CUSTER COUNTY REPUBLICAN

By D. M. AMSBERRY

BROKEN BOW, - - NEBRASKA

A School for Servants.

Bridget and Dinah and Katrina continue to receive the censure, not to say abuse, of the public press and private individuals for their alleged unsatisfactory performances of their duties in the kitchen, in the laundry, in the dining room—in short, "upstairs, downstairs, and in their ladies' chambers." The abuse is sometimes extravagant and the censure undeserved. Bridget and Dinah and Katrina often do much better than the newspapers and the mistresses would have us believe. But, conceding that, upon the whole, household servants are not as efficient as they might be, is it surprising? If you found a man who had never driven a plane or handled a saw, and set him to work at the frame of a house, and presently began to berate him because he was a poor carpenter, you would make yourself more ridiculous than you would make him. If you wanted a coachman, or a groom, you would hardly engage one who had never seen a horse. If you did, and your stock were badly cared for and yourself run away with, you would be laughed at if you blamed your incompetent retainers. Yet this is just what is done by housekeepers in regard to servants, says the New York Weekly. It is as unreasonable to expect women to cook or do other housework before learning how as to expect a man to build a house or manage horses without any instruction or experience. What is needed is a school for servants, or a system of apprenticeship, or some other means of training them to household work before they are called upon to fill household positions.

Anniversary of Anthracite.

Anthracite coal was first used for domestic fuel in February, 1808, although it had been used by gunsmiths and blacksmiths for nearly 40 years previously. Judge Jesse Fell, of Wilkesbarre, Pa., adjusted a grate of iron bars in the fireplace in the public room of the Fell tavern, and proved to his neighbors that the "black stones" would burn without the use of a forced draft. The Wyoming Historical and Geological society has lately sent out a call for the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of this event next February. Bituminous coal had been used in this country long before 1808. It was discovered near Richmond, Va., in 1710, and mining operations were begun in 1750. In England, as far back as 1180, the records of the bishop of Durham show entries of leases for the privilege of mining "pit coal," as it was then called. Those who object to the present high price of anthracite may be interested to know that soon after its introduction as domestic fuel the price was six and eight dollars a ton. Even at these figures the people were "burning diamonds," for anthracite coal is, next to the diamond itself, the purest form of carbon found in a natural state. The best quality of anthracite contain not more than five per cent. of other substances.

An unusual view of the army has lately been presented in a complaint from Washington over the decrease in strength of the coast artillery regiments. The Tenth company, for instance, which mustered a hundred and one men in 1900, was able to get out only 14 in the ranks in October. The explanation offered is that the men in the coast artillery receive training in some branch of mechanics, and can get employment outside at good wages. One officer instructed his company in the art of telephone repairing, and made the men so efficient that the telephone company in the neighboring city offered them $60 and $70 a month, and in some cases bought the discharge of the men, so that they might begin work before their enlistment expired. If the army can train its men as effectively as this it ought to be a pretty good school.

The fireless cook stove has been improved in Germany so that it now not only cooks, but fries and roasts. Frying and roasting are accomplished by the use of a stone, which is thoroughly heated and is then placed in the cooker with the steak or roast. The box is sealed up and left for an hour or so, as required, then opened, and the food is fully prepared and hot. In the double boxes all three processes may proceed at one time without care or difficulty. The makers of the cookers expect to sell 50,000 in Germany and Switzerland this year.

A German company is now telephoning wirelessly from Nauen to various places in Germany, 50 to 60 miles distant. One of the managers of the company said at Berlin that conversations had been conducted with extreme clearness and precision.

A wealthy New York society woman has abandoned a brilliant social career to become an interior decorator. That's nothing; lots of people abandon careers to do interior decorating —with liquid.

Madame Merri's Advice and Ideas Freely Offered to Perplexed Hostesses

Entertaining an Embroidery Club.

Please give me a few suggestions for entertaining an embroidery club. I want prizes and souvenirs.

MATTIE.

At the party you suggest, of course, all the guests will bring their needles and work, so you could arrange a very interesting contest by having some initials (it will be a good time to get some marking done) worked and see who can do the letter in the shortest time. Then for souvenirs there are the cutest spool and thimble candy boxes imaginable, all sizes, just the thing for this occasion.

