

JOHN H. REAM, - - - Publisher

Penny papers are ten feet thick. But he does not say he is cutting much.

One of the most remarkable things in the world is the way a furnace will draw on a hot day.

It would be a lucky thing if night riders caused no more havoc than is wrought by Balkan armies.

Doubtless it surprises Harry Thaw to note the warm, gushing sympathy the public is not manifesting for him.

Why do some persons complain of hard times and high prices when they can buy a good automobile for only \$1,500?

It is said that chewing gum will cure sea-sickness. We do not know who said it. Probably the man who manufactures the gum.

A Philadelphia man who inherited \$250,000 ten years ago has died penniless. He moved to New York after getting the money.

Prof. Starr of Chicago says the Filipinos are not lazy. All the same they seem ready to accept almost any office that is offered them.

Harry Thaw found going insane quite convenient, but it annoys him greatly to think of having to remain insane for an indefinite period.

Mrs. Langtry won \$100,000 on a horse race a few days ago. Her friends should earnestly advise her to cash in now and quit following the races.

The night riders have been active recently, but the college hazers can still point with pride to the fact that they are beating all others in producing tripples.

Some men seem not to care how much trouble they leave behind them when they pass on to that other shore. Three widows are claiming the estate of a Boston man.

A Maine hunter shot a man whom he mistook for a squirrel. Being mistaken for a deer is bad enough, but being mistaken for a squirrel is certainly adding insult to injury.

China asks a helping hand, declares Li Sun Ling, the Hong Kong editor. Anyone who has attempted to master chop sticks with only two hands will realize that China should have a third.

A boy 7 years old was sent to jail for two days because he told lies. Had the lawyer been keen, the boy might have been acquitted on the ground that he was merely practicing for a political career.

The roads in the United States, Syria and Australia belong in the same class, according to a speaker at the recent good roads convention in Buffalo. Some of them are good and some are bad. He also says that roads in the Fiji Islands are better, as a whole, than those here, and he does not speak without experience.

The earnest reformers who have been trying to arouse public opinion to the necessity for establishing uniform divorce laws have not yet been able to remove all the obstacles in the way of the proposed reform. But they will do a great work if this agitation results in shutting down the divorce mills of some States, where marriage seems to be regarded as a joke, and not as an institution which ought to be strengthened and safeguarded at every point.

Uncle Sam has struck a blow at a class of professional men peculiar to Washington. An order has been issued prohibiting United States government clerks swilling their incomes by practicing medicine or filling teeth on the side. It has for a long time been a common practice for department clerks to attend night colleges, and after securing diplomas, practice professions after office hours. These so-called "sundown" doctors, dentists, lawyers, architects, etc., were able materially to increase their incomes. Protests were made by regular members of various professions, complaining of the unfair competition of the "sundowners," who cut prices. This has resulted in an order prohibiting clerks from engaging in any outside business that requires their personal attention while in government employ.

On both sides of the Atlantic the new patent law which has gone into effect in Great Britain, after the expiration of the year of grace, is regarded as of great industrial and commercial importance. Stripped of details, the new law provides that henceforth all foreign patents in Great Britain may be revoked, after a reasonable time, unless the patented article is manufactured or the patented process operated in the United Kingdom to an adequate extent. It will be seen at once that this change is most radical. Heretofore the manufacturer, let us say, of an American harvesting-machine, has been allowed to make it in the United States and send it over and sell it in England. His English patents protected him from British competitors, and the wages he paid in his factory were paid to Americans. Hereafter, unless he would lose his patent, he must build another factory in Great Britain, and there make a portion of his product. The inference is, of course, that the wages in that factory will go to Englishmen. It is not difficult to see and sympathize with the British point of view. A patent is, of course, a legalized monopoly. The number of patents annually granted by Great Britain to foreigners is somewhat greater than the number of those granted to British citizens. Each patent not only confers a benefit on the owner of it, but by virtue of its being a monopoly it deprives others of that benefit. Moreover, many patents in America are used only as clubs. They are not operated, but serve merely to hold a special field away from competitors. Both France and Germany protect their citizens from this evil. In France a patent must be worked in two years, and in Germany in three years. It has seemed reasonable to Englishmen that their own people should share more largely than they have done in the benefits which patents confer. The importance of the change may be judged by the estimate of the head of a prominent firm of British ship-builders that one hundred and twenty-five million dollars will be invested in Great Britain for the manufacture of articles heretofore made abroad. About eight thousand patents come under the new law.

