

The Well Dressed WOMAN

New York, Dec. 24.—The fashions are full of caprices and very odd ones at that. From the veriest detail of the street costume to the most intricate accessory of the bridal costume, the original note is apparent. Time was when one could make an article from a series of topics; now on topic can be lengthened into a series of articles, so varied are the possibilities of each individual style.

Since the social calendar of America's aristocracy is filled with weddings between now and lent, it is natural that the wedding frock and its accessories should have a conspicuous place in the real of smart modes. American girls are deriding superstition and taking up the French fashion of select-Friday for the chic wedding day. Saturday nuptials are still smart, but since it is reported that Miss Vivian Gould will set the approval on Friday by selecting it for her wedding day, we may therefore expect many future marriages on Friday.

Just as the old heavy satins have been replaced by newer, softer fabrics, the new-comers' supremacy is threatened by still newer materials, among the prettiest being satin marvellous with something like a rose cast through it, that tone of white coming into use instead of dull white. This material is combined with Point de Venise and Russian laces which are formed into delicate little bodice jackets or into tunics, which are lost into the folds of the train at the back. One of the most regal bridal robes yet produced by a smart French dress-maker is of satin marvellous with the rose cast, the empire waist being defined only with a cord of satin about even with the bust line. Over this falls a tunic of Russian and Point de Venise lace, cut to fit the figure so perfectly that there is no fullness at any point. The neck is cut round and there is a guimpe of white silk lace.

The veil is of tulle, with a scarf of fine white lace fastened about the front. The lace is almost the same pattern as that on the robe, but is worked on much finer tulle. Orange blossoms fasten the veil at both sides of the head and also where the lace overdress meets at the front. The effect of all these long trains when made part of the skirt, is exactly like that of the tail of a bird, the closeness with which the body of the skirts fit and the abruptness of the train giving that effect. The robe in question, fortunately, is not cut too tight about the knees but allows the bride to walk without causing her skirt to shift about with every step.

Women are now wearing pretty little gold or silver lace caps on the head to evening functions, and very quaint they are, the more simple the design, the better its taste. The best are fashioned with a fold to lie about the face in imitation of fur; but others are finished with a dark band of velvet or plush. The long, full evening scarfs of white tulle with pearl incrustations, with a simple hem finish are the daintiest things in scarfs seen for a long time. While the whites are lovely, those in blue, yellow and rose are also charming.

The self same shapes used for lace evening caps are used for the most fashionable auto caps and toques. Made of fur, tied with ribbons of the same color as the fur and with a floating big veil, the costume for the machine is not only practical but picturesque and fascinating. At the sides of such a little bonnet violets or tiny rosebuds in satin ribbon make a pretty trimming.

The long narrow coats of black, black-brown plush or velvet with a soft, wide collar of the same, are the most stunning things seen in Paris for ages. Some of the coats have finishes of fur; but the ones with only plush or velvet are much daintier and richer, for the long haired pelts make such a wrap appear heavy and rather dowdy. The very dressy velvet coats are faced with white satin and have a wide sailor collar of satin and a loose ravel down the front. This is white.

The skirt of the moment, while too scanty to be graceful on any one but a woman without sign of hips, is still not the worst thing that ever struck the sartorial boards. The skirt was worse last spring than it is now, and it boasted no decorations like the present graceful tunics, etc. Enough fullness has been given to the knees and hem in the new skirts to allow a free step, if not an actual stride. It is to be hoped that still more width will be allowed before spring comes in with its mud puddles that now and then have to be leaped even in the best kept streets. Leaping mud puddles was not one of the exigencies to which consideration was given when the scanty skirt was revived.

