Real Trouble.

Gunner—Have you heard about De-Rock's wife? She said she intended to give him trouble.

Guyer—You don't mean it. And did she?

Gunner—I should say so. She gave him one of those big racing automobiles for a Christmas gift and it tossed him over a barn the first time he took a ride in it.

Granted.

"My client desires a stay," said the lawyer, reaching for some papers.

"The court is glad to find your client amenable to the situation," replied gravely the gentleman on the bench; "the stay will be for ten years."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Facts About the Oceans.

If a box six feet deep was filled with sea water, which was then allowed to evaporate, there would be two inches of salt left in the bottom of the box. Taking the average depth of the ocean to be three miles, there would be a layer of salt 240 feet thick covering the bottom, in case all the water should evaporate. In many places, especially in the far north, the water freezes from the bottom upward.

Waves are deceptive things. To look at them one would gather the impression that the whole water traveled. This, however, is not so. The water stays in the same place, but the motion goes on. In great storms waves are sometimes forty feet high and their crests travel fifty miles an hour. The base of a wave (the distance from valley to valley) is usually considered as being fifteen times the height of the wave. Therefore, a wave twenty-five feet high would have a base extending 375 feet.

The force of waves breaking on the shore is seventeen tons to the square inch.—Sunday Magazine.

A John Bull and an Irish Bull.

A notice at a small depot near Manchester reads:

"Passengers are requested to cross over the railway by the subway."

This reminds us of the oft-quoted notice put up at the ford of an Irish river:

"When this board is under water the river is unpassable."—Judge.

Editorials

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

CONSUMPTION OF MEAT.

A LARGE per capita consumption of meat is characteristic of prosperous times and of countries in which the individual earning capacity of the working classes is high. It is not a matter of surprise, therefore, to find, in a late government report, that the United States far exceeds all other countries except those of Australia in per capita meat consumption. Cuba stands third on the list.

The consumption in this country amounts to almost exactly half a pound daily for each person—185 pounds a year. That of Great Britain is one-third less, and the amount diminishes in several European countries, down to Sweden, where the average consumption is only one-third as much as that of the United States.

Australia is a great grazing country, meat is cheap, and the inhabitants will eat nothing but the choicest of fresh meat. The average consumption of meat in Australasia amounts to almost three-quarters of a pound daily for each person. Both there and in Cuba the climate requires that meat be eaten on the same day the animal is killed. The high figures, therefore, include a very large proportion of waste.

Vegetarians will derive comfort from the report that meat consumption in the United States has declined about two-fifths since 1840. There was a sudden increase in 1890, but since then the decline has been more pronounced. The reason for this is the introduction, or rather the cheapening and the rendering more accessible, of other energy-producing foods, especially sugar, the consumption of which has increased since 1840 from fourteen pounds to the individual to more than seventy-six pounds.

Of the meat produced in the United States, about one-eighth is exported. The magnitude of the industry as a whole may be judged from the fact that the capital which it represents is more than ten and a half billion dollars—about the same as the net earnings of all the steam railroads in the country.—Youth's Companion.

SQUELCHING THE SPARROW.

THE English sparrow has been declared the buccaneer of bird life in many sections of the country, and outlawed accordingly. If in Massachusetts all should come to it that the statutes prescribe its lot would be an unhappy one, indeed. "The officers having charge of public buildings in cities, and such officers as the Selectmen designate and appoint in towns, shall take and enforce such reasonable means and use such appliances, except poison, as in their judgment will effectively exterminate the English sparrow in such city or town." Thus, it is the purpose of the law not only to exterminate it, but to exterminate it "effectively." Furthermore, it is expressly excluded from the protection that the law places around other birds, and all persons are forbidden to give it harbor or succor under well-defined penalties. To a considerable, perhaps we might almost say to a general, extent there is more deadness in the law than in the birds at which its grim provisions are aimed. Some of our foreign bird shooters may take advantage of this special license to hunt them for culinary purposes, but as a rule they seem to multiply and thrive. There are more crumbs than stones cast their way in the cold days of winter, and without their plucky companionship, which they maintain at the cost of braving its frost and storms, we might experience a sense of loss. But Michigan is tired of them. On the 1st of the month a new law will go into effect authorizing the payment of a bounty of 2 cents a head for sparrows. This will continue in force until the last day of February, and be resumed for similar periods during following years. The probable effect of this will be to encourage the sparrows for nine months in order that they may be more numerous when the harvest is ripe.—Boston Transcript.

