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THERE are tricks in all trades and professions, but one of the meanest sorts of frauds that we have heard of being tried recently is the trick of claiming to be dependent in order to secure a division of the fund provided to relieve entirely helpless people. Information came to us this week where two comfortable families had been drawing assistance from the Muts when they were well able to take care of themselves. There is another instance where two women connived for the help of one of them, claiming she had a sick son, no food, and no income. Investigation showed the son was not known to be sick by his nearest acquaintances. He was a husky fellow who engaged by the hour in playing in the snow; they lived in comfortable, well furnished rooms; rents were payable in services around the building; the neighbors were kind in offering her outside work; she had money to pay for groceries the same afternoon she applied for help. When a load of wood from the Muts arrived the driver who called at the door overhead some one advise her to put on "that old apron" before answering the call. The conclusion is that any able bodied, comfortably situated family that solicits or accepts assistance when it is not deserved is essentially guilty of thieving, and should be punished accordingly. They have to practice deception to secure the assistance and they rob other more worthy people of the limited assistance available. If there is a penalty for such vile conduct it will be called down upon them.

January Sunset is the most interesting number—shall we say—ever issued? Well it is the most interesting for a long time. Perhaps this is because it comes in a new form, a three column page, new heads, new type, new make up, with some very attractive stories and discussions. It ought to outsell its predecessors and, except for the mixture of advertising matter with a part of its reading, it will surely make a hit.

Hours after the snow was past last week the slush on the main streets of Portland was nearly shoe top deep. A few minutes work with the street scrapers would have pushed all the snow to the gutters and made the streets and crossings comparatively free from the nastiness that prevailed all Friday and Saturday.

For the benefit of newspapers of the state we wish to state that information sent to Petty & Co., 513 Denham Bldg., Denver, has been returned by post office authorities marked "Fraudulent." We leave it to you to draw conclusions.

Lents people generally are not very much elated over the extreme weather of the past week. It is easily the coldest and stormiest since the winter of 1908-9. Some think it is even worse. Temperatures have variously run at 12 to 20 degrees this week, but they hurt as bad as real zero weather where people are more accustomed to it. No casualties yet.

Some Benefactors I Have Known

BY LORA C. LITTLE

Four years ago, when I purchased my present home, there stood, at a corner, a block away, a fragment of a house, begun evidently with ambitious intent and then abandoned.

Not long afterward, the place changed

hands, the house was partially completed, and the owner moved into it. After two years' occupancy, some berry bushes had been set out, a tree or two and a shrub or two; but the place remained unkempt and an eyesore to the neighborhood.

Then alone came Benefactor No. 1. He became the owner, and at once proceeded to make a home of the place. The house was finished, numerous attractive features were added, the interior was tastefully decorated, and the family took possession.

Since then, a neat fence has been put up and painted white, to match the house; the garden has been thoroughly cleared and cleaned up, the berry bushes have been trellised and kept pruned and tied up; a velvety lawn surrounds the house and extends to the poultry-yard at the rear; a henhouse has been built and painted white which is a distinct ornament to the neighborhood. Indeed, it would almost seem, though I do not sleep near enough to offer positive testimony, that hens occupying such a mansion must be more ladylike and roosters more gentlemanly than the crows, cacklers and squawkers of the common ramshackle, unpainted hencoop. At least, on other grounds, their presence is more tolerable to the neighborhood.

In short, a man with the judgment to gauge his undertaking by his means has transformed a neighborhood blemish into a beauty-spot. Best of all—because most economical—he has done this without going out of his way, but just in the course of making a home for his family.

II.

Benefactor No. 2 lived in a city of the Middle West. He came of a good New England family and had ambitions. After accumulating a few dollars he began speculating in city real estate. He made a few lucky ventures and got money enough to branch out. He bought suburban acres, platted them and got them tacked on to the city as additions—ten to twenty of them all told. These perfectly good roomy tracts he cut up into 25-foot lots, with streets as narrow as the city could be induced to accept. Over these additions he then scattered a collection of the cheapest showy cottages you can imagine. As soon as they were built he mortgaged them for more than both land and houses had cost.

By a shrewd campaign of advertising and with the aid of a salesman as clever as they make real estate sellers, he soon unloaded enough of his mutilated and disfigured property to make him rich. The buyers were clerks and other workers who were persuaded they were getting desirable homes, or else securing promising investments with which to found their own fortunes.

He lived by this time in a mansion, kept horses and carriages, a coachman, and various servants of other kinds. The fashionable congregation to which he and his wife belonged built a costly new church, and he donated the bell—long noted there for its deep soft tone. He was generous otherwise in support of his church and of charities. He financed a scientific expedition to Borneo. He organized companies. He built business blocks. He became the prominent citizen and philanthropist he had set out to be.