Street skirts are mostly plain with mere suggestions of tunics given them by originally placed bands. The velvet suits have the first place and after them come the velvet soft wools or more or less velvet effect. But those latter materials, or which rattle is chief, do not wear like the more sturdy weaves. No fabric can be made as light in weight as these wools are and still retain sturdy wearing quality. Nearly everything is walking length. Only for very young girls is the ankle length skirt seen. But this is not pretty or graceful. Some of the skirts almost touch the ground all around and really have a kind of train at the back, but the very narrow skirts do not allow any fullness about the feet and the few long skirts seen are

and no longer in one place than another. Skirts are built up at the waist line by a wider band than was used a year ago. That is to say, the top of the skirt is put on top of the band, making the waist an inch shorter than it has been in the past year. The modern corset makes every woman's waist larger, and not round, for it dips to the front. The straight front is not comfortable at first, but once the abdomen gets accustomed to being pulled up into the corset, the pressure is not so bad. It may not be good for one's health to have all this flatness and lack on both abdomen and hips; but the designer of modes ignores that.

Evening dresses are just as low in front as they were last winter, but while they are low at the back, they are not particularly décolleté at the front. Many of the new ones employ a kind of short guimpe of mousseline to come half way between neck and bust, and the effect is very refined and delicate.

BIG HATS FOR SUMMER, TOO.

Huge Panamas Arriving in Advance of Hot Weather. New York, Dec. 24.—If the huge Panamas that are coming in from the south can be trusted as prophecies of what is going to be worn on our heads for spring, hats are to be bigger and more ungainly than ever. The new scarfs of oriental silk printed in eastern patterns, which are wide and long, are one of the indications of the size of the first outing hats of the season.

But southern styles in summery garments are usually a mere shadow of winter fashions reproduced in warm weather fabrics. Hat shapes of the winter are not so bad as everybody thought they were going to be when the fall opened. Shapes are overwhelming and in some cases eclipsing, but the modifications given to them by the milliners and the character bestowed upon them by pretty wearers mitigate their most deplorable features. And the woman of plain face, young or old, can always find a becoming covering for her head.

High crowned turbans and hat picture hats hobnob everywhere. Shapes show great variety—seldom more so. The fur trimmed hats are the richest and most effective models of the season. All kinds of furs are employed for them—raccoon, fox, skunk, seal-skin and all the unnamed kinds that the fur man has produced by skill in blending. Some of the walking hats, which are mere bands of fur with crowns of velvet or tapestry, are smart and jaunty in the extreme. And a single big flower, either white or of vivid color, often trims them.

Fur is combined with velvet of its own shade or with a bright color, royal blue, cerise and white being the most used contrasts with the dark pelts. The Australian opossum, which resembles chinchilla in its gray tones, is used to match up gray costumes, and it is brightened more often than not with a touch of vivid color. Those soft Tyrolean hats of plush that hood the girls' pretty heads are practical as well as coquettish. Seldom has a hat appeared that was so near to common sense. There is nothing about the hats to spoil, whatever the weather. They are light in weight and snug.

WANTS FORTUNE.

Waiter Lothario Who Ran Away With Roberta De Janon. Philadelphia, Dec. 24.—By the terms of the will of the late Robert Buist, the wealthy seedman, Roberta B. De Janon, his grandchild who disappeared with a hotel waiter last December and was found in Chicago, is given in trust the bulk of his estate, which is valued at about \$500,000.

When Fred Cohen, the waiter, heard that Miss De Janon had inherited this fortune he declared the young woman still loved him and that eventually he would be her adopted father. "Roberta loves me as a father," said Cohen, "and when she comes into her money I will be the first person she will endeavor to find. When the authorities were endeavoring to prove that I was a kidnaper and abductor and almost everything else, Roberta sent me a note saying she would stick to me. She said some day she would be an heiress and she promised that when she was she would remember me. The time has come and I believe she will remember her old friend."

The Buist will was executed on December 6, this year, after Mr. Buist had been stricken with his fatal illness. After giving \$5,000 to Mrs. George Bedford, his sister, and making several other small bequests, the will provides that the residue of the estate be held in trust for Miss De Janon and that she be given the net income for life.

