

# ATHENA PRESS

Tuesdays and Fridays

F. B. BOYD, Publisher

Men seldom follow good advice unless they pay for it.

Many other persons have noticed that shortage of small bills of which Secretary Shaw speaks.

It frequently causes trouble when the injunction, "destroy this letter," is neglected or forgotten.

Queen Alexandra draws the line at women who smoke coffin nails. But several other persons do that.

When a woman cannot dress on less than \$200,000 a year, it is a sign that she is blessed with a husband who has the money.

"God sends a good wife to every man," declares Sir Thomas Lipton. Although a bachelor, Sir Thomas is still an optimist.

The Japanese are now accused of making maps of the Philippines. Uncle Sam may make a map from which Japan will be conspicuously absent.

Emperor William might not get so tired of his job if he had a man like Taft to take hold and run things for a day or two at a time now and then.

Pictures of the Shah of Persia in European attire make him look like a prosperous and commonplace man of business with a dinky skull cap on his head.

A New York monkey jumped on a live third rail a few days ago and was instantly killed. Sometimes a monkey exhibits a lack of intelligence that is almost human.

The Prussian government rises to a new height of dignity and power when it orders a lone actress to leave the country simply because the Kaiser does not fancy her.

Count Boni has expressed the desire to be good for the rest of his life, but as the Goulds are not showing a disposition to finance his schemes any longer, he may finally be good for nothing.

More than 200 persons met with accidents while climbing the Alps during the last year. The record doesn't show that they were all high school graduates who had accepted their class motto literally.

A Denver woman recently succeeded in raising \$2,000 for a hospital by selling kisses and smiles. She might now be able to get another good slice of money for some charity by writing a testimonial in favor of somebody's cure for chapped lips.

The Union Pacific has accumulated a surplus of more than \$100,000,000 during the past ten years, besides paying handsome dividends. This is another reason why Mr. Harriman can't understand why anybody should be in favor of government ownership of the railroads.

There is one satisfaction in being a farmer; it can not be said that he "wins" whatever fortune he gets; he earns every dollar of it, he does not take a cent of it from some other man. It comes to him first hand out of the soil and his money is the cleanest in all the world.

Baseball has become a business in which millions of dollars are invested and from which large profits are obtained. Its revenues and expenses are both on a great scale. It is growing bigger and more important every year in the financial and commercial sense. It is a national sport which has developed into a vast business enterprise. It pays to amuse the American people. Baseball magnates have learned how to make the most of the fact. Hence big salaries in the baseball world.

There is no doubt that the thoughtful child of to-day would have been the much-punished child of the past. At the same time the witty child does add to the gaiety of life, besides enforcing a higher standard of conversation among her reproving elders. It was a mistake, for instance, on the part of the reproving elder to tell one of these wits of the nursery that if she was so naughty she would not go to heaven. The little culprit seemed impressed for a brief moment and then she gave a resigned sigh. "Oh, well," she remarked, "I've been to two theaters and a party and a circus. I can't expect to go everywhere."

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has begun tree planting on quite an extensive scale along its Western lines. A contract has been let for a small acreage of breaking near Wolsley, on which it is the intention to experiment with tamarack for ties. A piece of ground is also to be planted at Medicine Hat with jack pine and tamarack for the same purpose. Over 100 miles of trees are to be planted between Winnipeg and Calgary for snow-breaks and at several stations trees are to be planted around the station grounds, and prizes are to be offered the section foremen who make the best showing.

No Russian governor general could get life insurance in a well-regulated company. The rate of mortality among

the governor general is too high. Occasionally, as with the governor of Moscow the other day, the bomb thrower's aim is bad, but as a general thing when the children of liberty go out after an exalted official the coroner (if there is such a functionary in Russia) is likely to have a job. That, in spite of these drawbacks, the czar experiences no difficulty in finding men to take the governorships is a circumstance which shows that the appetite for office is quite as acute in Russia as it is with us. It must be even keener, since we find it difficult to get men to go to Panama, while the supply of Russian officials is always equal to the demand.

