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FREDERICK E. ABBOTT, Editor.

RENEWALS.—The date opposite your name on your paper, or wrapper shows to what time your subscription is paid. These dates show that payment has been received up to Jan. 1, 1905, Feb. 1, 1905 and so on. When payment is made the date, which answers as a receipt, will be changed accordingly.

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CHANGE IN ADDRESS.—When ordering a change in the address, subscribers should be sure to give their old as well as their new address.

We don't like to rake up the past, but they haven't put it back yet.

When you see a silver-haired old man, fresh complexioned, erect, of elastic step, don't you feel like taking off your hat to him?

People who go to the train to witness the parting of Brother Burruss and Brother Howard are advised to take seats with them, so great will be the deluge of tears.

The framers of the new revenue law might have saved an overworked state assessment board much annoyance by delegating the assessment of railroad property to the federal courts in the first instance.

Everything at present seems to indicate that the valuation of railroad property will be increased by the new state board of assessment. Little public interest will be manifested in this fact, however, because the federal courts ultimately will fix the assessment.

If you don't believe in the efficacy of competition, some day drive into a little town that boasts but one livery stable and notice how promptly the livery man shows up just after you have unhitched your own team, put them in the barn, unharnessed and fed them and unloaded your whip and grips and blankets.

England lost in her war against her American colonies because she tried to impose upon them regulations not in harmony with the principles of natural justice. Russia's subjects have defeated her in her war with Japan, because their government has violated every principle of natural justice in dealing with them. In the long run, nations must be right if they would prevail.

Many good items are lost to the newspapers by the modesty of the people who hesitate to tell of matter concerning themselves; not that they don't want them to appear in print, but they are afraid they would be pushing themselves forward. This is a wrong idea. From a reportorial standpoint, the man who will stop a reporter on the street and tell that he has been to Omaha or some other city, that his wife entertained from a distance, is the best man alive. If you have done anything mean and disreputable, it is not necessary to tell it for there are always plenty of people to do that for you. But tell all the good things count.—Ez.

Mr. Fairbanks apparently has gained in popularity on his western trip. It is by no means a foregone conclusion, however, that Mr. Fairbanks will receive the next presidential nomination. He has the undoubted confidence of the whole people and of the business interests in particular. But so far as it can be judged at present, he is not so ardent an advocate of remedial railroad legislation as President Roosevelt is and for that reason, unless conditions change considerably before 1908, he will be handicapped in the race with a man like Mr. Taft whose views on that question coincide with the President's. That there will be something of a contest between the radicals and the conservatives in the republican party there can be little doubt. That the radical element will win seems just now to be still less doubtful. Mr. Fairbanks' prospects for nomination, therefore, would seem, from a course of general reasoning to be rather remote. This of course would not be true, if Mr. Fairbanks, later on should be found standing with Roosevelt on the railroad and tariff issues.

And Mr. Fairbanks has so many admirable qualities as a businessman, as a gentleman, a scholar and a statesman, that it is to be hoped he may adhere to the principles in which the masses of the people believe and for the support of which Roosevelt occupies first place in the hearts of the whole American people.

THE CHICAGO STRIKE.

Here is a solar plexus from the Woman's Suffrage headquarters. It may not be strictly logical, but that doesn't matter:

"When Colorado had a great strike, the anti-woman suffragists of Chicago sent a letter to the Illinois legislature, declaring that the Colorado strike was due to the evil influence of woman suffrage. Today Chicago is having a great strike, accompanied with rioting and bloodshed. Now it will be in order for Colorado women to tell the public that the Chicago strike is due to the evil influence of the Chicago 'Association' opposed to the farther extension of suffrage to women." At all events, the A. O. F. E. S. W. has not prevented the strike, and therefore the A. O. F. E. S. W. is clearly a failure, and of no use whatever. At any rate, that is the argument the Chicago 'Anti's' have been using about Colorado; and it is a poor rule that will not work both ways."

A BARGAIN.

There is talk, started by Congressman Hull of Iowa, that Japan, after whetting her appetite on Manchuria and the Russian navy, will want the Philippines by way of desert.

