

**Economy.**

Uncle Hiram (just back from the big city—"I don't think that nephew of our'n is got as much money as he makes out he has.")

Aunt Emily—"Why, I thought you said he had such a nice home in the city."

Uncle Hiram—"But I didn't tell ye nothin' about him havin' both them little girls o' his'n playin' on the same planner at once. I tell ye he's a-gittin' hard up.—San Francisco Chronicle.

**Shopping Hours.**

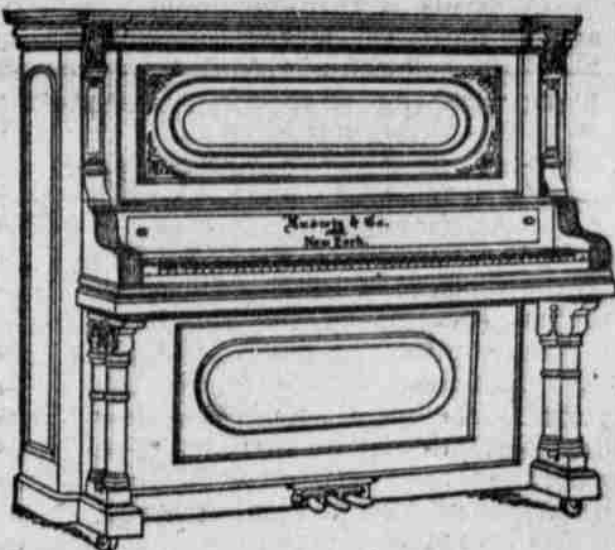
Two bills to regulate the hours of British shopmen and salesgirls are before parliament, while an amendment offered by Lord Salisbury himself foreshadows the probable tenor of a measure satisfactory to the cabinet. This amendment provides that "provisional orders" fixing hours may be passed by local authorities, subject to revision by parliament.

This law will be the first step in Great Britain to regulate the hours of male adults, and will be closely scanned as a possible precedent. Of its necessity the report of the lords' committee permits no doubt. Says the Saturday Review:

"It was already known that eighty, eighty-four, often ninety hours a week are worked in many shops, not including hours worked after closing. It has been shown that these hours are spent in surroundings insanitary, in bad atmosphere, in circumstances causing that dread disease known popularly as consumption, and others of a tubercular character."

The life of a London shopman is

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made even more unbearable than this statement would indicate by the "living-in" system, under which clerks spend practically the entire twenty-four hours upon the premises. And the unions of shopworkers confess their inability to secure better conditions.

In New York long hours of labor are still too often exacted. But in the great retail shops working-time never exceeds sixty hours per week, except in December; and to compensate for Christmas overwork but fifty hours per week are usually required in mid-summer. And this policy pays.—New York World.

**Compensation.**

My stock has gone down and my tailor has sent

To request that I settle my bill; My landlady asks with a frown for her rent,

And there isn't a cent in the till. The governor storms and my mother's in tears;

There's a coldness betwixt me and Nell, But I'm utterly dead to regrets and to fears,

For my meerschaum is coloring well.

I've a cold in my head and a pain in my back,

My eyes are like lobsters in hue; The horse that I played came in last at the track,

And I'm sure that I should have felt blue. But I walked into town, and I walked all the way

With a step it's surprising to tell, And I'm gayest tonight in the ranks of the gay,

For my meerschaum is coloring well.

At first I had fears of what looked like a crack,

And my breath came in gasps of alarm, But oh, how the joy of my heart flooded back

When I found that 'twas nothing to harm. And so ever since I have nursed it with care,

With thrills that my heart cannot quell, And I've bored all my friends to relate the affair

That my meerschaum is coloring well. —Paul Laurence Dunbar in the Smart Set.

**Cannon's Corn Story.**

Congressman "Joe" Cannon of Illinois is a man of strong likes and dislikes, and never does anything by halves. In the list of his likings, so far as culinary matters are concerned, his fondness for green corn takes first rank, and on this score he tells a good story at his own expense.

