

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

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VALENTINE, NEBRASKA.

DAMAGE BY FLAMES.

The Fire-Proofing Work in the Year 1900.

During the year 1900 there were 79, 249 fires in the United States, which burned 109,092 pieces of property and destroyed values represented by \$100, 924,800. An analysis of the causes of these fires shows that 23.13 per cent of the number originated from such as defective stoves and smokestacks, overheated stoves and stoves, friction in machinery, faultily installed or damaged electric wires and lights, oil stove accidents and explosions of gas, stoves, chemicals, dust, etc.

Such common causes as lamp accidents, sparks, careless use of matches, cigars, cigarettes and tobacco pipes, ashes, hot coals, open fireplaces and grates, plumbers' furnaces, candles and gas jets were responsible for 23.85 per cent of the amount of the loss. Property exposed to fire originating on other premises was destroyed to the extent of \$1.05 per cent. Fires originating from crime and mischief, such as incendiarism, tramps, burglars, drunken men, lunatics and mischievous children were responsible for 8.52 per cent of the loss. Fires of unknown origin burned 21.15 per cent. It is estimated, however, that at least 50 per cent of the fires of unknown origin are caused by incendiarism.

Of the causes which may be considered unavoidable, lightning was responsible for 2.15 per cent of the loss. Spontaneous combustion caused 4.25 per cent, the result of careless or ignorant handling of inflammable material. From the foregoing percentages it will be seen that nearly all fires are preventable. That they are not prevented is due in large measure to the fact that the people of this country are ignorant or indifferent as to the reasons for an annual absolute waste which has averaged almost \$140,000,000 in twenty-six years.

It seems to be a popular fallacy, says Arthur E. Harrell in Leslie's Weekly, that a fire insurance policy indemnifies all loss. During the last twenty-six years the fire insurance companies have paid to the property owners of this country a sum aggregating something over \$1,700,000,000. The difference between the amount of the property loss, which is placed in the "fire tables," at \$2,809,714,021, and the amount distributed by the insurance companies represents what has been borne directly by fire sufferers. The companies have collected from policyholders and therefore from the thrifty of this country the amount which they have paid in losses.



The sardine factories of Maine have closed because of the high price of tin.

The world is promised another revolution in fuel by which the oxygen is separated from the air.

Nearly 5,000 colored workers employed in the Southern tobacco factories are members of the Tobacco Workers' Union.

The receipts of live stock this year at Western distributing centers were 21, 253,04 head, an increase of 1,601,610 head over the same time last year.

The great steel trust will be of practical service to New York State in opening the plant of the Troy Steel Company, which has been idle for five years and which once employed 3,000 men.

The controversy as to whether British or American locomotives are the better is a very one-sided affair. The Northeastern Railway of England has just ordered twenty locomotives from a Chicago company.

Carroll D. Wright, Chief of the Labor Bureau, says the number of industrial establishments in the United States increased from 355,415 in 1890 to 653,000 last year. The value of products increased from \$9,372,437,000 in 1890 to not less than \$15,000,000,000 last year.

Great Britain has under construction 477 vessels, with a tonnage of 1,414, 120. The United States has sixty-four vessels under construction, with a tonnage of 232,526. This is a long way behind Great Britain, but it is more than any of the other maritime nations is building.

The industrial Commission's report on trade unionism shows that the membership of labor organizations is increasing rapidly. Nearly 1,500,000 men are now enrolled in such associations, over one-third of this number being affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Where Sedan Chairs Are Still Used. In Orleans, France, especially on Sundays at the hour of mass, the classic sedan chair, as it was known to the gallants of the eighteenth century, is borne through the street by robust carriers, its occupants being aged people and invalids, to whom the jolting of a carriage is intensely disagreeable.

The Clash of Brains. The man of staid and studious turn will struggle day and night to learn; And rival seers will try to show That all his knowledge isn't so.

Nearly every man thinks he has done a great deal for the town in which he lives, if he has not actually made it famous.

STREET CAR CONDUCTORS.