Why should not Japan want the Philippines? They are much nearer Japan than they are the United States and are peopled by a race similar to the Japanese. For every reason Uncle Sam could think of why he should have them, the Japanese can think of two reasons. And, further, it is worth while that the future relations of Japan and the United States should be clouded because one country has what the other country must obviously desire:

A solution might be found in a little deal in real estate. Uncle Sam paid \$20,000,000 for the islands and is not quite certain whether he got a bargain. Shortly Japan will have in hand an indemnity from Russia to the tune of \$1,000,000,000 or so. It might be good business to step in and relieve Japan of, say \$100,000,000 of this money, and let her take the Philippine Islands.

This might be imperialism, or anti-imperialism, or just business, but it would yield nearly enough ready cash to dig the Panama canal.—St. Joseph News.

THE CIGARETTE.

The general impression regarding the new cigarette law which goes into effect the first of next month is that it prohibits the smoking of cigarettes as well as their manufacture and sale, but it does not. The law simply provides that it shall be unlawful to manufacture, sell or give away or allow to be taken away any cigarettes or the material for their composition, for instance cigarette paper, within the state. The law applies to any person, firm, association or corporation. The fine, for every offense, is five dollars to one hundred dollars in the discretion of the court. But so long as you can get hold of the paper and tobacco, or smuggle into your possession the cigarette of commerce, you are all right. And this is where the law is "pow'ful" weak, for the smoker is not going to testify against the person of whom he buys the ingredients of the cigarette that he has procured clandestinely. Stolen sweets are the most enjoyed. The Indiana law applies to the person who smokes a cigarette, and even people who go through the state on railroad trains are liable to arrest at any station if caught in the act by a local spotter or officer of the law.

NORWAY SECEDES.

The government of Norway has formally served notice on King Oscar of Sweden that Norway is no longer subject to the Swedish crown. It is a step that has been contemplated for a long time and one that was inevitable. Sweden and Norway do not belong together naturally. The two peoples have never been in sympathy with each other, and the alliance which has existed for nearly a hundred years has now apparently been broken for good. Naturally King Oscar and Sweden will protest vigorously against the separation, but the Norwegians have declared themselves ready to support their decision by force of arms if necessary, and it is hardly to be expected that Sweden will undertake to compel a continuance of the union. Since the two countries have merely been bound together by mutual agreement, the separation is not in the nature of a revolution but rather a secession, and the world will be glad to see it a bloodless one.

What strikes the American mind as strange is that the hardy Norwegians seem never to have thought of establishing a republic. They are casting about for some member of the European royalty to whom they may present the crown of Norway. Possibly a republican party may yet spring up before the question is settled, but nothing has been heard from it yet. The population of Norway is of that brave, hardy, independent fiber that should naturally turn toward democratic government, and it is disappointing that no sign of such a spirit has appeared there.

LOST IN TRANSIT.

We are always glad to be able to commend the action of a contemporary. No doubt a few unkind people will not believe this, but it is true as gospel; and in consequence of this truth we are at this writing almost deliciously happy in the fact that we are able to pat our friend the Telegram on the back and say "Well done!"

The highly commendable action to which we refer is that the Telegram for once in its career has made the amendment honorable by admitting that it has misrepresented the facts in regard to a political enemy. According to the great religious weekly in its issue of last week, Mayor Dickinson had issued a manifesto to the effect that hereafter no man in Columbus would be allowed to have beer on his table in his own home on Sunday. Presumably it would be all right for him to crawl under the table and soak up a stein or two, though the Telegram did not explain that point; but not on the table, no sir, not on the table, unless he was prepared to risk a penitentiary sentence.

Having invested the mayor with the authorship of this brilliant dietetic regulation, the Telegram then proceeded to roast him to a dark brown finish for being so mean. First chapter ended here.

In this week's edition the pious weekly explains with a deep sigh of relief that it finds itself to have been mistaken in one small particular about what Mayor Dickinson said last week, namely: he didn't say it. He did say, however, that no saloon would be allowed to sell liquor on Sunday, because that would be in violation of the law. The story ended here.

Comparing the original story with the amended version, one is apt at first sight to think there is not much likeness. However, on more minute inspection we find that the word Sunday occurs in both of them, so that the resemblance is really very striking. The slight discrepancy occurred of course while the story was in transit through the successive stages from raw material to finished article—reporter, telegraph editor, city editor, compositor, proof reader, devil, chief cook, bottle washer, editor-in-chief, one ring, two rings, three rings!

