

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT

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VALENTINE, NEBRASKA

Sir Robert Ball says the moon is gradually moving away from us. Who can blame the moon?

When people begin to tell a woman how young she looks it is a sure sign that she is growing old.

When you hear a girl lecturing a young man on the evils of smoking it's dollars to hot waffles that the youth is her brother.

The world's greatest steeple climber was fatally injured, at last, by falling from a wagon. Fate continues to have ironical moods.

Probably you will never succeed in breaking into the "Hall of Fame" but you have the privilege of hiring a hall and filling it to suit yourself.

If the wireless telegraph is fully developed over here it would give Yankee Deedle a chance to stick another feather in his cap and call it Marconi.

A Pennsylvania bridegroom whipped twenty college students who tried to kiss his pretty wife. There's a hero who will not have to ask for a court of inquiry.

A Louisville preacher says there are more murders in Kentucky, with its 2,000,000 people, than there are in London with its 7,000,000 population. Up to date, no one questions the statement.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., sapiently informs the young men of the country that success only comes to those who persevere. Some measure of success may also be achieved by choice of a multi-millionaire as a parent.

Public opinion is a much greater factor in legislative and administrative policy than it was in earlier times, because it is more promptly crystallized and more intelligent. The average man reads discussions of living issues and current topics ten times more than his father and a hundred times more than his grandfather did. And, unlike his progenitors, he is apt to read both sides, or all sides, of a question.

The Navy Department recently announced the death of Captain Richard P. Leary of the Marine Hospital, Chelsea, Mass. The name of Captain Leary will go down to fame as that of the first Governor of Guam after it became one of our insular possessions. What he accomplished in Americanizing the Guamanians and making them peaceable citizens is well known. No scandals attached to his administration. On the other hand, he did much for the education, the morals, and the culture of the people. Captain Leary was an eccentric officer in some respects, but he was gallant, patriotic, and highly esteemed by all who knew him intimately.

One of the terrors of matrimony used to be the sure appearance among the wedding gifts of those elaborately ugly objects which could find a resting place only in the spare room known as the "chamber of horrors." To-day the number of friends and relations whose taste cannot be trusted may not have diminished; yet the shops, through a marked improvement of standards among designers and makers, keep the purchasers within safe bounds of taste. The things which are "good" are now the simple things. The best-dressed men and women are the least conspicuous. Furniture is built on simple lines. Architecture shows a classic restraint. Silverware, picture-frames, carpets, wall-papers, even the parlor car and the steamboat—the last thoroughholds of plush and gilt—reveal a tendency away from the frolic toward the dignified. To be sure, the "horrors" are still obtainable. They will exist so long as there are men and women to buy them. The encouraging thing is that those who set the present standards of taste and fashion are on the right side. Their simplicity may be lavish in its scale, yet it remains simplicity; and imitations, although they may be cheap, are often made from the best models. There is more encouragement still in the belief that this admirable restraint in matters of outward taste is but an expression of a broader tendency of the day. The shams and splurges of character were never more out of favor than at present. The broadcloth statesman with his hand in the front of his frock coat is becoming a thing of the past. The clergyman of too professional a manner—the whole Chaddani family, in fact—is disappearing. We no longer seek leaders who shall be different from ourselves; we ask only that they shall be bigger and better than ourselves. Whether in the standards of what we buy or of what we do and are, let us see to it, then, that we choose that simple best which represents the age.

