

STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION OF THE McCook Co-operative Building & Savings Ass'n
of McCook, Nebraska, on the 30th day of June, 1908.

| ASSETS. | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| First Mortgage Loans | \$ 121,855 00 |
| Stock loans | 6,310 00 |
| Real estate | 928 30 |
| Cash | 3,289 48 |
| Delinquent interest | 46 68 |
| Expenses and taxes paid | 292 05 |
| Delinquent assessments | 38 90 |
| Total | \$ 132,829 31 |
| LIABILITIES. | |
| Capital stock paid up | \$ 127,049 68 |
| Reserve fund | 1,674 80 |
| Undivided profits | 3,883 98 |
| Other liabilities | 221 05 |
| Total | \$ 132,829 51 |

Receipts and expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1908.

| RECEIPTS. | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Balance on hand July 1, 1907 | \$ 378 80 |
| Dues | 26,678 50 |
| Interest, premiums and fines | 11,223 02 |
| Stock redeemed | 27,983 94 |
| Loans repaid | 180 00 |
| Real Estate Sales | 47,983 94 |
| Total | \$96,424 26 |
| EXPENDITURES. | |
| Loans | \$ 50,690 00 |
| Expenses | 832 04 |
| Stock redeemed | 7,892 74 |
| Bills payable | 3,800 00 |
| Cash on hand | 3,289 48 |
| Total | \$ 66,424 26 |

State of Nebraska, Red Willow County, ss. I, F. A. Pennell, secretary of the above named association, do solemnly swear that the foregoing statement of the condition of said Association is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief. F. A. PENNELL, Secretary. Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 17th day of July, 1908. STELLA FULLER, Notary Public. Approved: J. A. WILCOX, W. B. MILLS, E. HANSON, Directors.

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Agent of Lincoln Land Co. and of McCook Water Works. Office in Postoffice building.

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THE GENTLE ALLIGATOR.
Getting Him Out into the Open For the Camera Man.

I have seen a barefoot boy when the alligator refused to respond to his call wade in the mud to his waist, explore with his toes till he felt the wiggle of the gator; beneath them, then worry him to the surface, grab him by the nose before he could open his jaws and tow the creature ashore to be photographed. When an alligator that we were hunting crawled into his cave I held a noosed rope over his mouth while the boy poked a stick through the mud until it hit the creature in his hiding place, and soon I had him snared, ready to be dragged out on the prairie and tied, to be kept till the camera man was ready for him; then we turned the reptile loose on a bit of prairie, and the boy and I, armed with sticks, headed him off when he tried to escape, while the camera man, with his head in the hood of his instrument, followed the creature about, seeking for evidence in the case of reason versus instinct. When the camera man was through with him the alligator was set free, a final shot being taken at him as he walked off. Our hunter boys could never be made to comprehend our reasons for restoring to the creatures their freedom. They understood the photographing, but when this was done why not collect a dollar for the reptile's hide? Their manner implied that to this question no sane answer was possible.—A. W. Dimock in Harper's Magazine.

ECONOMY IN ITALY.

The Roman Season the Only Time When Real Luxury is the Rule. During the greater part of the year we have only the servants that are necessary—my husband's valet, one butler, the porter who stands at the entrance to the palace and a general utility country boy who in the afternoon puts on a livery and acts as footman. The women servants are a cook, a scullery maid, a laundress and two maids besides my own personal one. This list is not as extravagant as the same would be in America. Wages are nothing by comparison. One can get a good lady's maid for \$10 a month, a competent butler for \$10, a cook for \$10, a chambermaid for \$8. Their fare would seem coarse to the spoiled servant of America, consisting, as it does, chiefly of bread, soup, macaroni and fruit, with tea and coffee of an inferior grade and fresh meat once a week. We spend nothing that we can possibly help until the Roman season. Then we have enough surplus to get an additional number of maids and a long row of footmen (these for the most part young women and men from the village of our own estate), and both in our country villa and in our Roman palace we open all the rooms that for eight months have been closed and for four months live in luxury.—An Expatriate in Everybody's Magazine.

The Angler Fish.
A singular superstition about the angler fish is entertained in some parts of Sweden (Bohuslan), according to Malm and Smitt. "It is so feared by many that the tackle is cut as soon as the 'monster' reaches the surface, and its captor hurries home in order to get there, if possible, before the misfortune portended by the monster overtakes him." The extreme of misfortune—death—is believed by some to be indicated. Nilsson tells that the Swedish fishermen on the banks "believe that on board the vessel on which an angler is taken some one is doomed to die soon. They therefore never or hardly ever take the angler on board, but prefer to cut the line and thus lose the hook with the fish."
An anemometrical faculty is attributed to the angler in Massachusetts. According to Storer, "among the fishermen in some parts of the bay there is a common saying, 'When you take a goosefish, look out for an easterly storm.'"