The error was very natural, very excusable and quite in line with precedent. Moreover the mayor, drat his hide, is a republican.

A SUMMARY.

A good German farmer in Oreston township the other day said to us: "I heard from one of my neighbors who takes the Journal that you said some of the supervisors drew more salary than the law allows; that the Columbus Telegram worked a scheme with some of the county officers to get the county printing; and that there is some crooked work in regard to the Standard Bridge Company and that we taxpayers have to pay the freight. I was taking the Telegram and the Biene at that time and I never saw anything on those subjects in either paper. I just lately subscribed for the Journal in order to learn about this matter. I wish you would say again what you said before. There are many others like myself who would like to know the facts and it seems we cannot get them from the official papers that we are paying to give us an accurate record of the county business."

We cannot at this time enter into a full discussion of all these questions as deeply as we have in the past and as deeply as we shall again in the future.

We will take the time, however, to summarize these facts, and in doing so we will promise to print in full in a prominent place in the Journal, any denial of our statements, which any one of the accused or any other person whosoever may desire to make.

Here are the facts in brief: 1. The law limits a supervisor's salary to \$300 a year. Supervisors Ernst and Bender for the year 1904, each drew much more than that amount.

Do they know the drew this money in violation of law? Yes. Supervisor Dietrich voted against allowing certain illegal bills of these supervisors.

The Journal repeatedly called their attention to the law. Finally, by request the county attorney told them in a written opinion that they were entitled to no more than \$300 each a year for salary and the Journal was the only paper in the county that printed for the taxpayers of Platte county any part of the contents of that opinion although the taxpayers pay five democratic papers 25 per cent more than the law allows to print the supervisor's proceedings.

2. The Columbus Telegram charged the county in 1903 \$15 a thousand for printing certain blanks and printed enough at that price in 1903 to last over 1904. In their 1904 bid knowing that these blanks had already been supplied at \$15 they offered to print them at \$3.75. And the county clerk advertised for bids on these selfsame plans in 1904, although he knew they were already on hand at the \$15 price and notwithstanding the law to advertise for bids only on supplies actually needed. And the present contract of the Columbus Telegram for the county printing has the same glaring evidences of graft that the 1904 contract contained.

3. Exorbitant prices have been paid the Standard Bridge Company for lumber, for instance \$38 a thousand for cottonwood lumber, laid in place, when the same could be delivered at the bridge at about \$20 a thousand.

And yet Supervisors Ernst and Bender who have money in their pockets which does not belong to them, money paid illegally out of the pockets of Platte county taxpayers, were in Lincoln during the last legislature, working shoulder to shoulder with the Standard Bridge Company's lobby.

Don't forget that the Journal stands ready to prove any or all these assertions and that space will be given free to any person who will attempt to deny any or all of them. We ask our German friend from Oreston and others to keep this paper for future reference and to watch the Journal for the denials which for some strange reason never appeared in the Telegram or the Biene.

A THEORY.

The World-Herald reports that last Saturday it sent forth a party of archaeological research, which party proceeded toward the isolated region known as Council Bluffs unearthed a skeleton which the World-Herald supposed to be that of the missing link. At least it supposes that this skeleton represents a prehistoric race that inhabited this country before the Indians. From the appearance of the bones, the World-Herald deduces the following interesting points: The subject was of a very low order of intelligence, as shown by the obtuseness of the facial angle; his animal nature was largely developed, judging from the prominent cerebellum; he was not a vegetarian, because his front teeth are all canines, no incisors being found; he departed this life at about the age of fifty years, as is evidenced by the somewhat frazzled condition of the said teeth.

Now it is going on 413 years since Columbus found Indians occupying this hemisphere; and a fair presumption is that at that time the oldest inhabitant was at least 87 years old. So the Indians have been here 500 years without doubt. Since the obscure gentleman under consideration was of a race that preceded the Indians, he must therefore have been planted for at least half a millennium. Yet he was only two feet under ground, there were no indications of artificial preservatives, and he kept fine.

