



From stereograph, copyright, by Underwood & Underwood, N. Y.

This is the place which Mary and Joseph saw crowded on the Holy Eve. The Inn, where they found room in the stable, stood on the site of that church directly facing us across the square.

## A COOPERATIVE CITY

LOUISIANA TOWN WELL RUN FOR GAIN OF PEOPLE.

Not Only Public Utilities, but Amusements of Monroe, Are Controlled—Good Profit Realized on the Work.

Monroe, La.—Monroe is looking for new fields to conquer—will some one please come forward with a suggestion? For municipal ownership of street railways, and of many other activities as well, has proven successful in this city of 5,000 residents. The co-operative idea in municipal affairs prevails to an almost utopian degree. Light, power, transportation, education, medical attention, sewerage, household supplies, and even amusement are furnished by the municipality. What will be next?

The citizens of Monroe enter a theater directed by the mayor and his assistants; witness a ball game in a park owned by the city; ride on trolley cars whose crews are paid by the people; take electric light and power from



Location of Co-operative City.

plants wrested from a private monopoly; cross the Ouachita river on a municipal bridge without paying toll; purchase household supplies in a city market house; are taken to a municipal hospital when they get hurt, and when they die are given final attention by a municipal undertaker.

All this has been accomplished since the election of Mayor A. A. Forsythe six years ago. He has succeeded himself year after year, standing for municipal ownership to the limit, having behind him a city council which believes in the theory as devoutly as himself.

The municipal electric railway was built without the necessity of a bond issue. The people had already paid out the tax levied to establish power, water, light and power systems, a market house, a city hall, a free traffic bridge, free wharves and warehouse, and the city council took the liberty of using \$100,000 of the reserve fund for the purpose of building and equipping a street railway. The line, covering nine miles of streets, was thrown open

## A WOMAN OF 91 HUSKS CORN.

Richmond, Ind.—Osler's theory was disproved in Hamilton county by Mrs. Laura Ann Owen while celebrating her ninety-first birthday anniversary. When she arose from the dinner in her honor she spoke of being in unusual health for one so advanced in years and said she had the strength to do the work which she performed daily 50 years ago. Some of her relatives questioning this, made Mrs. Owen anxious to prove she had not yet outlived her usefulness. Throwing

July 11, and proved a money-maker from the start. The city officials are looking forward to a profit of 10 per cent. at the end of the fiscal year.

Every conductor and motorman on the system is required to sign a pledge that he will not drink or gamble, on or off duty, while he is working for the city. They must also declare to the mayor that they are morally clean. When any provision of this pledge is violated it is understood that the offender, by his own action, has severed his connection with the municipality.

The traction department is under the direction of C. A. Downey, who is responsible to the mayor. The water, power and light systems are directed by J. N. Stafford, who also reports to the chief executive. A. J. Renaud is secretary and treasurer of the municipality, and through him pass all funds after being received by the mayor.

The street railway system has recently been extended eight miles to a suburban park owned and operated by the city for the especial benefit of those in moderate circumstances. The park embraces 125 acres, skirting a lake where free bathing and boating is afforded the masses at the expense of the municipality. A summer theater on the lake shore was erected by the city council, and is operated by a staff in the employ of that body, all profits reverting to the city treasury.

The same arrangement applies to a baseball diamond and grandstand, and a half-mile racing track. All these amusement enterprises are owned absolutely by the city, and the revenues are devoted to extending vital departments of the city's utilities. A certain per cent is set apart for street paving extension, another for additional sewerage lines, more for water service, and the remainder goes in the surplus fund.

Plans for the interurban extension of the electric railway include a complete belt 75 miles in diameter, the intention being to throw the population in that territory into direct touch with the city. It will probably be necessary to issue bonds for this venture.

There are plenty of opportunities for graft in Monroe, but advantage of them has never been taken. The municipality is operated on strictly business principles, and there has never been a hint of dishonesty on the part of public officials. There is no such consideration as municipal politics in Monroe. The people vote at the city primaries merely to carry out the form and be in line with the parish and state governments.

