a paper read before the American Philosophical Society, that in the prevailing scarcity of platinum he metal palladium might be a practicable substitute. It belongs to the platinum group, although in some respects it resembles silver. Among its valuable characteristics are hardness, ductility and malleability. It is also decidedly non-corroding. It occurs, along with nickel, copper, silver, gold, platinum, iridium and rhodium, in the ores of the Canadian nickel mines in Ontario. Out of 300,000 tons of these ores about 3,000 ounces of palladium are annually produced.

Dr. J. C. Ewart, in discussing the problem of the origin of horses, describes as one of the most distinct finds now living the Celtic ponies, which are found in the most northern parts of Iceland. They reach a height of only four feet, and are so abundantly furnished with hair that in winter storms they are practically snow-proof. Dr. Ewart observed the conduct of one of these ponies during a snowstorm. As soon as the storm began she turned her hind quarters to it, and in a short time the snow had formed a kind of shield of disk upon the long hair growing about the root of the tail. Thus protected, the pony did not shift her position while the storm lasted, except to turn with a change of the wind.

## The Submerged Seventh.

Just after the convening of the new House of Representatives there was a member from the West who was boasting of the enormous majority given him by the voters of his district.

"Why," the new member would exclaim, "do you know I was elected by the suffrages of seven different nationalities?"

One day some one asked him to name the nationalities. He gave them: "Irish, German, Polish, Bohemian, Swedish and Greek."

"But you have named only six nationalities," said the seker after knowledge. "What was the seventh?"

The new member again ran over his little list, but could not remember the seventh nationality. At this juncture some facetious bystander chipped in with the remark: "Maybe there were some Americans in the bunch."

"Good for you!" shouted the new Representative, loudly, slipping his high. "But it was funny that I should forget them, don't you think?"

## Words for the Wordy.

Two good phrases for the people who speak long and wearisomely have come in useful weapons.

One is the comment of a politician in a Washington orator: "He has a good train of thought, but it lacks terminal facilities."

The other comes from the village humorist, who said of the village orator: "He's the only feller I ever knew who would set his face talkin', an' then go off an' leave it."

It is one of the inexplicable attributes of women that they really like a long letter.

## TRAINS BUTTERFLIES

California Woman Can Do Many Things with Her Pets.

Miss Mabel Adams Ayer, of 1922 Clay street, a prominent Sunshine Club worker and a member of the Forum Club, has succeeded in training butterflies.

At first the idea seems almost absurd, but if one can see the way Miss Ayer handles her pets it seems the most natural thing in the world. In speaking of them to-day Miss Ayer said:

"Why, it doesn't seem at all strange to me. They are just like any other trained pet. They have their likes and dislikes, and they are really lovely little things when you come to know them."

"The first thing that started me to studying them was when I was asked to deliver a lecture before the Forum Club. I chose for my subject 'Butterflies and Rainbows,' and, wishing to give something more than could be learned from books, I went into the garden and captured one or two of the butterflies. The more I studied them, the more I loved them, and now they are almost like people to me."

"When I first got one I uncoil his tongue and feed him with sugar and water, and the rest—why, I don't know; they just come to know me; that's all. You know, the butterfly has six legs, and the two front ones he uses to wash his face and preen himself, much as a cat would."

"They live on sugar and water, and I always keep plenty of flowers in the room for them. One big fellow, called a 'Morning Cloak,' I was unable to do anything with. He seemed to have no affection. They are sensitive, and nervous temperaments affect them always. Some of them are quite playful, and two or three would run after and try to catch the end of a stickpin when I drew it in front of them."

"One evening I wore several of them on my shoulder as an ornament. Of course, it was in my own home, but they stayed on my gown all evening."

## The Cooky Jar.

My mother's got a cooky jar, a great big crooky one, An awful large and heavy thing, seems if it weighed a ton. It's got a lid that's crooky, too, and has a knob on top; You take both hands to lift it off, for fear you'll let it drop. It's in the kitchen closet, there, down underneath the shelf, And if you're good she says that you can go and help yourself. She keeps it solid, brimmin' full of cookies all the time, And when a feller's hungry—say! well, ain't those cookies prime!

And when the long vacation's here, or on a holiday, And you've been playin' all forenoon as hard as you can play At "hide-and-seek" or "three old cat," or marbles, like as not, Till you're all tired and tuckered out and sort of starved and hot, And dinner time seems if it was a whole year off or more, Why, then's the time you want to go to that old closet door And step in where it's dark and cool and smells so good and sweet, And reach down in that cooky jar—and eat and eat and eat.

And sometimes when I sit in school and everything's so still That you can hear the outdoor sounds, the splashin' by the mill, The rattle of a cart, or else a red wood-pecker's drum, While close around is quiet 'cept the sleepy, schooly hum, I think of that old closet shelf and of the jar beneath, And how the cookies crack and crunch between a feller's teeth, And how tremendous good they taste, till seems if I desire! I couldn't wait till school was out—but, when it is, I'm here.

A feller's mother always knows just what is good for boys, She ain't like sunts and other folks who hate to hear a noise; She understands a chap, she does, and knows just how he feels, And that he has to eat a lot besides his regular meals. She knows that school and playin' makes you have an appetite, And that to wait and starve to death till dinner time ain't right; And so she puts the cooky jar beneath the closet shelf And fills it full of bully stuff—and lets you help yourself. —Saturday Evening Post.

## A Giant in Strength.

"How's the baby getting on?" asked a family friend. "Growing bigger and stronger every day, I suppose."

"He's growing bigger every day," said the proud father, "and he's plenty strong enough now to suit me. You remember what a tremendous voice he had when you saw him three months ago? Well, it's still more tremendous now, yet he lifts it a dozen times a day."

## Almost Eavesdropping.

Among the public men in England is a well-known speaker whose remarks are inaudible twenty feet away, and of him a wit said:

"No one admires Mr. X. more than I do, but I always feel that I am taking a liberty in overhearing what he says."

"You are eight years old," a man said to his boy, "but you have already had more school books, more slates and more pencils than I had all my life."

## LOCOMOTIVE THE LOOP

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