Proper Gown to a Box Party.

Will you kindly advise me through the columns of your paper if it is proper to wear a decollete gown at a box party? Can a picture hat be worn with same? FAYE.

At the grand opera lowcut necks are frequently seen, with handsome hair ornaments, rarely hats. At the regulation theater box parties decollete gowns are rarely worn. Very elaborate costumes are seen, but the neck is veiled in tulle or lace. Transparencies and picture hats are in evidence.

Winter Evening Entertainment.

Dear Mme. Merri—We are to spend the winter in the country, but have frequent parties. I do not like to serve refreshments if I do not know they are coming and do not know what pastimes to have. PATTY.

In not serving refreshments is just where you make a mistake, for there is nothing so hospitable as setting something to eat or drink before your guest. My chief aids in entertaining are a chafing dish, coffee machine and a teapot. Have candy pulls, popcorn and roast chestnuts; become an expert at concocting "things," and keep an emergency shelf so you will never be taken unawares, and I venture to say your house will be the most popular place in the neighborhood. Authors, musical and geographical games are all fascinating and the omnipresent guessing games are always with us.

For a Surprise Party.

I have a sister who will be 11 this month. I want to have a surprise party. What would you advise us to do for amusement? Have to have it in the evening. What hour should it start, and what would you have for refreshments? I thought 14 would be the oldest and nine the youngest. Would that be proper?

Would it be right for mother or me to write the invitations, and how would you word them? M. E. G.

It will be perfectly proper for your mother to extend the invitations by writing informal little notes. I should have the hours from seven to ten. Not a moment later for young people of that age. Certainly include the nine-year old. She or he will soon be 'leven. I should have a lovely big birthday cake, with ice cream, and if you like, cocoa and sandwiches, with nuts and candy. Why not have a peanut hunt? Carry lemons on a fork. Have a nail-pounding contest for the girls and a button-sewing contest for the boys. You will have no end of a good time.

Meaning of Mizpah.

What does the word Mizpah mean? I want to give a book as a present to a very dear friend and want to use a Latin word or phrase. Do you know of any? If so, will you please give me the meaning? RITA.

Mizpah means "The Lord watch between me and thee while we are absent one from the other." It is found in the Bible. "Entre nous," the French for "Between ourselves," is a phrase often used also.

Eighteenth Wedding Day.

What is the eighteenth anniversary of a wedding? And also will you please give me a few suggestions for it, as I wish to have an informal gathering of about eight couples? Thanking you very much in advance.

X. Y. Z.

There is no set form scheduled for the eighteenth anniversary, but that is no reason for not celebrating. You can have a musical evening, play cards or do whatever you wish.

Questions in Etiquette.

I am invited to a reception, and as I have been prevented on account of illness and different causes from attending such functions for several years I would like to ask for a little information on etiquette. If I accept the invitation is it necessary for me to send an acceptance? If so, how should it be worded? Also, are acceptances and regrets written on the small paper and envelopes that are used for invitations, and should they be sent by mail or messenger?

L. S. M.

Certainly send acceptance worded like the invitation you receive. The small paper is used, and it is equally proper to use the post or private messenger. In a large city the former method is always used.

Senior Class Party.

My husband and I wish to entertain the seniors of the high school an evening from 7:30 to 11. The class is composed of 12 girls and three boys from 15 to 19 years of age. The class colors are crimson and white. Will you kindly write me some appropriate "pastime" or games for the evening, also suitable refreshments and decorations that are not too elaborate?

SCHOOL MARM.

Seems to me you will have to invite a few more boys to even up. I wonder why it is that our lads so often are in the minority when it comes to school? But to return to the question of amusement: If you could get a set of "Diabalo," that would help out. Then to liven things up more, hide animal crackers. Provide bags and send the hunters forth at the blast from a horn. Hang up a score showing how much each "animal" will count when the finish is blown on the trumpet. Award a prize.