Another unique feature of the city is its high liquor license. Before Mayor Forsythe was elected, the dramshop license was \$100 a year, but three months after he was elected he had it increased to \$500, and later to \$1,125. The law compelled most of the saloons to go out of business.

Monroe is the county seat of Ouachita parish, Louisiana, and is 35 miles south of the Arkansas line and 65 miles west of the Mississippi river. It is 150 miles north of Baton Rouge, the state capital, and 215 miles, as the crow flies, northwest of New Orleans. Two railway lines and the Ouachita river figure in the commerce of the place. The government census of 1900 gave Monroe a population of 5,428, but these figures have been materially increased.

ing a shawl over her head and shoulders and donning a pair of gloves, Mrs. Owen went to the farm and husked a row of corn around a 30-acre field without stopping to rest.

Not an Admirer of Phonographs. "Mamma, will there be any phonographs in heaven?" asked the little six-year-old girl. "No, my dear," was the mother's reply. "That is the way we'll know it is heaven."—Yonkers Statesman.

## HAS GOLD-FISH FARM

HUNDRED-ACRE TRACT DEVOTED TO UNIQUE INDUSTRY.

F. C. Selak, of Reading, Pa., Raises the Beauties for Market—Four Men Needed to Take Care of Them.

Reading, Pa.—Commencing in a modest way a few years ago, F. C. Selak, of Reading, now has the largest goldfish farm in the United States. It is in Cumru township. Fresh water springs in abundance exist on his 100-acre tract, and they are utilized to supply his 13 ponds, which are from 40 to 65 feet in diameter, with a depth of from three to six feet, the deeper ones being the winter ponds, where the funny beauties are safe from freezing.

The fish in the Cumru ponds are of three varieties, including the fancy-shaped ones from Japan; the comets, with peculiar-shaped tails, and the common goldfish. In each of the ponds where the varieties are bred you find them of many sizes, from one-half inch up to the largest ones, four inches and even larger.

In color they are also varied, some resembling pure gold, others in silver tints, pure reds, and others with three or four colors, and when these myriads swim the waters under the sun's brilliant rays, they present one of the most enchanting spectacles.

Attending to the wants of 100,000 goldfish, the number now stored in the Cumru township ponds, takes a good deal of time, and a still greater amount of patience, as there are always certain pests that are detrimental to the raising of goldfish—especially bullfrogs, snappers and snakes, besides some 35 different kinds of bugs and insects which prey on young goldfish. About a year ago a large snapper got into the pond, and before Mr. Selak could get the 15-pound fellow out he had done much mischief.

Four persons are constantly employed looking after the fishes' welfare. After the hatching season the fish have to be separated in the numerous ponds where the different sizes are kept. They have also to be fed regularly with special food, and different grasses have to be grown in the ponds, of which the most noted are the water milfoil, water violet, pink fanwort and tapegrass.

These plants to a certain extent furnish by exhalation certain parts of the food for the golden beauties, though at certain times they are given prepared waters and other substances, known only to the expert fancier, who has had a life experience in this line.

Goldfish never thrive in large rivers; even in large ponds they readily revert to the color qualities of the original wild stock. They flourish best in small ponds, where the water is constantly changing, such as spring water, and which does not freeze easily. In such instances they have multiplied rapidly, sometimes breeding three different broods in one year, and such surroundings also help them in their growth, as they have in some cases been known to attain a length of 12 inches, though such specimens are very rare.

## GYPSY MOTHER HAS EVIL EYE.

Six of Her Children Died on Their Seventh Birthday.

Geneva.—A strange story is told of an elderly gypsy woman who is at present traveling with a tribe of Bohemians in the canton of Berne.

The woman has had six children, four boys and two girls, all of whom have died on reaching the age of seven—the last dying a few days ago.

Three of the children died on their seventh birthday and the others a day or two after. It is stated that all the children fell ill as every birthday approached, but the mother took no notice of their illnesses until the critical seventh year was reached, when she nursed them devotedly.

The women of her tribe shun her, believing that she possesses the "evil eye" and is responsible for the death of her children, but the unfortunate woman's husband is devoted to her. After the death of her sixth child the tribe became so hostile that her husband has decided to take his wife away and will shortly return to Bohemia.