In a paper which was read before the National Prison Congress Charles E. Felton, who was formerly superintendent of the Bridewell in Chicago, made a rigorous plea for the severe punishment of habitual criminals. He urged that the terms of imprisonment for such offenders should be longer and attacked the indeterminate sentence and parole systems. The position he takes is strongly fortified by what has been said on the subject by Robert Anderson, assistant commissioner of police for London, an expert of very decided opinions, founded on long study, observation and experience. Mr. An-

erson declares that while crime, generally speaking, has diminished during the last thirty years, professional crime has increased, and he attributes this curious development to a growing leniency of treatment which is extended to the professional as well as to the less dangerous criminal without any proper discrimination between the two. The "humanity mongers," he thinks, have gone wild with their hobby, and he attempts to recall them to common sense by an appeal to statistics. Among the figures cited are the following: In the year 1869 the total number of felonies relating to property in London was 21,529, and the number of very serious crimes, like burglary, was 559. In 1899 the total number was 16,149, and the burglaries had increased to 2,443. That is certainly a very remarkable showing, which indicates that the modern penal system is radically defective at a point where it should be strong. In coming now to the question of remedies Mr. Anderson also discusses a question of character. He says that the professional criminals are of two classes. One class consists of those who are hopelessly weak, and who yield without resistance to their degenerate impulses. The other comprises persons who pursue a career of crime deliberately and with a full appreciation of its risks. Both classes ought to be segregated from society for the protection of society, and members of the second class are entitled to no sympathy whatsoever. Crime with them is both a business and a sport, and the occasional interruption of short sentences is part of the game.

A few months ago we reviewed some of the beneficial results of the modern tendency toward uniformity in mechanical equipment and working methods. Uniformity of action is quite another thing, and of it there is already too much. Soldiers when marching across a bridge are directed to "break step," in order that the weight and jar of the moving column may be distributed. If they marched in step they might break the bridge down. Some of the most serious problems of the day, particularly in the great cities, arise from practices akin to a universal "keeping step." "Rush hours" on all street cars and other transportation agencies have become recognized periods of great discomfort. There seems to be no remedy, so long as thousands of employees begin work at the same hour in the morning and end it simultaneously at night. In the cities lunch rooms celebrate a "rush hour" with a vengeance, although that is the one time in the day for their patrons when quiet and restfulness should prevail. The very congestion of the great city itself is largely due to the uniformity impulse; much of its work could just as well be done in the suburban area, or even out in the country, where the poor, who suffer most from the crowded tenements, might enjoy wholesome conditions. A New York newspaper recently discussed the practice that has grown up there of making Oct. 1st the date of house-moving. Most leases expire on that day. The result is that furniture-moving vans are so scarce about that time that unless ordered a long while in advance they can hardly be obtained. The business of the paper-hanger and hundreds of interior workers is accordingly concentrated in the autumn months. Such a great rush of work at one period usually means a depression through the rest of the year. Hence, for those who can, it is a good plan to have things done at other times; it helps workers to more steady employment. Nor are the rural districts much behind the cities in some of the effects of too much uniformity. For reasons largely beyond their own control too many persons want to gather crops at the same time. Attempts are now wisely made, especially in raising fruits and vegetables, to widen out the season of each crop as much as possible.

First of Train "Butchers." "I was a water boy on your road nearly fifty years ago," said an old gentleman to the division superintendent of a great railroad.

"A water boy? What is that?" said the superintendent.

"He was the predecessor of what you now call the train butcher or news agent. He was appointed by the conductor of the train and sold newspapers, candies, fruits, etc., to the passengers. He was not limited as to prices and the profits were all his own. He was required to perform various duties, one of the most important being that of furnishing the passengers with drinking water; hence his title, water boy."

"Furnishing the passengers with water?" queried the superintendent.

"Yes. The trains carried no water coolers in those days, but the water boy had a tin can something like a garden sprinkler and he passed through the cars occasionally offering each passenger a drink. Sometimes we had ice at the beginning of a run, but it soon gave out, and we replenished the can at the stations when we stopped long enough."

"I never heard of that before," said the superintendent.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

The Source of Information. "How are you feeling to-day?" asked the personal friend.

"I don't know," answered the monarch yearly. "I haven't read the papers yet."—Washington Star.

Chimney of Paper. A paper chimney 50 feet high and fire-proof is one of the curiosities of Breslau, Germany.

THROW AWAY MONEY.

WASTEFULNESS OF AMERICANS IS COMMENTED UPON.

