

**Shoveling Gold in a Siberian Mine.**



The above picture was made at the Troitzk mines, which are the most important and richest of the whole district. Women are largely employed in the mills and on the surface works. "It was curious to watch them hard at work shoveling up the rich ore as it came from the shaft as though it were so much coal or rubble," writes a correspondent. "Wages are ridiculously low as compared with what is paid in other mining camps I have visited—2 shillings a day for miners and general laborers, while women and boys get even less. Yet there is always an abundance of labor to be got at these rates. The Troitzk district is nothing more nor less than a huge gold-producing industrial center and presents a startling contrast to the dreary vista of endless forest or steppes one has to traverse to reach it. "The ore is crushed by what is known as Chilean mills." No convicts are employed in these mines.

**FARM LAWS ATTRACTIVE.**

**INVESTORS PARTIAL TO AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY.**

Life Insurance Companies and Banks Favorable to This Class of Securities—Few Mortgages Foreclosed.

Chicago. — The attractiveness of farm loans in the middle west is having a decided effect on Chicago capital, according to bankers and brokers. Considerable activity is manifesting itself in this direction, and many of the leading life insurance companies are acquiring first mortgages on farms in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, the Dakotas and the country adjacent.

The present holdings of the insurance companies considerably exceed \$200,000,000 in these securities. Farm mortgages in the country mentioned net five, five and one-half and six per cent. They are limited, as a rule, to

productive farms, and are made on a basis of 40 per cent. of the land value, closely appraised, and not including the value of improvements. Bankers point to the remarkably few foreclosures of farm mortgages in this section. The number scarcely exceeds one-tenth of one per cent.

As compared with other investments based on lands in cities, the well-placed farm loans, which, they declare, contain every element of attractiveness. A farm loan is regarded as a quick asset, whereas the contrary was true not much more than a decade ago.

Many trust companies now include a separate department for the purchase and sale of farm loans. Chicago has a number of firms dealing in them, and it is estimated that close to \$15,000,000 in such securities is held by Chicago investors. A large increase in this class of investment is predicted.

Statistics show that the value of Missouri real estate, for example, is

\$2,000,000,000, while Kansas has real property worth \$1,000,000,000. Oklahoma real estate is estimated at \$358,000,000.

Missouri has \$204,000,000 invested in live stock, \$32,000,000 in farm implements, \$92,000,000 in manufacturing machinery and \$310,000,000 in railroads.

Oklahoma is a land of homes. Out of 87,000 families in 1900, more than 60,000 owned their homes. The people are engaged chiefly in agriculture. The cash value of the farms is estimated at \$233,000,000. The 1906 corn crop amounted to 125,000,000 bushels, representing \$37,500,000. The cotton crop has a value of \$15,000,000. More than 27,000,000 bushels of wheat was harvested in 1906, and 23,000 tons of broom corn cut. Fruit of all kinds is raised in abundance.

Farm lands in Oklahoma range from \$18 to \$65 an acre, or an average of about \$30.

**PREACHES BRAND NEW RELIGION**

New Yorker Plans to Establish Comrade Kingdom on Earth.

New York.—John Augustus Wall has promulgated the newest of new religions. Mr. Wall formerly lived in Valley Stream, L. I. His new religion was launched at the Berkeley Lyceum amid the applause of 100 enthusiasts.

To prove that his religion is really brand new Mr. Wall sent forth a circular calling the meeting in which the names of Jesus and Moses, Mohammed and Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln, Roosevelt and Emerson, Edwin Markham and Elbert Hubbard, Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Darwin, Huxley and Paine, Ingersoll and Bryan, Hughes, Hearst and Brisbane are coupled. The circular reads in part:

"Do you believe in Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, et al. (as above stated)? Are you an atheist, infidel, moralist, spiritualist, Jew, Christian, or ethical cultist?"

"Are you living in a secluded furnished room, a palace, a tenement, or a brown stone residence?"

"Are you married, single, young or old, rich or poor?"