Diplomacy that is Required in the Collection of Fares.

"That man will not last long as a street car conductor," said the observer. "Strange," said his neighbor, "for I had just been thinking what a remarkably good-looking fellow he was, quite above the average in intelligence. What do you see wrong in him?" "Simply that he lacks the fundamental qualification for the position. He is not a harmonizer, and I am afraid he is lazy, for he yielded to a petty temptation. See those two gentlemen seated on opposite sides of the aisle in the front seats? I happen to know those men are violent personal enemies and have not spoken to each other for years. When the conductor went to collect their fares one was holding a nickel in his hand, the other a dime. The carman gathered in the coins, crossed his right arm over and gave the nickel as change to the man with the dime. The coin was still hot from the hand of his enemy, and I saw the blood rise to the man's cheek, and I believe he would have broken loose if he had been sure whether to throw the money in the face of the railroad man or the hated passenger. He fingered the nickel as if it were infected and finally dropped it into his outside coat pocket to cool off. Now, of course, the conductor was not supposed to know the enemies of all his passengers he collected from, but in experienced man with a true conductor instinct would never have taken the chance, and would have dumped the coin into his big pocket, even if he brought it straight out again.

"The case was an extreme one, but every day the carman is called on to use discretion in handling out money. To collect a five-cent piece from a filthy track hand and at once transfer it to a superfine woman of the upper crust is about the limit of indiscretion, but I have seen even that done more than once. There is something especially offensive in the oily warmth of a coin that has been held for several minutes in the hand, and it is a cardinal principle in street railroaders' that each piece shall be passed through the purifying money pouch on its way from passenger to passenger. I saw a curious violation of the rule the other day, when a pretty girl gave a nickel to a new conductor, who passed it across to a dude opposite. The man at once piped out that the coin was no good and entered into violent altercation, which ended in the young woman ringing the bell and leaving the car, although only half way home."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A CONNECTICUT MUNCHAUSEN.

The Rev. Samuel Peters was the Author of Some Good Ones. Once upon a time—to be more precise, in the latter part of the eighteenth century—there lived a worthy Connecticut divine named the Rev. Samuel Peters. Peters was a picturesque personage in his way, but his fame rests entirely upon the fact that he wrote a book. This is one of the most marvelous works ever issued from the press.

It was Mr. Peters, for example, who first discovered and made known to the world that the founder of Yale College was a Rev. Thomas Peters, evidently one of his own ancestors; that at Belows Falls the water flowed so fast that it became as hard as marble, making it possible to float a crowbar upon it; that two most marvelous quadrupeds, the "whappermocker" and the "cuba," evidently the ancestors of the jabberwocky roamed wild in the Connecticut forests; and it is also from Mr. Peters that we first learn of the famous incursion of the Windham frogs. But it was in the early jurisprudence of Connecticut that this expatriate made his most interesting discoveries.

He informed his English readers—and most of them believe the story to this day—that the citizens of the State were forbidden by law to make music, to play on any instrument of music except the drum, trumpet or Jewsharp, and that every male must have his hat cut round, "according to a cap"—the model preferably being the hard shell of a pumpkin. In other words, says B. J. Hendrick in Leslie's Monthly, Mr. Peters was the original promulgator of the Connecticut "blue laws," and his fame as the inventor of many of them is secure.

Why He Hesitated. "I almost hate to win this battle," said the admiral as he took another look at the enemy.

"Why so?" inquired the dapper young flag lieutenant.

"Because these confounded inquiry cases cost so much."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Pictorial Distortion.

"So you are not in favor of suppressing the caricaturists?"

"Certainly not," answered the eminent statesman. "What's the use of suppressing the caricaturists so long as you can't do anything with the amateur photographers?"—Washington Star.

Value of American Cereals.

The cereals (wheat, corn, oats, rye and barley) raised in the United States during the last five years represent a value to the farmer of \$6,250,000,000, or an increase of nearly \$1,000,000,000 over the preceding five years.

Tool Exports in Germany.