Loss Large Sums in Postage Stamps—Postoffice Clerk Tells of Several Ways in Which This Is Done—Government the Gainer.

"Foreigners tell me that we Americans are just about the most wasteful people on the face of the round earth," said a stamp clerk in an uptown branch post office the other day, "and I guess that is about the case. I know it's so, if we waste other things the way we do stamps."

"Considering American instinct for the acquirement of dollars, and the fact that stamps are as good as money in this country, it is hard to understand just why such a huge amount of money is literally thrown away every year by wasting stamps."

"Maybe you think I'm exaggerating the truth when I say huge sums, but that's just because you are not in a position to see what goes on. Neither am I personally, but stamps are in my line, and I take pains to ask the delivery superintendent and the receiving clerks a few things occasionally, and what they tell me is astonishing."

"I don't think it can be saying too much to say that Uncle Sam is much more than a million dollars in pocket every year as the result of carelessness in the use of stamps. The government never loses anything by such carelessness, and always gains," says a writer in the New York Times.

"How many do you put loose in a drawer of your desk or in a corner of your pocketbook or wallet and never think of again until you come across them, aged and decrepit, while rummaging about months later? Of course nobody ever thinks of even trying to redeem such stamps. They couldn't if they tried it."

"I shouldn't wonder if you lost 20 cents' worth of stamps yourself in this way every year. Now, the population of Greater New York is approximately 3,500,000. Supposing that the waste of the sort I am talking about averaged 20 cents annually, the total would be something like \$700,000 in Greater New York alone. You may think this is putting it pretty high, and perhaps it is, for of course a good part of the population of the city consists of children, and then there are other classes who seldom use stamps, but it is pretty plain that several hundreds of thousands of dollars are lost to Uncle Sam in this city every year in stamps that are paid for and never used."

"Hot weather used to be responsible for more gain for the postoffice department than any other one cause. Stamps were ruined by the thousand because the gum melted, and they stuck to one another."

"The little oiled paper books of stamps that are sold now and that are getting to be so popular have interfered with this source of governmental revenue. They separate the gummed edges so that they cannot stick together."

"Lots of people are careless about putting stamps on envelopes and paper wrappers. The result is that often before the stamp has been canceled it has fallen off and the letter is held up at the other end of the line until postage is paid."

"A great many more folks put on too much postage. They slap on two 5-cent stamps to a package that needs only one. They are too busy or too indolent to take the trouble to find out whether a package requires 5 or 10 cents postage. It is amazing how ignorant well educated and intelligent people often are about such a common matter of information as the postal rates for different classes of matter. They pay for their ignorance, too, and pay well, altogether."

"Of course there is no way in which to tell just how much money is wasted in these different ways, but it must be plain after what I've said that it's a pretty big fortune every year. The beauty of it is that the government always gets the benefit of any mistakes. If too little postage is put on until the difference is paid. If too much is put on, Uncle Sam simply pockets the excess to which he is not entitled and says nothing."

FOGS AT SEA AND ON LAND.

Curious Differences in Them—Mist Does Not Enter Ships.

There is a fog at sea as well as a fog on land, but one curious difference does not seem to have been noticed. The fog of London and the fog of the sea alike discompose traffic, and omnibuses and steamships alike have had to lay to for safety. But while the London fog gets into your nostrils and baillies even the electric light (though the candle comes out triumphantly, curiously), the very densest fog at sea does not disturb the saloon or the stateroom. While the buzzer is going all around one at sea, the ship itself, so far as the passenger is concerned, is unaffected. Why is that?

The word "fog" has not been traced further back than the sixteenth century, but the thing was known in the early years of the fourteenth. The commons, with the prelates and nobles visiting London for the parliaments and on other occasions, united to petition Edward I. to compel the burning only of dry wood and charcoal, as the growing use of sea coal corrupted the air with its odor and smoke to the great prejudice and detriment of health. In 1306, says the New York Mail and Express, the king prohibited

the use of coal; heavy ransom and fines were inflicted for disobedience. In the case of recalcitrant brewers, dyers and other artificers the furnaces and kilns were destroyed. But the restriction was evidently soon removed, for in 1308 \$250 (probably equal to about \$4,000 now) was paid from the exchequer for wood and coal for the coronation of Edward II.