According to the Washington Post the call for fiction in the public libraries of the capital has fallen off 65 per cent. The newspaper says that this decrease has been noted in many other cities. Novel reading has gone through a great period of disintegration. It looked for a time as if public libraries were endowed and maintained for no other purpose than to supply fiction, the greater part of it worse than useless. It was discouraging to those who wished to see a marked improvement in the average of intellectual culture because of the spread of libraries. But the tide has turned and heaven be praised for that. The quality of the greater part of the fiction which has been coming from the presses of the publishers in the last few years has been markedly inferior. Novel readers became Chamberlized, MacGrathelized and McCutcheonated until life, itself, to many, was a cross between a cake walk and a scene in the boudoir of her grace, the Princess of Wurttemberg, or other. A lot of the stuff which was advertised as historical—always clever in any case—had about as much history in it as one of Grimsby's. And the rest of it was the froth of soapbark and wind which druggists sell in glasses. If there is a reaction it is a thing to be blessed. Reading fiction of the type which usually wears a red binding is often very restful. If one cannot be amused by the characters there is at least amusement in wondering at the author who could write such drivel. But continued absorption of modern fiction has the effect of eating too much candy. It is bound to sicken in time. A demand for material more serious is in line with the more serious thought of Americans. Nearly every one is coming to have special interest along certain lines and there is a need of literature which delivers information succinctly and clearly. The public libraries must supply the more expensive and elaborate works which readers cannot themselves afford to purchase. When the bottom drops out of the Harold School of Fiction, there will be still room for the good and worthy style of novel—more, perhaps. Then the libraries can use the discarded for the purpose nature intended them—starting the furnace fires.

LIKE FAIRY TALE HEROINE.

Little Girl Befriends Aged Woman and is Left a Fortune.

Like the heroine of a fairy tale, Miss Elsie J. Murphy, of 9833 Hagerman street, Wisnoming, has been rewarded for a kind deed by the sudden gift of riches, says the Philadelphia Press. Several years ago, while living at Horsham, Pa., Elsie befriended an aged woman by defending her against other children of the village who believed her to be mad and who accepted every opportunity to plague her.

The Murphys moved to Wisnoming, and Elsie had forgotten even the name of the aged woman, when only a few days ago she received a bulky envelope stamped with the letterhead of a Philadelphia lawyer. Inside was the copy of the will of Mrs. Howard Frey Irwin, who died in the city of New York early in July and who bequeathed the bulk of her estate, amounting to several thousand dollars, to Elsie Johanna Murphy, "in memory of her great kindness to a stranger."

Inclosed with the will was a letter from Charles Bowman, the lawyer, who had forwarded it. The letter said that several weeks had been required to find Miss Murphy's residence, as the only address given in the will was the one at Horsham. The letter further said that identification was now complete and that Miss Murphy was the heir to a small fortune.

The young heiress did not seem at all overcome by her good fortune the other day when a reporter called. She was sitting on her front doorstep, a very pretty girl in a very much mussed and dingham dress.

"Yes, I'm Elsie Murphy," she said. "Yes, I'm the one who had all the money left to me, but I won't get it for a long time. I'm only 12 now and they won't give it to me till I'm 21. That's ages," she said, and seemed to lose all interest in the matter.

Elsie's mother was more communicative. "I remember Mrs. Irwin very well," she said. "The children used to think she was crazy, and whenever she would walk past the village school they would run out to make fun of her or even to throw stones. Elsie never liked to see any one hurt, and would take the old lady's part, often walking home with her to see that she was not molested. One day she called at the school and asked the teacher who Elsie's was, and after that she called to see us several times. That was almost two years ago, and I'd forgotten the old lady's name, but I'm sure it must have been she who left Elsie the money."