In the event that Miss De Janon shall die without issue the estate is to be turned over to the Robert Buist company. "My purpose," the will states, "being to benefit and reward thereby H. C. Stahle, Edward J. Flood and Albert C. Kockerberger, who have been my faithful employees for many years and other than whom there is no one I would prefer to benefit in the event of my granddaughter dying without lawful issue."

Miss De Janon, whose mother is dead and whose father is said to reside in New York, is understood to be in southern California.

The Coming WEEK

New York, Dec. 24.—The following events are scheduled to take place during the coming week, beginning on Monday:

Monday. General observance of Christmas, from social and secular standpoint. Hamilton Fish, Jr., captain of the Harvard varsity football eleven, starts with all-star players from Boston to Cincinnati, enroute to Memphis and New Orleans, where special games will be played.

Soccer football game between New York and Pennsylvania takes place at Brooklyn, N. Y. President and Mrs. Taft will entertain a small party of personal friends at dinner.

Tuesday. Twenty-second annual exhibition of the New York Poultry, Pigeon and Pet Stock association opens at Madison Square Garden, New York City.

The American Historical association begins its twenty-sixth annual meeting at Indianapolis, Ind.

National Commercial Teachers federation meets at Chicago.

Southern Educational association convenes at Chattanooga, Tenn. More than 2,000 members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will gather at Minneapolis, Minn., for their annual meeting.

Wednesday. United States Civil Service commission will conduct an examination for industrial teachers to be appointed to Philippine schools.

Property of the Cobalt Central Mining company will be sold at Toronto, Canada.

New York state stenographers to meet in annual session in New York.

Kansas state auctioneers will gather at Larned, Kan., for a two-day session.

Italians of Rome will observe the second anniversary of the Messina earthquake.

Thursday. The 101st anniversary of the birth of William E. Gladstone will be observed in England.

Hotel clerks of Ohio will hold their convention at Piqua.

Intercollegiate association holds its annual meeting at New York.

Friday. Chilean government will receive bids for the construction of two bathings of 24,000 tons.

American fleet ends its visit in British waters and sails for Cuba.

Saturday. International automobile show open at Grand Central Palace, New York.

Carmi A. Thompson retires as secretary of state of Ohio, and becomes assistant to the secretary of the interior.

George W. Perkins and Thomas W. Lamont will retire from the banking firm of J. P. Morgan and company, New York. Mr. Perkins, who is reported to have amassed a fortune of \$30,000,000 in ten years will devote his time to studying how to better the conditions between capital and labor.

Ex-Senator Francis M. Cockrell of Missouri retires as a member of the inter-state commerce commission. G. S. McChord of Kentucky will succeed him.

Existing agreement between American and English bankers on subject of cotton bills of lading ends. A new agreement will go into effect.

Today is last day of Bling applications for space at the international exposition to be held in Turin, Italy, next year.

The resignation of Dr. Charles C. Harrison, provost of the University of Pennsylvania, becomes effective.

Col. John M. Banister of the medical corps, U. S. A., retires.

CHOOSE A NAME WHEN READY.

Then Consult Dr. Binion's Onomasticon For a Good One. New York, Dec. 24.—If you are a young woman would you rather be called Gladys or Jennima? Or if you are a young man would you prefer answering to Claude or Hiram? Now don't answer till you consult the Onomasticon, the only complete dictionary of personal names in existence according to Dr. Samuel A. Binion, the author. Doctor Binion has attained a reputation as an Egyptologist. Into this dictionary, which he is about to publish, he has put the best of sixteen years' work, and the result is an exhaustive table showing the derivation and meaning of more than five thousand "given" names of both men and women in more than twenty languages.

sort of tangible ideal, a continual prompter to high things.

"For instance, 'Abraham' means 'father of a great multitude.' Could there be a better description of our hero, Abraham Lincoln? 'Richard' means 'rich heart' and history tells us that Richard the Lion Heart of England was beloved for such a quality. I read an account of a boy, Charles, who was described as 'the worst boy' of his town. 'Charles' means 'supremest.' If that boy had not been the worst in town he probably would have been the best."

