

The Valentine Democrat

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VALENTINE, - NEBRASKA

St. Louis claims to have a bicyclist who is blind. A great many bicyclists ride just that way.

An Eastern contemporary asserts that "the falling off in saloons is largely due to the influence of the bicycle." And vice versa, of course.

The Washington Post has discovered that "a few shirt-waisted girls do not make a summer," but they can easily keep a divorce court busy.

Several esteemed contemporaries recently have asserted that Bob Fitzsimmons "will become an actor." Nonsense! He will go upon the stage; that's all.

Hon. Flab Izzard, of Forest City, Ark., has started for Washington to bag a postoffice appointment. That name clearly entitles him to something.

It is understood that the next number of the Old Woman's Home Journal will contain an article by A. Hamid, of Constantinople on "How to Remove Greece Spots."

A Boston writer says that "the only thing known about angels is that there are none." How that fellow's eyes would be opened if he were to saunter along the streets in this town some afternoon.

The Holland submarine boat is said to be a success. But this government never has experienced any difficulty in getting together a navy which will go under water; it is much harder to keep a navy afloat.

Mr. Langtry insists that he has not been divorced, no matter whether his wife has been divorced or not. Perhaps Mrs. Langtry merely secured a divorce for herself, to be used in case of emergency, like a fire escape.

Laureate Austin has written a jubilee ode in which, referring to the Queen, he says: "Long may she linger." That word "linger" may have a different significance in England from what it has here, but if not it is hardly a gracious term to apply to the old lady.

The man who wrecks a train clearly intends murder. If he does it he should suffer the death penalty for it. Even if he falls he should suffer that penalty as a matter of simple justice and for the restraint of the most reckless form of crime, except arson, known to modern times.

In New York the other day a young fellow cut off the nose of a music hall singer and slashed her husband with a razor. When he was arrested a letter was found in his pocket recommending him as "a young man of quiet tastes and steady habits." Wonder what he would have done if he had not been a quiet fellow?

Chicago Times-Herald: Out in Iowa the other day some fellows tried to rob a bank in the old-fashioned way and failed completely. It served them right, too. In this age of progress, when a pretty typewriter can be hired for \$15 a week, any one who uses dynamite, drills and revolvers deserves to fail.

Home is the chief school of human virtue. Its responsibilities, joys, sorrows, smiles, tears, hopes, and solidities form the chief interests of human life. Go where a man may, home is the center to which his heart turns. The thought of his home nerves his arm and lightens his toll. For that his heart yearns when he is afar off. There he gathers up his best treasures.

Medical science in Europe has discovered that certain forms of bronchial pneumonia and of tuberculosis are directly communicable by means of parrots, the bird being subject to both these diseases. In Genoa eight persons out of fourteen stricken with the bronchial pneumonia died, and in every instance the disease was traced to sick parrots in the stricken families. The ailment is called psittacosis and is hereditary in the birds.

The incident in the Spanish Cortes in which the Duke of Tetuan boxed the ears of Senator Comas, and which was followed by the former resigning from the Ministry, now has a sequel in the withdrawal of the resignation. It is also said that no duel will follow, the affair having been arranged. The Spanish sense of honor is certainly not what it once was or this commonplace ending would be impossible. But then again, a liberal Senator may consider it a privilege to have his ears boxed by a duke.

The national Woman's Christian Temperance Union is taking steps with the aid of the postal authorities to put a stop to the practice of renting post-office boxes to children without the consent of the parents. It is said that this practice has gained quite a headway in large cities and that the results are sometimes for evil. It would be an exceptional condition of affairs which would justify the renting of a box to a minor, and the department would perform a great service if it communicated with the parents before granting this privilege to their children.