The children died from no particular disease and seemed simply to have wasted away. The doctors who signed the death certificates never traced the cause of decease.

## Guard Children From Bears.

Altoona, Pa.—Fearing an attack from a pair of ferocious bears, farmers are sending their children to school at Planeten on the new Nottage railroad under heavy guard. Farm hands, armed with shotguns, are pressed into service as escorts. The bears made their appearance several days ago, and were so bold that the farmers are afraid to trust their children alone. The whole countryside is in a state of panic, and no one ventures out after nightfall.

## Too Much Autoing; Baby Dies.

London.—The death of Mrs. Marshall O. Roberts' two-year-old girl baby is attributed by doctors to excessive motoring. The doctors always maintained that the weakness of the child was due to the practice, with the accompanying excitement which its mother indulged in before its birth. There are said to be several similar cases among English fashionable women in late years.

## DOG MEAT IS NOT SO BAD.

First Choice of the Eskimo and of Many Indian Tribes.

New York.—Last year over 1,500 dogs were slaughtered for food in Prussia. Probably one could eat dog from choice any more than one could be a cannibal from choice. But many Indian tribes have eaten dog for generations. The Eskimos eat dogs when they can catch them. Arctic explorers from all countries, looking for the pole, have eaten dog without compunction and on several occasions have eaten their comrades of human kind. Dog meat is sweet, like mule meat, and the best part of it is not next to the bone, as is the case with other meats, but that lying next to the skin, which must be baked to a crisp.

That able general, Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce, prefers dog to all other meats. His second choice always was grizzly and his third Rocky mountain sheep. When Wattiskowok of the Umatillas heard of the drowning of enormous quantities of dogs impounded in New York he wept. When the Umatillas have a great feast dog is the piece de resistance. The browned skin, with the hair on it, is served to the hi-muck-a-mucks, or chief guests, and if you happen to be one of the muck-a-mucks you must gnaw this bit of skin as you would a rib of beef in camp. Many palefaces have done it and come from the feast liking dog. The Caucasian's prejudice comes from that little word "pet." A dog is a pet and practically a member of the family can not stomach the idea of eating a pet.

## LOOT DISCLOSES A ROMANCE.

Thief's Note in Buried Silver Pitcher Tells of a Girl in Case.

Brookdale, N. J.—Booty that was buried in the woods near here more than a decade ago was brought to light the other day by two hunters. The men were digging a hole in which to build a wood fire, when they found a silver pitcher and several silver knives and forks. Inside the pitcher was a note, dated June 3, 1895, 3 a. m., which read:

"Jim: I leave these here in the hope that you will find them. I can not take them to the house, as I got a tip that I was being watched. In fact, I have been told that if I went to the place to-day I would be roped in, so I have decided to hop the early morning freight. I don't know as yet where I will go. It probably will be to the old place—you know, where the swag comes easy.

"I will drop you a line if I think it safe. Say, Jim, do you know that I hate to leave the village? And its all on account of Mabel. I never thought I'd be so soft hearted. Just think, if she only knew what I am. Tell her that I was called away by a death in the family, or something like that. She'll never get wise."

There were no initials on the pitcher nor spoons nor anything about them to give a clue to their owners.

## RAISES GREAT PRUNE CROP.

One California County Could Supply the Whole United States.

San Francisco.—Prior to 1886 the prunes consumed in this country came almost entirely from France and the Danubian provinces. The consumption was small and the fruit was considered a delicacy.

Now more than 100,000,000 pounds of dried prunes are eaten yearly in the United States. In the year above mentioned American prunes first appeared on the market and each succeeding year the supply has increased, until the importation of foreign prunes has been reduced to small proportions.

Most of the enormous supply that finds its way to boarding house tables is grown in California. The large output of the prune orchards there may be judged from the fact that in Santa Clara county there are 3,700,000 trees growing on 37,000 acres, 100 trees to the acre.

The quantity of prunes cured there this year will meet the requirements of home consumption for the entire country. But there is a large export trade to take care of and this absorbs the surplus.