"One result of my work is my belief that children should choose their own names. For purposes of convenient distinction they might be called by numbers in their childhood; then when they have arrived at years of discretion they should have the chance to choose their names as they choose their occupations. 'Keziah' is a beautiful name for a woman. It means 'divine love.' I approve of 'Theophilus' and 'Jehediah' for men. Each may be translated as 'beloved of God.'"

Other common names and their meaning according to the doctor are: Women—Agnus, pure; Amy, beloved; Arabella, beautiful; Beatrice, blessed; Blanche, white; Christine, anointed; Clara, clear; Constance, firm; Dorothea, gift of God; Edith, happiness; Ethel, noble; Eleanor, light; Emily, work; Evelyn, pleasant; Florence, flower; Gertrude, spear maiden; Helen, bright as the sun; Katherine, pure; Louise, renowned warrior; Margaret, pearl; Mildred, mild commander; Rosamond, famous protection; Sarah, princess; Winifred, friend of peace.

Men—Albert, noble and bright; Alexander, helper of man; Benjamin, trustworthy; Daniel, divine judge; David, beloved; Donald, haughty chief; Edward, wealthy; Ferdinand, daring warrior; Frederick, peaceful ruler; George, farmer; Gilbert, brilliant, cautious; Henry, rich lord; Herbert, bright soldier; James, supplanter; John, graced by God; Leonard, lion strong; Nathaniel, gift of God; Philip, lover of horses; Reginald, intelligent ruler; Robert, brilliant, famous; Stephen, crown; Samuel, asked of God; William, helmet of resolution.

PUT SOCIALISM TO WORK.

Milwaukee's Council Grants Free Water to Laundresses. Milwaukee, Dec. 24.—Victor L. Berger, alderman at large and social congressman-elect, was defeated by the socialist contingent in the city council when he opposed a measure which the city attorney had declared unconstitutional.

The measure was one to allow washerwomen to use city water free of charge. The socialist city attorney has declared the measure unconstitutional, but the socialists desired to pass it any way and did so despite the objections of Berger.

The council adopted seventeen resolutions asking for the passage by the legislature of that number of special Milwaukee bills allowing the city to engage in various enterprises at present barred by law. The socialists, among other requests, ask authority to erect municipal hospitals, ice plants and packing houses, to conduct any public utility and, in general, to have complete home rule granted Milwaukee instead of the city being forced to ask legislative approval of every innovation proposed.

DEATH PROPHECY KILLS HIM. A Polish Judge the Victim of Auto-Suggestion. Warsaw, Poland, Dec. 24.—Every circumstance preceding and attending the sudden death of Judge Fabricius of the civil court of this city seems to prove that auto-suggestion caused or hurried his death.

Most prisoners arraigned before Judge Fabricius have been political offenders. He was a learned judge, but, fond of the study of occult science, was easily impressed by the mysterious and saw significance in every sign and portent. A certain barrister here has the reputation of possessing a wonderful power of seeing into the future.

"What do you think of the Reymont case?" Judge Fabricius asked this barrister.

Reymont, a widely known Polish novelist, had been arrested and accused of publishing a short story criticizing the Russian government.

"I have not given much thought to Reymont," the barrister replied, "but I know one thing—the judge who tries Reymont will die suddenly."

This was months ago. Recently Reymont's case was put down for trial before Judge Fabricius, whom the barrister's prophecy had impressed deeply. Vainly the judge tried to have the trial postponed or one of his colleagues to sit in his stead. As a last resort he asked to be transferred to another court. It was useless; Reymont was arraigned before him nine days ago.

The judge passed the whole day on the bench, arrived home at 6 o'clock and sat down in his study to write a letter. An hour later a servant entered to tell him dinner was served; Judge Fabricius was dead. Heart disease was given as the cause, though the doctors admitted there was no organic disease.

FAT MEAT PALLED ON A BRIDE.