We don't wish to question the World-Herald's judgment in matters antiquarian, but considering all these circumstances and the fresh and blooming condition in which His Boneship was found, we venture to suggest that on a closer inspection these mortal remains may prove to be those of Pat Crowe.

According to the World-Herald's own account, Pat had aged considerably at his last appearance and he may very well have worn down his molars to some degree in the process of gnawing his teeth in the agony of exile. So our theory would not seriously conflict with the 500-years-old hypothesis. At any rate, we present it for the consideration of the World-Herald. If the much resurrected Sherlock Holmes can offer anything to assist us and the World-Herald in wrestling with this problem, it is up to him.

AN ACCURSED BRIDGE.

No Wedding Party in England Will Pass Over the Structure.

Standing in the center of an open field at Hoxne, near Eye, in Suffolk, is an obelisk erected to the memory of King Edmund, who met his death there at the hands of the Danes in 870. On the site of the monument stood an oak tree, in the branches of which the king sought refuge from his foes. At nightfall he emerged from his leafy hiding place and secreted himself under a bridge which spanned a stream called the Goldbrook.

A wedding party, however, passing over the bridge in the evening, observed the king's gold spur glittering in the moonlight, and in this way his retreat became known to his enemies. He was taken back to the tree in which he had previously hidden himself and shot with arrows, and his body was afterward removed to Bury St. Edmunds and interred in the monastery there.

On Goldbrook bridge is inscribed a record of the event. Local tradition has it that many years ago the existing inscription was followed by the words, "Cursed be the wedding party that passes this bridge." No part of this malediction is now visible, but the tradition is so well known that a bridal party will take a circuitous route rather than pass over the bridge.—London Standard.

A TRIP TO A STAR.

The Ages of Time It Would Take One to Reach Centauri.

"Let us suppose a railway to have been built between the earth and the fixed star Centauri," said a lecturer. "By a consideration of this railway's workings we can get some idea of the enormous distance that intervenes between Centauri and us."

"Suppose that I should decide to take a trip on this new aerial line to the fixed star. I ask the ticket agent what the fare is, and he answers: 'The fare is very low, sir. It is only a cent each hundred miles.'

"And what, at that rate, will the through ticket one way cost? I ask. 'It will cost just \$2,750,000,000,' he answers."

"I pay for my ticket and board the train. We set off at a tremendous rate. 'How fast,' I ask the brakeman, 'are we going?'

"Sixty miles an hour, sir," says he, 'and it's a through train. There are no stoppages.'

"We'll soon be there, then, won't we? I presume."

"We'll make good time, sir," says the brakeman.

"And when will we arrive? 'In just 48,963,000 years.'—Philadelphia Bulletin.

SACRED STONES.

Some That Claim to Mark the Center of the Universe.

The sacred black stone of the Manchu dynasty of Chinese in Mukden is the center of the universe, according to old Chinese superstitions, and added venerability comes to Mukden from the graves of the emperors near by.

The Doring in Lassa, Tibet, is another center of the universe, which, according to the Tibetan priests, is shaped exactly like the shoulder blade of a sheep. All distances are measured from it, and it is very sacred.

Another center is the Kanba, in Mecca, a dirty black stone let into the wall of the most sacred mosque and polished every year by the lips of thousands of worshippers. The Arabic word for stone, "hajar," appears in Scriptural writings as a proper name. The Mecca pilgrimage is a "haj," and those who have taken it are known as "hajjis."

Even so same a people as the ancient Greeks came pretty near worshipping a stone—the "omphalos," or center of the earth, at Delphi. The Romans set up a stone of great consequence in Rome, but for purposes of measurement, not worship, and so the "London stone" of today is used.—London Telegraph.

A Considerate Judge.

A Kentucky congressman tells of a considerate judge in his state who passed sentence on a man convicted of murder. The judge said:

"Mr. Dodson, the jury says you are guilty of murder, and the law says you are to be hanged. It is my wish that you and all your friends on the river know that it is not I who condemn you. It is the jury and the law, Mr. Dodson. At what time, sir, would you like to be hanged?"

The prisoner made answer that it was a matter of indifference to him and that he was prepared to be swung off at any time. The judge continued:

"Mr. Dodson, it is a serious matter to be hanged. It can't happen to a man but once in life unless the rope should break before the neck is broken, and you had better take all the time you can. But since it makes no difference to you you may hang four weeks from today at 12 noon, but you may have a good dinner first."