American tools are so far ahead of German tools that competition is declared by American tool exporters to be out of the question in Germany.

Cabbies Forbidden.

Parisian cabmen are prevented by city regulation from smoking when driving.

A theatrical angel is probably so-called because his money has wings and flies.

LITERARY LITTLEBITS

Mrs. Humphry Ward has nearly finished her new novel, but as yet she has not announced the title of it. The story is to appear serially, beginning in the spring.

The world is not to be left in ignorance of Maxim Gorky, the new Russian star in literature. Two more stories from his pen are being published. The book will contain an autograph portrait of the author, and a biographical note.

A book on "Mediaeval London," the London of which the greater part suddenly perished in the great fire, will appear shortly. It is written by Dr. Benham, rector of St. Edmund the King, London. An attempt is made to recall the general aspect and the principal features of mediaeval London.

Some little time before his death Sir Walter Besant wrote a biographical sketch of King Edward and Queen Alexandra. It will appear as part of the coronation literature, which promises one way and another, to be fairly bulky. By that time the public will also get the autobiography which Sir Walter Besant left.

One of the books sent forth by old Wynkyn de Worde was the "Nova Legenda Anglie," a set of English legends. This was so long ago as 1516. The work has just been re-edited with fresh material derived from manuscript and printed sources. It has considerable interest for students of early English ecclesiastical history.

Edward M. Alfreid tells the following story in his Unpublished Recollections of Poe: "Mrs. Shelton told me that Poe informed her over and over again that she was the Lost Lenore of The Raven; she also said Poe told her that she inspired his poem, Annabel Lee. She said that he often read The Raven to her, and she described the fire, the pathos, the intensity with which he did it, saying, 'When Edgar read The Raven he became so wildly excited that he frightened me, and when I remonstrated with him he replied he could not help it—that it set his brain on fire.' Mrs. Shelton was beyond middle age when I knew her, but I had many acquaintances who had known her in her youth, and they all concurred in describing her as a beautiful girl. Her distinguishing qualities were gentleness and womanliness. She was just the woman in which such a perturbed spirit as that of Poe would have sought rest and found it. Poe told my father, who was his intimate friend, that of all the English poets he preferred Shelley. My father often said of him that he always found him intellectually the most fascinating man he ever knew, and always a lovable charming companion, except when he was under the influence of liquor, when he would become coarse, gross and vulgar. He also said of him that he had fits of the deepest gloom, and on one occasion, when talking to him, Poe suddenly turned to him with zirconous eyes full of anguish and said: 'I believe God gave me a spark of genius but he quenched it in misery.'"

CURIOSITIES ON RAILWAY TRIP

Experiences Met With by a Man Traveling Around the Globe.

A globe-trotter sends some remarkably interesting notes of a journey round the world to the Pall Mall Magazine. He says: "I traveled from Nagasaki to Yokohama, in Japan, without a break in the journey. The distance is 700 miles, and the best trains require exactly forty-eight hours for the trip. Of these six hours are occupied in crossing the Inland Sea by boat. The first-class fare is £2.50, second class £1.4s and third class one-half of the second. Only an occasional train has a dining car or a sleeping car attached to it. Like everything else in Japan, the railway carriages are toylike, usually have only two or three compartments. In the dining cars you eat from tables hardly larger than little girls have for their dolls. At all stations, which are frequent, you can buy freshly made tea for three-halfpence—pot, cup, tea and all. This you take in the car, and the dishes are thrown out of the window usually. Europeans dislike the prepared luncheons sold in boxes. They consist mainly of boiled rice and undercooked fish. Smoking is permitted in all compartments, for all Japanese men and women smoke almost continually. A native lady enters the carriage, slips her feet from her tiny shoes—which have wood or rice-straw soles, stands upon the seat and then sits down demurely with her feet doubled beneath her. A moment later she lights a cigarette or her little pipe, which holds just tobacco enough to produce two good whiffs of smoke. All Japanese people sit with their feet upon the seat of the car, and not as Europeans do. All of them have first removed their shoes. When the ticket collector—attired in blue uniform—enters the carriage he removes his cap and twice bows politely. He repeats the bow as he comes to each passenger. More than 90 per cent of all the travel in Japan is third-class, and about 2 per cent only is first-class. Nearly all the locomotives are English.