So W. T. Martin's Mail Order Wife Up and Left Him. New York, Dec. 24.—The bride whom he met and married through a "correspondence school of love," has left him and W. T. Martin of Pomona, Calif., has asked old friends of her in Patterson, N. J., to find some trace of her.

Martin is 66 years old. Their honeymoon

was gone. A note told why. It said she was tired of living as pigs did in their pens and that she could not live upon bread, jelly and fat meat, which, she said, had been the principal articles of the honeymoon diet.

USED A TITLE TO DEFAUD.

An American Duchess Lost \$200,000 in a Confidence Game. Tours, France, Dec. 24.—The trial of the self-styled "Count" and "Countess" de Gatigny, who are charged with having swindled the Duchess de Choiseul, an American, out of \$200,000 in the sale of spurious paintings, opened before Judge Roberts in the correctional court today.

The complainant was the widow of Charles Hamilton Paine of Boston. She recently was married to the Duke de Choiseul, whose mother was Mary Forbes, daughter of Malcolm Forbes of Boston.

In addition to the principal allegation De Gatigny is accused of stealing a sum of money from the pocketbook of the duchess while she was in Vienna.

The case attracted a large and fashionable crowd, as the public is intensely interested in the fate of the two who lived so luxuriously in the Chateau de la Tour.

Mme. d'Aulby, an attractive woman, was gowned in blue velvet and wore a large bunch of violets. She sat beside her husband. On a desk lay the uniform and sword of "The Order of Mulinsno," in which d'Aulby as grand master conferred decorations.

Being questioned d'Aulby said he was the son of an English musician. His wife was Francesco Lunt and was born in Boston in 1865.

At this juncture M. Sturel, on behalf of the duchess, requested the withdrawal from the dossier of his client's personal letters. M. Bernard objected, suggesting that the duchess feared revelations that might be made in these letters.

Count D'Aulby de Gatigny's real name is John Dauby. He is the son of an English tailor and was an art student in London and Paris before he went into the profitable business of relieving rich Americans of surplus money in return for bogus "old masters" and other "works of art."

The "count" is said to have been allied with a swindling syndicate which made a regular business of selling antiques to Americans. It included some real French nobles, it is said, who were down on their luck.

De Gatigny married an American girl fifteen years ago in Boston. She was Miss Francesca Lunt, daughter of George Lunt, who was at one time editor of the Boston Courier. She is now being tried with Gatigny.

The Gatignys had a chateau on the outskirts of Tours and posed as members of the nobility. They are accused of having begun to sell "works of art" to the Duchess de Choiseul about eight years ago. The duchess was at that time Mrs. Charles Paine, the wife of a successful copper speculator. When Paine made a comfortable fortune he and his wife went to live in Paris, and they wanted to buy art—the price made no difference so long as it was the real thing in art.

De Gatigny and his wife, it is charged, reluctantly consented to sell some near-old masters from their castle at Tours, and before Mrs. Paine finally woke up to the fact that she was being swindled, \$200,000 of American copper windings had found its way to the pockets of the thrifty "count" and his wife.

The duchess brought charges against De Gatigny and his wife last spring.

A DARE FOR THE BIRD MEN.

The Grand Canon in Arizona Waiting to be Conquered. Topeka, Dec. 24.—A flight by bird-men over the Grand Canon of the Colorado river in Arizona is to be an event of the near future if the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe road can arrange it.

Already the company has been in communication with the owners of the Bierlot-Farman aeroplane, and it is expected that this company will send a man to the canon to investigate conditions there.

The aeroplane men are not at all confident that such a flight is practicable because of the probable suction when over the "ditch." The Grand Canon is 7,000 feet above the sea level and from the rim to the Colorado river, the lowest part of the canyon, is 5,000 feet. It is about thirteen miles across where the flight will be made.

The air men say that they must first ascend 2,000 feet above the ground before hovering over the canyon to avoid the chance of suction from below. If this is done the machines would then be about 9,000 feet above the sea, about as high as any of them has yet gone.

