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Prayer and publicity are a great team.
Saving the seed spells safety first for farmers and the next year's crop.

One reformer demands prayers for "some of our leading citizens." Why such invidious discrimination?

But the lid wouldn't tilt unless someone tried to tilt it! A little reformation work with the lid-titlers might help some.

Although scarcely begun, the 1917 obituary list is already filling up with notables. Remember the Grim Reaper loves a shining mark.

Reported discovery of a wireless station near the City of Mexico suggests the pertinent question: "Where did Carranza get the money?"

Viewed from the price list of table necessities a merry-go-round in a vegetable garden, as a means of profitable recreation, beats a dozen in a park.

Reference to the legislative score board of strangled speeches leaves no doubt that several coming statesmen can easily qualify for the filibuster championship.

It will be noted in connection with the British report on the Dardanelles tragedy that the burden of obloquy is placed on Lord Kitchener, who cannot answer back because he is dead.

In other words, our amiable democratic contemporary emphatically approves the president's order for selection of postmasters by competitive examination—provided he does not mean it.

It must be on the theory that the first shall be last and the last shall be first that the legislation qualifying Nebraska to share in the federal good roads appropriation has been kept from having right-of-way.

Wholly aside from the theological phase of the question, a layman may be permitted to enquire if a ministerial servant is justified in putting up to the Master a prayer test calling for a preliminary knockdown?

Washington authorities are said to be alarmed by the establishment of direct wireless communication between Germany and Mexico. While we are insisting on freedom of the seas, how can we object to freedom of the air over the seas?

Real "improvements" in the railway mail service will always be welcome, but "improvements" that merely demoralize the service and delay delivery of the mails, under the pretense of saving the salary of a clerk or a carrier, will never be popular.

Cheer up! The country is safe! When six wise judges suspend regular duties and solemnly analyze the whiffiness of the wherefore of a county job, he who entertains a doubt of the self-sacrificing spirit of American patriotism lifts himself into the shelf of hopeless cynics.

Otoe county farm land bringing \$190 an acre at forced sale sets a lilt pace for neighboring counties. Considering present values of farm products the sale price is not excessive. Its chief emphasis lies in showing that farm ownership nowadays represents more solid capital than ever cheered the dreams of homesteaders.

As a war machine Count Zeppelin's monster airships proved more frightful in the advance notices than in execution. Practically useless in day time, their operations at night were handicapped by "low visibility" of targets, while their great bulk offered effective targets for invisible guns. Their efficiency as air navigators was demonstrated in peace times, but the stress of war added little to it. Long before the shadows gathered about the distinguished inventor he was a regretful observer of the supremacy of the aeroplane as a factor in war.

A Real Achievement
Washington Post

While slaughter continues in Europe on a scale never dreamed of by historians of the past, the United States has been making steady progress in its life-saving campaign and in the preservation of health. The health bureaus of the federal government and the various states, as well as energetic private organizations, have substantially reduced the number of deaths from tuberculosis. The railroads have reduced the number of train accidents and grade crossing casualties.

Probably in no branch of this national endeavor has there been an advance more marked than in saving lives at the coal mines. Fewer men lost their lives in American coal mines during 1916 than in any year of the last ten, although the year was the most prosperous in the history of mining, with more men employed and a greater tonnage taken from the earth than ever before.

The army of mine workers numbered more than 750,000. Three and three-tenths of each thousand was the percentage of "killed by accident," the lowest death rate in eighteen years and the lowest on record per ton of coal mined.

This great advance in life saving has been due largely to the skillful work of the federal bureau of mines, as well as to the helpful co-operation of the mine owners and the workmen themselves. The saving in life may seem insignificant in comparison with the enormous loss of life by willful destruction in Europe, but it is this saving in life of peace that marks the real progress of civilization.

The President Acts.

In announcing his intention to permit the arming of merchant ships flying the American flag and issuing a proclamation for an extra session of congress, President Wilson has set out to retrieve a blunder which could easily have been avoided. His power to authorize the arming of protective purposes of American vessels is neither greater nor less now than it has been at any time since he took office. If his present action is within the scope of his constitutional prerogative it might have been done without appeal to congress whenever in his judgment conditions demanded. Better late, however, than never.

