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### Gossip About Noted People

**UNCLE JOE CANNON** ran across the son of an old friend in East St. Louis, just before starting on the river trip—in fact the son of a man who gave him a position sixty years ago.

The speaker, with Vice President Sherman, Governor Deneen and Mayor Cook, were on a rapid fire auto trip through the stock yards, when they met C. C. Nesbit, an inspector of weights and measures.

Nesbit hiked for the automobile and grasped Cannon by the hand, much to the astonishment of the other members of his party.

"I'm C. C. Nesbit, son of old 'Slim' Nesbit," he told the speaker. "You remember my father?"

Uncle Joe's cigar lifted a few degrees and he smiled.

"You're d— right I do," he replied, this time almost chuckling. "Why, about sixty years ago," he related, as he turned to his companions, "old 'Slim' Nesbit was keeping a store in Tuscola. One day, bare-foot and ragged, I dropped in to see him and asked for a job.

"Sure," says old 'Slim'.

"I was poorer than h— and I certainly needed the money."

Several years ago C. C. Nesbit wrote to Uncle Joe on behalf of a young woman in Warsaw, Ky., who wanted a job. He said he was the son of 'Slim' Nesbit, and the young woman got her job by return mail.

**The Cardinal and the Newsies.**

The keen interest in small affairs of life and kindly sympathy for those in humble walks of life by Cardinal Gibbons, was shown by an incident which occurred during his usual stroll in Baltimore.

Two newsboys were engaged in a rough-and-tumble fight near the cardinal's home. The little pugilists formed the center of a group of men and boys, as well as many ladies who were shopping. Many were the exclamations of pity and reproach uttered by those in the crowd, but no one seemed inclined to interfere.

The cardinal's attention was arrested by the disturbance, and taking in the situation he quietly made his way through the crowd. Reaching the boys undetected by them, the cardinal laid his hand upon the shoulder of one of the lads, who turned to become an aggressor at the interruption. The look into the face of the cardinal sufficed to tell the lad who the personage was that had interrupted the muscular ar-

"more facts" which it was believed would never cease; they meant the working over of draft after draft of the editorial in preparation; they meant countless finished articles thrown away and a beginning all over again until the ear of the blind man was satisfied.

### Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Page Two.)

that the opium habit can be cured. Everywhere pills to take away the craving are sold, and in most of the great cities, hospitals and refuges have been established where the slaves of the drug go to break off the habit. In Foochow there are six such hospitals, and four of these report that they have already cured 2,250 persons. Such institutions have been established at Peking, Nanking, Tientsin, Wuchang, Canton and in many other places. Foreign doctors have also come in, and profess to be able to cure the opium habit. One of these who is well recommended is an American, Mr. C. B. Towns. He professes to be able to cure any one of the opium habit in three days. He established hospitals at Tientsin and Shanghai. He has started one at Pao Ting Fu, where it is said that one hundred patients came to him during the first month and were cured. Then the number of applications mysteriously decreased, and Mr. Towns found that this came from a report to the effect that, although the cure was successful, it always killed the patient within 100 days thereafter. This story was false, but it almost broke up the hospital.

Mr. Towns' institution at Tientsin was established at the expense of the viceroys, and officials who were cured received a certificate certifying that fact.

### Opium Versus Morphine.

One of the great dangers in the use of many of the anti-opium remedies is that they contain the drug in some other form. The government has had to extend its laws to morphine, and in one of the recent edicts the importation of morphine and of hypodermic syringes is prohibited and their sale is limited to practicing physicians.

The morphine habit has long been prevalent in many parts of the Chinese empire, and a vast amount of morphine pills are still consumed. In certain cities along the Yangtze along the hypodermic injecting of morphine is common. They have professional peddlers who go about with hypodermic syringes up their sleeves and give injections at the rate of about 2 cents apiece. Such men are to be found in the

teahouses, and are ready to give one a jab in the arm upon asking.

In the past it was customary for the members of a party to stand up in a row and hold out their arms with the sleeves rolled up to their shoulders. The most common place for the injection was about the biceps, but many of the opium fiends were tattooed from their necks to their wrists, and also on other parts of their bodies. The morphine injectors make their own solutions, and, as they use dirty water, the danger of their communicating diseases is great.

### As to Raising Opium.

The greater part of the opium used in China is raised at home. That imported from India amounts to millions of dollars a year, but a far greater quantity is grown upon Chinese soil. Poppy plantations are cultivated as far north as Manchuria, and there are provinces in southern and western China where opium is one of the principal crops. The reducing of the area of cultivation is causing a considerable loss to the farmers. The government realizes this, but, nevertheless, it insists that the laws be enforced. According to them, no ground can be planted to poppies, and the old fields must be cut down one-tenth of their original size every year.

In some provinces the viceroys have ordered the immediate stoppage of all cultivation of opium, and in others they have remitted the taxes for five or ten years upon opium lands which have been turned over to other crops. In Yunnan the soldiers have been directed to dig up the poppy fields, and the viceroy of Nanking recently issued an order that his farmers must destroy their opium seeds, and that such as had planted them should dig their fields over and put in something else.

All the opium raising lands have been registered and the government at Peking is keeping a close watch over the amount cultivated. The prince regent has offered medals and rewards to those who have

### Whisky Versus Opium.

In fact, opium is consumed here about as much as spirituous liquors are in England and the United States. Both habits are a mighty evil, and both cause a vast deal of misery; but to say that every man and woman and child in China is an opium

fiend is as false on its face as it would be to allege that every man, woman and child in England and America is addicted to drunkenness.