Tests will be made at the canyon by sending up small balloons to ascertain the amount of suction. If it is found that this suction is not as great as is now believed it is probable that arrangements for a Grand Canon aeroplane meet will soon be made.

Chicago Firms Generous.

Chicago, Dec. 24.—Several of the large financial institutions and commercial firms distributed large Christmas prizes to their employees this year. Some took the form of a salary increase, while others were in profit sharing stock certificates.

Lean Christmas for Wall Street.

New York, Dec. 24.—With the exception of a few of the banks and trust companies and the large private banking firms, the employes of Wall street firms will have a lean Christmas this year. The majority of the stock exchange firms have not had large pro-

stock exchange raised last year \$11,000 for its employes, but the amount this year is far below that figure. The steel trust usually distributes a bonus at this time, and will follow its custom this year, so will the Standard Oil company and the Central Trust company.

The Salvation Army and other charitable institutions have had an unusually large number of applications for assistance this year. About 25,000 free dinners will be distributed.

Winner's First Fire.

Winner Journal: Winner's first fire occurred on Monday at 4 o'clock a. m., when Ben Dearing's building on Second street was burned to the ground. It was a double building, one part being used for the meat market and the other part as living rooms.

Iver Johnson, who is employed by Mr. Dearing, woke up shortly before 4, and discovered that the roof of the addition was all ablaze. He awoke Mr. and Mrs. Dearing, and they soon discovered that it was useless to try to extinguish the fire and began carrying out the furniture, all of which was saved with the exception of a steel range. They were unable to save anything from the meat market.

The origin of the fire is a mystery, but it is thought to have been started from a box of matches, which was on the shelf near the chimney. The wind was in the south at the time of the fire, which was very fortunate, for if it had been in any other direction, there would have been a different story to tell. We understand that Mr. Dearing had about \$400 dollars insurance on the building, and that he will rebuild at once.

Death of Judge Weaver.

Sioux City, Dec. 26.—Judge J. N. Weaver, well known in legal affairs of Sioux City and northwestern Iowa, died here of illness due to a general breakdown. He was 66 years old and resident of Sioux City for twenty-six years. He presided over the eleventh judicial district for ten years.

A CHRISTMAS TRAGEDY.

Two Children Dead as Result of Explosion Near Christmas Tree. Seattle, Dec. 26.—Preparations for Christmas at the home of Daniel O'Conner, a mail carrier, ended in a fire which cost the lives of his children, Bert aged 6 months, and Donald, 3 years old, seriously injured four persons and destroyed the O'Conner home.

The injured are: Mr. and Mrs. O'Conner, Owen Peterson, Mrs. O'Conner's brother-in-law, and Patrolman Scott White all of whom were badly burned while trying to save the children.

The elder people were up late preparing the children's Christmas tree and when they retired they left a lamp burning which exploded.

ARE STATE ISSUES.

Reappointment and Redistricting Are Questions in Legislature. Pierre, S. D., Dec. 26.—The twelfth legislature of South Dakota, which will convene at noon on January 3, 1911, will be very strongly republican.

Of course the senate will be presided over by the Lieutenant governor, Lieutenant Governor Byrne has had long legislative service, having been a member of the first state legislature and the last two senates.

The reappointment of representative and senators, following the new census, is likely to cause the most interesting fight of the session. The present house includes 104 members and the senate 45. The constitutional limit for the two houses is 135 and 45 respectively. The senate has reached its limit, having 45 members, and the redistribution will cut off some of the eastern counties and transfer the representation to some of the new counties west of the Missouri. Such reapportionment would demand that the counties east of the river give up about five senators to those of the other side. The hall of representatives can only comfortably seat 90 members and on such a basis the west side will get 22. It is likely that no county will give up any part of its representation without a fight.

The 1910 census will also give to the state a new congressman. This will cause a districting of the state. Governor Vessey and Congressman Martin are favorable to a proposition to include the region west of the Missouri in one district, and on the east side, to extend the line between Brooks and Moody counties to the river, and create a new district to the north and south of this line.