It was the course the president chose in going about to reach the point he has at last attained that precipitated the deplorable filibuster and caused the failure of important legislation that makes an extra session of congress imperative. Americans generally approve the president's expressed determination to keep us out of war, but they also expect redemption of his pledges to uphold American rights and protect the lives of American citizens everywhere. If he is now prepared to act firmly along the lines admittedly within his constitutional authority and also to recognize the equal responsibility of congress for preserving the public peace and safety, he will make headway against the sea of trouble that has almost overwhelmed him.

New Rule Governing Senate Debate.

Limited cloture has been adopted by the United States senate, its application to be determined by the assent of two-thirds of the members. This indicates a willingness on part of the senate to avoid future filibusters by making them almost impossible. So long as the present rule prevails one or two men will no longer be able to force their will on the body, except in the very closing hours of a session. The two-thirds rule will have another effect, important to some degree, especially in such a crisis as that of last week, for it will require an expression of opinion from all the senators through a vote of assent or dissent before the main question is put.

Senators who are in opposition to the president resent, and properly so, vigorously his public expressions denouncing them as "unpatriotic." In his chagrin at being refused a "blank check" the president evidently overlooked the fact that he was criticizing a co-ordinate branch of the government, into whose keeping the making of war is placed by the constitution. He asked for the keys to the temple of Janus, and, failing to get them, exhibits a degree of petulance that does not well comport with the seriousness of the situation.

The ambiguity of the phrase, "other instrumentalities," not only mystified the senate, but has left the whole public guessing. More of openness and less of insistence, on his own views might have saved Mr. Wilson quite a bit of embarrassment. It is not too late to remedy the matter. The new rule will permit the passage of the armed neutrality measure in any form two-thirds of the senators may agree to.

More Postal False Economy.

The Commercial club of Omaha is rightly protesting against the latest manifestation of false economy by the Postoffice department. Not content with making the local postoffice run frightfully short-handed, regardless of its rapidly growing business, the economizers at Washington are now crippling the railway mail service with the consequence that the transmission and delivery of mail is more delayed and irregular than ever. No one objects to the Postoffice department organizing its forces upon an efficiency basis, cutting out waste and slack and requiring of employes a full day's work for a full day's pay, but economy attained by deteriorating the service or proceeding on the idea that the people can wait for their mail until the mail clerks catch up with several days or weeks' accumulations, is wholly at variance with prevailing ideas of enterprise and destructive of private business that depends upon the mails. The postal economizers seem to forget that it is service which postoffice patrons want and are paying for. They should be politely but firmly informed that, while post-office patrons may have to take what is handed them, they cannot be made to like it or be kept from registering their dissatisfaction.

Zeppelin, Explorer of the Air.

Count Ferdinand Zeppelin, just dead in Germany, will live in history as the inventor of a dirigible airship that has taken man far towards the goal of mastery of aerial navigation. Zeppelin served in the United States during the civil war as an observer, and while on such duty he made his first balloon flight and gained an idea that never left him. During the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 he served with distinction as an officer of the cavalry and was decorated for distinguished conduct. Following that war, while yet connected with the army, he gave his time principally to the study of aeronautics, and finally impoverished himself in his efforts to build the airship of his dreams. The German people caught his enthusiasm and great popular subscriptions aided him in carrying on his work, till the Zeppelin was finally brought to its present stage of usefulness. Before the present war much was said of the approaching trip of a Zeppelin to the United States. Hostilities intervened and the extended flights of airships have been directed to the purpose of attacking enemy towns. The service of the Zeppelin in warfare, beyond its capacity for dropping bombs, is not yet demonstrated. Its capabilities are only partly realized, and it may be worth much more in peace than in war. At any rate, the studies and experiments of Count Zeppelin and his associates have led man far into the air, and knowledge thus gained will be of immense value in the ultimate solution of the problem. The Germans may not feel like telling all they have learned during the present war, but the flights recorded must have produced something that can be put to use in times of peace. Zeppelin's faith in his ideas was not wholly rewarded, but he left enough of his work to be of great assistance to his successors.

Mrs. Catt shields herself behind an alleged interview of Attorney General Reed, printed in a Lincoln paper, which, on its face, is palpably garbled. If Madam President of the National American Suffrage association wants to be fair, why not first write to Mr. Reed and ask him what he really said? But, whether he used the language credited to him or not, the facts are conclusive against the "counted out" charge which Mrs. Catt has so recklessly sponsored.