Strategy.

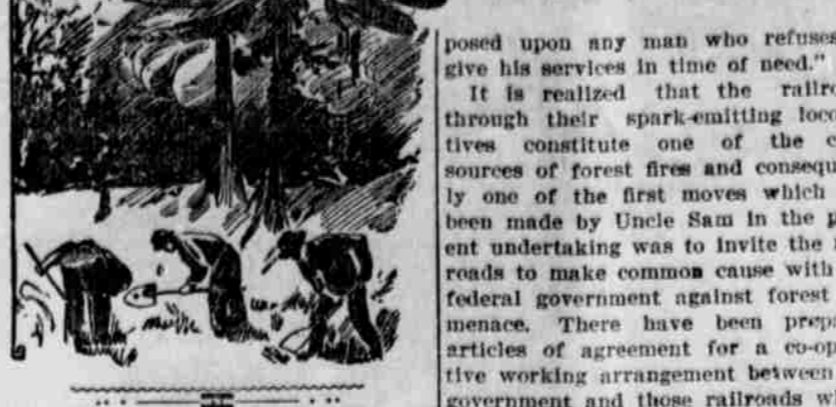
"I thought your bank wasn't going to give any vacation this year?"

"It didn't intend to," replied the assistant cashier, brown from a long outing, "but I put on an anxious look and pattered over my books so long they insisted on my taking a rest."

"So they could expert your accounts?"

"Sure. And they found them in such elegant shape that when I struck for a raise they had to give it."—Philadelphia Ledger.

FIGHTING FOREST FIRES



The calendar year of 1908 will be memorable as the most disastrous twelve months in history in point of the destructiveness of forest fires in the United States. It is estimated that in ordinary years the average annual loss through forest fires in this country is not less than \$50,000,000, but, great as is this, it has never under what might be termed normal conditions, it appears almost insignificant by comparison with the record-breaking waste of the present period, when the aggregate loss will probably amount to several times the usual \$50,000,000. For a considerable interval this autumn, when the forest fires have been at their height, the flames were doing damage to the amount of \$1,000,000 a day.

The principle cause of this epidemic of forest fires has been found, of course, in the drought which has been general throughout the country; but there have been other adverse conditions which have contributed to the menacing situation. Indeed, as an expert on forestry recently pointed out, it has seemed as though every imaginable unfavorable condition has been present this year to help along the deadly and destructive work. Dearth—because, in addition to the loss of property, there has been an appalling loss of life in connection with this year's fires.

Even in an ordinary year it is estimated that not less than sixty-five lives are included in the toll exacted by forest fires during the twelve months, and this year in the case of the human sacrifice, as with the loss of material things, the average has been greatly exceeded. Moreover, there will be a sequel to this year's fires that will not appear in connection with any of the statistics of loss at first hand from forest fires. As readers of the newspapers have had good cause to realize, the fires this year have not been confined, as is often the case, largely to the densely wooded and sparsely populated districts, laying waste towns of considerable size and driving great numbers of people from their homes. As a result of the suffering and exposure thus entailed there will probably be much invalidism and many deaths that, not being immediately attributable to the forest fires, will not be included in the statistics that will constitute the chronicle of this year's fire record.

Climate Conditions Unfavorable.

Another unusual feature of the forest fires of 1908 is found in the wide range of territory visited by the flames. In the Maine woods and in the Adirondacks of Northern New York; throughout the State of Pennsylvania; in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin and other territory adjacent to the Great Lakes the forest fires raged simultaneously, and even on the Pacific Coast the menace has been present, threatening among other things the destruction of one of the finest groves of the prized big trees. Moreover, the forest fires this year have been unusually difficult to conquer, and in many instances the owners of magnificent private forests or hunting preserves provided with the best private fire-fighting systems have found themselves unable to cope with the rapidly traveling flames and have been obliged to appeal to near-by municipalities for aid.

ELEVATED HANDSHAKE.

How the Fashion Originated—Empress Josephine's Handkerchief.

