

Plattsmouth Daily Herald.

KNOTT'S BROS., Publishers & Proprietors.

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NEXT Monday, the 22nd inst. Massachusetts holds a special election on the question of adopting a prohibitory amendment to the constitution.

We have received statistics that makes the showing that during the three months just ended only 36,731 men have gone out on strikes, as compared with 120,219 during the first quarter of 1888.

The Journal was slightly off last night in regard to the Rhode Island election. For example, it states that the republicans elect twenty-three senators and the democrats thirty-one.

WESTERN FARM MORTGAGES.

We are enabled, from the data we have already published to summarize, with substantial exactness, the extent of the mortgage indebtedness of the western farms. It is quite important that the real facts be known, so that no false alarm shall be created and no social discontent shall be engendered.

From Nebraska a gentleman of intelligence writes us: "Fifteen years ago central and western Nebraska were an unbroken prairie."

We hear very little about the advance of improvement in agricultural implements and farm machinery, but that branch of the industrial pursuits of the country is keeping abreast of the times, nevertheless.

All our farmers nearly commenced without any capital and were obliged to mortgage their lands in order to build and improve. The low price of wheat and other farm produce, all over the world, making it still harder for the English farmer, though a free trade country, I think a just and equitable protective tariff, without discrimination against

the farmer, will greatly help the farmers of this state."

From Iowa an officer in the department of state assures us, among other things, that:

"The state of Iowa was never more prosperous than it is at the present time, and the people of Iowa, and especially the farmers, seem to be well satisfied to continue the same evils that the lecturer refers to as 'tariff taxes.'"

In Michigan, we learn from the current report of the bureau of labor that there are 90,803 farms. Their assessed valuation is \$194,854,933. They are mortgaged to the amount of \$37,456,372, being 19.2 per cent. of their assessed valuation.

In Ohio, it was charged that the mortgage indebtedness was \$700,000,000. Mr. J. R. Dodge, of the bureau of agriculture, states that the conclusions of an investigation were:

"That one-fourth of the farms of Ohio were encumbered, either slightly or more heavily, in part to secure debts to neighboring farmers or to retired farmers living in town. It is questionable whether much more than a tenth of the real value of Ohio farms is mortgaged. Ohio farmers are rich. I fully believe from an extensive and special knowledge of the financial situation of Ohio farmers, that their investments in town or village property, in bonds or railroad stock, and shares in manufacturing and mining enterprises, exceed in value the entire indebtedness of farmers, whether covered by mortgage or not."—American Economist.

Cure Your Catarrh, or Get \$500.

For many years, the proprietors of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy, who are thoroughly responsible, financially, as any one can easily ascertain by proper inquiry, have offered, in good faith, through nearly every newspaper in the land, a standing reward of \$500 for a case of nasal catarrh, no matter how bad, or of how long standing, which they cannot cure.

SHE KNEW.

On the front row we sat, While her large opera hat Quite sheltered us both from the roar, And enabled us well My great passion to tell To her charmingly she'll like pink ear.

'Twas an opera troupe, Where the star was a "supra," Ballet large and scenery a lot. "Now, what think you?" I said, As the lime light shone red—"Tout ensemble is fine, is it not?"

A Great Composer.

George Frederick Handel, although a native of Germany, being born in Halle, Saxony, on Feb. 24, 1685, passed the greater part of his life in England. Even in childhood he sacrificed his hours of play and his meals for the study of music, and at 10 years of age composed a set of sonatas that were not without value.

A Shrewd Otter.

One day as I was standing on the shore of Cranberry bog pond I saw a large flock of ducks near the middle of the pond and soon after discovered three others in front of me, but not near enough to shoot.

Improvement in Farm Tools.

We hear very little about the advance of improvement in agricultural implements and farm machinery, but that branch of the industrial pursuits of the country is keeping abreast of the times, nevertheless. The plow of twenty-five years ago is now a curiosity, and those who sold and used it cannot realize how it was made to serve the purposes for which it was manufactured.

Lured by an Ostrich.

Every boy who is fond of shooting birds that there are several species of birds which, when surprised on the nest, feign lameness or some other injury. The object is to produce the impression on the verdant hunter that his prey cannot escape him, and thereby to beguile him away from its nest.