In closing this letter I would say that it will be a long time before the hopes of the Chinese statesmen and patriots can come to fruition. The work of repression is going on rapidly, but opium is still smoked largely in secret and an enormous amount of underhand selling and smuggling is done. These people are just as human as we are and the same conditions prevail as would obtain in the United States were we to try to abolish the drink habit within as short a time as the Chinese have allotted to the wiping out of this terrible drug. Some of the officials are hypocrites, others are openly disobeying the law, while others, bound in the Lascouon grip of the opium, are secretly smoking the drug or are injecting morphine into their persons behind their closed doors. The movement for the most part is earnest and honest, and it has already accomplished a vast deal of good.

### Millions of Opium Smokers.

On the other hand, it is a question whether the opium evil is anything like so great as is generally supposed. It has been stated that more than 100,000,000 of the Chinese are opium users. Some will tell you that the whole race is drugged and that all the men, women and children use opium daily. This is untrue on its face. I doubt whether the opium habit is as prevalent among the Chinese as the whisky and beer drinking habit is among the English, Germans or Americans. In the first place, it is costly, and the bulk of the Chinese are poor. Again, the amount of opium raised in China is pretty well known, and we have accurate statistics of all that is imported. Foreigners estimate the total annual consumption at something like 40,000,000 pounds. If this were divided equally among the people it would equal only one ounce per year per head. Now the average confirmed smoker takes about three maces a day, or ninety mace in one month.

Ten mace make an ounce, and this would equal nine ounces a month, or nine pounds a year. Dividing the 40,000,000 pounds by nine gives a quotient of less than four and one-half millions, the total number of confirmed smokers required to consume all the opium raised in China.

In other words, if one-tenth of the population were habitual opium smokers they would consume all the opium which China now has. If the estimate is doubled the number would be less than 10,000,000.

Dr. George Morrison of the London Times, who is one of our most careful writers on things Chinese and who knows the country better than any Chinese I am acquainted with, estimates the possible consumers at less than 8,000,000.

### Thayer County

(Continued from Page Three.)

abundant living water for the extensive stock farms located on its banks. The native timber along this creek is especially worthy of notice, bearing walnut trees, and oak, maple and box elder that would do credit to eastern forests.

One of the distinctive features of this place is a very fine magnesia limestone, which is extensively quarried here and shipped to points east and west. It admits of very fine polish and gives the appearance of brown marble. It makes a fine building stone.

It should be remembered that over half of the trade of this place comes from the state of Kansas, from which they are only distant one half mile.

Thayer county, though not the largest in the state, is one of the most productive. Last year this county sold and shipped out 12,000 head of beef cattle and 61,000 head of fat hogs. Also 1,123,000 bushels of corn, 1,125,000 bushels of wheat and 126,000 bushels of oats. Besides this the flouring mills shipped out 4,500,000 pounds of flour and 270,000 pounds of mill feed.

The county has 261,000 acres in farms and 191,000 acres under cultivation on which they produced this year, 95,000 acres of corn, 47,000 acres of wheat and 25,000 acres of oats. The dairy and poultry industry

is also assuming large proportions. Last year the farmers sold and shipped out 150,000 pounds of butter and 335,000 gallons of cream, together with 120,000 dozens of eggs and 400,000 pounds of dressed poultry.

Thayer county, with a few others, has a history somewhat different from most of the counties of the state, that may be designated as the Great Trail period. Nearly two and one-half decades before it became a county, it was the great highway along which those ambitious throngs of emigrants moved to the land beyond the great Rockies. This trail from the Missouri river to the Rocky mountains and beyond, was white with the sails of the "ships of the desert," all moving toward the setting sun.

Horace Greeley passed over this route in 1838. In the same year the Pony Express was established along this line from St. Joseph, Mo., to Sacramento, Cal. The trip from St. Joseph to Sacramento, a distance of about 2,000 miles, was made in eight days.

It is supposed that a man named Christian Luth, a German, was the first settler. He located near the government road. He was ridiculed by the pilgrims over the road, for attempting to farm on the great American desert.

Joseph Walker and James Reed, from Fort Kearny, in 1859, located on the Little Blue near the east line of the county. In the same year, Isaac Alexander settled on the Big Sandy. He brought with him, from Kansas, portable gristmill. In the winter of 1860-61, the few settlers were shut in by a snow blockade, till their stock of provisions was nearly exhausted. Fortunately they had raised a crop of corn and buckwheat, which they brought to the little mill, and, by hard work, ground out by hand, their immediate salvation with that memorable mill.

Probably the first permanent settlers in Thayer county, were George Welsch, John Charles and William Nightengale, who located in the vicinity of Alexandria in 1858. In July, 1860, the first postoffice in the county was established at the dugout of C. J. Rhodes, on the west side of the Blue. The Salt Lake express, established in 1858, carried the first mail across these desolate prairies. The stations were fifty miles apart. The part of the route through Thayer county, was between Big Sandy, on the east, to Pawnee Ranch on the west. In 1860, when Pike's Peak rush had reached its highest point, this route was a vast caravan of gold seekers and emigrants, the latter seeking a place to establish a home, the former thirsty with the ambition for gold.

### FRANK G. CARPENTER.

### Thayer County

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