DR. COOK RAPS RASMUSSEN.

Says Danish Explorer Stoops to Depths of a Muckraker. New York, Dec. 26.—By implication accusing Knud Rasmussen, the Danish explorer, of "stooping to the depths of a literary muckraker to get public attention," Dr. Frederick A. Cook, the Brooklyn explorer, gave out a reply to Rasmussen's recent attack on him (Cook) which was published on November 9 last.

In his defense of his own narrative of arctic exploration, Dr. Cook says that by Rasmussen's methods of investigating Robert E. Peary could with equal ease be discredited, but declares that he "will take Mr. Peary's work in preference to either that of Rasmussen or the Eskimos in the matter of his own accomplishments."

Rasmussen's reason to be hostile to him, the Brooklyn explorer finds in a snub which was compelled to administer to the Dane in 1907, when the yacht Bradley arrived in North Star bay. Rasmussen came aboard, he says, dressed in old, greasy furs and executing a strong stench of train oil. He and the Dane became "chummy"

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HOW RATTLERS ARE KILLED.

Experience of a Family Between Butte and Valentine. Butte Gazette: If you are enroute from Dallas to Valentine, Neb., by way of the Dog Ear lakes and have passed Clearfield and ridden through the rolling country, you reach the summit of the ridge that divides the sand hills from the valley beyond, you instinctively draw a rein and look at the valley before you, and as you turn your gaze toward the northwest and view the Croglie hills, and the long stretch of valley reaching to the northwest, your attention will be drawn to two great mounds straight west of you with their stone-clad peaks. These are the Dorian buttes and as your eyes wander to the southwest across the sloping plain they behold the Dorian valley, and you take closer look you see at the foot of the slope a mile away, stands two farm houses. The first is the home of our worthy blacksmith, Tony Bolen. The next, a square cottage situated on a little rising ground, is the home of Chris Larson, a thrifty Danish farmer who came here from Wakefield, Neb., where he had lived for some time employed as section boss.

Being one of the lucky ones in the low numbers he was first to enter the valley and took his claim at the lower end of the southwest slope, which is covered with a prairie dog town. Here, during the winter, Mr. Larson moved with his family, consisting of his wife and two children, Jennie, aged 16, and Ray, aged 12.

The children in early spring roamed the prairies in search of wild flowers, and as spring advanced were drawn to the dog town by the antics of their little neighbors, but were soon horrified by the creeping reptiles that seemed to be present everywhere, giving the children quite a scare and causing their parents no little anxiety on account of the snakes.

About this time the lady who drew the claim north of Larson's came to the valley to make settlement, and drove into the Larson place, and was welcomed with a rousing dinner.

Their fears were somewhat allayed when she told them how she had once before gone on a new place further east in Nebraska, where she had selected land in a dog town, and further related how they annihilated both dogs and snakes by the use of a poison and always carrying a good stout ash stick with them whenever they went into the fields, and they took courage when she told them that in two years there were no dogs or snakes to be found about their place.

So every day through the summer you might see the children with the clubs waving war against the rattlers with no small success. They had a spear like a fish jig, and with that they brought them forth from the holes in the fall when the chill winds blew and the snakes that had crawled out to winter quarters again. The children would get from five to twenty a day, and some days even more, and one week in October they got over a hundred snakes, most of them from twelve to twenty inches long with from two to four rattles. One day while Jennie was engaged in killing four of the smaller ones that were in the mouth of a hole she heard a rattling, and supposing there was an older one further down in the hole, was trying to twist him out, when Ray yelled, "Look out Jennie, here he comes," and on turning around saw within ten feet of her a monster with his head raised a foot or more in the air, and making straight for her, but with one hard sweep of her spear she downed the snake and when they skinned him he proved to be an old one with many a scar, and having lost part of his rattles. His age could not be determined, but when he assayed to do our little Danish maiden he lost his commission, and left his hide on exhibition at the Gazette office in Butte,