Industrial conditions and conditions of business and traffic in every section of the country seem to indicate that demand and supply are not pulling evenly on the yoke. Everywhere there were bountiful crops and everywhere there was a scarcity of men to handle them. There is great building activity served by contractors who are constantly fuming because of their inability to get material, in every line, on time. Clamoring at the door of the hardware merchant for relief, builders have been met by the plea of "busy, so busy; we will serve you as soon as we can." Calling hotly upon the millmen for the flooring, the siding, the doors, or the shingles that were to have been delivered a week or more ago, the same answer has been shortly returned and the receiver of the telephone hung up with a bang. Urging the plasterer, the painter, the plumber, the brick mason, to come to time, as his tardiness is working vexation, delay and expense, the response is the same. Business in one line is not able to handle business in another and auxiliary line. Fruits have rotted by tons in the orchards because pickers were not to be had. "It is impossible to get help," is the cry, beginning in the kitchen and pulsing through every line where capable, cheerful workers are in demand. What is the matter? Is this nation, this community, like a great family that has outgrown its quarters without developing the ability to take care of itself in individual lines? Is prosperity to be served—is it being served—by energetic, willing, eager men, ready and anxious to do each his part, or are men in the role of great hulking, unwilling boys hanging on to its skirts and impeding as far as possible its movements? Why is it that it is so difficult and even impossible to get prompt and intelligent service in all lines of industry? Why is it that a man who two years ago took care of the lawn about the house for 20 cents for each hour employed, and proved a cheerful laborer in his vocation, now has to be run after and coaxed and cajoled into doing the same work for 30 cents? He does not need money less now than he did then, but the more rather, since, as he aggrievedly observes, "everything is so high," and the advance in his wage is not questioned. Why is he less willing to work now than he was then? Is it because he, in common with the others who form the great rank and file of labor, fails to recognize his opportunity? And this is not all. Business in unprecedented volume clamors at the door of railroad offices, and is met with the words "no cars," householders call upon fuel companies for needed supplies and "no coal" is the answer; builders clamor at the mills only to hear the words "no lumber." And so all along the line. Is it possible that the desires of the American people have outgrown their ability to meet them? Or is our system of supply and demand cranky and out of gear, its operative forces hindering where they should help each other?

Roller Skates Are Old. It is generally believed that roller skates are a recent invention. They are not; for more than 130 years ago many attempts were made to ignore King Frost and skate on boards. The first attempt of this kind was by Joseph Mertin, a native of Huy, Belgium. He went to England with the Spanish ambassador in 1790. He was a maker of musical instruments and had, among other novelties, a pair of skates that ran on wheels. A story is told of Mertin, that at one time he put on these skates, took a violin and attended a masquerade. The skates, which were not made to turn and had no contrivances by which they could be stopped, got contrary during the evening and ran him through a mirror costing \$100. In addition to smashing the mirror, his violin, a valuable one, was splintered and Mertin himself was badly wounded and bruised.

In 1810 roller skates were brought to the attention of the public through the patent office. This was the time when M. Pettibled patented a skate, fitted with thin copper wheels, which, however, persistently refused to turn corners. From here it went through various improvements and modifications until the roller skate, such as the boys and girls of 1906 enjoy, was produced.

Christmas Adam. Mamma—You have addressed your letter "Mr. Santa Claus Adam." Why did you put the Adam there, dear? That isn't Santa Claus' name. Babble—Well, who is the Christmas Adam, then? "What Christmas Adam? I never heard of one." "There's a Christmas Eve, and there ought to be a Christmas Adam, I should think."—Kansas City Journal.

There is something missing out of the children's lives if there isn't a vacant lot next door.

The avenue of escape is a popular thoroughfare.

