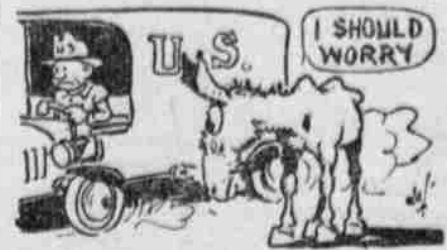


WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Motor Trucks Displacing Mules in Army Service



WASHINGTON.—"The motor truck is bound to mark the passing of the army mule, just as it has begun to oust that animal's shorter-eared half-brother, the horse, from the transportation scheme of civil life," said an army officer on his return from an extended European tour. "It is only a matter of a short time before that picturesque and faithful adjunct of our military force is relegated to the much more prosaic life of the farm."

"What has been and is being accomplished by European governments in the matter of army transportation can be accomplished in our own country. And abroad the motor truck is being put to every conceivable test as to its fitness and capability in military maneuvers."

"The possibilities of the truck in our own army schemes are made evident in the report recently made by high army officials to the war department. According to this report the total weight of supplies and imped-

imenta that must be carried with an army division of 20,000 men is 2,883,000 pounds, or a full load for 961 of such army wagons as are now used.

"These figures in road space alone show that there is a great waste with present methods. That number of wagons require a space of approximately eleven miles on a twenty-yard road, a column that is vastly too large to be economically handled. And, besides, with eleven miles of wagons occupying the roads, there is no space left, unless it is before or behind the column, for the troops."

"With mule and wagon transportation the troops are confined to a movement of only about 24 miles per day, for this is the limit of distance which mules or horses can cover in a day without injury."

"With truck transportation this handicap is entirely eliminated. Not only can the supplies be moved with one-half to four-fifths fewer vehicles—for a motor truck will carry from two to five times as large a load as a mule wagon—thereby working a great economy in road space, but the truck can travel at a vastly greater speed than the men. Where three to five miles an hour is considered good speed for a heavily laden mule wagon, the truck can travel at the rate of ten to twenty miles an hour, and can keep it up twenty-four hours a day if necessary without tiring."

William F. McCombs Is Very Partial to Big Men

WILLIAM F. MCCOMBS, the Democratic national chairman, has a decided penchant for the society of men of mountainous build. He himself does not tip the beam at even waterweight figures, but he lives with men of the white hope caliber when it comes to size and strength. When he was an undergraduate at Princeton his tastes were decidedly literary.

McCombs, when it came to the club elections, took an election to the "foot ball club," as one of the leading clubs there is accurately described, and among his intimates in his class were such old football stars as "Garry" Cochran, "Ad" Kelly, "Bill" Bannard and "Sport" Armstrong. When McCombs left Princeton to enter the Harvard Law school none of his athletic friends went up to Cambridge with him. He solved the problem by living through his three years' course with the man who had broken all the strength records of Harvard.

His new chum was Henry F. Cochems, who had come to Harvard with the reputation of being one of the best football stars in the west. Cochems had played four years in the University of Wisconsin backfield, and was ineligible, but he would have proved a tower of strength to the Crimson.



After McCombs went to New York to establish himself in law he naturally looked around for another strong man to share his apartment. He found him in Big Bill Edwards, now the street commissioner of New York, who was a freshman at Princeton when McCombs was a junior. According to Tom Reed's definition that no man is a gentleman who weighs over 200 pounds, that New York apartment housed a gentleman in the person of McCombs.

Edwards refereed the big football games for years with great success until one day, when Pennsylvania was playing the Indians, a facetious undergraduate sang out:

"Hey, Bill Edwards, get off the field so we can see the game!"

Next to big men, McCombs is equally fond of big cigars, the thick black ones that "Uncle Joe" Cannon made famous.

An Interesting Grove of Venerable Oak Trees



If you are interested in lofty, broad, noble and venerable oaks the writer will point you to a stately grove.

In going eastward along the Bunker Hill road turn to the right at the crossing of Queen's Chapel road and near midway between the Bunker Hill road and Rhode Island avenue you will see on the left of the way the oak grove indicated. Under the boughs of the great trees is a frame house with flower beds and flower-planted tubs in front and on the sides. The writer's first idea was that some grand mansion must once have stood in that grove of high oaks, but this idea, like so many other first ideas, proved on investigation, to be wrong.