With all postoffice jobs removed from the pie belt, the prospect of financing future congressional campaigns takes on gobs of political gobs.

Rev. J. Frank Young

"My First Sermon"

"It was really serious business with me, as I believed all I said."

My first sermon was preached in a little country school house, a few weeks after I graduated from college. Few memories of it stay with me. The text, however, always has, as it was a very good one. It may be found in the First Book of Kings, the twentieth chapter and the fortieth verse, "And as thy servant was busy here and there, he was gone." What I said or what impression was made I do not now recall. I do not think there was anything funny happened. It was a hot summer day in the state of Michigan, and the farmer folk who made up the little audience were tired when I began and I expect more so when I stopped, but they were kind enough to ask me to come back again, possibly because the money obligation was so slight that they thought they were not likely to be badly burdened if I accepted. I went back several times and preached the best I could. It was really serious business with me, as I believed all I said and worked hard to make those who listened do the same.

J. Frank Young
Pastor Westminster Presbyterian church.
(Next—"My First Sermon" by Rev. Charles W. Savigoy.)

Catholic Directory Census

There are 17,022,879 Catholics in the United States proper according to the 1917 edition of "The Official Catholic Directory," published and copyrighted by P. J. Kennedy & Sons, New York. With sixty-four American archdioceses and dioceses reporting increases, four showing decreases and thirty-three archdioceses and dioceses making no change in the population figure the increase in the number of Catholics during the year 1916 is shown to be 458,770.

According to Joseph H. Meier, the directory compiler, the figure 17,022,879 is very conservative, including, as it does only the figures submitted by the hierarchy officials. Taking into consideration the "floating" Catholic population and the fact that some of important archdioceses and dioceses take up a census only at intervals of ten years, Mr. Meier feels that he is safe in saying that the Catholic population of the United States is at present nearly 19,000,000.

Looking over that section which contains the data for our island possessions one finds that there are 7,342,262 Catholics in the Philippines and adding to these Philippine Catholics the number reported for Alaska, the canal zone, Guam, our possessions in Samoa, the Hawaiian islands and Porto Rico the total number amounts to 8,413,257. This figure does not include the Catholics of the three recently acquired Danish West Indies.

There are, therefore, under the United States flag, 25,436,136 Catholics divided as follows: Continental United States, 17,022,879; foreign possessions of the United States, 8,413,257. Other figures taken from the 1917 publication show that there are 102 seminaries in the United States with 6,298 young men studying for the priesthood; 216 colleges for boys, 687 academies for girls; 293 orphan asylums, 106 homes for the aged, as well as 5,687 parochial schools with an enrollment of 1,537,644 children.

There are twenty-seven states in the union having a Catholic population of 100,000 or over. New York leads with a total of 2,962,971, followed by Pennsylvania, Illinois and Massachusetts in the order named, each being in the million class. Nebraska stands twenty-fourth, with a Catholic population of 115,432.

Cutting Up Big States

San Francisco Chronicle

The lower branch of the Idaho legislature has passed a resolution for calling a constitutional convention to consider the question of dividing the state. The proposal does not seem to be the result of ill-feeling between the sections, but of a general recognition of the fact that the interests of the mining and lumbering counties of the north so greatly differ from those of the agricultural sections of the south that it is expensive, inconvenient and unsatisfactory to combine them in one administrative unit. Concretely expressed, each section is taxed for state services by which but one section benefits, and both feel that it would be more desirable for each section to pay its own bills.

The people of Idaho may set a fashion. When Texas was admitted to the union it was expressly provided that whenever its people should so desire it might be divided into not more than four states.

This provision was in contemplation of the necessity, from the viewpoint of the south, of maintaining the influence of the slave-holding states in the United States senate. Happily, that particular reason for increased representation in the senate no longer exists, but it may be found that other reasons, equally potent, have grown out of the progress of the nation.

The territory west of the east line of Colorado, comprising nearly one-half of the United States, has interests greatly differing from those east of that line. They differ, in fact, so greatly that eastern people cannot be made to understand them. There are also doubtless temperamental differences between the populations. And yet the eastern half of the continent is represented at Washington by fifty-four senators, while the west has but twenty-two. The natural alignment of the western half of Texas is with the western section of the nation. And Texas, with its 265,000 square miles, is much larger than the German empire and will some time support a larger population. And Texas, like Idaho and California, includes sections which are industrially, and perhaps temperamentally, diverse.