After a long sojourn in Washington he returned home and started out to look after his political fences in his district. At a small village hotel, where he stopped for dinner, a scanty plate of fine roasting ears was placed before him as a side dish. Immediately he abandoned the main bill-of-fare and applied himself exclusively to the green corn. When the plate was depleted he called for more roasting ears, and continued his feast until he had made his entire meal from the staple product of the Illinois prairies. The hotel keeper noticed the array of cobs stacked upon the plate of the tall politician, whose iden-

tity was unknown to him, and said: "Say, stranger, what in thunder do you want to board at a hotel for? The place for you to put up at is a livery stable. Don't you know green fodder is a dum sigat cheaper in a barn than in a house?"

During the remainder of the campaign Congressman Cannon retailed this story to his constituents—and turned it to good account among the corn growers.—Saturday Evening Post.

**Mid-August.**

August, Sweetheart of the sun, Summer work is nearly done, while the idle days are going List thy ardent lover's wooing.

Now the year is in its prime Take thy brief vacation time. Stubby fields are brown and yellow, Pippins ripe are growing mellow.

Ranks on ranks of shining corn, Jeweled by the dew of morn, Whisper in the evening airs Like a legion saying prayers.

Farmer boys on loaded wains, Harvest moons on gathered grains; Tender hearts a bit forlorn, Summer's turned another corner! —E. C. Tompkins in Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

**A New Acid Plant.**

A large fertilizer chemical plant is now in course of construction at Atlanta, Ga., which will be used by Armour & Co. The plant will cost nearly a half million dollars, and will be situated on the Southern railroad and Seaboard Air Line. The buildings, when completed, will consist of a sulphuric acid plant with a capacity of sixty tons of acid per day, and a manipulating plant to take care of the various materials used in the manufacture of commercial fertilizers.

Armour & Co. has been extending its fertilizer business greatly of late and using its own materials in the manufacture of commercial fertilizers, which it sells direct to the planters and farmers, thus avoiding middlemen's charges and retaining control of the animal products. The animal fertilizer ingredients claim superiority over cotton seed meal fertilizers, owing to their preponderance of nitrogen, and are largely used.

The Virginia-Carolina Chemical company, familiarly known as the "Southern Fertilizer trust," has within the last six weeks purchased the eight plants of the Southern Cotton Oil company and some twenty independent cotton oil plants. This move has evidently been made with the idea of controlling cottonseed meal, which it can use in the manufacture of fertilizers, and thus be independent of the packing houses, from whom it has for many years been buying large quantities of blood, tankage, bone, etc., known as ammoniates, and used in the compounding of fertilizers.—Chicago Tribune.

**Knighthood.**

There is lively excitement among the mayors of the new municipal boroughs included in the district of London, for it is intimated that King Edward will confer knighthood on every one of them when their terms expire in November. His majesty's desire is to commemorate the first term of these mayoralties, and to emphasize for future candidates that the offices carry with them possibilities of high honors. Heretofore these mayors were not very highly thought of by the great

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ones of London town.

The king's action will make some curious additions to the list of knights. One of the mayors across whose shoulders the royal sword will be laid is an East End saloon-keeper, another is an advertising agent, and the majority are comparatively humble wage-earners. That a saloon-keeper should have a chance of knighthood is a great shock to the fastidious, who forget that so many members of the house of lords are brewers.—Ex.

**Lullaby.**

Last night a brown bird flew straight into the west, Straight into the glow of the sunset's red light, And see, he comes back with its fire on his breast, Speeding to tell a wee baby good-night, Before his eyes close, And to dreamland he goes.

The soft air is full of a blossomy whirl Of tiny dreams, fluttering down from the trees— Each one is as pure and as fine as a pearl, And all for a baby, his fancy to please, While mother sings low, "Go, little one, go."

Up, up, in the darkness, the rosy stars flush, Like crocus buds, 'broidered on winter's black hem; And, hark, through the stillness of pine-scented hush, Each note of the lullaby falls like a gem; Slow, tender and deep, "Sleep, little one, sleep."

"O dear little heart, press thee closer to me! I love the soft touch of thy head's sunny gold, Hedged round by my prayers through the night thou shalt be, As safe as a lamb in the sheltering fold. Thy pillow my breast, Rest, little one, rest." —Pauline Frances Camp in the Boston Transcript.

**Cuba Libre.**

It is not expected that the army will be withdrawn from Cuba before next winter, by which time congress may have enacted enough legislation to keep it there indefinitely.—Philadelphia Ledger.