Yet his one enduring monument will be the scars he made on the map of his city, and the scars he left on the souls of the defrauded men and women who were his victims.

Only Nation Without Budget.

We are the only civilized nation that hasn't a budget system. France, Germany, Russia, Japan, England, Italy, Spain, Rumania, Serbia, Portugal, Bulgaria and Venezuela—all these countries and many more have budgets. In each country, that is, certain responsible officers prepare a definite plan for doing things, estimate the cost of executing it and suggest means for raising the money. There is only one important nation that has no business plan, and that is the one that has chiefly distinguished itself as a nation of business men—the United States.—World's Work.

Human Mystery.

Almost every man believes in the mystery of woman. I do not. For men are also mysterious to women; women are quite as puzzled by our stupidity as by our subtlety. I do not believe that there is either a male or a female mystery; there is only the mystery of mankind.—W. L. George in Atlantic Monthly.

Luck.

Jack—Congratulate me, old man. Tom—What's up? Are you engaged? Jack—No. Miss Roxleigh refused me the day before her father made an assignment.—Boston Transcript.

MAGIC OF IRRIGATION.

Story of the Rice Fields of Southern Louisiana.

In 1883 lowlands in southern Louisiana near the bayous suitable for growing sugar cane, corn and cotton could be purchased for \$3.50 an acre, and the prairie lands back from the bayous could be bought for \$1 an acre. With almost the first crop under irrigation, however, the values showed a marked rise and have continued to increase. In the first five years the value of the best rice lands rose to \$10 an acre, and soon after that it rose to \$30 and even \$50 an acre.

The first people to plant rice in southern Louisiana, according to the United States geological survey, were the Acadians, who, after their expulsion from Nova Scotia by the English in 1755, settled in considerable numbers in Louisiana. Their cultivation of rice, almost primitive in its methods, was confined to the lowlands along the bayous, the prairies affording pasture for the Acadians' herds of cattle. Few of the lowland areas admitted of satisfactory drainage, and they were too small for profitable cultivation. The crops frequently failed in years of deficient rainfall. Attempts were made to create additional water supplies by building levees across low bays or coulees at points higher than the cultivated areas, but generally either the rainfall proved deficient or the reservoirs were too small.

Little advance was made over the Acadian methods until recent years. Experiments in unusually wet years had shown that the soils of the prairies were adapted to the growth of rice if sufficient water was at hand. This led to the trial of pumps as a means of raising water from the bayous to the rice fields. So successful was the test that pumps were at once installed at many points, and in a few years tens of thousands of acres of previously almost useless land, lying ten to seventy feet above the bayous, were put under cultivation. The first large pump was installed in 1894 on the Bayou Plaquemine, in Acadia parish, near Crowley.

OUR UNRULY SUN.

It Seems to Be Trying to Dilate to the Bursting Point.

The French astronomer Poulenc has been busy himself with the constitution of the sun. He finds that, instead of condensing and shrinking little by little, as was formerly supposed, the sun is constantly dilating more and more and reaching the point of bursting. And if the sun blew up there would be no more need for us poor mortals to worry about worldly affairs.

Big suns every whit as important in their own constellations as ours are frequently victims of an explosion. There was one in the constellation of Perseus early in 1901, and since then two at least have occurred in other celestial groups.

Observation has shown long since that the great orb which is our all in all is a most uncertain character. Sun spots, fire blasts and such like phenomena are by no means the most of which he is capable. The manner in which the sun throws off atomic energy and transforms the heavy into light elements, hydrogen, helium, nebulium, archonium and what not spells nothing good for this world, and a mere nothing might lead to a disaster any day.

In short, it is bound to come at some time or other. Unfortunately science can give us no idea as to when. Centuries and even hundreds of centuries are as but a moment in the history of the universe, says Professor Flammarion, and for all we know the sun may have millions of years more life before it. No man can tell, though, and, just as the strongest of us are struck down in a moment, so the all powerful planet may give out at any time, and when it does it will make but short work of all of us here below.—Boston Transcript.

Argentina's Natural Bridge.

In Argentina there is a natural bridge that is one of the most wonderful in the world. It spans the Rio Mendoza and is known as the Inca bridge. But it is the work of nature, says the Scientific American, and not, as was popularly supposed, of the Incas. The road on which it occurs was probably a colonial highway made by the Peruvian Incas, who took advantage of the phenomenon by leading their road over this natural viaduct.

Origin of Spoons.

Two natural objects seem to have furnished the model for the spoon to primitive man—the river or sea shell and the leaf of plants. In southern China shell spoons are still used that are closely reproduced in the familiar porcelain spoon of that country, while metal spoons are found in India on which are reproduced even the veins of the leaves from which they were copied.

Faint Hops.