The time may come when in the general interest it may be deemed wise for the west to reorganize its state lines so as to create state administrative units as nearly homogeneous in interest as may be found possible. At any rate, it is a subject which should be considered from the standpoint of sense and not sentiment.

People and Events

Professional dignity does not stand in the way when safety points to a window. Back in Kenosha, Wis., two doctors fled through a window to escape the artillery of a father enraged because his 3-year-old daughter died under the knife. The window suffered all the damage.

Between 4,000 and 5,000 persons disappear from New York City every year. Most of them do so because they want to. Real mysterious disappearances are few, so far as police records show. The most recent of this kind is the disappearance of Ruth Cruger, a Harlem school girl, missing for three weeks past. Not a shadow of a clue has been discovered and her fate appears as baffling as that of Dorothy Arnold.

Signs of spring are not limited to the twitters of robins. Fish stories are taking on life and snake stories are already on tap. Gloversville, N. Y., leaps to the fore with a rattler of the latter species. Edward Van Warren had a cough—something of a coker. I thought a "frog" was hatched to his gutlet. A particularly violent spell of coughing, coughed up a snake as big as a lead pencil. Van feels better with the wiggler out of his system.

TODAY

Health Hint for the Day.

To keep the hands in good condition, wash with a mild soap, dry very thoroughly with a soft towel and when the hands are dry rub in completely a little glycerine of starch scented with lavender or eau de Cologne.

One Year Ago Today in the War.

German attack on Verdun centered around Vaux. British torpedo boat and destroyer sunk by mines off east coast of England.

British relief column advanced to within seven miles of surrounded British force at Kut-el-Amara, in Mesopotamia.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

Articles of incorporation were filed of the Omaha Women's Christian Association. The incorporators are Mesdames P. L. Perrine, J. J. McLain, J. B. Jardine, C. L. Soule, J. B. Knight, J. H. Grant, Isabella P. Ludington, H. M. James, W. J. Welshans, H. Rohner, H. M. McCague, M. E. Pratt, M. A. Elliott, E. B. Wood and W. V. Doollittle.

Joe Needham, the affable and popular clerk of Cozzen's, has gone east and his friends say he was drawn



thither by the attractions of a young lady in Jersey City, whom he intends to bring back with him as his bride. Creighton college received as a donation from John A. Creighton his valuable lot on the northeast corner of Nineteenth and Chicago with the church standing on the ground.

The incorporators of the new South Omaha Loan and Building association are T. Whittlesey, E. H. Herviland, E. F. Bayless, E. M. Hunt, J. A. Silvee, E. K. Wells, Adam Keilner, H. C. Miller, C. C. Van Kuren, E. K. S. McCall, H. C. Postwick, W. C. Cook, M. J. De Grant and J. D. Jones.

The marriage of Miss Mabel Dyer and George A. Stickey occurred at the residence of Mrs. Dyer on Farmington. Misses Lena Deitz and Margaret Dyer acted as bridesmaids, and Messrs. E. A. Brown and D. W. Keister as groomsmen. The ceremony was performed by Rev. A. W. Clark of the Calvary Baptist church.

H. A. Penrose and William Brewer have returned with seventy-six ducks which they bagged in two and a half hours near Bellevue.

This Day in History.

1804—The upper Louisiana territory was transferred to the United States.

1814—French defeated by allies (Austrians, Prussians and Russians) at the battle of Waterloo.

1817—Samuel Meredith, an officer of the revolution and first treasurer of the United States, died at Belmont, Pa. Born in Philadelphia in 1741.

1847—American army under General Winfield Scott began the investment of Vera Cruz.

1851—Second constitutional convention of Ohio, which had adjourned from Columbus to Cincinnati on account of cholera, completed its labors and adjourned.

1853—Marriage of Princess Alexandra of Denmark and the prince of Wales.

1872—Giuseppe Mazzini, famous Italian patriot, died at Pisa. Born at Genoa June 22, 1805.

1893—A great fire in Boston destroyed nearly \$5,000,000 of property and several lives.