BETLES FLAVOR THE WEED.

Insect that Luxuriates in the Cheap Brands of Cigarettes.

Smokers of cigarettes who fancy they are judges of the quality of tobacco used in the little "cigar rolls" may be interested in the fact that an insect known as the cigarette beetle gives to the poorer grades that exquisite flavor so highly prized by connoisseurs. Dr. Chittenden, assistant entomologist of the Department of Agriculture, who first discovered the cigarette beetle, has since the date of his first publication on the subject continued his investigation of this peculiar insect, and in so doing managed to accumulate in his office quite a stock of cigars and cigarettes, sent in by various dealers and tobacconists, all of them bored and otherwise eaten by beetles.

One day recently Eugene A. Schwartz of the department of insects, national museum, who, by the way, is a great smoker, dropped into the office of Dr. Chittenden, and seeing the cigars lying about, supposed that the Doctor had laid in a supply for his friends, and selecting one began smoking it. The cigar tasted good.

When Dr. Chittenden came in Mr. Schwartz began praising his cigars. Then it was that Dr. Chittenden was obliged to tell his friend the truth, and when Mr. Schwartz learned that he had been smoking a beetle-infested cigar he said:

"Beetles or no beetles, it is the best cigar I ever smoked," and to test matters further he tried another. In so doing he discovered that cigars are improved in flavor by these insects.

Mr. Schwartz, and for that matter, several other smokers who have tried these cigars are quite positive that a 5-cent cigar bored and otherwise acted upon by these organisms has the flavor of a 25-cent perfect. In other words, they claim that the insects improve the flavor of the cigar, and Dr. Chittenden is awaiting further developments before announcing this unusual and unlooked-for discovery.

HISTORIC INSTANCE OF HONESTY

Negro Charwoman Guarded a Treasury Package Containing \$10,000.

"The most notable exhibition of honesty within the history of the Treasury Department," says a writer in the Ladies' Home Journal, "was made by Sophie Holmes, a colored woman first employed forty years ago by General Spinner—then the Treasurer of the United States—as a temporary charwoman. One afternoon in April, 1862, while sweeping and scrubbing the floor of the issue division she found a package full of crisp thousand-dollar notes, which some careless clerk had neglected to stand guard over the treasure and to confide her secret to no one but General Spinner himself, who slept in the Treasury building during those troublesome war times. She swept the dust of the room into one pile, then another; scattered it about and swept it up again and again, doing thus to keep up the appearance of industry and to make the atmosphere of the room as uninviting as possible to the intruding guards who now and then sauntered in. From sheer weakness she finally fell asleep until past midnight, when, imagining she discerned a figure moving in the room, she groped her way to the valuable bundle, secreted it between two desks, sat upon it, and while continuing her vigil thus fell asleep again. About four o'clock in the morning she was awakened by General Spinner's footsteps. Although she gave the Treasurer a great fright he rewarded her with a life appointment as matron in the issue division. And he did it justly. When the package was examined it was found to contain, some say, thirty thousand dollars; others, seven hundred thousand."

Preparing the Impromptu.

Great orators have generally refused to speak on the spur of the moment on important themes. Demosthenes, the king of orators, would never speak in a public meeting without previous thorough preparation. Daniel Webster, when once pressed to speak on a subject of great importance, refused, saying that he was very busy and had no time to master it. When a friend urged that a few words from him would do much to awaken public attention to the subject he replied: "If there be so much weight in my words it is because I do not allow myself to speak on any subject until my mind is imbued with it." On one occasion Webster made a remarkable speech without notes before the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Harvard University and a book was presented to him. After he had gone a manuscript copy of his eloquent "impromptu" address, carefully written, was found in the book, which he had forgotten to take away.—Philadelphia Post.