One would have thought that the sons of a royal house descended from a nation with so glorious a record as Denmark and reigning over a country like

Greece would have esteemed it a privilege to die upon the field leading their troops rather than to retreat even before a superior force. But the sons of King George are evidently not made of that stuff. Not only has Constantine behaved with pettiness, but his brother Nicholas, if reports do not belie him, also acted with singular cowardice. During the fight at Dokomis he remained in a house and watched the conflict from a window, and when his troops were at last forced to retreat, he led them, as usual, in a carriage. The house of Denmark may not be descended from vikings, but it would seem as if tradition might count for something with its princes. If Leonidas in the shades can communicate with any of those old northern men they must weep bitter tears.

A St. Louis man with a picturesque name, who is at the head of a millionaire dry goods firm in that city and is also president of the Sunday School Teachers' Union there, has been arrested in New York on the charge of trying to smuggle diamonds. When he landed from the steamer \$8,000 worth of the gems were found concealed in a belt around his waist. He indignantly denies that he intended to smuggle and says that the diamonds were intended as presents for the members of the Sunday School Teachers' Union. He and a companion had declared that they had but \$25 worth of dutiable goods on their persons. His partner at home says that someone will pay dearly for the outrage, meaning the arrest, and that if the arrested man had dutiable goods he was ignorant of that fact. Here is a man who imports many thousands of dollars' worth of goods every year, and who probably knows the schedule almost by heart, trying to evade the law and setting up the plea of ignorance when detected. What sort of an example is this for a respected man to give the public? What would he do to one of his clerks whom he caught taking goods from the store at less than the regular rate or below cost? What will he say to the members of the Sunday School Teachers' Union?

The most practical work of providing cheap and good city and suburban homes for people of moderate means is that undertaken by the City and Suburban Home Company of New York City, the annual report of which has just been made. This organization, which is a member of the united charities of the metropolis, is backed by some of the largest capitalists of the place. It is not a philanthropic institution, but proposes to provide these homes at rates at once satisfactory to the workmen and to the man who invests his money. It is no visionary, utopian scheme, but one which has been thought out by practical business men, assisted by the experience of similar plans abroad. The stock of the company, or at least the first issue of it, amounting to \$1,000,000, has all been placed since December of last year, and it is good to know that the greater part of it has been taken by small investors. The shares are \$10 each, and out of the 510 shareholders 300 own fifty shares or less each and 185 own ten shares or less. Three building sites have already been purchased and work has been begun upon one of these. It will contain 275 apartments of either two, three or four rooms each and five stores. These homes will be sold to people of moderate incomes upon the monthly payment plan, an interest rate of 6 per cent, being charged on deferred payments and a life insurance, the whole amounting to a little more than is charged for ordinary rentals for similar places. The second site is also in the city, but the third is in the suburbs. The apartments will be modern in every respect, and will be constructed with especial relation to the best sanitary conditions of city life. It will be but a short time before other cities will have to take up this problem, and the experience of New York will therefore be watched with more than the usual interest.

An Eccentric Novelty.

The early muffs were small and made of satin or velvet, lined with fur; the leopard skin came in with Queen Anne. There is a print of an Elizabethan lady with a small muff hanging from her girdle; before this date it was probably looked upon as an eccentric novelty, at least in England. A full century before, a Venetian grande dame had carried her lapdog in her muff; a fashion that continued for a long season, and found its way into France. In Paris muffs were made for this express purpose. French sumptuary laws descended to notice such minor details as the color of a muff. The bourgeoisie was obliged to restrict himself to somber black; the noble might please himself. Under Louis XIV., therefore, the mancheron of the courtier was brilliant with gold lace and embroidered ribbons.

Not the Same Thing.

A man who is fortunate enough to grow old slowly, is apt to be disagreeably surprised when he encounters any of his less fortunate friends. It is related of Emile Augier, a French author, whose statue was recently dedicated in Paris, that on a public occasion an old, bent, broken man seized his hand, and exclaimed: "Why, how are you, old fellow?" Augier, who showed very little effect of advancing years, seemed somewhat taken aback. "Why, don't you know me, old boy? We were classmates." Augier greeted him affectionately, and then went on, remarking to other friends who were present: "Well, I knew that man was just my age, but I didn't dream I was his!"