A Human Foot Warmer.
It is interesting to learn that Julius Caesar found our Celtic ancestors just snuffing themselves with smoke. Giraldus, the early Welsh historian, describes a family as sitting round their smoky central fire by day and lying round it by night. But they could have had little comfort from it, for the same historian tells us that one of their princes eked out his fire with a human foot warmer. This officer's duty was to keep his master's feet warm by cherishing them in his bosom during meals. For this purpose he squatted under the table, and no doubt it "did him proud" so to nurse the royal moccasins.—T. P.'s London Weekly.

Why He Was Angry.
"You made a mistake in your paper," said an indignant man, entering the editorial sanctum of a daily journal. "I was one of the competitors at an athletic entertainment last night and you referred to me as 'the well known lightweight champion.'"
"Well, are you not?" inquired the sporting editor.
"No; I'm nothing of the kind," was the angry response, "and it's confoundedly awkward, because I'm a coal dealer."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Thought He Was Going to Shave.
The new rubber in the Turkish bath had formerly been a barber.
Thus it was when his first patron came in that the new rubber looked him over and said pityingly, "Wash yourself sometimes, don't you?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Spare minutes are the gold dust of time, the portions of life most fruitful in good or evil, the gaps through which temptations enter.—Mrs. Thrall.

Lived on the Spineless Cactus.

Is cactus good to eat? Yea, verily, says Dr. Leon M. Landone of Los Angeles, who has lived well for two weeks at a stretch on cactus exclusively. Dr. Landone subsisted upon the spineless cactus developed by Luther Burbank, the California fruit and vegetable wizard. For ten years Mr. Burbank patiently experimented with the pesky cactus of our great deserts, which is covered with perilous stickers like quills upon the fretful porcupine, so that man or beast avoids it instinctively. Burbank believed that by patient cultivation he could eliminate the spines. He has done so, producing a very gentle and harmless breed of cactus that can be caressed with the naked fingers without injury.
Dr. Landone, being a scientific investigator, proposed to ascertain if the spineless cactus would sustain human life, and he proved that it would. At first he lost a little weight, but later he regained the loss, and at the end of the fortnight's novel diet he was very fine and fit. During those two weeks he did much mental and manual labor without feeling any more fatigue than he feels when doing similar work under a general diet.
The spineless cactus is no better food than the spined cactus. It is merely safer and more comfortable eating. The only reason why cattle on the great plains where cacti grow have not eaten them to their fill these many years is the reason eliminated by Burbank—the spine. Indians and some white men have eaten cactus and found it palatable and nutritious. Now that the Burbank brand of stickerless cactus bids fair to become general in time if properly cultivated, it is believed that the problem of cattle grazing on the semiarid desert areas of our great west and southwest will be solved by the simple matter of letting the cows and steers eat cactus when the grass runs out or when they prefer cactus to grass.
On the far western deserts the cactus grows to a bulk of 600 pounds in

THE STUPID SWAN.
Graceful and Beautiful, the Bird is a Nincompoop.
To the mind of the average farmer nothing which walks on two legs is quite so stupid as a hen. He is mistaken, though, for there still remains that beautiful, graceful nincompoop, the common swan. The swan is so stupid that it will stand in the shallow part of a pond and allow the water to freeze round its legs till the ice is so thick that it cannot lift its feet and it is stuck fast. Not infrequently owners of these handsome but witless birds are compelled to chop away sufficient ice to make it possible for them to withdraw their imprisoned feet.
The stupidity of the swan in this respect is emphasized by the intelligence exhibited by ornamental ducks when the weather turns cold. As night comes on and the water begins to freeze the ducks begin swimming in a wide, well defined circle. Round and round they go during the entire night, keeping all the water within that circle free from ice, so that when the day dawns they can float about and doze in the sun. Ducks are always most active during the night and choose the day for sleeping.
But to return to the swan. If you find one of these birds some distance from the water and startle it, the swan will rush a few feet toward the pond and then drop down on the ground and try to go through the motions of swimming, apparently unable in its fright to realize that it has not yet reached the water.
Neither is the common swan a good fighter. The black swan, although one-half its size, is invariably the victor in the combats which are sometimes engaged in and generally kills its antagonist. The black swan usually provokes the fight, too, for it is rather a quarrelsome bird.—Washington Star.