FORESTS MUST BE PRESERVED.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT does not exaggerate when he says, in his message to Congress, that "the country is unquestionably on the verge of a timber famine which will be felt in every household in the land." The present annual consumption of lumber is three times the annual growth, and, if it continues, all our timber will be exhausted in another generation.

These are facts, and the country must face them. If we do not largely extend our national forest territory, if we do not exchange our present system of reckless and improvident waste for one which will give the public full use of mercantile timber without detriment to forests, the country will be denuded of forest trees in a few years. The consequences that would follow such a course, the drying up of water courses, the blight of aridity, the change of climate, are so serious that they should make people consider them at once.

There should be no delay, as the President says, in taking preventive measures. We must check immediately the insensate greed of persons who find it to their immense advantage to destroy forests by lumbering, and not allow them to sacrifice the future of the nation to their own self-interest of the moment. But above all we must create a healthful public sentiment in favor of forest preservation, for these men, blameworthy as they are, yet are not so much to blame as the public indifference which enables them to proceed with their disastrous work.

Congress should take this matter up at the earliest possible moment and appropriate whatever funds may be necessary to put the project into execution. Such action would be approved by every patriotic American.—Chicago Journal.

THE FARMER'S OPPORTUNITIES.

GERMAN ingenuity not long ago created a flourishing industry based on the substitution of mashed potatoes for wood in the manufacture of lead pencils. Consul Kehl, at Stettin, now reports even more remarkable transformations of skim milk. The milk is dried, vulcanized and pressed, when it resembles vulcanized rubber or celludoid. Fifteen gallons of skim milk will produce eighteen ounces of the new substance, which can be made to imitate ivory, tortoise shell, amber, marble or coral. It can be pressed into any desired shape, can be sawed, cut and polished like natural horn, and is not affected by oils, grease, ether or benzine. It sells at from 45 to 90 cents a pound. These are rosy days for the farmer. When his milk fails to pass inspection he can transfer it into side combs or billiard balls. When his potatoes are not fit to eat he can take his choice between turning them into alcohol to run his automobile and lead pencils to figure out his profits.—Collier's Weekly.

"Sure!" said the young man with the complacent expression, heartily. "That's all right. I ain't saying nothing against that. Once in a while I'd jest about as soon stay at home and turn down the gas in the front room myself. I do once in a while. All the same I ain't ashamed to take her around with me and let folks see what I've copped out."

"Neither am I," said his friend with the new patent-leather button shoes. "You needn't think that yours is the only one there is. There are others. I guess yes."

"I ain't saying nothing about that," said the complacent young man, soothingly. "But, say! When she gets on that new chowchow lid of hers and them long-arm gloves and the rest of her glad rags if she ain't a queen I don't want a cent."

"I ain't stuck much on them hats myself," said his friend.

"It takes a girl who knows how to put on style to wear 'em, all right," said the complacent young man. "That's where Madge shines. She's there with the goods when it comes to style. She's got 'em all faded. When I go with her any place I know that I ain't going to see nothing that puts it over her."

"She ain't got no more style about her than what Liz has," said the young man with the new patent-leather shoes.

"I ain't sayin' nothin' about Liz," said the complacent young man. "Liz is all right," he added, kindly. "But you know Madge. That's the reason I like to take her out. She's the winner. And she ain't like some of 'em who ain't got a word to say for themselves. I ain't see none of them kidders that we've got in the push get away with Madge when it come to a showdown. She can come right back at 'em and she can start something herself. You take and put her in any bunch you've a mind to and she's the pickles. You ain't never seen her dance, have you?"

"Yes, I've seen her," replied the young man with the new patent-leather shoes, gloomily.

"Ain't she a wonder?"

"Did you ever see Liz do the cakewalk?"

"Madge does the cakewalk," said the young man with the complacent expression, in a tone that implied that cakewalk possibilities were exhausted in Madge. "But cakewalking ain't nothing to some of them fancy steps she can do when she's a mind to. She took dancing lessons of Prof. Sander and it wasn't a week afore she'd caught on to all he knew and then some. He owned up to it himself. 'You ought to start a dancin' school of your own,' he says to her. 'I can't teach you nothing,' he says. That's right, too. It ain't no jolly.