We have always had an idea that some day scientists will discover that the gooseberry has a crop in its stomach, full of sand and stones, like the chicken.

LABOR ON THE FREE LIST.

One of the best speeches made in the house while the Dingley bill was being discussed was made by John C. Bell of Colorado. With facts which are indisputable and logic which is unanswerable he exposed many of the fallacies of protection. His exposure of the absurd claim that protection helps the workman is especially good. Here is a part of it:

"But our friends upon the other side say that they levy a tariff for the benefit of the wage-workers. I say to you that any tariff bill, I care not from whom it comes, that does not contain a provision for prohibiting the free importation of goods from foreign countries is obnoxious to the rights of labor and is opposed to the interest of all wage-workers. [Applause.]

"Protection is always asked in the interest of others. Now, observe how it is asked in behalf of the poor laborer man—just enough to cover the difference between the European scale of wages and our own. What hypocrisy! Who ever heard of the laboring man getting rich manufacturing? The statisticians clearly figured from the census of 1880 that about 6 per cent on our dutiable list would cover the difference between the European wage schedule and ours, or that about 18 per cent ad valorem covered the entire labor cost of our list of 1880. While the manufacturer then asked for the poor laborer his 6 per cent he got for himself at the hands of congress six times 6 per cent.

"Is there any reason why a high tariff affects wages injuriously? Yes; by enabling employers to build up a vicious trust system for the manufacturer and against the laborer.

"In the review of R. G. Dun & Co., in their weekly review of trade, dated Feb. 12, it is stated:

"No other event of the week approaches in importance the disruption of the steel rail pool. In two days," says the report, "after it a greater tonnage of rails was probably purchased than the entire production of the last year, reported at 800,000 tons. And instead of \$28 in December and \$25 in January, \$17 is now the price at which works east and west are seeking orders. And further," says the report, "the Carnegie company has been selling at \$17, Chicago delivery. These sales will employ many thousand hands, with an important decrease in the cost of track laying on renewal of railroads."

"Now, my friends, let me ask you, was it the rising or lowering price that employed these thousands of men? Our friend Mr. Hopkins of Illinois tells of the benefits of a higher duty on iron and steel. Did the steel rail pool need more tariff?

What is the difference in giving manufacturer a double profit through a high tariff or through a pool? Do they ever share the profits of the pool with labor? No. Will they ever share the profits of a tariff? Never.

"It takes no political economist to answer these questions. If the United States manufacturers can reap twice the profit under a high tariff by limiting themselves to the home market and running half time, why should they run full time and invade foreign markets? They never will. They will sit down comfortably and sell their limited supply of goods for increased profits, making them more than whole, while the laborer tramps the country in search of work just as he now does under the trust system.

"It is unfortunate that the humdrum of the tariff has been sounded in the ears of the people until many of them really believe that foreign trade is unimportant, if not a curse. Why did the breaking of the steel rail pool put so many men to work? It was because the consequent lowered price for iron and steel brought most liberal orders from abroad as well as at home. Suppose the tariff had been prohibitive and we would have been confined to the home market. Would the manufacturers have made so many goods? No, but they would have doubled their profits on what they did make. The people could not have bought so many because of the increased price. Who would have suffered? First, the workmen, because they would have had fewer goods to make; secondly, the consumer, because he could not have bought so many at a higher price. Who would have benefited? The manufacturer, because he might have made and handled less goods, made a double profit, and really have gained, as he would have had fewer to handle for the same profit.

"This bill will increase the manufacturer's profits on the individual articles, but will lessen the power of the people to buy or use his wares.

"It is the poverty of the buyer, not the producer, that must be relieved before things will thrive.

"The manufacturer has every facility to produce, but no facility to sell. It is the consumption that must first be stimulated, and that will stimulate production.

"There are but a few crumbs in this bill to aid the oppressed farmer of the interior or the laborer, but thousands of things to further oppress him. Higher sugar, higher salt, higher lumber, higher clothing, higher manufactured products and absolutely nothing to raise the price of labor—a high tariff on labor's products, limiting the demand for his labor by narrowing the market, but throwing the ports wide open for the free importation of other laborers from foreign countries to freely compete with his work.