Make a rosette for each to wear of crimson and white, and serve doughnuts, cider, nuts, and, if you don't mind the trouble, wind up with an old-fashioned candy pull.

MADAME MERRI.

Return of Silks to Favor.

For a long time crepes and voiles have taken the place of silks, but this season they are coming in again in new and heavy but soft weaves. Some of them imitate the tussah in weave and others are corded. The most beautiful waists of the season are made of soft silks.

Party Dresses

Here are three charming little party-dresses that may be reproduced in almost any thin material. The first is in pale blue spotted voile, trimmed at the lower edge with a frill of lace, headed by two rows of insertion. The neck is outlined with lace and insertion; the lace that finishes the puffed sleeve is open on the fore part of arm. Materials required: 4 yards 44 inches wide, 8 yards lace, 8 yards insertion.

The second is in spotted muslin. The skirt is trimmed with a gathered frill, edged with narrow lace and headed by insertion. The bodice has a round yoke, outlined with insertion, the full lower part also being trimmed with insertion. Materials required: 4½ yards 28 inches wide, 4 yards lace, 6 yards insertion.

The third is in cream Japanese silk, and is made very full for dancing; it is trimmed with lace and insertion, the latter put on the skirt in deep vandykes. The silk is cut away from the back of insertion so that it is transparent. The berthe trimming is edged with lace, and is attached to the square neck by insertion. Materials required for the dress: 4½ yards 36 inches wide, 5 yards wide lace, 2 yards narrow lace, about 14 yards insertion.

TRUE AFFECTION.

Ethel—Jimmy, do you love me?

Jimmy—Great Scott, girl, do I love you! Ain't I kept my hands and face clean for more than a week all on account of you?

Inevitable.

"So Nelson is dead. What killed him?"

"You know he had one foot in the grave?"

"Yes."

"Well, some one pulled his leg."—Harper's Weekly.

NEBRASKA POINTERS

STATE NEWS AND NOTES IN CONDENSED FORM.

THE PRESS, PULPIT AND PUBLIC

What is Going on Here and There That is of Interest to the Readers Throughout Nebraska.

A new directory of Hastings is soon to be issued.

A recent fire at Edgar destroyed $12,000 worth of property.

Formal dedication of Ashland's new B. & M. passenger station took place last week.

The barn on the farm of Lourence Byars, two miles west of Valley, was completely destroyed by fire.

The State Savings and Loan association and the Beatrice Building and Loan association, both Beatrice institutions, have declared semi-annual dividends.

The first term of the district court in Butler county for the year 1908 will be held February 10, George F. Corcoran presiding, with Mr. Sprague of Aurora as court reporter.

The Blue Valley Fruit and Grocery company has changed its name to the Blue Valley Mercantile company. The concern was organized three years ago to handle fruit and produce.

Following is the mortgage record of Gage county for the month of December, 1907: Farm mortgages filed, 22; amount $58,586; number of farm mortgages released, 22; amount $40,310.

Carl Schroeder, 70 years of age, hanged himself in his woodshed at Scribner. When found his body was cold in death. There was no apparent cause for Schroeder to take his own life.

Notification was received at Fairbury from Andrew Carnegie that he had donated $10,000 for a public library for Fairbury under the usual conditions—the donation of a site and appropriation of $1,000 a year for maintenance.

Maxwell Spencer, aged 26, of 24 East Ninety-sixth street, New York, a young man of evident wealth, died on the eastbound Burlington train as it entered Lincoln last week. The body was taken from the train and shipped to New York.

John A. Miller, living two and one-half miles east of Arlington, in what is known as the Pleasant Valley neighborhood, has just refused an offer of $127.50 per acre for his farm. This is the highest price ever offered for a farm in that neighborhood.

A number of members of a religious order new to Nebraska—the Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate—have reached Lincoln from their home in Canada. They will take charge of the church and parish at McCook and also of a number of missions.

Henry C. Richmond, president of the State Editorial association, was in Lincoln stirring up some interest in the meeting, which is set for the latter part of February. President Richmond lives at Fremont and is editor of the Fremont Herald.