The present happy tenants of that cot among the oaks are Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Columbus Murphy. Mr. Murphy is seventy-one years old, son

of Thomas Murphy, was born within 300 yards of where he lives today, and his life's experience has been confined to that pretty and romantic section of the District.

Mr. Murphy said that when he was a little boy the land around there belonged to John Hoover and then to Walter Scott. Much of it later passed into the possession of John Britton, who kept a store on Seventh street, and a little later it passed to John B. Kibbs, who subdivided the big tract into small holdings. The Murphy place three generations ago belonged to Tobias Talbert and the Murphy house was built about 50 years ago by a man remembered as Knight.

"All this country was grown over with oak trees like those," continued Mr. Murphy, "and the grove of 20 is about all that remains of the wide forest."

It is worth a trip out that way to see the kind of timber that once covered the wooded sections of the District of Columbia. The Murphys constructed a rustic bench under one of the big trees. It was built so long ago that it is a very old bench now. When this reaches print it may be that these old oaks will be in leaf, and if you pass that way you should take a rest in the shade of the glorious trees.

Here Is a Man Who Eats Sand for All His Ills

THE national capital boasts at least one sand eating man. His name is Julian Emmons and he is a door-keeper at the house of representatives. Emmons hails from Noblesville, Ind., and came to Washington with the Democratic regime in the house more than two years ago. He is sixty-five years of age, hale and hearty.

Emmons swallows a teaspoonful of sand after each meal. He never leaves home in the morning without a phial of coarse sand. He says he was troubled constantly with sour stomach, heartburn, indigestion and kindred ills until he started the "sand cure." Now he asserts that he is never troubled at all, relishes his food, sleeps like a baby and enjoys life to the full.

He has one remedy for all ills. It



is sand. If a dark brown taste is present upon arising in the morning, do not fail to reach for the sand bottle.

He urges coarse sand, not too sharp, and forswears the fine white variety because, he says, it dissolves in the intestinal processes and is of no value as an aid to the functions of digestion.

Confusing Voices

By REV. J. H. RALSTON
Secretary of Correspondence Department
Moody Bible Institute, Chicago

TEXT—"There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without significance." 1 Cor. 14:9.



particular significance.

The apostle Paul was greatly annoyed by the general confusion that characterized the Corinthian church, but this text seems to have in mind a religious meeting in which some are praying, some exhorting and some teaching. He says there are so many kinds of voices, and none of them is without some particular significance.

Transferring the scene to the present day there are many voices concerning almost all subjects—social, political, commercial and religious, but we confine our thought to the last. Of the many voices on religion that might be considered, there is not one but has some significance. There is not a religious error of the day but contains some truth. There is some valuable signification in it, and from it the religious and orthodox can oftentimes learn useful lessons. Probably never in the history of the world have the voices touching religion been so confusing as now, and largely because the most dangerous of them carry some badge of adherence to the word of God and traditional religion of the best kind. There is nothing that should so concern a man as religion—his relationship to God involving his own weal or woe for eternity—and he wants to know just what the truth is.

With a godly number the voice of reason is esteemed as safe, and as the Christian religion is a religion of rationality that voice has strong support. That the power of reasoning is highly important is conceded, or God would not ask man to reason together with Him. But reason is given a place beyond its right, and the result is most unsatisfactory, and with many there is a fanaticism and unreason, of which Paris worshipping a harlot is a suggestive result. Men trusting reason will either become thorough anarchists, or adopt some religion which is the very antithesis of rationality.

With some the voice of the inner spirit is supreme, and by introspection they are seeking to know what God is saying. This voice is so variable that no reliance can be placed on it, every man becoming a law unto himself. The most grotesque experiences are at this point engendered, and the way is open for the incoming of all kinds of religious fallacies such as Christian Science, spiritualism, occultism, and a brood of other evils.

With many the voice of the church as such, is supreme, and when the church, considered in the light of its history, is fairly treated its voice is worthy of the highest respect. It is never wise to neglect the great historic creeds, nor the church as speaking through representative ministers, but if the church as such is depended on exclusively it becomes ultimately the voice of a single person, and we have the hundreds of millions of the human race dominated by one person. It has been found that the church, whether speaking through its popes or councils has certainly often been wrong, and it cannot therefore implicitly be depended upon.

