

HOW OLD IS ANN?

Busy Brains Baffled by Troublesome Question.

PROBLEM PERPLEXES THE CITY

Algebra of Business and State Dropped for Mathematical Excursion—Thad S. Potter Digs Up His Algebra and Answers.

HOW OLD IS ANN?
Mary is 24 years old. Mary is twice as old as Ann was when Mary was as old as Ann now is.
How old is Ann?

Whether gambling shall finally be licensed or closed; whether the Lewis and Clark appropriation bill will pass Congress; whether street improvements shall continue; whether Portland shall prosper, and even whether the Press Club vaudeville shall score its usual hit this year, have all sunk into the class of matters having minor importance. The members of the Executive Board no longer spend sleepless nights wrestling with problems of new ferry-boats and bridges and municipal reform; city officials no longer annex gray hairs by figuring out the details of city administration. All such activity has been suspended for the time being.

How old is Ann?
That is the issue of real importance. And several new sections are being added to the padded cell department at Salem, for if there is a general persistency in working the problem, these new quarters will become a crying need.

After playing havoc with the minds of Eastern officials and business men and residents generally, and suffering hours of good sleep, this possibly regarding the growth of the nation, the perplexing little problem has swept into Portland with the suddenness of a plague.

Henceforth when you see one of your friends with swollen eyes, disheveled locks and sleepy countenance the usual conclusion that he has been bandying with Jonathan Barlow may by no means be drawn. Nor when the man with the vituperative wife shows up with a handful of hair missing, does it indicate further domestic infelicity. Like the man with the elegant countenance, he may have been trying to figure out how many Summers have passed over the head of Miss Ann.

If the grocery boy does not arrive on time in the morning; if the street-car is half an hour late; if some one tries to rob you and your cries for a policeman are not heeded; if you want to draw on your account and the bank officer asks too busy to wait on you; if the dentist hasn't time to pull your aching tooth, or if your home catches fire and the department doesn't come to extinguish it, or if anything happens, you should not lose your patience. Everyone is busy trying to reach a mathematical conclusion as to Ann's relationship with Father Time. It is only such as have found the answer or given up in despair that have time for worldly trifles. And the man with the patient nerve tonic for sale alone is happy.

Perhaps at no places in Portland was greater brain pressure brought to bear on this problem yesterday than in the office of city officials.

Mayor Williams was shown the problem early in the afternoon, and when an answer was called for some hours later, the chief executive was far from stretched at full length on an office sofa, his face adorned with a worn expression, while he was trying to decide whether or not to submit it to the Executive Board. There is talk among the members of that organization of appointing a How Old is Ann committee to handle the problem should it be passed up to them. In the office of the City Auditor, Ann's age was the center about which most activity was gathered. Auditor Devlin wrestled with the problem extensively and said that he has not yet reached a systematic solution, but would estimate that Ann had recently entered her twelfth birthday cake.

Chief Deputy Auditor S. Grause complained of a sleepless night on account of the problem and expressed a desire to meet the original proposer out in the dark some time. He said he would lose another night's sleep but what he found the correct answer.

Other city employees are absorbed in the problem, and say all they need is time, to get the answer.

Down at the headquarters of the Lewis and Clark Exposition several attaches expressed an ability to work the problem, but after dillying with it a good portion of the afternoon, were as far as a solution as ever. Secretary Giltner, of the State Commission, said the problem looked easy, but he had been out in the woods and his brain wasn't in good working order. Secretary Reed said he could work it in a minute, but had a headache and would rather be excused. Being informed that one of such genius should sacrifice his personal feelings to the good of his fellow beings Mr. Reed read the problem through carefully a dozen times or so and took it under advisement until 10 A. M. today.

Along "Railroad Row," every man from the president down to the office boy, is trying to figure out the shortest route to arrive at an answer. Orders have been thrown to the wind, the throttle has been pulled wide open and everybody is racing to arrive at Ann's station of life. More theoretical bridges are being constructed across mathematical chasms than it would take to bridge the Pacific. The high-up official has hunted up his old algebra and is busy studying X, Y, Z equations, while the engineer is trying to find a bench-mark so he can turn off a few angles and see what the problem really is. The freight man sits at his desk half-buried under telegrams about strapped cars and such like. He is busy trying to discover whether Ann is an old maid or not. Even the stenographer tries to get a chance between words to figure a little about—Ann—24—Mary—twice as old, and such like.

The ticket man don't care whether anyone travels or not. He is trying to get a free pass over the mathematical road to Ann's age.

A. D. Charlton, of the Northern Pacific, read the problem. He had his stenographer strike off a few carbon copies, and in a few minutes everyone was busy filling sheets of paper with figures.

"How old is Ann?—Mary is twice as old as Ann—when Mary, Ann is, was—oh, who in blankety blank ever invented this thing anyhow?" Then Mr. Charlton disappeared in his private office and reappeared with the announcement that he thought Ann must be 24 years old.

