

BUILDER HAS HARD STRUGGLE

Louis Peterson's \$2,500 Home Will Cost Him \$4,000 in the End. HAS A TRUSTING DISPOSITION His Carpenter Leaves Him in the Lurch When Home is Almost Completed—Material Men Swoop Upon Him.

With the savings of years Louis Peterson, janitor of Mason school, built himself a \$2,500 home. It will have cost him \$4,000 when it is finished. This is because of his trusting disposition and the peculiar lien laws of the state.

Peterson owned a lot at 2569 Mason street. He let a contract to William Ahearn at \$2,500. As the work on the building proceeded he paid Ahearn in installments until the contractor had received \$2,000.

Ahearn abandoned the building and left the city, being in financial straits. Peterson finished the work himself, hiring carpenters and other workmen and thought his troubles were over. Then Barker Bros. Co., the Plaster Lumber Co., and others who had furnished Ahearn's building material, filed liens against the house.

In order to determine what his rights were Peterson sued the material men to nullify the liens. He lost the suit, and judgment for the amounts claimed, totalling \$1,500, was entered against him.

Damages Are Asked for False Arrest

Damages of \$5,000 for false arrest are asked of Abraham Marks, head of A. Marks & Co., merchandise brokers, by Gerald E. Kerrin, former manager of the concern, in a suit instituted in district court yesterday. The suit is the outgrowth of financial troubles and disagreements that followed the sale of the Farmers Protective association to A. Marks & Co.

LOWERING COST OF LIVING

How Des Moines Brought Producer and Consumer Together Profitably.

Paul P. Bottom, secretary-treasurer of the Greater Des Moines committee, gives an instructive account in Civic Progress, official organ of the American Civic Alliance, of the means adopted to lower the cost of living in Iowa's capital and the success of the enterprise. He says:

"Although the city of Des Moines, Ia., is the center of the richest agricultural district in the world, the prices of vegetables, fruit and garden stuff were so high that necessities were fast becoming luxuries. For instance, potatoes at one time reached \$1 a bushel. All kinds of produce were selling at prices much higher than the average for former years, some of the advance being due to unfavorable growing conditions.

"The discussion of the high cost of living became a fad. The newspapers featured the subject, and it had its share of attention in the pulpits. The mayor and commissioners took the matter up. They announced that the little plot of lawn at the city hall would be opened as a municipal market. It was regarded as an experiment, and many of the officials were skeptical as to whether it would be successful.

"The next day the number doubled. Within a week over 100 farmers were at the market. In a month it had become so popular that more than 100 farmers were selling direct to the Des Moines households, and the wagons stretched for three blocks along the curb on market days. In many instances the old prices were cut in half; in others the reductions were even lower. It is estimated that the average reduction has been about 35 per cent. Citizens from all sections of the city patronize the market, scores even driving down in automobiles to make purchases.

PASSED UP A SNUG FORTUNE

How Grover Cleveland Threw Away Half a Million Profit on a Deal.

Recent sales in Washington in the neighborhood where Grover Cleveland, in his first administration, bought for his own use a country house and estate of 28 acres show that if he had retained it (and Mrs. Cleveland after him), the family would be worth \$500,000 more today than it is. This Washington country home of the Cleverlands was acquired soon after he was married, and at the time was quite in the center of activity in Washington, and especially from the White House. The president paid less than \$1,000 an acre for the property, which consisted of twenty-nine acres, but he spent about \$15,000 in improving the old house which stood on the grounds.

"The purchase of the president in this neighborhood started things. The real estate speculators took a cue, and real estate in the neighborhood began to hum, and has been humming ever since. Washington declared that if Grover Cleveland found this a delightful spot to live in, despite that he could spend his days in the White House, it, too, would share his pleasures, and the country proving truly delightful, Washington was eager and is still eager to buy real estate there, and magnificent homes have been put up in this neighborhood. The great streets and roads laid out in it, so that, all told, Washington has grown up to this spot,

GET-RICH-QUICK PLAN FAILS

Burlington's Agent at Moorcroft Tries Scheme of His own. HIS SYSTEM WAS TOO COURSE

Would Sell Ticket to Chicago for a Small Sum and Have Passenger Return It from Omaha "unused."

Henry Harshberger, agent for the Burlington at Moorcroft, Wyo., evolved a get-rich-quick plan, but before he had time to attach himself to very much wealth he found himself pried loose from his job and also in the custody of an officer.

Harshberger had a little ticket scalping scheme of his own, but in order to make it work he had to take into partnership all the passengers with whom he did business. Here's where he fell down and now he is charged with embezzling. The young man, for instance, would sell a passenger's ticket to Chicago over the Burlington for a small sum. Then the passenger would get off at Omaha, returning his ticket to Harshberger, who would report it unused, thus keeping the money. The plan was so coarse that it went wrong as soon as the first bunch of the "unused" tickets reached the auditing department of the Burlington, Omaha.