But with some the church speaking at the last moment is to be heeded. It is contended that the church today does not believe as it once did, and that because it is more intelligent its voice is to be heeded rather than the church of two or three centuries ago, or even the church in the first centuries of the Christian era. This is evidenced by the tendency to the revision of church creeds, and the argument for such revision is that the church does not believe as it formerly believed and should change its creed. The teachings of the great divines of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when theological thought was at its zenith, are thought to be outgrown, and that the teachings of the men of today, regardless of their loyalty to the Bible, are to be heeded.

It is claimed that the Christian teachers of the earlier centuries did not know the truth. The German distinguished apologist Lepsius makes the modern theologian say, "Christianity has for nearly two thousand years forgotten what the Master originally taught, and perhaps neither Paul, nor John, nor Augustine, nor Luther, nor Calvin ever understood who Jesus was and what He wanted. The entire church from the beginning of the apostolic age to the present generation has been one great misunderstanding and blunder."

There is another voice and that is God speaking through the Bible. By the special providence of God that book has been preserved through many centuries substantially as it was given to the holy men of old, and the reader of today can go to his English Bible with just as much confidence in its safe guidance as those who handled the original manuscripts.

PREPARE BED FOR ASPARAGUS

Perennial Will Grow and Be Productive for 15 or 20 Years With Proper Attention.

It requires a good deal of an artist to properly prepare a bed for asparagus. Asparagus is a perennial which will grow and be productive for 15 or 20 years, and greatest care, therefore, should be given to the selection of the soil and preparation of the ground previous to planting. The asparagus does best in a deep, rich, moist soil with plenty of humus in it. It should be on a warm exposure, preferably to the south or west. If the land is coarse, it should be prepared one or two years in advance of planting time. This can be done by growing some root crops that require deep cultivation. The plants are put out in rows at least four feet apart. The old method of growing asparagus was in beds, but better results are obtained when they are planted in long rows, as it is easier to irrigate the crop and keep the soil in good condition. The plants should stand three feet in the row. The plants are set in furrows from six to ten inches deep and the crowns covered with loose earth or compost to a depth of two or three inches. As the plants grow the trenches are gradually filled in with the cultivator or by hand hoes and then irrigation is applied every week or ten days to stimulate the growth the first year. The tops are usually mowed down in the fall, although some growers allow a reservoir to hold and store moisture. If the ground is plowed ten inches deep and put in good condition it will absorb and hold more rain or irrigation at one time than land plowed half that depth would hold, and the deep plowing will retain it much longer. Deep plowing is usually good plowing, for it grinds up and pulverizes the soil. Ground should be plowed in the fall then let stand until spring so as to catch the winter snows.



COUNTRY ROAD IS ACCURSED

Automobilist and Farmer Take Turns in Swearing at Poor Construction of Thoroughfares.

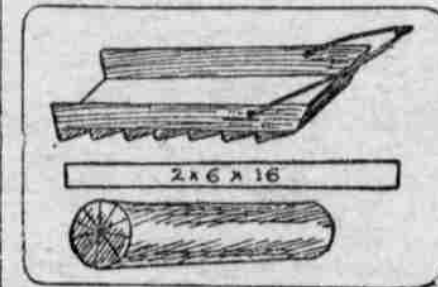
Everybody takes a whack at the country road. The automobilists that trundle their machines over it curse its makers. The farmer that hauls his load to market over it wears a blue streak over its bumps and chuck-holes and wonders why somebody does not know enough to fix it so it will stay fixed. The legislator lounges in the leather chairs in the state capitol and delivers profound discourses on it and its uses and abuses, and the best way to fix it and keep it fixed. The board of supervisors meet and look wise and talk their heads off about the way it should be taken care of, and how the care-taking expenses should be met. And still the county road slumbers on and never gets much above the mud except in dry summers or very cold winters, when the traffic can skat along on the ice, says the Northwestern Stockman and farmer. The country road is an orphan and usually a friendless orphan. Like the Arkansas house, it can't be fixed while it is raining, and when it doesn't rain there is no need for fixing it. It is a public domain where poll taxes may be worked at leisure, and with the least possible efforts by the party that is segregating himself from so much of his valuable time for the good of the commonwealth. Its surface is marred here by a hole dug by an unruly plow, there by seven scrapfuls of dirt dumped in the middle of it just prior to quitting time. There are useless trees bordering it that shut out the sunlight and keep off the wind so that its surface shall remain the consistency of putty the longest possible time. It is a bone of contention for neighborhood rows over who shall be "road-boss" and how the poll taxes shall be "worked." I am not trying to solve the country road problem, but I am endeavoring to call attention to it.