"Consistency, thou art a jewel!"

The Way It is Done.

From the way the Senate is proceeding with the new tariff bill it is easy to see that the difficulties which have arisen between the rival monopolies and trusts that contributed to McKinley's election will be smoothed out; not by a free and open discussion, but through secret conferences and dickers. The clashing claims for "recognition" will be harmonized "on the dead quiet" and a public scandal will be avoided.

Every interest that contributed its

THE LATEST BULLETIN.



money on the Republican side in the last campaign is clamoring for more protection than it expects to get on the old principle that if you aim to hit the sun you will throw higher than if you aim to merely knock down the apple on the tree. Each will, therefore, content itself with what it is awarded, and hold its peace for the sake of the general cause of public license to plunder.

The entire proceedings at Washington is characteristic of Republican legislation. The underlying principle is in each tariff schedule that if you want this, I want that, and if you take that, I will take this. And the robber tariff-dinkers know too well that they cannot afford to quarrel with each other, or in public.—New York News.

Swapping Free Hides For Dutiable Sugar.

"The senate tariff bill as a whole," says ex-Congressman John De Witt Warner, "is a notice to eastern manufacturers of what they may hereafter expect. Hitherto they have considered protection as a sort of providential arrangement by which they were enabled to feed on the rest of the country. Now, like Polonius in 'Hamlet,' they are invited by a certain codification of political worms to a supper 'not where they eat, but where they are eaten.' The manufacturers of New England, New York and Pennsylvania are to take their turn at being mulcted for the benefit of others who now control legislation. This applies especially to the hide schedule."

"Cannot the New England senators secure favorable changes in that schedule?"

"I think not. The bill as it stands is satisfactory to the Sugar trust and probably cannot be kept so except by the votes controlled by the Cattle trust of the west. Were the New England senators willing to risk offending the Sugar trust, they could doubtless defeat the duty on hides, but the fact is that Boston and Providence, in proportion to their size, are far more thoroughly saturated with Sugar trust influences than is any other part of the country, and, however much Senators Aldrich, Wetmore, Hoar and Lodge may bewail the fate of their boot and shoe manufacturers, there is no prospect whatever that they will sacrifice the Sugar trust interests to help them."



Senator Hoar—That (free) hide has been in the family 25 years, and it almost breaks my heart to part with it.

Senator Allison—You needn't snivel. Keep your old hide if you want to, but you can't get any sugar (profits). See?

To Promote Trade by Strangling. McKinley went to Philadelphia the other day to pronounce his benediction upon what purports to be a movement for the promotion of commerce between the United States and other countries.

How much his heart is in any genuine movement of that kind appears from his speech at the big banquet in the evening. He told the Philadelphians that it would do them no good to grumble because a new law to make showers of prosperity fall was not passed in a day. And he went on to say: "A tariff law half made is of no practical use except to indicate that in a little while a whole tariff law will be done, and it is making progress. It is reaching the end, and when the end comes we will have business confidence and industrial activity."

This was fine talk, surely, at a gathering ostensibly assembled in the interest of foreign commerce. Everybody present knew that the pending bill was framed from beginning to end not to promote commerce, but to restrict it. Everybody knew that it was hostile to trade even with those countries for whose custom the Philadelphians were bidding, and that with its high duties on wool and hides it was admirably calculated to repel the foreign guests of honor at the banquet.

Yet the President fully indorsed this measure of war on commerce, and he assumed that the Philadelphians pres-

THE LOVELY CZARINA.

She is the Most Charming Sovereign Lady in All Christendom.