James Hoagland of Beatrice, who was arrested after trying to fire his own home while intoxicated, was given a hearing before the insanity commission on an inebriate charge. Owing to the fact that his wife died recently and he has a family of children to care for, the commission suspended sentence.

Benjamin Gossard, ex-county treasurer of Red Willow county, was discharged from the Hastings asylum as cured and was taken to McCook to answer a charge of embezzling county funds in the sum of $6,000. At his preliminary hearing he was bound over to the district court, and, failing to put up the bonds of $5,000, was remanded to jail.

Sutton has made a larger growth the uast year in both business blocks and residences than for many years past. The public buildings are the new Catholic church, $30,000; George Honey, furniture, 66x140 feet, two stories, $15,000; J. B. Dinsmore, modern postoffice building, fire and burglar proof, furnished complete, $8,000; Henry Brehm, meat market, $7,000.

Frank Bowers disappeared from Odell Sunday and all efforts to locate him proved futile until Wednesday. Bloodhounds were procured from Beatrice and searching parties scoured the country, but nothing could be learned except that he went out hunting. Wednesday a letter was received from him, dated at St. Joseph, stating that he had been kidnaped by two men and taken to that place.

The contest brought by D. C. Whaley against D. E. Lincoln, who was declared elected sheriff of Dawson county at the last election, was decided before Judge Turnen in favor of Whaley. Mr. Lincoln was the populist candidate, but was not endorsed by the democrats. It was ascertained that some of the election boards counted straight democratic votes for Lincoln. This caused Whaley to bring contest proceedings.

The contract between the Nebraska Telephone company and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, allowing employes of the railroad 20 per cent reduction in their telephone bills, has been abrogated.

A car was loaded with horses in Council Bluffs to be shipped to Macon, Mo., but before the train arrived at Pacific Junction, opposite Plattsmouth, the car caught fire from sparks from the engine dropping in the hay, it is believed, and soon after reaching Pacific Junction the animals all perished except two.

SENTENCE SERMONS.

A holy tone does not make the heavenly tone.

Straining after applause is poor training for it.

A nation dies as soon as it ceases to get new ideals.

Cowardice often walks under the name of conscience.

There is no salvation so long as there is self-satisfaction.

No man can escape the collection by calculating how much the other man is putting in.—Chicago Tribune

West African Betrothals.

In some parts of West Africa the girls have long engagements. On the day of their birth they are betrothed to a baby boy a trifle older than themselves, and at the age of 20 they are married. The girls know of no other way of getting a husband, and so they are quite happy and satisfied. As wives they are patterns of obedience, and the marriages usually turn out successes.

To Avoid Wet Feet.

When taking long tramps with my husband I often suffered from wet feet until I discovered the fololwing articles of wearing apparel: "I bought oil silk and of this made leggings, which I wore inside of my shoes. The water could then splash over my rubbers with no ill effects. The leggings do not impede walking, nor do they injure the feet as do rubber boots.—Good Housekeeping.

Socialism in German City.

There is carried on by the German municipality of Freiburg a pawnshop, an insurance business, a theater, several restaurants and a newspaper, as well as the schools. A seat can be procured at the opera in that city for nine cent and supper afterward for six cents. The authorities also own a cemetery, in which the citizens can be interred cheaply.

All She Wanted.

Mrs. Muggerty (a habitual borrower(—Shure, Mrs. O'Fudge, it's meself thot hates to throuble yez, but cud yez loan me the yolk av an egg?—Harper's Weekly.

Good Town to Live In.

In the town of Klugenberk, Germany, taxes ar eunknown, and this year $50 was paid to every citizen from the profits of the municipal brickworks.

India's Improvidence.

Although India has exhaustless deposits in the salt mines of the Punjab, 1,582,784 tons of salt were imported in 1906-7.

Good Definition.

A gentleman is born with the necessity of thinking of others before he does of himself.—Florida Times-Union.

New York City's Railways.

On a real busy day the New York railways take in one and one-half million nickels.

The Devil and the Idler.

Turkish proverb: The devil tempts all other men, but idle men tempt the devil.

France is responsible for the game of billiards. Devigne invented it in 1572.

Love knows no law, unless we except the mother-in-law.