And the Beast.

"Why do you call them 'beauty and the beast,' when he seems such a nice sort of a fellow?"

"Because, you see, he's a literary lion."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

When you suddenly meet a man you hate, ever remark that you hope you are looking well?

It's a Little Zigzag Street.

Every building was erected according to an independent nation as to frontage and rearage. The effect is startling, and after negotiating a few blocks of it you feel like "the crooked man who walked the crooked mile." On sunshiny days the entire population sallies forth and occupies the sidewalk, overflows into the streets and down the little byways onto the beach, with dogs filling all the intermediate space on the ground floor.—Seattle Times.

Farmer Finds a Friend.

Nadeau, Mich., Feb. 3.—Mr. Nelson De Rosier of this place, a prosperous farmer sixty-one years of age, has suffered for years with Kidney Trouble.

He has tried many medicines, but found nothing to relieve him until he began to use Dodd's Kidney Pills, and he has found this remedy to be a friend indeed. He says:

"I thank God that there is one medicine in the world that does help weak and sick humanity. I would earnestly advise every one who has Kidney Trouble to use Dodd's Kidney Pills. They have given great satisfaction in our family."

Wherever Dodd's Kidney Pills have been used according to directions, they have not failed to cure all Kidney Troubles, Bright's Disease, Dropsy, Rheumatism, Lumbago and Backache.

Taffeta glaze, the old glaze silk with a softer finish, is much used for evening gowns.

White and gray is a favored combination in Paris, and also that characteristically French combination, pale blue and pale pink.

ALL UP-TO-DATE HOUSEKEEPERS. Use Red Cross Ball Blue. It makes clothes clean and sweet as when new. All grocers.

Sixty United States naval vessels are now being constructed.

Piso's Cure for Consumption cured me of a tenacious and persistent cough.—Wm. H. Harrison, 227 W. 121st street, New York, March 25, 1901.

Misery loves company, but none of us care to have her visit us.

RED CROSS BALL BLUE. Should be in every home. Ask your grocer for it. Large 2 oz. package only 5 cents.

Just above some of the new-fangled wash-basins a push-button regulates the supply of water.

\$20 A WEEK Straight salary and expenses to men with rig to introduce our Poultry Mixture in country. Year's contract weekly pay. Address: With stamp Monarch Mfg. Co., Box 1,992 Springfield, Ill.

By the use of a process invented at Bridgeport, Conn., wooden doors are being electroplated with copper or brass.

A polecat wandered into the reservoir at Winchester, Va., through an overflow pipe, and in a short time the water became so tainted that the entire supply had to be drawn off.

The largest slaughter house in the world is in Kansas City, Kan.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of J. C. Watson.

Signature of J. C. Watson.



Miss Marion Cunningham, the Popular Young Treasurer of the Young Woman's Club of Emporia, Kans., has This to Say of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—Your Vegetable Compound cured me of womb trouble from which I had been a great sufferer for nearly three years. During that time I was very irregular and would often have intense pain in the small of my back, and blinding headaches and severe cramps. For three months I used Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and aches and pains are as a past memory, while health and happiness is my daily experience now. You certainly have one grateful friend in Emporia, and I have praised your Vegetable Compound to a large number of my friends. You have my permission to publish my testimonial in connection with my picture. Yours sincerely, Miss MARION CUNNINGHAM, Emporia, Kans."

\$5000 FORFEIT IF THE ABOVE LETTER IS NOT GENUINE.