It appears that some of the present day fashions owe their origin to physical defects, says the London Globe. The elevated handshake is one of these, and a Paris contemporary throws an interesting light upon its origin. It appears that a prince, a leader of society in the French capital, had a carbuncle or some such inconvenient and painful growth on his shoulder. Whenever a friend gave him a handshake the operation as far as the prince was concerned was most painful. To prevent this he raised his hand horizontally to his shoulder, and, if we may use the expression, had "the whip hand."

The new method of handshake was the astonishment and admiration of certain persons always on the lookout for the latest in society, who thought that the prince had inaugurated a new fashion which one sees daily in operation in the Strand.

The dainty lace handkerchief which ladies use owes its origin also to the defects of nature. The unhappy Empress Josephine introduced the fashion. She suffered from bad teeth, and living in the time when American dentistry was unknown, she cast about for some means to hide the defect. The cambric handkerchief with rich lace was the outcome. If the empress wished to laugh or had to open her mouth widely the handkerchief was requisitioned.

Again, yellow lace has its origin in sadness, according to tradition. A lady of distinction had lost her husband by shipwreck or some other cause. She was impressed with the idea that he would return and vowed to continue wearing until he was restored to her the lace which adorned her dress when she said farewell. Like Josephine's handkerchief, her intimates thought her soiled lace was an innovation in fashion and adopted means to copy it.

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

PARENTS SHOULD BE EVER WATCHFUL.



By Mrs. John A. Logan.

Parents should never relax their watchful care of their children from their birth to their majority, by which time such comradeship should have been established between parents and children that no temptation would be strong enough to win the children from their parents. They should be bound together by the strongest possible ties, inseparable in all of their aims and ambitious of life.

This can be done if parents would look upon their children as the greatest blessing of life, the mother consecrating herself to her children in their infancy and the father supplementing the mother's vigilance as soon as their children are out of the nursery, both uniting their efforts to keep their children pure and undefiled by being left to the care of hired servants, tutors, governesses and teachers, who are rarely worthy of the trusts that are confidently confided to them.

The mother who has no time for her "social duties," devotion to amusements and the frivolities of society to give to the homelier ones of caring for her children and training them for usefulness in life can blame no one but herself if they go astray. Furthermore, a mother should make it her conscientious duty to try as far as in her lies to avoid the transmission of evil propensities or idiosyncrasies that are destined to afflict the offspring probably through life.

MARRYING FOR MONEY.



By Nixola Greeley-Smith.

Two women met on a street corner the other day. One was young, unmarried and self-supporting; the other in the forties and a wife.

"Mrs. Blank is getting a divorce," said the older woman. "I didn't think she would be so foolish."

"Why foolish? He made her life unbearable. She has never loved him. Every moment of their life together was a degradation to her," was the reply.

"But think of his position, his salary," urged the matron. Then she laughed. "You can afford such romantic notions. You are independent. But nine women out of ten live with men that they don't love. What else can you expect of them? They are incapable of making a living for themselves."

Of course, the estimate of the percentage of unloving wives is greatly exaggerated. Nevertheless, there is a basis of truth in the remark. There are still women who marry without love, because the only alternative that

presents itself is that of self-support. There are wives who, having lost all respect for and confidence in their husbands, continue to live with them because they prefer to suffer the loss of their ideals to their weekly allowance. Both these varieties of wives would be highly scandalized if they heard themselves classified as unideal. Yet they are.

The woman who becomes a man's wife without loving him sells him a gold brick. What a man wants in a wife is not some one to receive and send out his laundry, nor even some one to feed him on his favorite dishes and give him appendicitis. He wants sympathy and disinterested affection. And the fact that a woman is willing to marry him be takes as an indication that she is willing to give them to him. Half the "monsters of inconstancy" that women tell each other so much about are made by a lack of understanding and sympathy at home. The other half are not material for marriage.

Rightly interpreted and rightly lived by two people, marriage is the noblest occupation in which a woman can participate. But contracted or continued in merely for a living, it is about the worst as well as the least remunerative thing she can do.