DR. LANDONE AND A SPINELESS CACTUS.

three years. Every pound is said to make excellent food for man or beast. The lonesome mining prospector or "desert rat," otherwise the man who lives in the desert because he likes it, will find a new food right at hand. There are various species of cacti. The plants grow in any climate this side of the frigid zone. Millions of acres of land which, unirrigated, will produce nothing else may be cultivated to cactus, thus adding billions of dollars to the national wealth—if the food claims of the spineless cactus are substantiated in actual test.
While it is not at all likely that the average man will care to confine his diet to the cactus plant, Dr. Landone's successful experiment is valuable as showing that in case of emergency one need not starve so long as cacti abound. The prospector lost on the desert whose food supply runs out may preserve life until succor comes or until he reaches friends and food by plucking and preparing cactus for his palate. The prickly pear which the plant bears, heretofore so near and yet so far because of the stickers, seems destined to render desert life much less perilous than heretofore.
It is asserted by some students of the matter that Mr. Burbank's spineless cactus triumph will prove in the end to be of greater material benefit to the semiarid regions than will any other of his marvelous productions in the vegetable and fruit world. Granting such importance as this, the experiment of Dr. Landone may be looked upon as a serious contribution to scientific knowledge and in nowise as a mere freak undertaken for purposes of notoriety. Despite this fact, however, a wag asserts that the doctor has shown that he possesses a good deal of backbone by living for two weeks on spineless cactus.
Mr. Burbank has got the cactus plant to a stage where he can dive into it headlong, taking the great leaves and rubbing his face and hands against them without any injury to himself whatever. On the section of his farm devoted to the cactus he is able to show the visitor the plant in its various stages of evolution from its original prickly condition to that in which it appears as a plant capable of harming no one. Step by step the plant loses its thorns, like a conscious, intelligent being gradually dropping off crudities and superfluities to emerge into a state approaching as near as possible to perfection.

LITERARY BULLS.

For instance, the "Groat That Gurgles From the Slain."
Macaulay once reviewed a poem in which a climax of absurdity was reached with this line:
And hear at each groan that gurgles from the slain.
The poetic license which lets a groan gurgles from a slain man is capable of letting him walk into town from the field of battle, collect the amount of his life insurance policy and hand it to his widow. It brings to mind the heroic warrior of whom it is said that "thrice he slew the slain" and the Irish member of parliament who exclaimed the house of commons by exclaiming that he would die as a soldier first and a man afterward.
But, strange to say, Macaulay himself has made a similar blunder. In his "Battle of Lake Regillus" the following lines occur:
The shouting of the slayers
And screaming of the slain.
Did these writers make these slips in the heat of battle or were they testing the intellectual acuteness of their readers? There is a story of a German schoolmaster who used to call out his class in history and begin to tell them of the Thirty Years' war. "Yes, children," he would say, "this is a subject in which I am especially interested, as my grandfather often told me about it. He was a well to do innkeeper, and one day as he was standing in his doorway a mounted soldier came galloping up at a furious rate. 'What's the matter?' asked my grandfather. 'Matter enough,' answered the dragoon. 'Don't you know that the Thirty Years' war has begun today?' At this point the ancient pedagogue would pause and survey his class. Then a smile would overspread his rufined countenance if a hand was raised and a boyish treble asked how the dragoon knew the war would last thirty years. Perhaps our poets, too, would play the schoolmaster and smile if we should ask them how it is possible for the slain to groan or screech.—George Selbel in Pittsburg Gazette-Times.

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Do Fish Feel Pain?

How sensitive to pain are fish? A correspondent writes: "I have a small pond which is stocked with trout. I keep an accurate account of those I catch and note when I lose any. One morning a big rainbow trout broke the worm hook with which I had hooked him. That evening I hooked and landed a good trout, also with worm tackle, which proved to be my friend of the morning, as right down in his stomach was the broken gut and hook, and beside this, in his lip was a March brown fly hook which, according to my fishing book, must have been there many weeks. A fish with a fly hook in his mouth, a worm hook in his stomach and ready to gulp down bait must be quite impervious to what we mortals call pain."

Don't Bear Malice.

A man who harbors malice is liable to commit murder. A man who hates another a long time is sure to get into a fight with him sooner or later, and when the fight finally comes there is likely to be mischief done. Men wait for years for the first blow, and the first blow is liable to be with a deadly instrument. Don't waste your energy in hating people. Such a course would make you wretched and finally get you into trouble.—Acheson Globe.

Water.

Schoolmaster (at end of object lesson)—Now, can any of you tell me what is water? Small and Grubby Urchin—Please, teacher, water's what turns black when you puts your 'ands in it.—Dundee Advertiser.

The attire of some men would seem to indicate that their tailors can't tell the difference between a fit and a confusion.—New York Times.

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