"Do you believe in the new thought, Christian Science, or just the old way that mother and father taught?"

Mr. Wall explained to his audience that the church is to be known as the National church, and that through it he hopes to establish a comrade kingdom.

A branch of the church will be established in every assembly district. Among things the new prophet hopes to accomplish is the establishment of department stores, hotels, bowling alleys, laundries, insurance companies, and skating rinks in connection with each branch.

**MENACE TO ALL**

**Giant Mail Order Concerns Are Sapping Country of Its Wealth.**

**SMALLER TOWNS CRUSHED**

By Assisting in the Centralization of Wealth, Patrons of These Institutions Contribute to Their Own Injury.

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Every year millions upon millions of dollars find their way from the towns, villages and rural districts of the country to the coffers of the mail order houses in the cities, and go to the upbuilding of enormous institutions in the centers of population. Naturally, the sources from which the contributions are made suffer accordingly.

Figures ever tell a better story than words. Here are figures which tell a story so stupendous that its full significance cannot be grasped in a moment, but the mere sight of which are awe inspiring:

In the year 1905 two mail order houses, located in Chicago, did a business amounting in round numbers to \$80,000,000. In the year 1904 these same concerns did a business of about \$62,000,000, a gain of \$18,000,000 or nearly 30 per cent. in a single year being thus exhibited.

These figures represent the sale last year of one dollar's worth of merchandise for every man, woman and child in the country by two catalogue houses alone, and those operating from the same central point. Dozens more of varying size and importance are operating all over the country from coast

to coast as a whole shall be prosperous. Such general prosperity as may exist cannot be retained if the institutions of the already larger and wealthier communities are to continue to be built up by contributions that should be spent at home from the thousands of smaller communities.

The need of the country, a desperate need upon which the welfare of the individual depends, is for the upbuilding and continued progress of the smaller communities, so that the wealth of the country may be distributed over the entire country, and not congested and controlled in large amounts in a comparative few centers of population.

Therefore, the man who sends away from his own community money which he might have spent at home and permitted a fair profit to the home merchant to be retained there for the benefit of the community, is injuring his community, and thereby the prospects for his own future prosperity.

In a large number of instances he is doing more than this. Unwittingly, or unthinkingly, perhaps, he is violating his own principles of right and justice, for, at the expense of his own community, he is needlessly contributing profits to the capitalistic combinations which he continuously cries out are menacing the country.

The mail order giants direct their energies particularly toward the people of the smaller towns and the agricultural districts. In hundreds of thousands of the homes of these the catalogue of the mail order house is as regularly received as the home paper. The man on the farm last year sent a very large portion of eighty millions of dollars to two of these institutions, in one community, alone.

In all sincerity we ask: Admitting, purely for the sake of the argument, that the farmer or the resident of the small community can save a few dollars on some of his purchases, or even



The "Man Behind the Plow" last year contributed a large portion of the vast number of millions which found order houses. The smaller communities were thus deprived of it, suffered

to coast and from border to border. A fact not generally known is that hundreds of concerns throughout the country which now are doing business through the regular trade channels are awaiting only a parcels post law to unloose literature, already prepared in many instances, which would project them into the mail order field, and this does not take into account the hundreds and perhaps thousands of entirely new mail order concerns which inevitably would spring into existence under such friendly auspices.

The two Chicago institutions referred to, already occupying immense buildings, found themselves cramped for room. One of them expended not less than \$1,000,000, and probably more, for a new home. The other lately has secured a new location and also will expend at least \$1,000,000 for an immense new building.

Anyone who will reflect even casually on the subject must become impressed that the influence of the mail order business is toward the centralization of wealth, and how enormous a part it is playing in this direction will be understood from a second glance at the figures which have been given above.

It is due to himself that every patron of the mail order house should inquire honestly of himself what the final outcome is to be if the mail order business shall continue to make the great strides which have marked its progress during the last half decade.

