

(Supplement to)

THE EVENING NEWS

BY B. W. BATES

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1909.

SLEEPS WITH CORPSE.

Wife of Portland Man Expires During Night.

Portland, Dec. 22.—For four or five hours last night Theophil Billter slept with a corpse but did not know it. The dead person was his wife. When he arose to attend to his usual duties, he yet did not discover that his wife during the early part of the night had died. Calling her, as usual, and not heeding her failure to answer, he proceeded with his work, and had left the house for his regular employment when one of the children came running after him to announce that the mother and wife was dead.

Mrs. Billter, the mother of six robust children, has been in normal health up until attacked by what must have been heart failure some time prior to midnight. There was no question as to her strength and ability to attend to her many duties. When the husband and wife retired last evening, she made no complaint, and was in usual cheerful mood. The husband, a sound sleeper, was not disturbed during the night by any movements of his wife, and is sure that she said nothing when stricken. When he arose in the dark to attend to his early morning duties, he had no cause to speak to his wife, except call her after he had gotten breakfast for himself. Her failure to answer caused no uneasiness. Had it not been for the children he would not have known that the wife was a corpse until returning home late in the afternoon.

Billter is a Swiss, which nationality his wife also claimed. They are poor and have been living at 666 Third street, Portland.

KANSAS WEARS A SMILE.

Half of the Prisons in the State Have No Inmates.

There used to be an impression that Kansas was entitled to sympathy. When a prairie schooner hove in view from the east in those days the first thought was that some one was moving to Kansas, and no one was surprised to see the same team, looser than before, pulling a dilapidated wagon out of the west a year or two later. They were quitting Kansas, a land of drought and desolation. Today no one dares to say anything against the Sunflower state before a present or past resident, for the figures are available to prove that Kansas has a little the advantage of every other section of the world.

Now comes the president of the Kansas Association of Charities, who has just compelled an investigation of the conditions surrounding his work, with the statement that in half the counties of the state he found no prisoner in the jails. And as if to settle once for all the statement that farm life is productive of insanity, Mr. Knapp shows by figures that "Cook County, Illinois, furnishes more insane to the state hospitals than the total population of all the state charitable, correctional and penal institutions of Kansas combined." There are 28 county poor farms out of a possible 105 having no inmates, and the state has a place near the top in the smallness of the percentage of crime, dependency and defectiveness.

It would be interesting to know just how close the relationship is between these cheerful statistics and the high percentage of literacy, Kansas

standing third, according to the last census. It would also be instructive to have some authoritative deductions from the fact that few states, if any, have a fewer percentage of foreign born and colored. It is probable, however, that the good fortune of Kansas in respect to morals and disseminated prosperity is due in considerable measure to the lack of large cities, which from their very nature must be to a greater or less extent breeders of poverty and crime. In Kansas the individual is not lost in the mass, but has a better chance to secure moral and material support from those about him than the member of a large urban community. Even the tornadoes of Kansas seem to be less terrible than in the years when whisks and Populism flourished.—Ex.

XMAS ALMOST AT HAND

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CHAIRS—We are showing the finest line of rockers and dining chairs we have ever had the pleasure of showing.

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