An Accomplished Linguist. Cardinal Mezzofanti spoke 114 languages and dialects, fifty of them with such ease and fluency that he was sometimes mistaken for a native of the lands where they were used.

All He Had. Tom—What! A dress suit and russet shoes! That's wretched bad form. Dick—I know, but a dress suit and stockings feet is worse.—Philadelphia Press.

GOVERNOR OF OREGON

Uses Pe-ru-na in His Family For Colds and Grip.



CAPITOL BUILDING, SALEM, OREGON.

A letter from the Executive Office of Oregon.

Pe-ru-na is known from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Leaders of congratulation and commendation testifying to the merits of Pe-ru-na as a cathartic remedy are pouring in from every State in the Union. Dr. Hartman is receiving hundreds of such letters daily. All classes write these letters, from the highest to the lowest. The outdoor laborer, the indoor artisan, the clerk, the editor, the statesman, the preacher—all agree that Pe-ru-na is the cathartic remedy of the age. The stage and rostrum recognizing cathartics as their greatest enemy are especially enthusiastic in their praise and testimony. Any man who wishes perfect health must be entirely free from catharrh. Cathartics are well-nigh universal; almost omnipresent. Pe-ru-na is the only absolute and safe safeguard known. A cold is the beginning of catharrh. To prevent colds, to cure colds, is to cheat catharrh out of its victims. Pe-ru-na not only cures catharrh, but prevents it. Every household should be supplied with this great remedy for coughs, colds and so forth. The Governor of Oregon is an ardent admirer of Pe-ru-na. He keeps it con-

Continued in the house. In a recent letter to Dr. Hartman he says: STATE OF OREGON, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, SALEM, May 9, 1898. The Pe-ru-na Medicine Co., Columbus, O. Dear Sirs—I have had occasion to use your Pe-ru-na medicine in my family for colds, and it proved to be an excellent remedy. I have not had occasion to use it for other ailments. Yours very truly, W. M. Lord. It will be noticed that the Governor says he has not had occasion to use Pe-ru-na for other ailments. The reason for this is, most other ailments begin with a cold. Using Pe-ru-na to promptly cure colds, he protects his family against other ailments. This is exactly what every other family in the United States should do. Keep Pe-ru-na in the house. Use it for coughs, colds, la grippe, and other climatic affections of winter, and there will be no other ailments in the house. Such families should provide themselves with a copy of Dr. Hartman's free book, entitled "Winter Catharrh." Address Dr. Hartman, Columbus, Ohio.

Carried to extremes—the U. S. mail. This life is a story to be continued in our next. When money talks, its conversation is worth listening to. The finger of fate—the one that wears the wedding ring. Spiritualism appeals mostly to people of medium intelligence. A pair of quarrelsome plumbers ought to hit the pipe of peace. Exports to Japan have grown from \$3,000,000 in 1892 to \$18,000,000.

Works for a fair figure—the artist's model. A street car exchange—flirtatious glances. The short card played doesn't object to a long suit. Finally death will also overtake the undertaker. Too bad there wasn't an intermediate patent on original sin. Interesting Information. Teamster—"I say, Mol, you should warn that knife before eatin' with it." His wife—"Why?" "I don't know, but I'm thinkin' it must take the temper out of it or something. Metals is queer things that way. Suddenly warmin' cold iron spoils it." "Who told you?" "An old lady wot passed when I was hitchin' up this mornin' told me I should never put a frosty bit into a horse's mouth."

Smoking and Lung Power. Dr. Jay W. Seaver of Yale finds that because the members of the freshman class of that institution are usually light smokers they have more lung power and can accordingly make more vocal racket in giving the college yell than any of their rivals.

Old Lady—"If the train should happen to run off the track, wouldn't these stoves set the cars on fire?" Brakeman—"No danger, ma'am. The only bad places in this road are on the bridges."

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