

ATHENA PRESS

Tuesdays and Fridays

F. B. BOYD, Publisher

Wonder if Mrs. Russell Sage has Count Boni on her list.

The "jone bandit" industry has experienced several serious reverses lately.

Even the easy-going Frenchman makes a wry face when he tries to swallow Count Boni.

Brigands are reported to be active in Sicily. Perhaps Sicily is trying to be known as the Wall street of Italy.

A divorced couple named Carr have been reunited by their baby. This is something unique in the line of Carr couplers.

The average man thinks he would have an excellent chance of occupying the presidential chair if the office sought the man.

A New York theater offers a free seat to every man who never lied to his wife. This is an absolutely costless bid for notoriety.

The man who insisted on tempting fate by going over Niagara Falls in a barrel has subsided, but the reckless balloonist is always with us.

A Massachusetts club woman wants a law prohibiting a man from marrying more than once. Why not make it to include pretty widows, too?

Miss Ida Tarbell is now engaged in a hand-to-hand combat with the tariff question. Has she exhausted all the possibilities of the John D. Rockefeller question?

The coal supply of the United States is said to be good for 5,000 years. That is, of course, if President Baer, the representative of Providence, doesn't become wasteful.

Countess de Castellane had to content herself with a divorce, the court, possibly through an oversight, having failed to order Boni to be taken out and drowned in a bag.

A New York church has secured a girl whistler in an attempt to increase the number of attendants at services. Why not a real whistler—an office boy or a telegraph messenger?

Notwithstanding the fact that a German savant has shown that the works of Shakespeare were produced by somebody else, Hall Caine continues to look as much like the immortal bard as possible.

Prof. Brander Matthews regards the English language as "violent, illogical, chaotic and absurd." Still, if the professor doesn't like it, he is at liberty to use any of the other numerous kinds on the market.

A New York Judge has rendered the opinion that it is no crime to hug a girl on a doorstep. Without touching upon the legality of the operation there are men who will cling to the opinion that it is exceedingly dangerous if the girl's father happens to be large and husky.

The Postoffice Department wants better roads for its rural carriers, better mail transportation on American ships and safe steel cars for clerks in the railway mail service. It ought to have all of these things. The work of the department in preventing frauds has become increasingly effective, and it may well be carried still farther. It is one of the most useful agencies on the side of sound public morals, just as the whole great postal system of disseminating knowledge is a priceless stimulus to national intelligence.

The fact that eight of the eleven members of the new French cabinet are or have been journalists demonstrates anew the importance of this profession in France. It is the avenue to distinction, as the bar is in England and the United States. The personal element in the French journals is of course the reason. The leading articles are signed, and a man may make a reputation through them in a few weeks, whereas the English or American journalist may write thousands of brilliant leaders and remain unknown. Which of the two systems is the better is a difficult question to decide, although many hold that the anonymous system is the more likely to secure a solid, well-balanced and responsible press.

Novelists, some of whom may never have owned a dress coat, used to be fond of drawing, in their tales, a sharp social distinction between persons who "dressed for dinner" and those who did not. Now the editor of a British medical journal has been discussing and commending from a hygienic point of view the habit of dressing for dinner. Every one knows that a change of clothing is often refreshing. The English editor believes that the effect is physical as well as mental, or physical through the mental stimulus, and advises that even the hard-working clerk, the shopkeeper and the laboring man cast off their workaday clothes and put on clean clothing for the evening meal, when the toll of the day is over.

