

THE CHIEF

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TELEPHONE, SEVEN - TWO

Good roads mean good business

Now would be a good time to begin work on the roads.

Tomorrow Theodore Roosevelt will be inaugurated president of the United States—and he is the president of all the people, too.

It begins to look as though the proposition for a binding twine plant at the state penitentiary might fail, after all. It is a good measure, and should be passed.

What would you think of a school teacher who called a 10-year-old pupil a "lazy little fool," simply because he asked her assistance in solving a problem in arithmetic? Nice example, eh?

One day this week we heard a traveling man say that the streets and alleys of Red Cloud were the dirtiest he had encountered so far this spring. Let's clean up, so the next time he comes around he will have a different tale to tell.

We are heartily in accord with the suggestion of the Nation that the court house park deserves more attention than it has been receiving. A competent landscape artist could make it a very pretty spot and we hope to see the Nation's suggestion acted upon.

By this time next week, if the weather continues good, the country roads will be in fine shape to receive improvements. A load of straw thrown in a mudhole, with a little dirt on top, forms a good solid road, and the straw will help prevent the dirt washing away. It has been tried elsewhere and has proved a great success. Try it.

We are still of the opinion that Red Cloud needs a commercial club, and needs it badly. Individual effort can accomplish but little, while a commercial club composed of the business men who are interested in drawing trade to Red Cloud would be a power for good which, once in harmonious working order, would soon turn the balanced scales and do wonders for the town. Why not organize?

Talking about nuisances, what can be more of a nuisance than the ding-dong of a cowbell and the accompanying bellow, "Auction! auction!" all day long, and in the evening as well? Why not pass an ordinance to abolish this as well as other nuisances? More than one runaway has been caused by the clanging of the cowbells on our streets. Let us avoid the suggestion that our streets are a pasture for lowing cows and bellowing bulls.

The California state senate, without a dissenting vote, has expelled four of its members for having accepted bribes. This is in striking contrast with the action of the Illinois legislature in expelling one of its members for charging that members of that body were guilty of accepting bribes. In California it has been demonstrated that bribe takers were considered no better than other criminals, even if they were a part of the law making body. In Illinois the great majority of the members fearing the result of an open and thorough investigation, after a secret investigation by a committee which it may be well

presumed was largely made up of bribe takers and which the representatives of the press were barred from attending, expelled the fearless and outspoken member who had made the charges.

There is one much needed improvement in the dwelling house on the poor farm which should be made. As at present arranged the sleeping apartments are all on the second floor, which is a great inconvenience in the care of the sick and crippled inmates. Should the county commissioners cause the building to be rearranged so that sleeping rooms could be had on the first floor for crippled and other inmates who are unable to climb up and down stairs it would greatly lessen the work and expense of caring for the county's poor, as well as add much to their comforts. We hope the county commissioners will look into this matter at the coming session.

The testimony in the Cody divorce case seems to be greatly in favor of the neglected and magined wife. The halo which has for years surrounded "Buffalo Bill," the hero of dime novel writers and in later years owner of a greater humber show than the late P. T. Barnum ever dared foist upon a confiding public, is rapidly fading and people are beginning to see him in his true form that of a bombastic, conceited and selfish reprobate. Stories of his early life show that when his son was born in 1871, he had failed to provide clothing or sufficient food for his sick wife, and spent his time drinking and carousing with the lowest classes. In later years, when prosperity smiled upon him, the drinking and carousing continued, but with a higher though no better class of people. It is now said he wants a divorce from the woman who has spent her life in attempting to lift him up in order that he may wed a young girl. "There is no fool like an old fool."

The Printer Man.

Whether it blows or whether it snows, the seasons come and the seasons go; the crops get sick and the farmers blame the storekeepers kick and the farmers sue, the preachers preach and the sinners sin, and cares beset the soul of men. But through it all the printer prints; he saves and saves and saves and stints; the winds rave and the floods may roll, and droughts break through from pole to pole, but the printer man, he prints and prints; saves and saves and stints—happy, happy, printer man; he does the very best he can, sticking type or twisting press, he trusts to luck and does his best. Exchange

DAY OF GLOOM IN HOT SPRINGS.

Loss of \$2,000,000 and Three Lives in Result of Fire.

Hot Springs, Ark., Feb. 27.—This has been a day of gloom in Hot Springs. The first estimates of the damage done by the great conflagration was not exaggerated. More than forty blocks were eaten away by the flames and a most conservative estimate places the loss at \$1,500,000, and several insurance men state the figures will reach \$2,000,000. The three unknown bodies recovered are the only known fatalities.

The citizens' relief committee has the situation well in hand. The amount subscribed for relief totals \$12,000, but it is being steadily increased. The committee felt that they can feed all the homeless. Voluntary subscriptions from the outside are being accepted.

Several excursion trains arrived here, bringing visitors from adjacent cities and towns to view the ruins.

The fire-swept area lies principally in the residence portion of the city. While the loss is enormous, the principal business portion of Hot Springs, including the hotels and bath houses, are not affected.

That the devastated district will be speedily rebuilt is evidenced by expressions heard on all sides. Property owners are already planning with architects, and in three instances carpenters began work on temporary structures.

Schooner Onward Wrecked.