# Popular Science

Is Switzerland to lose its glaciers? The subject bears a close resemblance to that as to the exhaustion of the British coal beds. It will scarcely become acute in our time; but nonetheless scientific observations of the movement of the glaciers during 1905 shows, as similar observations in previous years have shown, a shrinkage in the surface. Some of the glaciers have shrunk as much as 290 yards since 1900. In no instance has growth been reported.

The city of Vienna has undertaken the installation of what is perhaps the most remarkable electric, or electrically lighted, fountain in existence. It is situated in the Schwartzbergplatz. Underneath the fountain, in a huge cemented chamber, are placed twenty-seven reflecting lamps, capable of producing seventy different luminous and colored effects. The light is transmitted through the waters of the fountain. The light power of the plant is estimated as equal to 900,000,000 candles.

According to the results of recent experiments the flame of acetylene is perhaps the hottest known except that of the electric arc. The following figures have been given by Mr. Maffi: Bunsen burner, 1,871 degrees; acetylene flame, 2,548 degrees; alcohol flame, 1,705 degrees; Denayrouze burner—half alcohol, half petroleum—2,053 degrees; hydrogen flame, in air, 1,900 degrees; gas-jet flame, with oxygen, 2,200 degrees; oxygen flame, 2,420 degrees. These are all Centigrade degrees. One degree Centigrade equals one degree and eight-tenths Fahrenheit.

The lowest temperature yet recorded, says a medical journal, is that reached recently by K. Olszewski in an attempt to liquify helium. By the aid of solid hydrogen he cooled the gas to minus 259 degrees S. Under 180 atmospheres' pressure; then, suddenly releasing the pressure to that of the atmosphere, a degree of cold was created which, by calculation from Laplace and Boisson's formula, amounted to minus 271.3 degrees C. Helium, however, did not liquify, and he accordingly assumes that its boiling point must be below minus 271, and that there is but little prospect of reducing it to a liquid.

A French scientific writer points out that a mere gain in weight should not in itself be taken as an indication of improved bodily condition. It is, according to him, rather a question of the density than the quantity of tissue which covers the bones. When increased weight results from increased density, then the health is really improved. In order that this principle may be practically applied, he suggests the use of baths containing a known quantity of water and supplied with appliances for measurement whereby the density of the immersed body may be calculated, in the manner in which Archimedes ascertained the density of King Hiero's crown of adulterated gold.

So rapidly has the utilization of water power for generating electricity advanced that already a tendency may be seen to classify rivers and streams according to their peculiar qualifications as furnishes of raw power. For instance, a French engineer has pointed out that the glacial streams of France and Italy, which have been so largely availed of for electric purposes, are not well suited to supply power for lighting stations, because their flow is at a maximum in summer, when the mountain snows are melting, whereas the greatest demand for light is in winter. On the other hand, the slower navigable rivers of France are better adapted to furnish light, since their flow reaches a maximum in the winter season.

Unworthy. It was the sweet scent of the lilies in the conservatory, or the beauty of the young girl's hair, that led to his proposing to the debutante in white, as they rested in the shadow beneath a palm. "It cannot be," she said. "I am unworthy of you." "Oh, rubbish," said he. "It is true; it is true." And she sighed. "You are an angel," he said, ardently.

"No, no; you are wrong," said the young girl. "I am vain, idle, silly, utterly unfit to be your helpmeet through life." He laughed lightly, then said, in a soothing voice: "Why, this is sheer madness. What sort of a wife do you think I ought to have?" "A very wise, deliberate, practical woman," she replied; "one able to live on your small salary."—Titbits.

Sponge Farms in Mediterranean. Several sponge farms, all of which are paying concerns, are to be found in the Mediterranean. Until recently sponges have been simply collected from the sea floor, where they have flourished in a wild state, but of late years they have, like oysters, been cultivated.

Having broken the women of the habit of keeping their hats on in the theater, the reformers should go after the young girls who wear such big bows of such wide ribbons on their heads that the man behind feels as if he is peering over the ribbon counter at a dry goods store.

Occasionally a man puts his best foot forward for the purpose of registering a kick.

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