## CONTRACTS TO KILL COYOTES.

Expert Trapper Agrees to Rid Country of Troublesome Animals.

Lander, Wyo.—M. F. Kalkbrenner, an expert trapper, has contracted to kill 1,200 coyotes for the Sweetwater Range company during the coming six months. For the first 800 he will receive \$1.50 each from the company one dollar each from the state, and probably 75 cents each for the hides.

For the last 400 he will receive \$2.50 each from the company, one dollar each from the state, and probably 75 cents each for the hides. If he makes good he will clear \$5,575 in the six months. The district in which Kalkbrenner has agreed to kill the coyotes is 40 by 115 miles in dimensions, and is in the shape of a figure eight, with the center at Point of Rock, a station on the Union Pacific. Last month Kalkbrenner trapped 261 coyotes.

## Can Drink, But Not "Treat."

Lincoln, Neb.—After lying dormant for nearly 20 years, the anti-treating section of the Slocum liquor law has been revived at the village of Dorchester. A representative of a Kansas City liquor house named Mitchell, who treated some of his customers and others, was arrested and fined \$50 and costs. It was the first conviction under the statute.

## A New Star on the Flag.



The star near the lady's lower hand represents the latest state to join the union, Oklahoma. The new state is composed of Oklahoma and Indian Territory, has an area of nearly 70,000 square miles, and a population of more than 800,000.

## WANT AMERICAN WOOD.

BIG INCREASE IN LUMBER AND FURNITURE EXPORTS.

Nine Months of 1906 Reveals Increase of 33 Per Cent. Over 1905 in Sales in Foreign Countries.

Washington.—Wood and manufactures of wood are forming a constantly increasing part of the exports of the United States. The total value of wood and its manufactures exported in the nine months ending with September, 1906, exceeded by 33 per cent. that in the corresponding period of last year and aggregated, for the nine months, not less than \$59,000,000. If to this are added the shipments to the noncontiguous territory of the United States, not now included in the foreign trade figures, the value of wood and its manufactures leaving American ports in the nine months will aggregate \$61,000,000, or at the rate of \$81,000,000 a year.

A decade ago the total value of wood and its manufactures exported was practically \$32,000,000. The increase in the year 1906 over 1905 was \$11,000,000 in the shipments to foreign territory.

Practically the whole world is asking for American wood and its products. Even of "logs and sawed and hewn timber" the total exports for the fiscal year 1906 were \$15,333,333, against \$7,333,333 in 1896, and shipments of the material in this crude form went not only to all of the principal European countries, but to most of the countries of South and Central Africa, Australia, the Philippine Islands, Japan and even Africa.

The value of lumber sent to the United Kingdom in 1906 was \$5,750,000, against less than \$2,000,000 in 1896; to Germany, nearly \$2,250,000, against \$333,333 in 1896; to British North America, a lumber-producing country, over \$2,500,000 in 1906, against a little more than \$500,000 in 1896; to Cuba, \$2,500,000 in 1906, against less than \$333,333 in 1896; to Mexico, \$2,000,000, against less than \$750,000 in 1896; to Argentina, \$3,500,000 in 1906, against a little less than \$1,000,000 in 1896; to British Australasia, over \$1,000,000 in 1906, against \$500,000 in 1896; to Belgium, more than \$750,000; France, \$500,000; Italy, \$500,000; Netherlands, \$2,500,000; Brazil, \$500,000; Chile, more than \$500,000, and to Central American states, over \$750,000.

The next largest item in the total of exports of wood and its manufactures is that designated as "furniture," of which the value exported in 1906 was \$5,250,000, against \$3,250,000 in 1896, the increase in "logs and sawed and hewn timber" and "lumber" having

been greater proportionately than that shown by "furniture." Of the \$5,250,000 worth of "furniture" exported in 1906 Mexico was the largest customer, the amount exported to that country being \$848,379.