H. S. Rowe, of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, looked at the problem and remarked that he guessed he didn't want to know Ann's age anyhow, because it wouldn't be polite to ask her.

However, Thad Potter, secretary of the Civil Service Commission, made short work of the problem. He read it through carefully, gave a contemptuous sneer and setled his pencil.

"Simple as can be," said Mr. Potter. "It

can be done either by algebra or simpler mathematics. "I will do it by algebra." "Now we will let X equal Ann's present age." "And Y equal the difference between her age and Mary's." "Then, of course, X plus Y equals 24." "By the conditions of the problem 24 equals X minus Y; or to reduce it to simpler form 24 equals 2X minus 2Y, and thus minus 2X plus 2Y equals minus 24." "Then X minus Y equals 12; and X plus Y equals 24; and accordingly 2X equals 36. X, as any one can see, therefore equals 18, which is what we are looking for—Ann's age. Nothing simpler in the world."

Bright Woman's Answer.
PORTLAND, Oct. 19.—(To the Editor.)—Following is what I consider a correct solution of the problem which, according to the Chicago Tribune has been a puzzle to their "big men" and "commercial geniuses." The men seem to have failed, I thought the ladies might have a trial at the perplexing question.
Ann is neither 18 nor 24, but 18, which I think the following algebraic problem will prove. It, however, it is wrong, will show me one kindly point out the error.

PROBLEM.
"Mary is 24 years old. Mary is twice as old as Ann was when Mary was as old as Ann now is. How old is Ann?"
X equals Mary's age.
Y equals Ann's age.
D equals difference in ages.
2X plus D equals Y.
X minus D equals X minus D.
X plus D equals X plus D.
X minus X equals minus D plus minus D.
X minus 2X equals minus 2D plus minus 2D or, minus X equals minus 4D.
Changing signs—
X minus 2X equals minus 2D plus minus 2D or, minus X equals minus 4D.
Changing signs—
X equals Mary's age, or 24 years.
24 equals 4D.
D equals 6 years (difference).
According to second statement in proof X minus D equals Y.
Substituting values for letters 24 minus 6 equals 18, Ann's age.
This proves Ann is 18. Six years ago Mary was "as old as Ann is now" (18) and Ann was then 12. Twice 12 equals 24, or Mary's age. E. S. G.

HOT AFTER MINEOWNERS

Sargent Believes He Has Unearthed Big Immigration Fraud.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19.—Evidence has been collected by the Bureau of Immigration, Department of Commerce and Labor, and a systematic and extensive violation of the contract labor law, Commissioner General Sargent has submitted the evidence to the Department of Justice and has requested the Attorney-General to institute proceedings against the alleged violators of the law. The case in hand involves hundreds of men, many of whom already are in this country. Others are en route to the United States and expected to arrive in a few days.

The men are Welsh coal miners and came to the United States under an alleged agreement to work for the Ellsworth Coal Company, of Ellsworth, Pa.

Mineers Detained at Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 19.—Twenty-eight persons, one of them a woman, comprise a party of Welsh miners who are detained in this city on suspicion of being contract laborers. They arrived on the steamship Haverton from Liverpool yesterday and were landed today. Officers of the United Mineowners of America are largely responsible for the detention of the party.

Mineowner Enters Strong Denial.

PITTSBURG, Oct. 19.—J. W. Ellsworth, president of the Ellsworth Coal Company, which is accused of importing Welsh miners to work at Ellsworth, Pa., according to dispatches from Washington, writing from New York tonight, makes an emphatic denial that either he or his company had made any arrangement with foreign miners or their agents to that end.

POLITICS CAN'T COUNT.

Civil Service Officials Who Were Removed Will Be Reinstated.
WASHINGTON, Oct. 19.—The Civil Service Commission has requested the Treasury Department to reinstate Charles Miller, Adams Ritchie, Thomas Devine and Howard Cole, watchmen, and Francis P. Rodden, roller in the United States Mint at Philadelphia, whose removals the Commission found to have been for political reasons; six unclassified laborers, all Republicans, having been detailed to perform the duties of the four Democratic watchmen who were removed.

The President has taken great interest in the case, and has insisted that the condition of affairs at the mint be thoroughly remedied, regarding them as flagrant violations of the law. The Secretary of the Treasury takes the same position.

Church Treasurer Short \$50,000.
NEW YORK, Oct. 19.—Rev. John P. Peters, of St. Michael's Protestant Episcopal Church, has announced that the defalcation of church funds by Henry T. Edson, treasurer of the parish, who killed Mrs. Fannie Pullen and committed suicide several months ago, amounted to \$50,000. Of this amount \$30,000, the pastor said, had been returned to the church by the wife of Mr. Edson in making over to the church two life insurance policies. A part of the remainder will fall upon a bank through its liability in connection with the forgeries.

Have you friends coming from the East? If so, send their names to the Denver & Rio Grande office, 124 Third street, Portland, Or.