Like a good many other current discoveries and gospels, the high-voiced talk respecting the necessity for restricting the right of marriage to phy-

sically sound people is as old as civilization. Indeed, the theory goes back of civilization and extends to barbarism, for many savage tribes summarily killed off the unfit. So far from permitting them to marry, they would not permit them to live. In an age when fighting was the chief end of man physical perfection was an indispensable qualification. The weaklings, male and female, had to go—the males because they could not fight and the females because they could not bear fighters. In this stage of the earth's progress the war factor does not enter into the matter so strongly, but all humane and discriminating people must and do agree that the mating of physical or mental weaklings, and especially those affected with the so-called hereditary diseases, is strongly to be deprecated on grounds of humanity and expediency. No reflecting person desires the degeneration of the race. But the contemporary clamor over the matter by people who put the question upon a purely animal basis will lead to nothing save the disinclination of most persons to discuss it at all. There can be no proper objection to necessary plain speaking, but there can be and there is an objection to continual harping on a subject which is perfectly familiar to everybody already. Nobody defends the mating of the unfit. The marriage of consumptives, for instance, is obviously wrong and undesirable. But the evil results of such a marriage cannot be emphasized because everybody is fully aware of them already. The whole thing, in a few words, is the rediscovery by people who are always making such discoveries that two and two make four. The world has known it all along and to vociferate it in the market place does not make it either new or interesting.

Noah Webster, who was somewhat of a reformer in his day, would be gratified, no doubt, were he living, by the compliment of confidence paid to him by the House committee on appropriations, which has inserted a paragraph in the appropriation bill providing that the government printing office "shall follow the rules of orthography established by Webster or the other generally accepted dictionaries of the English language." This bill, when passed by the House and approved by the President, will put an end to the feeling of public unrest which has prevailed since the difference of opinion expressed by Mr. Roosevelt and Congress in the matter of the 300 words. Naturally it is not believed that the slight clash that has gently disturbed the delightful relations between the President and Congress in this diversity of view will extend to more serious matters. It is not feared that the painful disagreement which marred the administration of President Andrew Johnson will be repeated or that the country will be convulsed by another governmental wrangle. The acorn of dissent which has been born of so-called reform spelling will not be permitted to develop into a sturdy oak of distrust and wrath. Mr. Roosevelt has done what he could to mend—or to mar—spelling, and he still has it in his power by increased private correspondence to emphasize his convictions and repeat his conclusions. It is true that his messages will be printed in the Congressional Record with the antiquated spelling, but there is solace in the thought that, with the possible exception of the proofreaders, nobody will gloat over his discomfiture in the perusal of that medium of communication. It is pleasant to contemplate the settlement of this minor controversy accomplished in a manner so tactful, graceful and considerate, for, of course, in this instance Mr. Roosevelt will courteously yield to the wishes of Congress, just as he will expect Congress will in return defer to him in other matters of public policy.

Would Not Sell His Ancestors.
A plutocratic American of the last century who had seen the green acres and stately castle of an Irish estate sought out its impecunious owner with an offer to buy. Lord Blank, eager enough to transmute his profitless lands into pregnant gold, named a considerable, but reasonable, price as one he would be willing to take. "Very well," said the American, "I'll give that if the pictures go with the house." After a little reflection his lordship answered, "Yes, you can have the pictures, except, of course, the family portraits." "It's the portraits I want," said the other. "I wouldn't give a cent for the rest of 'em." "My property is not for sale under those conditions," said his lordship, turning on his heel and walking away, to the astonishment of the parvenu, who flung a "Stuck up beggar!" after the retreating figure.

I Love You.
A Danish paper compares "I love you" in many languages. Here are some of them—the Danish paper is our only authority for their correctness. The Chinaman says, "Co ngai ni;" the Armenian, "Ge siren ez bez;" the Arab, very shortly, "Nehabeek;" the Egyptian, similarly, "N'achkeb;" the Turk, "Sisi seveforum," and the Hindoo, "Main tym ko pijar karyn." But overwhelming is the declaration of love of an Eskimo, who tries to win the chosen one by the pleasing sound of the dainty little word: "Unlyfigsaerutdlunalerimajungnaarsigujak."

We wonder that it never occurs to a drunkard that he could attract a lot of favorable attention by remaining sober. Every man in town would congratulate him, and speak well of him, and help him in every way possible.



GOOD ROADS

Fall Road Work.
Road work done in the fall, if well done, is worth more than that done in the summer time. For the ditches will be open and clean, the grade well rounded, and everything be made favorable for taking care of spring rains and freshets.

