OMAHA SUNDAY BEE: FEBRUARY, 23, 1913. THE



in the big features very comfortably. In a week you can do everything-talk to the Quaint and Curious Rhymes that his grade school work-that is, until he

steamshovels, walk through Culebra cut dig for gold at old Panama and swim with the pelicans at Taboga island. Another disappointment for the super

ficial observer is the look of the country. The casual American goes to the tropics with his hopes high. He is very sad over the city of Colon, where he docks. Anybody would be. The water is yellow, the town gay, the land low. The train-a perfectly good American rattler-hauls him of our old inns. Poetical signboards for a "job" after forty years. He isn't sure southward. The visitor looks out eagerly for the tropics of his ideal-monkeys playing with cocoanuts, purple, scarlet, emeraid birds, and the vivid, mysterious jest in rhyme for the amusement of cus- worked since one was only 14, often poorly jungle! He sees-a very tolerable replica of any New Jersey bad lands, here a are still to be seen.

swamp, there some hummocky hills, and It is not often that public house signs everywhere red clay. There are no monwarn people against the evil of drunkenkeys, no vivid color, no jungle that looks ness, but the little village of Great Budworth in Cheshire has such a curiosity. particularly jungleful. Here and there an odd tree sticks up, looking like a feather Over the doorway of the George and duster that has lost its way. A palm tree, Dragon is inscribed; you are told-or if it is a particularly

stunted one, a banana tree. But so home like and untropical is the rest of the landscape that these few strangers out of the geography look like exotics set down in a rather forlorn part of the old farm. The more you wander about, the less

you think of New Jersey. For one thing gate: on the credit side, it is not nearly so hot and uncomfortable. For another, the mosquito is a rare bird. Then the jungle proves on closer acquaintance to be a the distance but very cagelike and secure close to-together with the freshly oiled ditches running every which way suggests very forcibly the peril that lies all about. By the time you have talked with a few of the 5,000 Americans on the zone-and especially with one whose memory goes back to the yellow fever days before Colonel Gorgas cleaned up the isthmus-you will gain a much clearer respect for the tropics and for what your fellow country. men are doing in them. It may look like New Jersey. But it doesn't act like New Jersey, by a long shot,

Greatness of the Job.

And right here you begin to touch the real greatness of the job of digging the big ditch. It is not simply the size of the work. That is only one of the factors. This enormous scale is hardly to be sniffed at. In itself it creates new engineering problems all along the line. And not even those who ought to know realize just how hulking a thing the biggest of Leicester, there was a sign depicting two all jobs is Among the canal yarns float- idiotic-looking individuals drinking pots ing about the Caribbean is the tale of an of beer, with the wording beneath, "We American admiral, who wirelessed fran- three toggerheads be!" Who and where tically to Colon for provisions. "Can you the third "loggerhead" was has puzzled spure me 50,000 pounds of rations?" he not a few, and caused many a hearty asked. To which the quartermaster at laugh when the solution dawned upon Colon is supposed to have flashed back: "Small orders receive exactly the same A little villa

attention as large." But size is only one of the factors that so to make up the unparalleled record at Panama. Put it, rather, that we have built the largest work ever attempted by man and built it in a deadly pest hole and built it at top speed and built it with the highest efficiency and economy with-

out a suggestion of graft anywhere. Then you have a fair suggestion of the dunce in his business, for the alluring real achievement at Panama-of what invitation-5.000 white men have done there in the name of America.

As you begin to realize all this you form some appreciation of the many things he- suggests boundless possibilities to the ildes engineering that have gone to make thirsty. Things, however, are not althe canal. It is safe to suy that had it ways what they seem, and the customer 184

Attract Business to Old English Inns.

much amusement has been caused and

many customers attracted by the quaint

tomers and examples of these effusions

was 13 years old. Then they carried his father home one day, horribly injured, and when a year later his sufferings were over, "The Fool" Doggerel they may be considered by learned that his little mother had but some people, but there is no doubt that

her tired hands to support herself, "The Fool" and the four younger children. He could see but one thing to do, and and curious rhymes which are often to be he did it. Big and strong and clean physfound adorning the walls and signposts | ically, he soon got a "job." He still has public houses, of course, are no novelty. how long he will be able to keep it, for For centuries, in fact, it has been the jobs, even more than positions, are hard custom of poetical publicans to crack a to hold after one is 54, and when one has fed, often insufficiently clothed, some times fifteen hours out of twenty-four. one is not young at 54. But "The Fool"

is not worrying about his future. He has realized for forty years that he had "The kids now, that's difno future. ferent. Dad would have gotten them the best." They got it-the kids. Only "The

simply would not go to school. You

ought to hear him tell how he put it over

mother working for months, when she

As St. George, in armed array, Did the flery dragon slay, so mayest thou, with might no less, Fool" works at "a job." The others are successes, educated, trained successes, all Slay that dragon, Drunkenness four of them. They are quite fond of There are several inns which display "The Fool." They don't call him that. the following lines on stgnboards which They call him "Good old John." and are take the form of a painted five-barred sorry-sometimes-they have somehow left him so far behind. But then, "John

This gate hangs high And hinders none Refresh and pay And travel on.

noted inn in England, the White A very real and terrible thing. And the Horse, bore on its sign this illusion to screened-in houses-rather Japanesey in four other inns in the immediate locality My White Horse shall bite the Bear And make the Angels fly; Shall turn the ship bottom-side up, And drink the three cups dry. Very often, however, rhymes take the form of warnings to customers who seek to drink, but not to pay. Here are two or three examples to be seen on signboards in various parts of the country:

Pay today and trust tomorrow You never know what man to trust: Take my advice, don't ask or borrow, Since man to man is so unjust. Two other verses run as follows: My beer is good, my measure just; Excuse me, friends, I cannot trust.

Free to call, free to think, Free to talk, free to drink, Free to pay, free to stay. Yet another runs:

Friendly Advice-Drink moderately, pay honorably, be good company, part friendly, go home quietly. Let these lines be no man's sorrow; pay today, and trust tomorrow.

Until very recently, in Red Cross street,

A little village inn outside Gloucester has a double-sided sign bearing the following lines, which suit both situations: Before the hill you do go up, Step in and have a cheery cup. On the other side it is: You're down the hill, all danger's past, Come in and have a friendly glass. The composer of the rhyme inscribed on the Chequers Inn. Yorkshire, was not a

Be not in haste. Step in and taste Ale tomorrow for nothing. Tickets



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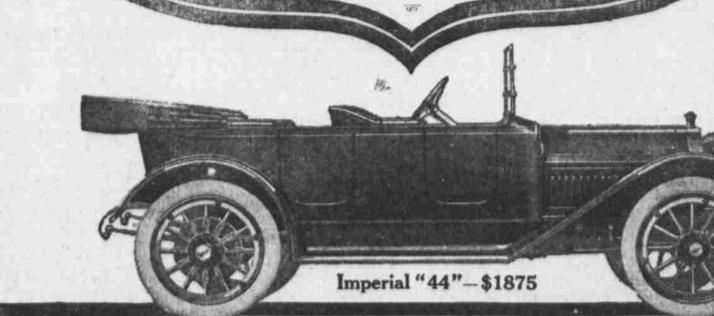
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