While riding along, an ostrich jumped up so close before his horse that the rider thought the animal had stepped upon the bird. It seemed to be an easy thing to knock the bird upon the head, for it apparently could do nothing more than keep a few feet in front.

But somehow, just at the moment the hunter expected to overtake the ostrich, it seemed to be gifted with fresh vitality. The hunted and the hunter doubled backward and forward, and to and fro. He dared not jump off and use his rifle lest he should lose sight of the game in the thick brush.

At last he determined to make a dash and clapped his spurs into the horse. The beast sprang forward, put his foot into a hole and sent the rider spinning over his head. For several minutes the man sat looking at the horse, who stood looking at the hunter. When, however, the man rose and advanced, the brute turned and, with a neigh of derision, started for the camp, three miles off, leaving his rider to follow. The ostrich had led him step by step till a safe distance had been placed between him and its nest.—Youth's Companion.

Raising Huge Masses of Masonry.

At one of the meetings of the British association a paper was read on a plan of raising large stones for the purpose of building huge masses of masonry, and which was supposed to be the means employed in building the Pyramids, although the precise method adopted by the mighty builders of the valley of the Nile was admitted to be a vexed question.

After getting the stone to the proper height a slab of stone or metal could be inserted and a similar process adopted with the other end of the stone. So, by alternately working at either end, a certain height might be attained. Then, by the use of wedges and rollers, the stone might be got into position. Another method suggested was by means of slightly inclined planes formed of strong timber work or even masonry, working the stones up on rollers by leverage applied behind. There does not seem to be any suggestion of any direct lifting power applied from the above. The question is certainly one involved in considerable obscurity.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Parson Didn't Reply.

Old Parson Ripley was settled for life over a poor Maine parish, and made a scanty living out of a small, rough farm. One day a neighbor came to help the parson plow, and they started to break up a new piece of land, full of stumps and stones. The neighbor held the plow and the parson drove. Soon the brother began to swear at the numerous interruptions. The parson told him that such language was wicked and unnecessary, and said he, "If you will drive the team I will convince you that your work can be done without swearing."

Slips of Speech.

"Why," said a counsel to a witness, "are you so very precise in your statement? Are you afraid of telling an untruth?" Witness (promptly)—"No, sir." At a recent inquiry into the sanity of a young man of large property, witnesses were being called to prove that he was unfit to manage his affairs. A curious slip was made by a schoolmaster when asked if he had formed any opinion as to the state of mind of the alleged lunatic. "Oh, yes," he replied; "I can certify he is an idiot. He was one of my favorite pupils." "I have met this man," said a lawyer with extreme severity, "in a great many places where I would be ashamed to be seen myself," and then he paused and looked with astonishment at the smiling court and jury.—Chambers' Journal.

Secret of Health in China.

The Chinese live in houses where the supply of air is so limited that no European could endure the vitiated atmosphere, yet they are a very healthy nation. This is due probably to the fact that their food is invariably simple and clean and thoroughly well cooked. Meat, potatoes and rice are all boiled together. When cooked the mixture is put into small bowls, and as it is eaten with tiny chopsticks, it is impossible to try the mouth or stomach by scalding them with a quantity of very hot food. Moreover, they rarely drink water if they can get tea, either hot or cold.—New York Telegram.

A \$50,000 Organ.

The gorgeous mansion in Hopkinton, Mass., which Mrs. Searle, formerly Mrs. Hopkins, has had built, boasts of an organ costing \$50,000. Its case is of English ash to correspond with the finish of the room, exquisitely carved with gold molding, is over thirty feet high, and is probably the most costly organ in any private dwelling in America. The music room is large, over forty feet high, with paneled ceiling of terra cotta.—Detroit Free Press.

THE ROSES BY THE RUN.

The roses and the clover Are very sweet and fair, And love the fragrant colors They breathe upon the air; But sweeter seemed the blossoms Beside the meadow run, The time that you were twenty And I was twenty-one.

How fondly I remember The time we called them there, And 'neath the shady maples I wove them in your hair; How there in bliss we tarried Until the set of sun, The time that you were twenty And I was twenty-one.

It may have been the flowers, Perhaps a look from thee, That made me trifle softly How dear thou wert to me; I never stopped to question, I only know 'twas done, The time that you were twenty And I was twenty-one.

We've had our summer, darling, The fields of life are brown, We've travelled up the hill side, We're on our journey down; Yet oft I wake from dreaming Those days have just begun— That you again are twenty And I am twenty-one.