FELLING A GREAT TREE.

By Clifton Johnson.



In the wooded shores of Puget sound, Washington, the trees sometimes have a diameter of a dozen feet. The cedars, in particular, reach a vast girth, and in the valley by the roadside was one with a circumference at the ground of sixty-three feet, and near by was another that had a Gothic arch cut through it, affording easy passage for a man on horseback. But the tallest trees are the firs. Two hundred feet is a very moderate height, and some shoot up to above 300. The fall of one of the monsters when the woodsmen have cut through its base is something appalling. As the tree begins to give the sawyers hustle down from their perch and seek a safe distance. Then they look upward along the giant column and listen. "She's working all the time," says one.

"Yes," agrees the other, "you can hear her talkin'" and he gives a loud cry of "Timber!" to warn any fellow laborers who may be in the neighborhood. The creaking and snapping increases, and the tree swings slowly at first, but soon with tremendous rapidity, and crashes down through the forest to the earth. There is a flying of bark and broken branches, and the air is filled with slow-settling dust. The men climb on the prostrate giant and walk along the broad pathway of the trunk to see how it lies. What pigmies they seem amid the mighty trees around! The ancient and lofty forest could well look down on them and despite their short-lived significance; yet their persistence and ingenuity are irresistible, and the woodland is doomed.—The Outing Magazine.

Science AND Invention

The railroads of the United States used 18,555,691 barrels of oil for fuel in 1907, an increase of over 3,000,000 barrels over the preceding year.

The United States produced 51,720,619 long tons of iron ore, valued at \$131,966,147 at the mines, last year, according to the geological survey.

The addition of three drops of mercury to each ounce of common solder will make a solder fusing at a low temperature for united soft metals.

For the benefit of outdoor workers who must have their hands free, a German inventor has brought out a tent-shaped umbrella that straps to the shoulders.

A German chemist having found a way to utilize the common potato instead of wood for lead pencils, a factory in that country is turning out 48,000 pencils daily.

A group of Pennsylvania capitalists is planning to operate a trackless trolley line from Chattanooga, Tenn., to the top of Weldon's ridge, Tenn., a distance of fifteen miles.

Washington is the only one of the Pacific coast States in which coking coal is known to occur. Its coke production last year totaled 52,098 tons, an increase over 1906 of 6,288 tons.

For a long time past scientific observations in various parts of the world have shown a tendency on the part of glaciers to recede. This has been particularly noted in the Alps. But recent information indicates that a change may be at hand. At least, it has been found that since 1904 the Norway glaciers have begun to advance again. In 1907 this progression became general in Norway, the advance varying from 1 to 12 meters.

A singular device for the protection of railway trains crossing a viaduct and employed at Diverston, England, says Prof. R. D. Ward in Science. It consists of a wind-gauge fixed at the west end of the Levens viaduct. When the wind-pressure reaches 32 pounds

would, of course, be red. Everything else would swallow up the red light and appear quite black. Grass, for instance, would be black as ink, and so would the blue of the sky, but the white clouds would be red. The same kind of thing would happen if the sun were white. Everything now blue or white would be blue. The grass this time would be blue, not black, for it reflects both blue and yellow. Hair would be all black, the red of the lips would be black and the rest of the face would be a cloudy blue.

If the sun were green there would be a little variety. Things that are now yellow would still be yellow, things that are blue would be blue and things that are green would still be green, but there would be no reds, purples, oranges, plums or any of those cheery hues that make the world look so bright.

Wagner's Portrait.

When Wagner was in England supervising the first production of his opera, the music enthusiasts commissioned the artist Herkomer to paint the musician's portrait, but Wagner was dashing about in such a state of frenzy that he repelled impatiently every attempt to get him to give a "sitting." Still, Herkomer stuck to him like a limpet, fed with him, walked and talked with him, watched him conduct his orchestra, write music and read books. At last, when every attempt to secure a "sitting" had failed, Herkomer rose early one morning, painted with frenzied speed all day, spent a short night in restless sleep, rose early again and painted furiously, till on the second evening he sat down exhausted—but with his picture finished. Wagner was called in and threw up his hands in amazement. "Ah!" he cried. "Wonderful! That is exactly how I would like to look if I could."