In the aggregate Harshberger is supposed to have disposed of to exceed half a dozen tickets before his coarse methods of doing business were discovered, immediately after which he was placed under arrest.

COST OF LIVING COMPARED

Income and Outgo in European Countries and in the United States.

With the co-operation of the Commercial Museum of Trieste, Mario Alberti, author of "The Cost of Life," has prepared a study of "The Movement of Prices and Salaries in 1911," which is published in Italian by Ettore Vram, of Trieste.

Mr. Alberti finds by a comparison of prices in different countries for fourteen years that the upward trend is general, but that the percentage of increase is by no means uniform. Using an assumed base figure of 100, he finds the rise in eight countries to have been as follows:

Table with columns: Country, 1897, 1906, 1909, 1910, 1911. Rows: Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, England, Italy, United States.

The United States in 1907 compared very favorably with the foreign countries named, the average of prices being lower than here, in but two of the seven. In 1907 prices here had become as high as any, though matched in Canada and Germany, both highly protected countries. In 1906, 1909 and 1910 United States prices were the highest, and led in height by an increasing margin, Germany and Canada still following close behind. Expressed in percentages, prices had risen here 6.6 per cent in thirteen years; in England, 25.4 per cent; in Austria, 23 per cent; in Belgium, 22.6 per cent. Yet the United States is the country of origin of much of the food of the world; of nearly all of its exported cotton, of lumber and their first necessities.

Why, then, do Mr. Alberti's Austrian fellow countrymen and his Italian brothers in race continue to come here in such tremendous numbers? This is shown in another table, where the comparatively stable conditions in England are taken as a standard of comparison:

Table with columns: Country, Rent, Food, Costs, Wages. Rows: England, Belgium, Germany, France, Austria, Italy, United States.

From this table it is seen that rent is the one item that chiefly accounts for the greatly preponderant cost of living in the United States. Provisions still average cheaper here than in Austria or Italy, though more expensive than in the other countries named. But in the United States alone—probably also in Canada, if it were included in Mr. Alberti's second table—the balance of pay against cost of living is more favorable to the poor man than in England, Belgium, with the lowest wages of all, is less unfavorable to workingmen than Austria or Italy, because of its much lower living costs.

Though the cost of living is pretty nearly the same in Germany and Austria for the laboring man, housewives of commercial and professional families are said to find Berlin a cheaper city to live in than Vienna, and Germany follows next after the United States, England and Belgium as to the workingman's prosperity. Indeed, social legislation such as old age pensions, accident insurance, etc., not taken account of in these tables, may make his condition in fact next after that of the working Englishman.

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Of large proportion and handsomely trimmed, is nickel constructed on the new triple flue plan, which insures perfect distribution of heat and a large radiating surface. Automatic gas covers prevent escape of gases. Magazine is extra large, holds fire for exceptionally long time. Gracefully moulded side wings, roll design foot rails and high leg base makes this a very tall, broad and effective Base Burner.

which was a forest in the days of Cleveland, and he would not recognize it could he see it today. On account of the Cleveland house, the neighborhood has been called Cleveland park, and a park it is. Grover Cleveland ever hated to have himself made a source of speculation, but he could not help himself when the real estate, in consequence of his choice, took a boom, and he profited, after all, considerably; for after he retired as president the first time he sold the house and his 22 acres, but for the comfortable sum of \$125,000, having made \$100,000 by the investment. Nevertheless, as a land in

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THESE ARE SPECIAL VALUES FOR THIS WEEK

Advertisement for furniture including a colonial dresser (\$12.25), a new design enamel bed (\$3.95), an American quartered oak library table (\$7.95), and a fine chiffonier (\$11.25).

Advertisement for a 4 completely furnished room for \$5.00 a month, totaling \$99.00, featuring a Davenport.

Advertisement for a complete line of Peninsular and Garland heaters, cook stoves, and ranges.

Advertisement for a double heating Lincoln base burner, priced at \$28.95.

Advertisement for a 1913 model kitchen cabinet, priced at \$8.25, and a combination china closet and buffet, priced at \$22.50.

Advertisement for a rare rocker bargain, priced at \$4.95, and a new fall line of heaters and ranges, priced at \$8.50.

HARTMAN'S 1414-16-18 DOUGLAS ST.

BRIDE BALKS AT WORD "OBEY"

Ceremony Proceeds When the Bridegroom Agrees to Do Likewise.

The word "obey" in the old Anglican marriage ceremony almost stopped the wedding of Miss Mary Fee and Thomas B. Clouder of Springfield, Ill., when they appeared before Justice of the Peace Edward P. Williams in East St. Louis the other day.

omit the word "obey" in pronouncing the ceremony. When the justice refused the young woman demurred and had to be urged by her fiancé to proceed.

"You appear to have traveled a great deal," said the first passenger. "Do you find that the people of any one locality

are more cordial or hospitable than those of another?" "No," replied the other. "I can't say that I do; most everybody asks me to call again and so—"

"Simplicity is Power." "Did the story he made up to tell his wife run out all right?" "Nope; it was a complete failure."

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