The First Astor and the Poet.

John Jacob Astor and his son rigidly attended to business in the same office, a little one story building in Prince street, just east of Broadway. Their constant companion there was Fitz-Greene Halleck—Marco Bozzaris Halleck. Halleck became a clerk for Astor in 1832 and worked seventeen years. The employment, he himself said, was not "profitable, but permanent." Astor warned him when he began not to talk to any one of his wealth. The two men became great friends. Halleck spent months with his patron at his country seat and became one of the trustees of the Astor library. The poet frequently rallied the old man on his wealth. "Why, Mr. Astor," he would say, "if I had \$200 a year and was sure of it I would be content." The great landowner took him at his word, and in his will, much to the amusement of Bohemian New York, left Halleck an annuity of \$200.—Burton J. Hendrick in McClure's.

OBESITY A DISEASE.

Vigorous Measures for Its Removal Should Be Taken.

At middle age certain organs lose functional activity and shrink and waste away, demanding less blood and nerve energy. This decreased need for nutrition, if not heeded, will result in taking into the body more food than can be oxidized and used either to build up tissue or for the generation of heat and energy. The result is kidneys, liver and other excretory organs are overworked in the effort to remove the body wastes and become diseased, says a writer in the Housekeeper. Then nature stores up this foul material in the form of fat in all the lymph spaces, between the fibers of the muscles and in every other odd corner in the body where it can be stowed away. In time this lifeless, useless structure of fat crowds out muscle, gland and other normal tissues and takes their place. This is what is known as fatty degeneration and always shortens life, ending often in sudden death from heart failure, apoplexy, diabetes or kidney disorders.

The prevention of obesity means regulation of diet, especially in middle life and when changing from an active out of door occupation to a sedentary indoor life. Often the amount of food should be cut down from one-fourth to one-half, especially avoiding fats and sweets, also soft foods, which tend to gormandizing from deficient mastication and too hasty eating. No wine, beer or alcoholic drink or tea or coffee should be used. At meals even the use of water should be restricted. Exercise should be taken in the open air and deep breathing practiced to increase the intake of oxygen and burn up and oxidize bodily toxic matter.

For those women who are over stout, yet retain a fair amount of physical vigor, the day should begin with a cold bath, plunge, spray, cold towel rub or sponge bath, after which should be taken active exercise in the form of work, either in the open air or in a well ventilated room, horseback riding, bicycling or a brisk walk for an hour or more. Exercise in a well ventilated gymnasium may be substituted for the out of door, but is not so effective and invigorating.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

A girl is never going to go very far wrong who is a good chum of her father and brothers.

There is a family in every neighborhood which furnishes amusement for the rest and doesn't know it.

Every one has had more happy days in his life than wretched ones, but how he laments the wretched ones stand out!

There are so many operations of late that a man can become distinguished by arriving in heaven all in one piece.

One great trouble in life is that the paths for going wrong are planted so prettily with flowers at the beginning.

Occasionally a disagreeable person will boast that at least he is sincere, but that is no excuse for being disagreeable.

Three things you never discover till there is death in the house: The goodness of the neighbors, the clock time drags and how loud the way ticks.—Aitchison Globe.

Fresh Fruit.

"Gold in the morning, silver at noon and lead at night" is always used with reference to fruit. Most people think it means that the explanation of the proverb is that digestion is strongest in the morning and weakens as the day goes on. But you will note that the proverb refers to fruit alone. If it has to do with the digestive power only it should be applied to all foods. The real explanation is very different. It is that fruit freshly gathered is fitted for eating and lessens in value as the hours pass. That is true not of fruit only, but of all vegetables. That which comes direct from the garden to the table is the most palatable and in every way best fitted for consumption.

One Advantage.

Green.—This paper tells of a man who recently married his aunt, Brown.—He's in luck (Green) How so? Brown.—Being his own uncle now, he will be able to wear his watch regularly.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Setting Her Right.

Mrs. Housekeeper Jane, are the eggs boiling? Jane (late of Boston).—Most assuredly not, madam. I may safely say, however, that the water is in which they are immersed.—Philadelphia Press.

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