The country road problem is too deep and complicated for one man to solve. It will require the best and most conservative brains in the state to settle upon some plan that will make the country road what it was intended for—a highway for traffic with the least possible resistance. Agitate good roads brethren. Keep the matter before the public. Don't let up until something definite and proper is done to give the state of Montana good permanent highways at a minimum cost.

FIELD DRAG IS VERY USEFUL

Aside From Leveling Ground Implement Can Be Used for Transporting Stones and Stumps.

I find a field drag a useful tool. Aside from leveling the ground it can be used for carrying stumps and stones, writes C. C. Marshall of Bethel Springs, Tenn., in the Missouri Valley



Construction of Drag.

Farmer. In winter it can be utilized to shelter potatoes or other vegetables that have been hauled up, and when set up slanting it forms a protection for the bed of a brood sow. To make the drag take a section of log 5 or 6 feet long and split until the sections are 2 or 2½ inches wide. Lay these sections side by side and on top of either end nail a 2 by 6-inch runner.

Construct Market Roads.

Ohio is about to embark on the construction of what it calls a system of market roads which is to cover the entire state. It figures that by the expenditure of \$3,000,000 to \$3,500,000 a year for ten years it will be able to bring the system to completion. If it does so, it will have to be luckier or wiser than New York state has been.

General Road Work.

The state statute on roads reads that all general road work should be done between the first of April and the first of October.

Weeds Interfere.

The split-log drag will never make good roads while overgrown with weeds in the fence corner.

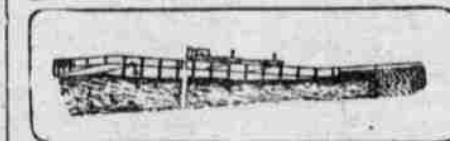
Problem Solved.

The earth road will doubtless be used in rural communities for many years, because of its low first cost. The ever-recurring problem of upkeep on such a road can be solved very largely by the use of the split-log drag.

WATER LIFT FOR IRRIGATING

Montana Man Perfects Invention Adapted for Elevating Water and for Other Useful Purposes.

The Scientific American in describing a water lift, invented by B. F. Strange of Victor, Mont., says: "The invention is especially adapted for elevating water to the uplands for irrigation and other useful purposes. It provides a mechanism for lifting water continuously from a lower level to a higher one especially adapted for



Water Lift.

use in irrigation. The flume or ditch may be of any desired construction, the size and length depending on the country in which the outfit is used. The operation of the car and the pusher may be continued for any desired length of time, and as many cars may be employed as can be taken care of, the operation affording a continuous supply of water to the upper level. The engraving shows a sectional side view of the water source and means of elevation to distribution points."

CARING FOR A MANURE PILE

Large Percentage of Value of Fertilizer is Wasted by Not Keeping in Compact Heap.

Did you ever drop a small coin when you were paying for something that you had purchased at the store? Picked it up, didn't you? Your bet. Then why don't you save those scores of nickels and dimes that are being washed away from that heap of manure down behind the stable? says the Pennsylvania Farmer. Every rain washes away a large per cent. of the value of manure that is piled out in the open.

Manure contains certain fertilizing elements that would be returned to the fields from which they are taken. Of course, you can recruit the soil by plowing under a crop. But that is very wasteful when compared with the plan of feeding the crop to the stock and then hauling the manure out to the field.

Use plenty of bedding to absorb the liquids, as a large per cent. of the total value is therein. Don't let the manure pile spread all around, but keep it piled as compact as possible, and always have the pile in the shelter. By all means save every bit of manure you can, and apply it to the fields where it will produce dividends in the way of increased crops.

Millet in an Emergency.

Common millet is an excellent emergency forage crop. It grows well in most conditions of the farm and matures for hay in from fifty to eighty days from the date of the sowing. Live stock can be farmed on it a month after seeding. One-half to three-fourths of a bushel of seed may be held to be right for an acre. Millet seed is liked by poultry, hogs and young cattle.

Roller is Great Aid.

The use of the roller is of very great aid in securing a catch of clover by increasing the rate at which moisture is brought to the seed from the subsoil.

Honesty in Packing.

Good looking fruit on top of the basket will get you new customers, but only honest quality lower down will keep them.