It is useless to repeat the well worn argument of the mail order concerns that they are selling goods enough more cheaply than the merchants in the regular channels of trade to leave their customers more money than ever to devote to home enterprises and institutions. The fallacy of this statement has been proved over and over again by actual and minute comparisons of goods, as to their quality and prices. To refute it finally and indisputably by a simpler and more direct method it is necessary only to ask the reliable business men of any of the smaller communities to show the evidence from their books and accounts of the harm the mail order habit is doing their communities.

It is a truth as old as the hills and as certain as the rising and setting of the sun that no country or section of a country can prosper unless the people as a whole shall be prosperous.

that he could do so on all of them, can he afford to continue to impoverish his own community, upon which his own prosperity, the very value of his land depends?

If he will ask himself this question and consider it soberly and fairly in all of its phases, including the many which cannot be touched upon within the limits of a single article, we think his answer must be that he cannot.

The wonderful productivity of this country has been sufficient to overcome the various adverse economic influences which have existed during the period of years in which the mail order business has accomplished its greatest growth. Everyone has been "getting along pretty well." While the increasing flow of golden millions from their source in the land of the country to the already great centers of money and population has held back the growth of the smaller communities, it has not yet occasioned a great disaster. The test will come with the first pinch of "hard times," a condition which no country ever has been able to escape at recurring intervals. When this time arrives those communities will best stand the test which have best conserved and husbanded their resources.

JOHN S. POTTS.

**The Puzzle Solved.**

Some time ago a merchant in Marblehead, Mass., was discovered in his store at a very late hour, and in reply to inquiries, he said:

"My confidential clerk is missing."

"And what of it?"

"Why, I'm looking over the books, but they seem to be all right."

"Have you counted your cash?"

"Yes; and it is correct to a dollar."

"Looked over your bank book?"

"I have, and it is satisfactory."

"That's the puzzle, you see. He's skipped, and I can't make out what for."

"Been home since noon?"

"No."

"Perhaps he's eloped with your wife."

He hurried home, and found this to be the case.

**Wise David.**

Wife—"Why do you always sit at the piano, David? You know you can't play a note!" David—"Neither can anyone else, while I am here!"

**BALM OF SCRIPTURE**

**HEALING PROPERTIES OF PINE KNOWN TO ANCIENTS.**

Oil of the White Pine Tree Used Successfully by Physicians in Treating Consumptive Patients.

The Oil of the Pine Tree is supposed to be the balm of Scripture. It contains great medicinal properties and was regarded with the utmost esteem by the ancients, and to the present day is peculiarly prized by the people of the East.

A noted authority on diseases of the throat and lungs, who established a camp for consumptives in the Pine Woods of Maine, says that his entire treatment consisted of fresh air, nourishing food and the Pure Virgin Oil of the White Pine Trees, mixed with Whisky and Glycerine in the following proportions:

Virgin Oil of Pine (Pure) 1/2 oz.  
Glycerine ..... 2 "  
Good Whisky ..... 8 "  
Used in teaspoonful doses every four hours.

It is claimed the above mixture will heal and strengthen the lungs, break up a cold in twenty-four hours, and cure any cough that is curable.

The ingredients can be secured from any good prescription druggist at small cost, and can be easily mixed in your own home.

Virgin Oil of Pine (Pure) is put up only in half-ounce vials for dispensing. Each vial is securely sealed in a round wooden case with engraved wrapper with the name—Virgin Oil of Pine (Pure), prepared only by Leach Chemical Co., Cincinnati, O.—plainly printed thereon. There are many rank imitations of Virgin Oil of Pine (Pure), which are put out under various names, such as Concentrated Oil of Pine, Pine Balsam, etc. Never accept these as a substitute for the Pure Virgin Oil of Pine, as they will invariably produce nausea and never effect the desired result.

People who are fond of music usually draw the line at amateur concerts.