"When we go up to the hall I hear the boys talking about her. 'There's the fairy!' 'That peach with the pink ribbons can have me!' There's some guys would get sore when they heard the kind of talk I hear, but it doesn't hurt me none. I know I'm the candy boy, and it's all right. You can't help saying something when you see a queen like Madge is. There ain't nobody could, so what's the use of feeling sore and starting a fuss about it? If I started something every time a guy said something about Madge I'd have to go into training. No, just as long as they don't get fresh with her I'd jest as soon they'd look and talk about what a little peacherino she was as not. It tickles me to think that I've got the edge on 'em. Madge——"

"I'll tell you one time I was up to the hall with Liz," said the young man with the new patent-leather shoes, "and while she was a-dancin'——"

The young man with the complacent expression began to laugh.

"What's the matter?" inquired his friend.

"Oh, nothing," replied the complacent young man. "Only you're all the time wanting to talk about Liz."—Chicago Daily News.

ART OF THE ETRUSCANS.

Mysterious People Who Left Traces of a Remarkable Civilization.

Why did the Etruscans devote their whole lives to the incessant making of pottery until it accumulated in such quantities that they were compelled to bury it in order to keep room for themselves in their streets and houses?

Then, again, there is the mystery of the Etruscan inscriptions. These inscriptions are fairly numerous, but hitherto they have proved to be utterly undecipherable. The Etruscan is the only dead language that has defied investigation. Considered as a language, nothing could seem more improbable than the hieroglphics of the Egyptians, but Egyptologists can read them with such ease that almost any given series of hieroglyphics can be read in three or four ways by an equal number of rival Egyptologists. Any language more utterly impossible at first glance than the Assyrian arrow-headed language could not well be imagined, but there are many learned men who can read, write and speak arrowhead with facility. And yet no man can make the least sense of the writings left by the Etruscans, although they are written in Roman characters.

All that we know of the Etruscans seems unreasonable and preposterous. Naturally this makes them fascinating to every one who delights in mystery and the solution of puzzles.—Putnam's Magazine.

The German and the Fatherland.

A German always remains a German. He respects and loves his fatherland, although isolated and separated from it by boundless oceans and vast continents. A German heart always remains true to the country where it first commenced to beat until it is silenced by death. As a rule, to which there are few exceptions, a man who is loyal to the country of his birth will be loyal to the country of his adoption.—Dr. Nicholas Senn.

Easy.

"Well," pondered the new answers-to-correspondents editor, "I wonder how to answer this. Here's a subscriber who wants to know what's a good thing to take ink stains out of white flannel."

"That's easy," replied the sporting editor, "a pair of scissors."

Truth about it is that it pays no woman to lie awake nights to listen to what her husband may say in his sleep.

THE ANTI-SALOON FIGHT.

A Hot Contest On for Control in the National Capital.

Washington correspondence:

Vested rights, as represented by the breweries, distilleries and liquor dealers, have begun to petition Congress in anticipation of a strong move in favor of prohibitory legislation at the hands of the national lawmakers. Primarily the petitions are aimed against a "dry" capital city, which is the object fixed upon by temperance associations which have been encouraged by the prohibition wave that recently swept various sections of the country.

For some time a well organized lobby has been doing quiet preliminary work in the interest of the anti-prohibition interests, which have been made more anxious over the possibilities of legislation in the near future than surface indications would lead one to believe. The belief is entertained that the prohibition elements are bent on driving liquor out of the country's capital for the moral effect such an accomplishment would have in still further nationalizing the general prohibition movement.

The question before students of the situation who are able to look at both sides without having their view warped by prejudice is this: Has the prohibition tide reached its flood, and will a reaction presently set in; or will the wave sweep on without serious interruption until it has converted the entire country into a land of no license?

With this question in mind the workers on one side will put forth efforts to make the capital of the United States a temperance capital, while those on the other hope that by downing the movement here the way will be paved for reaction from the results recently brought about in several of the States, especially those of the south.

The chances seem to be against any drastic legislation on the subject by Congress this winter. Possibly more attention might be given to the subject if the Republicans and Democrats didn't have so much to think about in the nature of politics pertaining to Presidential candidates next year. And if action is staved off the "antis" figure on a reversal of sentiment that will not require them to worry so much in the future.