Doctor (cuttingly)—Are you to be allowed to drink beer, eh? Didn't I tell you just a week ago to let the stuff alone? Patient—I know, doctor; but, you see, I thought there might have been some progress in medical science since.—New York Post.

Mean Fellow.

"Your wife has a muscular affection which renders her speechless. I can cure her, but it will take time." "Take all the time you want, doc," responded the mean man.—Kansas City Journal.

Too Fond of Them.

"Is he fond of outdoor sports?" "Yes. His wife complains that he even invites them home to dinner."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

NOTES OF THE W. C. T. U.

Mrs. Sommerfeldt and Mrs. Walsh, who had charge of the Mt. Scott Union program this week, gave the members pleasant surprises from start to finish. The refreshments were dainty and abundant. This was a meeting devoted to mothers, each speaker dwelling upon some phase of motherhood. Mrs. Mills walked in from her home, some two miles distant. If the condition of the roads were taken into consideration it might be said she "slid in" as on Tuesday all roads hereabout were icy and slippery. Unfortunately the days are very short at this time, the program was long and Mrs. Mills found it necessary to start on the return trip before giving the reading which she had come to deliver. The members of the Union were disappointed as Mrs. Mills readings are always greatly enjoyed.

While attending the National convention at Seattle last fall, Mrs. Sleen handed in her dollar to become a member of the organization. The national officers handed down the name and money through the state officers to the nearest local Union which proved to be Mt. Scott Union as Mrs. Sleen's home is on Main street, opposite the Evangelical Church. On Tuesday she proved herself to be a fine public speaker and a new member from whom much help along these lines may be expected.

Mrs. Unruh, national lecturer, gave an address of much power filled with food for thought along lines where thought is much needed. She urged frequent meetings for the discussion of topics outlined. This department is in charge of Mrs. Gesell who is now preparing a program for a special meeting to be held soon.

The next meeting of Mt. Scott Union will be held in the Friend's Church on January 24th. Mr. Darnall will speak upon the topic "Are Laws Enforced? If Not, Why Not."

Many People Don't Know

A sluggish liver can cause a person an awful lot of misery. Spells of dizziness, headaches, constipation and biliousness are sure signs that your liver needs help. Take Dr. King's New Life Pills and see how they help tone up the whole system. Fine for the stomach too. Aids digestion. Purifies the blood and clears the complexion. Only 25c. at your Druggist.

Japan has had a great shipbuilding boom and on account of its superior quality Douglas fir is being used extensively, though it cost 70 percent more than native pine.

Life Preservers

Are useful if you are going to travel but they won't save your life on dry land. The best life preserver for a landsman is a Bank Account with a reliable Bank. The Multnomah State Guarantees every account it takes. Relief from worry, such as comes from banking with us, has prolonged many a man's Safety and an income are conducive to good health and comfortable living. Don't risk your life by keeping your money in a tin can. See us.

THE MULTNOMAH STATE BANK

Lents Sta., Portland, Oregon

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

P. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. "I have been afflicted with Catarrh of the bladder for the last 15 years, and believe that no remedy has been found in all business and financial ability to carry out the obligations made by his firm. CHENEY & CO. BANK OF COMMERCE, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally. It cures the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent from 17c to 25c per bottle. Sold at all Druggists. Beware of cheap imitations. Write for sample.

for Rheumatism

As soon as an attack of Rheumatism begins apply Sloan's Liniment. Don't waste time and suffer unnecessary agony. A few drops of Sloan's Liniment on the affected parts is all you need. The pain goes at once.

A grateful sufferer writes:—"I was suffering for three weeks with Chronic Rheumatism and Stiff Neck, although I tried many medicines, they failed. Fortunately I heard of Sloan's Liniment and after using it three or four days am up and well. I am employed at the biggest department store in S. F. where they employ from six to eight hundred

hands, and they surely will hear all about Sloan's Liniment.—H. B. Smith, San Francisco, Cal.—Jan. 1915. 25c at all Druggists.

The Ashland Pompadour Lithia Springs has been incorporated \$100,000.

I WILL GIVE \$1000

IF I FAIL TO CURE any CANCER or TUMOR I treat before it POISONS deep glands or attaches to BONE Without Knife or Pain No PAY Until CURED WRITTEN GUARANTEE No X Ray or other swindle. An Island plant makes the cure Any TUMOR, LUMP or SORE on the lip, face or body long is CANCER. It never pains until it is too late. Poor cured at half price if cancer is yet small Dr. & Mrs. Dr. CHAMLEY & CO. Chamley Building "Strictly Reliable, Greatest Cancer Book SENT FREE" 4340 & 436E Valencia St., San Francisco, Cal. KINDLY MAIL THIS TO SUCCESS WITH CANCER.



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