1895—Spanish cruiser Reina Regenta foundered in Trafalgar bay, with loss of over 400 lives.

1902—William H. Moody of Massachusetts was appointed secretary of the navy.

1911—The international peace bureau at Berne, Switzerland, sent a circular letter to all the powers, urging the limitation of armaments as proposed by the United States congress.

1812—Yuan Shi Kai was inaugurated president of China.

The Day We Celebrate.

Walter V. Graham, accountant, was born March 10, 1859. He is a native Nebraskan and attended the University of Nebraska. For ten years he was in the auditing department of the Burlington.

Congressman John J. Fitzgerald of New York, chairman of the appropriations committee of the house, born in Brooklyn, N. Y., forty-five years ago today.

Arthur Reynolds, noted Chicago banker and financier, born at Pandora, Ia., forty-nine years ago today.

Rt. Rev. John Hazen White, Episcopal bishop of South Bend, Ind., born in Cincinnati sixty-eight years ago today.

Anna Vaughn Hyatt, noted woman sculptor, who designed the Jeanne d'Arc statue recently erected in New York City, born at Cambridge, Mass., forty-one years ago today.

Rt. Rev. Theodore I. Reese, bishop coadjutor of the Episcopal diocese of southern Ohio, born in New York City forty-four years ago today.

Everett A. Hays, representative in congress of the Eighth California district, born at Waterloo, Wis., sixty-two years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

Sugar cards are to come into operation in France today.

Sunday if the day fixed for the Mexican elections for president and members of congress, according to recent advices received in Washington.

The grand lodge of the Sons of Hermann of Georgia and Florida, an organization composed of persons of German descent, is to assemble Sunday at Jacksonville.

Teams representing Cornell and Ohio State universities are to engage in an intercollegiate debate at Columbus today on the subject of universal military service.

Today has been set apart as Orange day in California and an invitation has been extended to all the other states in the union to participate in the festivities.

The twenty-first annual National Feeders and Breeders' show, an adjunct of the annual convention of the Cattle Raisers' Association of Texas, is to have its formal opening tonight at Fort Worth.

Storyette of the Day. When it comes to repartee trust the Rotary club to have a quota under steam all the time. Just for instance: At a recent meeting of the club Rollare Eggleston was on the floor calling for volunteer performers for the forthcoming Rotary minstrel show. "I can play a flute," Walter Kipp shouted. Somebody suggested that Harry Stormont could play trap drums. "Dale Eagfield can play maracas," piped Frank Shepard. The laugh went round and everybody thought Shepard had it on Eggleston, but the Keith manager came back with: "We'll book him. Somebody has to haul the baggage."—Indianapolis News.

The Bee's Letter Box

If Hunting for a Goat.

Omaha, March 9.—To the Editor of The Bee: What are the chief of police's duties? Is it really up to the commissioner to go around and see that questionable places are closed? Why always make the commissioner the goat? The fire chief is always with his men at fires. Why not our great, broad-shouldered chief of police with his men?—MRS. T. K. L.

Suppress Wooster? Oh, No!

Upland, Neb., March 9.—To the Editor of The Bee: I would like to know what would satisfy Mr. Wooster of Silver Creek. All letters I have read from him have been running down the present administration. Such a letter as he wrote yesterday should be kept out of your paper. A PATRIOTIC AMERICAN.

More Equilibrium Needed.

Omaha, March 8.—To the Editor of The Bee: I noticed a very violent and vehement outburst in your columns a few days ago from a young man from North Platte, who signed his name "Byron E. Oberst," because of what I had said about the Boy Scouts. What I wrote was simply my own opinion, and the opinion of a good many others, and if the young man does not like to read what I write for the papers there is no law compelling him to read my articles. If I could write or say or do things that would please every person living, I would be able to do what Christ himself was unable to do when He was on earth, for He was able to please only a small part of the people then living.

The young man Oberst would shut off my writing for the papers because I do not please him, but what I have written has pleased a great many people, for I have received numerous compliments from judges of our courts, from scores of lawyers and other professional men, including ministers, from numberless business men and workmen. Many cut out the articles and save them, never expect all to be pleased with what I write, nor do you as editor of The Bee. But even the article that Oberst takes so much umbrage at was spoken of approvingly to me by a great many people.