Lewis' Single Binder straight 5c cigar. Made of extra quality tobacco. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

Some day a long-suffering genius will invent a safety razor with a phonograph attachment—then it will be good-by for the garrulous barber.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY  
Take LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE Tablets. Drugstore refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature is on each box. 25c.

Choose always the way that seems the best, however rough it may be; custom will soon render it easy and agreeable.—Pythagoras.

**Scrupulous Senator.**

Senator Spooner of Wisconsin surprised some members of congress with whom he was chatting the other day by announcing that he has never taken part in a congressional junket of any kind. "I never shall undertake such a journey at government expense," he said. "There is something very objectionable to me in members of congress going on such expeditions." For the same reason that made him sidestep a congressional junket Senator Spooner said he had never been shaved in the senate barber shop, which is maintained at Uncle Sam's expense.

**AWFUL EFFECT OF ECZEMA.**

Covered with Yellow Sores—Grew Worse—Parents Discouraged—Cuticura Drove Sores Away.

"Our little girl, one year and a half old, was taken with eczema or that was what the doctor called it. We called in the family doctor, and he gave some tablets and said she would be all right in a few days. The eczema grew worse and we called in doctor No. 2. He said she was teething, as soon as the teeth were through she would be all right. But she still grew worse. Doctor No. 3 said it was eczema. By this time she was nothing but a yellow, greenish sore. Well, he said he could help her, so we let him try it about a week. One morning we discovered a little yellow pimple on one of her eyes. Of course we phoned for doctor No. 3. He came over and looked her over, and said that he could not do anything more for her, that we had better take her to some eye specialist, since it was an ulcer. So we went to Oswego to doctor No. 4, and he said the eyesight was gone, but that he could help it. We thought we would try doctor No. 5. Well, that proved the same, only he charged \$10 more than doctor No. 4. We were nearly discouraged. I saw one of the Cuticura advertisements in the paper and thought we would try the Cuticura Treatment, so I went and purchased a set of Cuticura Remedies, which cost me \$1, and in three days our daughter, who had been sick about eight months, showed great improvement, and in one week all sores had disappeared. Of course it could not restore the eyesight, but if we had used Cuticura in time I am confident that it would have saved the eye. We think there is no remedy so good for any skin trouble or impurity of the blood as Cuticura. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Abbott, R. F. D. No. 9, Fulton, Oswego Co., N. Y., August 17, 1906."

Guard within yourself that treasure, kindness. Know how to give without hesitation, how to lose without regret, how to acquire without meanness.—George Sand.

**ODD GIFT TO BRIDE**

**FATHER GIVES WEIGHT IN SOAP AS DOWRY.**

London.—A valuable wife in the present state of the soap trade must be the woman M. Le Blanc, a Parisian has just married. The bride, who was the daughter of a hairdresser in a large way of business, not only received from her father a handsome dot in money, but her own weight in the best toilet soap. As she weighed close to 140 pounds, the couple will possess sufficient soap to last them for some years to come.

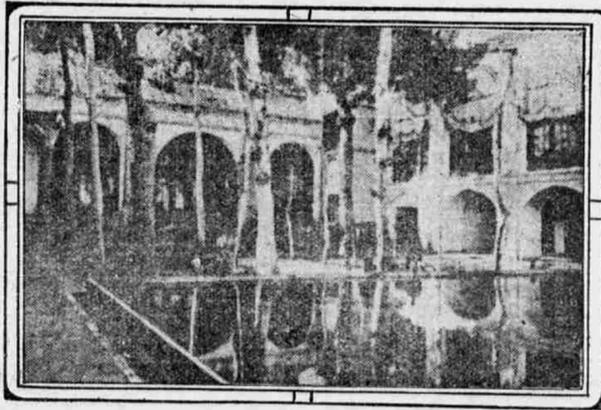
When asked by his prospective father-in-law, a flourishing West end tobacconist, to name the gift he would like to receive on his wedding day, the young man suggested a few boxes of cigars as being of more use than the usual presents presented on such occasions. "Very well; you shall have my daughter's weight in cigars," said the other. He was as good as his word. The bride weighed 128 pounds.