A Snake's Battle with a Cat.

It is not often that a newspaper man comes across two true snake stories in one day, but a reporter heard yesterday of two which are well authenticated. Mr. Cyrenius Hall, the artist, has a summer home at Isle of Hope. Three weeks ago Mrs. Hall, to encourage her hens to lay, bought a half dozen china nest eggs and placed them in their nests. On looking for them a few days after they were not to be found, nor were there any sugar bowls or tea sets about to show that the china eggs had hatched. The disappearance of the eggs was a mystery, until one day last week a chicken snake was killed on Mr. Hall's farm, and two china eggs were found inside of it. His snakeship had been doubtless suffering from dyspepsia for several weeks.

Mr. Hall's snake experience did not end with the eggs, however. That gentleman has a large cat, which is said to be one of the best and bravest of the feline species. A few nights ago the cat was locked in the store room. During the night a terrific noise was heard emanating from the room, and it was supposed that a strange cat had gotten in and the house cat was trying to put it out. Mr. Hall went to the place and let the cat (or, as he supposed, two cats) out. In the morning a large, headless, black snake was found in the store room. It had evidently attacked the cat, and true to its constrictor instincts, tried to crush it, but the cat gnawed the snake's head off and escaped.—Savannah News.

Two Boneless Dwarfs.

Sussex county, Del., is proud in the possession of the Misses Marine, two remarkable little dwarfs, who were born and reared in that county. The oldest, Miss Lizzie, lacks three inches of being three feet tall, has a head in proportion to the rest of her body; is very intelligent, conversing fluently with all with whom she comes in contact, despite the fact that she weighed but forty-five pounds and must stand on a chair in order to put her head on a level with the shoulder of an ordinary person. But stand on a chair or anything else she cannot, neither can her sister, for the reason that neither are provided with these very necessary adjuncts to standing—bones. A sort of cartilage answers in place of the bones, enabling the little mites to move hands or feet with perfect ease. Both use the fingers quite nimbly, doing all sorts of needle work, such as embroidery, etc., although the fingers may be bent in any direction desired without the least sensation of pain, being almost as pliable as so many little ropes.—J. W. Wright in St. Louis Republic.

The First Law of Nature.

"I have a new story, told by the late Col. Gag Fake, which has never been in print," said the visitor, "and which never failed to set the table in a roar when"—The editor opened a drawer and drew from thence a large saw handled pistol carrying a ball that would weigh about three to the pound. "Do you want it printed?" he asked sternly, "or are you going to tell it?" The visitor turned pale; "I thought you might like to print it," he said feebly. "Shake!" said the editor, joyously, as he replaced the artillery, "write it out and take it to the foreman; we'll be very glad to print it. Got any more?"—Bob Burdette.

A Man of Much Importance.

Nathaniel Parker, of East Burke, Vt., runs the mill lumber to Folsom's Crossing, runs the mail from Lyndonville to East Burke, runs the delivery, runs the hotel, runs the Good Templars' lodge, runs the singing school, runs the choir, runs the Sunday school, as superintendent, and holds himself in readiness to run any other department of village industry which is not running lively already.—Boston Herald.

Cathedral of St. Pierre.

The venerable cathedral of St. Pierre, in Geneva, in which Calvin preached in his day, is to be restored. It is intended to renew the main facade and to finish the tower on the north side, besides altering and embellishing the interior at an expense estimated at 550,000 francs. A company has been formed for the purpose, after the pattern of the one which restored the Minster of Bale.—New York Home Journal.

It is a mistake to paint sin too alluring and attractive. It makes young people want some. As a matter of fact sin is ugly and full of misery and pain, no matter how it may be colored or sugar coated.

Testimony in a recent suit brought by Harris, of Philadelphia, to obtain wages due him, revealed the fact that he had been employed to make trousers for 90 cents a dozen, or 7 1/2 cents a pair.

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Notice to Contractors. Sealed bids will be received by the Chairman of the Board of Public Works until noon on the 17th day of April 1889, for filling the old creek bed at the following places to-wit:

Table with columns for Contract No., Class, and Price per cubic yard. Includes details for various engineering estimates and contracts.

B. & M. Time Table. Table with columns for GOING WEST and GOING EAST, listing train numbers and times.