Even though he is of German descent, he need not feel so hurt over what I said in criticism of the German system of training boys for war and how to kill people as soon as they are born, for I simply criticized the system that the people of Germany are compelled to live under. More than 99 per cent of the people of German birth in this country today came from Germany to escape the tyrannical government of the emperor and his fellow despots and very few of them care to go back there to live.

Oberst should follow his own teachings of self-control before he has any more such violent outbursts. He will probably gain more equilibrium as he grows older, as he is quite young yet. I want to congratulate Mr. Rodman M. Brown on his fine article. It was gotten up in fine shape, and I read it with a great deal of interest. Yet all the scout managers do not seem to agree. Some claim they are semi-military organizations, while others claim not.

I do not claim they have not done some good, but like a great many other organizations it can be overdone and time taken that could be put to better use a great many times.

Then if the suits cost about \$7 for each scout, it looks to me as if that was a pretty heavy tax on a great many people, for few boys of poor people or people in moderate circumstances have suits that cost near

Every Day is "Cut Price Day" at the Rexall Drug Stores

With prices of food stuffs and other necessities rising rapidly you owe it to yourself to make your purchases where dependable merchandise can be procured at the least expense.

You can save time and money by trading at the 5 REXALL DRUG STORES

Sherman & McConnell Drug Co. Five Good Drug Stores.

The L. V. Nicholas Oil Company

L. V. Nicholas stock has all of these. Call or write for particulars.

Selling in amounts of from \$100 to \$1,000 at \$100 per share.

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are founded and developed along conservative lines

—often happens that men, after striving a lifetime, do not realize the fundamental principles of a good investment.

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Selling in amounts of from \$100 to \$1,000 at \$100 per share.

Easy to Play—Easy to Pay!

This Edward B. Healy Player Piano

—easy to pedal

\$2.50 Weekly \$375 10-Year Guaranty

The picture above was made from an actual photograph of a year-old baby playing a Gulbransen-made Player Piano by pressing upon one pedal with its hands!

There's pure joy in operating a Gulbransen-made Player!

The Gulbransen-made Player Piano is no harder to pay for than to play! The price is sensible. The terms are convenient.

Mail the Coupon:

A. HOSPE CO. Please send me an art catalog of Gulbransen-made Player Pianos, also booklet, "How to Judge a Player Piano," and Bargain List of Used Pianos and Players.

Name ..... Address .....

A. HOSPE CO. Victor Store. 1513-1515 Douglas St.

\$7, and there is bound to be other expense right along. It is no wonder the uniform manufacturers want them organized. I do not blame them, for they want to make some money, too.

As I said before, the boys can be of great help in raising supplies for home use when corporations and individuals rob us, as they have done this winter in the prices of all things in the lines of necessities. I know of one Boy Scout who raised enough potatoes last year for his folks, who have a large family, to last through all of this winter. He could not have done it had he wasted time in hikes and "scouting." If we keep on forming organizations that take time from the realities of life the high cost of living will grow each year. That is the reason I say that we should all of us try to do something more in practical lines and a little less in the sport lines. FRANK A. AGNEW.

DOMESTIC PLEASANTIES.

"I'd like to have you dine at my house some time, old man."

"Good enough. Put my name in the pot."

"That is kindly deposit my 'sitting card' in the firewood."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"As'ring Author—Candidly, now, what do you think of my new story?"

"The Critic—Please don't ask me. You are so much bigger and stronger than I am.—Pack.

DEAR MR. KAGIBBLE, DO BALDHEADED MEN MAKE GOOD HUSBANDS? —ROSE RALE

YES—AND THEY LOOK THE PART! —SPOOK

Author—I say, old man, I wish you'd advance me \$5 and take it out of my first week's salary.

Manager—But, my dear fellow, suppose it happens that I couldn't pay your first week's salary, where would I be?—Boston Transcript.

Patience—She spent two months at the seashore last summer, and not a man asked for her hand.

Patience—Rather disappointing?

"Yes, but she's going to try her hand in Florida this winter."—Yonkers Statesman.

Mrs. Youngbride—Our cook says those eggs you sent yesterday were quite old.

Grace—Very sorry, ma'am. They were the best we could get. You see, all the young chickens were killed off for the holiday trade so the old hens are the only ones left to