"They are good, honest people," was the comment recently made by a distinguished member of the Society of St. Petersburg, concerning his young Emperor and Empress. It is a strange compliment to be addressed to people of their rank. Yet it serves to portray them as they are and to convey the impression which Nicholas and his lovely wife produce upon all those with whom they are brought into contact. Sincerity and absence of affectation are even still more rare at the courts of the old world than they are in modern society. Indeed, court life is made up to a great degree of shams and artificiality. When, therefore, one finds people there who are entirely natural and thoroughly sincere, it is like a sort of bright and cheering sunshine piercing through the haze and fog.

This sincerity on the part of the young couple is in a great measure due to the influence of the Czarina, who may be said to have inherited all the many qualities not only of her lamented mother, the late Grand Duchess Alice of Hesse, but likewise of her venerable grandmother, Queen Victoria. The Czarina lost her mother—the most brilliant, attractive and popular of all British princesses—at a very early age, and from that time forth her English relatives took charge of her; her aunts, Princess Beatrice and the Princesses Maud and Victoria of Wales, being especially devoted to her. But the one who most fully assumed the place of her mother was good old Queen Victoria herself, and it was to her that "Sunny" (the pet name by which the Czarina used to be known among her relatives) turned for counsel when hesitating between her love for Nicholas on the one hand and her reluctance to abandon the faith in which she had been reared on the other. The advice which Queen Victoria gave her is best shown by the fact that the marriage took place.

What is so winning about the Czarina is her eagerness to please, the manifest deficiency of her sentiments, the innocence of a mind that is far above the average in the quality of its intellect, and last, but not least, the lovely face, exquisite figure and perfect carriage, all of which contribute to make her the most charming sovereign lady in Christendom.

A Railroad Above the Clouds.

There are several places in the world where the iron horse actually climbs up mountain sides to spots which are situated far above the clouds. In Peru they have built a railway over one of the most elevated ribs of the Andes, and in Switzerland the steam engine snorts and puffs around and up the sides of peaks where it was formerly considered hazardous for a sure-footed Alpine climber to attempt to worm his way.

The engineers of the United States have been equally as enterprising as those of Europe and the Spanish Republics of South America. They have proven that there is no mountain too broad to be tunneled or too high for them to send a locomotive to the summit. The plateau on the top of Pike's Peak was once thought to be almost inaccessible to human beings as are the canals of Mars to mundane navigators. To-day all is changed. Since 1891 the locomotive has made its regular trips up the sides of the "Pride of the Rockies," seemingly doing it with as much ease as the "regular" makes the journey from the Union station at Kirkwood.

At one time the Pike's Peak "hog" was the most elevated railroad in the world, its upper terminus being at a spot 14,147 feet above the beach line at Galveston, Texas. Since the Peruvian railway, mentioned above, was built, the Pike's Peak "elevated" takes a back seat. It is still a wonder in engineering, however, being nine miles long (high), and having several grades of 25 per cent. The engines used on this queer railroad weigh forty tons.

Have the Lantern Ready.

A good lantern should be considered indispensable on the farm. It should be kept in perfect order, ready for quick use, should an emergency require its use. It should have a certain place where it should be kept when not in use, and never should be set aside from its regular place of storing for any reason when not in use.

If anything happens at the stables, or there is an alarm at the hen house at night, the lantern will be the first thing needed. If it is in its place, every member of the family knowing where it is, it can soon be ready.

Quick investigation is therefore a mere matter of form under such conditions. It would be very different, however, were a mere haphazard method of caring for the lantern was observed. An alarm comes; John has heard a great commotion among the poultry. He hastens for the lantern; no one knows where it is. Tom had seen it somewhere, and thought the governor had used it last. After five or ten minutes it is found, with no oil in it, and then there is a hunt for the oil can. By the time the lantern is in readiness for use, no knowing what damage this unnecessary delay may have cost.

Birth Statistics at Berlin.

Berlin turned out 48,896 babies in 1895, of which 7,672, over one-seventh, were illegitimate. There were 447 cases of twins and six of triplets. One woman of 45 had her twenty-third child, and one of 31 her fourteenth. There were 264 families with twelve children or over.

If there are not many visitors at a house, it is a sign that the husband wears the pants.



Chicago Chronicle.