Marshfield, Ore., Feb. 27.—The schooner Onward of Parkersburg, Ore., in attempting to sail over the Coquille bar, missed the entrance and struck on the beach. In an effort to make deep water she struck broadside against Table rock and drifted on the neighboring reef. The Onward will be a total wreck. The crew of seven men all escaped safely.

Deaf Persons Don't Get Seasick.

"Strange thing, but do you know that deaf persons never get seasick?" said an old surgeon in the employ of one of the transatlantic lines recently. "This was found out," he said, "when a whole class of deaf mutes went abroad some years ago, and, despite a particularly rough passage, none of them wanted to lie on the deck and beg somebody to heave them overboard.

"That's the seasick feeling, you know. A little investigation proved that the stomach nerves are mostly controlled by those of the ear, and that deaf persons are not nearly so liable to the nausea that comes from the rolling motion of a ship as are others.

"The experiment of saturating a ball of cotton with cocaine and thus dulling the hearing has been tried by ship surgeons since. It gives relief to those who dread any sort of a sea voyage; but, after all, the best way to do is to 'feed the fishes' and get over it."—Philadelphia Press.

Bizet's Red Ribbon.

Bizet, the author of the popular opera "Carmen," who died a month after its first production, was not at any time a lucky man. He was even decorated through a mistake, says a writer. "For his friends, presaging the failure of 'Carmen,' bombarded the minister before the production and begged a decoration for M. George Bizet. 'Bizet?' asked the minister. 'Who is Bizet?' 'A remarkable genius,' was the reply, 'who has already produced several extraordinarily fine works. Among them the most popular is perhaps 'L'Arlesienne.'" "L'Arlesienne?" interrupted the minister. "Why, it is a perfectly fascinating book. I read it with extreme pleasure. Tell your friends that the thing is done." The minister was not musical, but he had read a novel by Alphonse Daudet, and Bizet won his red ribbon.

The First Siege Guns.

It has been stated that it was in 1667, at the siege of Candia, in Crete, that siege guns were first used. This statement is contradicted, however, by a writer, who says that just before the siege of Constantinople a Hungarian or Wallachian cannon founder named Urban cast in 1452 at Adrianople a cannon "which remained for many years the wonder of Europe and marks an epoch in the continually increasing power of guns." Urban's cannon was dragged by sixty oxen to Constantinople in 1453 and threw a stone ball of 1,200 pounds weight. It was fired seven times a day and once each night. The Turks used at the siege two other cannon nearly as large and altogether had fourteen batteries, each containing four guns, along the length of the wall.

It Pleased the Composer.

A curious story is told as to how the Rothschilds supported Carafa, the composer. The latter was far from rich. His principal income was derived from a snuffbox. And this was the way of it: The snuffbox was given to the author of "La Prison d'Edinburgh" by Baron James de Rothschild as a token of esteem. Carafa sold it twenty-four hours later for 75 napoleons to the same jeweler from whom it had been bought. This became known to Rothschild, who gave it again to the musician on the following year. The next day it returned to the jeweler's. This traffic continued till the death of the banker and longer still, for his sons kept up the tradition, to the great satisfaction of Carafa.

Marking the Boots.

A great many people on staying at an English hotel for the first time wonder how it is that "boots" can return to the different rooms the footgear placed outside the bedroom doors to be cleaned. This is quite a simple matter. All he does is to take a piece of chalk, mark upon the sole of the boot the number of the room from which he takes them and then sends them downstairs all together to be cleaned. When this has been done they are sorted, taken upstairs again and deposited outside their respective doors without the occupants of the different rooms knowing that they have been removed.

The Best Tonic.

Ordinary sour buttermilk is a better tonic, is a better food, than was ever bottled or boxed up by the chemist or doctor. Many a farmer drives miles away to see a doctor, to get a bottle of pepsin or cod liver oil or beef extract when at the same time he is feeding to his calves good, rich, nutritious buttermilk, a thousand times better for him than the stuff the doctor will give him.—Medical Talk.

Even Mice Were Scarcer.

Brother Bill came home late and went down to the kitchen to look for a bite. He found the larder empty and started back to his room, when the front door opened to admit his brother Jim. "Anything good downstairs?" inquired Jim. "Lucky if you find a mouse," said Bill.

To Live in Fact.

Life is what we are alive to. It is not a length, but breadth. To be alive only to appetite, pleasure, pride, money making, and not to goodness and kindness, purity and love, history, poetry and music, flowers, stars, God and eternal hopes, is to be all but dead.—Malthe D. Babcock.

When You Buy

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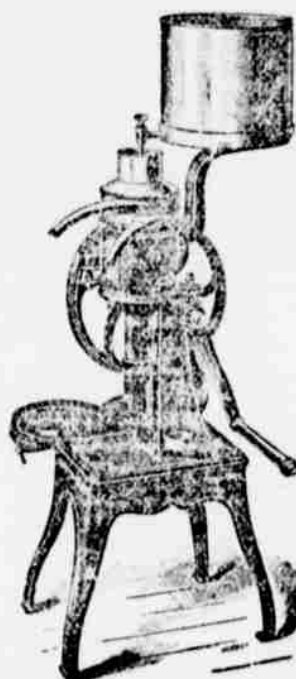
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