When women are troubled with irregular, suppressed or painful menstruation, weakness, leucorrhoea, displacement or ulceration of the womb, that bearing-down feeling, inflammation of the ovaries, backache, bloating (or flatulence), general debility, indigestion, and nervous prostration, or are beset with such symptoms as dizziness, faintness, lassitude, excitability, irritability, nervousness, sleeplessness, melancholy, "all-gone," and "want-to-be-left-alone" feelings, blues, and hopelessness, they should remember there is one tried and true remedy, Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, at once removes such troubles. Refuse to buy any other medicine, for you need the best.

Mrs. Cunningham invites all sick women to write her for advice. She has guided thousands to health. Address, Lynn, Mass.

The boring of the Simplon tunnel is half done.

Thirty minutes is all the time required to dye with PUTNAM FADE-LESS DYES. Sold by druggists.

The profit on a coconut tree is \$1 a year.

Catarrh Cannot Be Cured

with LOCAL APPLICATIONS, as they cannot reach the seat of the disease. Catarrh is a blood or constitutional disease, and in order to cure it you must take internal remedies. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces. Hall's Catarrh Cure is not a quack medicine. It was prescribed by one of the best physicians in this country for years, and is a regular prescription. It is composed of the best tonics known, combined with the best blood purifiers, acting directly on the mucous surfaces. The perfect combination of the two ingredients is what produces such wonderful results in curing Catarrh. Send for testimonials, free.

P. J. CHENEY & CO., Props., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, price 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

A social club in Paris is composed entirely of deaf mutes.

There are several openings for lawyers in Texas. In that state there are forty counties which are without lawyers. When need arises for legal advice, the residents of these sections have to go outside of their counties to engage lawyers.

The trade of all South America is not equal to that we have with Canada.

Mauve and pink furniture is one of the latest artificiancies—mauvewood, pink satin, brocade and curtains shot with both colors and figured with flowers.

Snails as Window Cleaners.

Snails have long been employed in England for cleaning windows. The creatures are dipped in cold water and then placed upon the pane. They crawl around slowly, devouring all foreign matter and leaving the glass quite bright and clear. They are, of course, used only for upper windows, that are not easily reached from the outside. Water snails also command a ready sale. Almost every aquarium owner keeps a few water snails. They are the best of scavengers, and keep the place as tidy as a new household.

Fine Horses for President.

Capt. John Cobb, a Connecticut sea captain, long resident in Morocco, has secured for President Roosevelt a full blood Arabian saddle horse and will ship it to Washington.

Riveting of boilers and the like is now done almost entirely by a compressed air hammer, which strikes 1,500 times a minute.

It tells on a person—gossip.

THE CHILDREN ENJOY

Life out of doors and out of the games which they play and the enjoyment which they receive and the efforts which they make, comes the greater part of that healthful development which is so essential to their happiness when grown. When a laxative is needed the remedy which is given to them to cleanse and strengthen the internal organs on which it acts, should be such as physicians would sanction, because its component parts are known to be wholesome and the remedy itself free from every objectionable quality. The one remedy which physicians and parents, well-informed, approve and recommend and which the little ones enjoy, because of its pleasant flavor, its gentle action and its beneficial effects, is—Syrup of Figs—and for the same reason it is the only laxative which should be used by fathers and mothers.

Syrup of Figs is the only remedy which acts gently, pleasantly and naturally without griping, irritating, or nauseating and which cleanses the system effectually, without producing that constipated habit which results from the use of the old-time cathartics and modern imitations, and against which the children should be so carefully guarded. If you would have them grow to manhood and womanhood, strong, healthy and happy, do not give them medicines, when medicines are not needed, and when nature needs assistance in the way of a laxative, give them only the simple, pleasant and gentle—Syrup of Figs.

Its quality is due not only to the excellence of the combination of the laxative principles of plants with pleasant aromatic syrups and juices, but also to our original method of manufacture and as you value the health of the little ones, do not accept any of the substitutes which unscrupulous dealers sometimes offer to increase their profits. The genuine article may be bought anywhere of all reliable druggists at fifty cents per bottle. Please to remember, the full name of the Company—CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO.—is printed on the front of every package. In order to get its beneficial effects it is always necessary to buy the genuine only.