But there is another side to the anti-prohibition propaganda now in progress here which deals with the subject wholly apart from the local issue involved. The attempt is being made to impress upon Congress the magnitude of the whole prohibition question with the argument that if prohibition prohibited the government system of taxation would have to be revised, inasmuch as two-thirds of the government's income is now derived from internal revenue taxes.

In connection with this argument the liquor interests are suggesting vaudevils of a novel kind upon the "dry" States which locally would cease to pay internal revenue taxes to the Federal government. Admission is made that the sovereign right of a State to deprive the Federal government of its internal revenue seems to have been established. But the anti-prohibitionists are declaring to Congress that when a State adopts the prohibition policy it should be cut off from the appropriations for river and harbor improvements, rural free deliveries, public buildings and other improvements for which the "wet" States, which pay the internal revenue taxes, must supply the money.

Such argument may seem very far-fetched to many, but it simply goes to show how serious the real feeling is over the agitation that is in progress. It indicates further that a stand is being taken by the anti-prohibition interests for the purpose of fighting more systematically in the future the movement that has gained such headway in the last year.

DEAD AND INJURED LIST 57,919.

Summary of Accidents for Year Presents Startling Figures.

The New York Tribune, in a summary of the accidents of the year, says 57,919 persons have been killed and injured in accidents during the year, 35,612 having been killed and 22,307 injured. Some of the larger items of the list are as follows:

Earthquakes, landslides, etc., 21,512 killed, 3,092 injured; explosions and mine disasters, 3,086 killed, 2,721 injured; storms and floods, 4,209 killed, 1,563 injured; railroad wrecks, 811 killed, 2,639 injured; automobile accidents, 229 killed, 704 injured; firearms, 197 killed, 3,978 injured.

Among other deaths are 2,269 lost in wrecks of vessels and 492 in other drownings.

Philadelphia Car Strike Threatened.

Officials of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company have acknowledged that they are making preparations for a struggle with its employes, who it is expected will soon declare a strike, although Vice President Shea of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes made light of the report that a strike was intended. He said, however, that the railroad company had refused to treat with a committee sent by the men, and that a meeting of the association had been called to consider the subject.

Rent Strikes at New York.

The lower East Side of New York City, including the thickly populated Hebrew ghetto, has been greatly excited in the last few days by a movement to organize a general strike of householders against landlords by refusing to pay rent until the lessors consent to a reduction.

Consumption Takes a Tenth.

That one-tenth of all the deaths of the year in Pennsylvania were due to tuberculosis is shown by the records of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, the total of victims of this disease being 10,780.

Ingratitude.

"Women," remarked the young man with the sorry look, "are delusions and snares."

"So?" queried the innocent bystander.

"Yea, verily," rejoined the y. m. "Not many moons ago I cut out cigars and lived on free lunch two weeks in order to blow myself on an opera and a supper for a young woman. After supper I asked her to marry me, and what kind of an answer do you suppose she handed me?"

"Give it up," rejoined the i. b.

"She said she was very sorry," continued the y. m., "but I was entirely too extravagant to make a good husband."

Showing the Furniture.

"I tell you, I was at my best last night while calling on the Smiths; Mrs. Smith laughed at every remark I made. I must be quite a humorist when I'm in the humor."

"No, it wasn't that. Mrs. Smith got her new teeth yesterday."—Houston Post.

Absolutely Necessary.

Chicago Judge—Wait a minute. Where is the court interpreter?

Attorney—The witness is an American, your Honor. Why is it necessary to have the interpreter?

Chicago Judge—Because the witness is from Boston.

Something Practical.

Just in the outskirts of Scantlinsville the man in the automobile stopped. A team of horses, driven by an old farmer, was dragging a split log over the road.

"What's all this?" asked the man in the automobile.

"Sorry, sir," answered the old farmer, "but you'll have to turn out. This is the good roads movement."

Not the Same.

Miss Passay—You seem to think it's pretty well settled that I'd marry him if he proposed."

Mr. Pepprey—Yes.

Miss Passay—The idea! So you think a girl is ready to say "yes" to any man who asks her?

Mr. Pepprey—No. I don't say that a "girl" is.—Philadelphia Press.

World's Coal Consumption.

The total consumption of coal in the world is considerably over fifty thousand tons an hour. Of this great great quantity about twelve thousand five hundred tons is required to heat the boilers of stationary, marine and railroad engines. The production of pig iron consumes over five thousand tons an hour. The average hourly consumption of coal in households is considered to be about ten thousand tons.