An examination of the export record of wood and wood products for a long term of years indicates that the most rapid growth has occurred during the last decade. As far back as 1876 the value of wood and wood manufactures exported was only \$17,250,000; in 1886, \$20,500,000; in 1896, \$32,000,000, and in 1906, \$69,000,000, exclusive of the shipments to noncontiguous territory, most of which was included in the figures of 1896, and if added to those of 1906 would bring the total up to \$71,000,000. Thus the growth from 1876 to 1886 was only about \$3,000,000; that from 1886 to 1896 about \$12,000,000 and that from 1896 to 1906, \$37,000,000.

## PRIZES TO PROMOTE MATRIMONY.

Greenville, N. J., Justice-Elect Offers Gifts to Induce Marriages.

Jersey City, N. J.—Justice of the Peace-elect Charles Fay of the Greenville section intends to make things hum in the marrying line. Mr. Fay said the other day:

"I am going to give away souvenirs to every couple that comes to me to get married during my term of office, provided, of course, both contracting parties live in Greenville. But that's not all. Now, listen! The first ten couples who are launched out upon the sea of matrimony by me won't have to hand over any fee at all. They will be married free. Isn't that a fair proposition? But wait! I have such a burning desire to see Greenville men and maidens happy that I intend giving away tons of coal, barrels of flour, gas ranges, dining-room tables, brass bedsteads, and china tea sets, as an inducement to Greenville girls to marry the boys they have known all their lives and with whom they went to school, instead of some outsider.

"Now, I don't intend to convey the impression that everybody who gets married will receive one of these presents I have mentioned. Not at all! But what I do mean is that every single girl has a chance to get one of them. Each couple to wed will receive a number designating their position in the contest. For instance, the fifth couple will be given the number 5; the sixth number 6, and so on. I have a book in the house in which are recorded the lucky numbers, and behind each is written the prize it takes.

"If this plan fails to bring Greenville lads and lassies closer and dearer to each other's hearts—well, I shall resort to other methods. I think, however, it will have the desired effect."

## TRAGEDY THE ROCKS TOLD.

Story of a Murder Nearly 100 Years Ago Graphically Related.

Pittsburg.—Among the many romantic spots in western Pennsylvania none is better known, perhaps, than White Rocks, near Uniontown. This particular spot was made famous by Philip Rogers willfully casting Polly Williams, to whom he was engaged, down the face of the rocks into the dark depths below, causing her death. This event, which occurred in August, 1810, has been done in song and story, but the plain facts have never been related more clearly than by Charles B. Pennington, of Carmichaels, Pa.

"Polly Williams' parents moved from Fayette county, Pennsylvania, into Ohio," said Mr. Pennington, "leaving Polly in the care of a neighbor family to be married to her betrayer, Philip Rogers. The couple stole off together one day, she from where she was staying and he from his work, I believe at an uncle's, and met at an appointed place. She, it is supposed, was under the impression that he was going to take her to a preacher to be married. Some time afterward a couple of girls were gathering huckleberries at the White Rocks and noticed a small piece of clothing on a bush near the edge of a rock. They looked over the precipice and saw a dead person lying below, which on investigation proved to be Polly Williams.

"Rogers owed his freedom from justice to the efforts of his lawyer, but it is said that he lived a miserable life and some one who knew him said he scarcely ever slept but would lie in bed and chew tobacco all through the night."

## Rapid Growth Deranges Mind.

Los Angeles, Cal.—The abnormal growth of H. H. Kleene's physique is said to have caused his mind to become deranged. He was committed to the insane asylum by Judge Gibbs, Kleene, who is but 17 years old, is six feet three inches in height. Until three years ago he was small for his age and then the rapid physical development began. With his rapid growth his mind began to fail him. When he was arraigned before the judge his conversation was unintelligible, as he changed rapidly from tears to laughter.

## Rat's Nest Worth \$150.

New York.—Workmen engaged in tearing down a partition between two rooms in the farmhouse of Jacob Zimmerman, in East Passaic avenue, Bloomfield, N. J., discovered a rat's nest in a corner and found it had been constructed out of bank notes of various denominations. The money was made up of bills ranging from \$1 to \$20, and all were in a badly mutilated condition. They were remnants of at least \$150.