Any kind of road work may be done in the late fall, but any piece of work begun should be well finished. There is nothing more annoying than to travel all winter over frozen lumps of earth on a half finished road.

Grass and weeds should be mowed or burned, so that snow will not drift among them on the road, nor weed seeds be scattered over the surrounding fields; and culverts should be put in place that the ditches may drain better in the spring.

Roads can be advantageously worked in the fall, particularly those through low places, as they are usually dry at that time. Everything is in favor of fall road work if it is done right. Horses and men work more easily and the road machinery is used to better advantage. Besides, the work is done at a time when it does the most good, for the roads are thus prepared for the succeeding spring, when good roads are badly needed.

Fall road work has its disadvantages, though, to the farmer, for at that time of the year his labor is needed at home, preparing the land for the next year's crop, or saving the crop which has just been harvested.—Farm, Stock and Home.

Trees Along Highways.

In an interesting address before a meeting of the grange at Greece, N. Y., County Engineer J. Y. McClintock spoke on the many advantages of country life and the importance of having good roads. He advocated building wide roads so that all vehicles could safely pass. On the desirability of having trees along the road he had the following to say:

We know that hedges, small trees and bushes are not suitable along our roads because of drifting snows, but there are great trees which will grow up high and be a source of enjoyment and attractiveness. I know that some will object to trees because they will to some extent reduce the productivity of a strip of land within their range, but as far as I can learn a good row of trees along a road will make the farm more salable. Many of your farms will be bought by people from the city, and to them surely the trees will be an advantage. There should not be dense rows of trees, but they should be placed far enough apart to permit of full development of each tree. There are certain trees in your town which many people look upon as personal friends, and many drives and walks are taken to visit them and come under their influence.

The pride of New England as well as old England is the noble old trees which connect in one life the times of our sturdy forefathers and the present. It requires time and care to secure good trees, but they are worth the cost in creating the beautiful vista which are so effective in architecture, in making cooling shade and intricate forms so refreshing to the body and delightful to the eye. In making many crops which are beneficial to wind breaks and in transforming a bleak, flat country into an enjoyable living and looking place. With united effort you can secure all the most attractive features which rich men and cities secure by lavish expenditure of money in the formation of parks and it will all add to the value of your property.

An Offhand Diagnosis.
A humorous variation of the formidable parent who figures in popular fiction comes from the Philadelphia Public Ledger. It was evening, and while the young man was waiting for the girl of his choice he made desperate attempts at conversation with the girl's father.

"What do you think of the outdoor treatment of disease?" he asked, rather wildly.

"Well," the old gentleman blandly responded, "for the sort you have, the outdoor treatment might be all right in summer, but at this season a quiet parlor is better."

Not Straight Enough.
"He's the ruler of that ward, isn't he?"

"Oh, no, he's the machine boss of the ward."

"Well, 'machine' boss or 'ruler,' what's the difference?"

"My friend, the word 'ruler' suggests something straight."—Philadelphia Press.

Not True.
"Honest fisher folk' you call them," remarked the publisher. "You'll have to change that."

"What for?" demanded the author.

"Simply because it sounds ridiculous. I never knew a man who went fishing to be quite honest."—Philadelphia Press.

Sending Money Home to Norway.
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ARRIVE Daily.	TIME SCHEDULES ATHENA, ORE.	DEPART Daily.
11:55 a. m.	Walla Walla, Dayton, Pomeroy, Lewiston, Colfax, Pullman, Moscow, the Courier d'Alene district, Spokane and all points north.	11:55 a. m.
12:30 p. m.	Walla Walla - Pendleton Mixed	
4:53 p. m.	Fast Mail for Pendleton, LaGrande, Baker City, and all points east via Huntington, Ore., also for Umatilla, Heppner, The Dalles, Portland, Astoria, Willamette Valley Points, California, Tacoma, Seattle, all Sound Points.	4:53 p. m.
	Pendleton - Walla Walla Mixed	6:30 p. m.

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