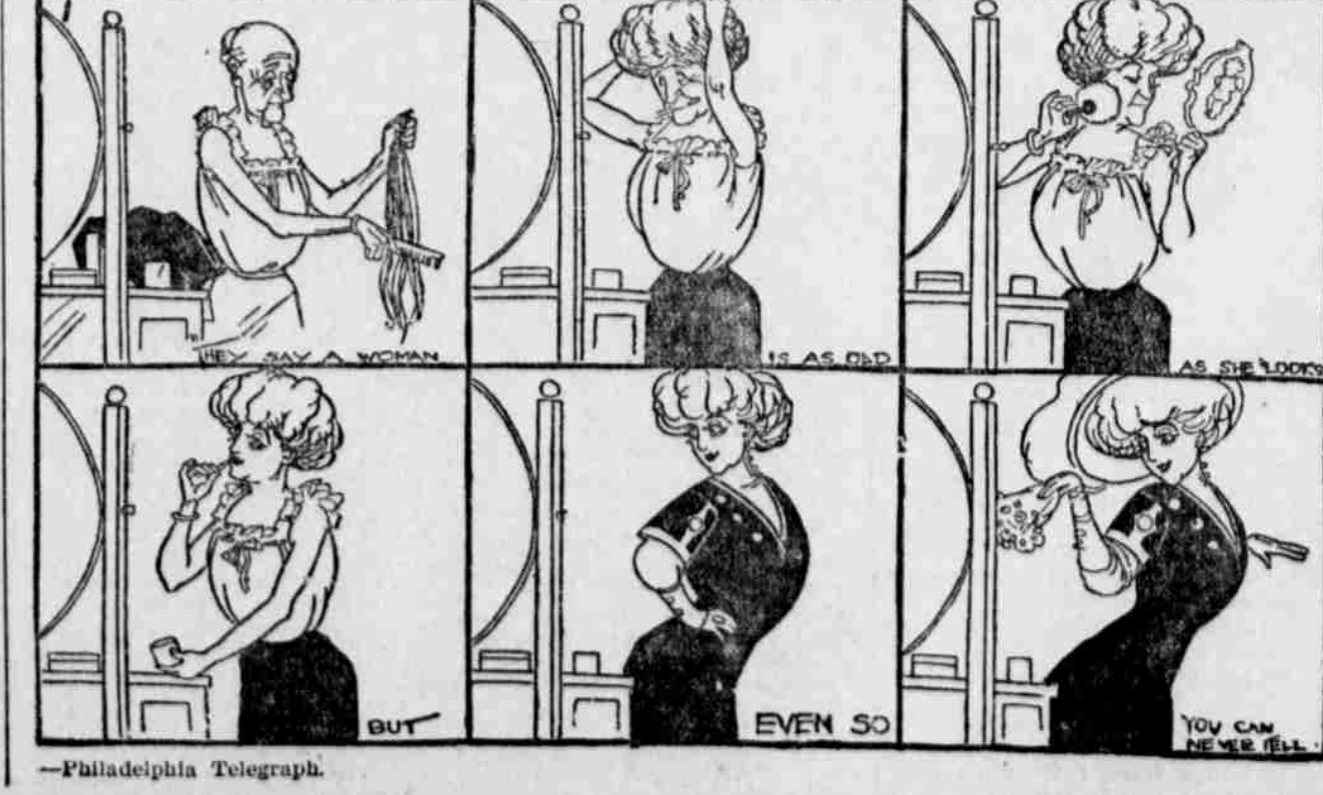
She Was Safe.

Little four-year-old Mabel was running downhill, holding her dress tightly. "Be careful," called her mother, "or you will fall."

"Oh, no, I won't," replied Mabel, "because I'm holding tight to myself."

No matter how much a woman may care for one man there never comes a time when she isn't greatly pleased if she hears that some other man has made a nice remark about her.

EVEN SO.



—Philadelphia Telegraph.