Mlle. Marie Brie, the niece of a Marseilles confectioner, received from her uncle on her marriage three years ago an eccentric gift in the form of her own weight in chocolate. Perhaps the worthy patissier had in mind when making the present the custom which prevails in Peru. There, on the marriage morn, the bride is actually weighed, and after the ceremony the bridegroom is presented by his wife's relatives with her weight in sugar.

A Yorkshire coal merchant's present to his daughter on her marriage was to be regulated by her weight, for every pound of which she is to be the recipient of a ton of the best coal. His intention, which he communicated to her on the day she became engaged, stirred her, as she was a young woman of frugal mind, to emulate the fat women of the fairs, so that during the six months her engagement lasted her value went up ten tons. Doubtless she would have made further inroads into her father's store had not that worthy merchant hurriedly married her off at a loss of only 172 tons.

The father of a girl living in the town of Konigsgratz offered to present anyone who should become her husband with her weight in silver currency. As she was well favored and of a build which, although not exceptionally stout, promised an amount ample to make a good start in business, more than one claimant appeared. The most eligible was at length selected and the wedding duly solemnized. Then came the most important function, the weighing of the bride, who, to her husband's delight, was found to weigh 155 pounds, or 13,500 kronen, an equivalent to \$2,812.

**Harem of the Shah at Teheran.**



**Infant Death Rate Reduced.**

Novel Scheme of an Englishman Lessens Mortality.

London. — Alderman Benjamin Broadbent, M. D., the retiring mayor of Huddersfield, England, has just announced the result of the two years' test of his novel scheme for the prevention of infant mortality in his native part of the borough—Longwood.

On taking office as chief magistrate, two years ago, Alderman Broadbent offered five dollars to the parents of each child born during the period of his mayoralty that reached the age of 12 months.

Instructions to mothers—some of which were suggested by the princess of Wales—were sent out, and the mothers were visited by voluntary women visitors, who reported progress.

The Huddersfield rate of infantile mortality had averaged 139 for ten years, and in Longwood itself the average for ten years was 122.

In Mayor Broadbent's two years 112 babies received the promissory note card for five dollars. Of that number 107 had actually received the gift he had offered. Out of the five left four had died and one had been removed from the district and he did not know whether the child still lived or not. If he counted only the four deaths the figures were 35 per 1,000, and if he counted the missing baby as dead the figures were 44. These figures compared very strikingly with the previous figures of 122 per 1,000 for Longwood and the average of 139 for the whole town of Huddersfield.

The experiment has reduced the death rate to much less than half. His own estimate of the result was that it was astounding. For exactly

12 months—from October 9, 1905, to October 9, 1906—not one of the babies on his list died under the age of one year. The babies belonged to all classes and there was no selection, some living in places hardly better than slums.

Very great general interest has been taken in Alderman Broadbent's experiment and inquiries, including one from President Roosevelt, have been received from municipalities all over the world.

**Blind Man Becomes an Inventor.**

Iowa Falls, Ia.—Charles Abbott, the blind piano tuner of this city, has turned inventor, and is exhibiting the working model of a heat regulator for a chicken incubator on which he has applied for patent. The regulator gives the alarm when the heat in the incubator becomes too high or too low. The regulator is set for 103 degrees and when the heat varies a few degrees above or below this mark the regulator rises or falls, and breaking a circuit, rings an electric bell until the owner regulates the heat to the proper temperature. Mr. Abbott has been blind all his life.

**Eat Sand for Dyspepsia.**

West Chester, Pa.—A number of people in this place who are suffering with stomach trouble have taken to "the sand cure," and are taking it every day. The sand comes from Mississippi and is packed in bags containing a couple of quarts. It is taken in doses of a spoonful, and as often as the patient has an attack of the trouble. "When any animal has an attack of stomach trouble," argues a patient, "it goes at once to the ground for some clay or sand for a cure, and why should not a man?"