A Full Bust in an Ordinary Corset Cover. A Full Bust in La Grecque Bust Supporting Corset Cover.

LA GRECQUE

Bust Supporting Corset Cover.

Is indispensable to a full figure in a Shirtwaist, because it takes the place of a fitted lining, and holds a full bust firmly without shifting or sagging in any position, even in an extreme low-bust corset. It brings the bust forward, making a full figure narrower. It is adjustable at shoulders, bust and waist, so that each figure is fitted exactly. Has no seams, wrinkles or superfluous fullness anywhere; cannot push up. The heaviest figure will never be unsightly in this garment.

Prices, \$1.50 up.

MEIER & FRANK CO., Fifth, Morrison & Alder Sts., Portland.

BANDITS IN TOWN

Two Hold-Ups by Same Couple in One Night.

THOUGHT TO BE NEWBERG GANG

First Victim Drives Them Off With One Blow of Fist, and Second Gives Up 15 Cents—Scene of Two Hold-Ups Far Apart.

That the gang of bandits who so desperately tried to blow open the vault of the Newberg bank Monday morning here in Portland attempting to raise funds by highway robberies is the conviction of the Police Department, after two hold-ups had been reported early last evening. Hidden with black masks and protected with revolvers, two highwaymen held up two men in widely separated portions of the city, and yet closely allied by street-car connections.

Only an hour after midnight did the robbers begin their work. Repeated in the first instance the police believe the identical men crossed the river and held up a bicyclist.

A man supposed to be a Puget Sound lumberman, standing at the corner of Twenty-first and Sawyer streets at 7 o'clock, was victim No. 1. He was looking at his purse when two men stole up behind him. One was coming from the west and the other from the east, the foremost a blow in the face so hard that the right forefinger of the assailant's hand was injured and, as he believes, broken.

Robbers Flee and Try Again.
So unexpected was the sudden changing of positions of robber and victim that the man who was uninjured took to his heels and fled down Sawyer street into the darkness. The fugitive, who had a blanket over the city at the time aided in the escape of both, for the robber who had been struck followed the example of his companion.

The man who had the nerve to fight two armed highwaymen was seen soon after by Officer Sloan, but refused to give his name.

"I don't live in Portland and I don't want it known that I'm here," he said. It is known, however, that a short time earlier he had left the office of the Western Lumber Company where he had been in conference with several of the local lumbermen.

It was three-quarters of an hour after and two miles from the scene of the hold-up took place. William Towell, a young man living at Mount Tabor, was riding out East Burnside street on his bicycle. At the corner of East Twenty-sixth, he was met by two masked men, who, armed with pistols, ordered him from his wheel and made a search of his clothing. Fifteen cents was all the booty the highwaymen received. Again did the fog aid in the robbers' retreat.

Descriptions Are the Same.
Meager as are the descriptions of the highwaymen received by the police, they coincide so remarkably that both detectives and policemen believe the North Portland and the East Portland robbers are the same persons.

The neighborhood of East Burnside and North Portland streets is solidly built with houses of the better class. It is one of the most fashionable districts of the East Side.

The sudden outbreak of holdups, coming on the night following the attempt to enter the Newberg bank, leads every one around the police station to the belief that the bandits who terrorized Newberg are trying to raise funds with which to leave the country before they are traced and caught.

Extra precautions have been taken against the entry of undesirable characters into the city, but the men acting as peaceable citizens could easily have come into Portland by any of the several country roads at any time yesterday.

How many were in the gang of would-be bank robbers, what they looked like, or who they were, is more than anyone in Newberg can tell, so the chance of picking up any of the bandits in the city is small indeed.

DEMONS OF SOCIETY.

Pastor of Smart Set at Newport Holds Up Evil to View.
NEWPORT, R. I., Oct. 18.—Some of the alleged evils of society have been held up to the view of a large audience here in Emmanuel Church by Rev. Dr. E. H. Porter. The church is in the heart of the cottage colony, and many of the fashionable cottagers are included in its membership.

"The demons of society," said he, "are intemperance, impurity, dishonesty, gambling, bribery, perjury and divorce; rot-tenness in our civilization. Our days may be no worse than other days, but they are bad enough. We ask ourselves if Christ's teachings and influence are waning with the increasing centuries of time. Why cannot society cast out its own evils?"

"There are many in society who lament and deplore these evils, but society, on the whole, does not care enough about its evils to seek to cast them out. Some day it will."

Snails Are Wild Animals.
NEW YORK Times.—"Wild Animals" was Louisville, Ky.—"Wild Animals" was

Meier & Frank Company

Great Special Sale of Trunks at \$5.65 and \$8.95.

Meier & Frank Company

Continuation of the Great Picture Sale—2d Floor.

Artistic Picture Framing to your order—Immense new line of Moldings—Orders promptly executed.—2d Floor.
Great special sale of "Peninsular" Wood Heaters—two styles—value extraordinary at \$5.75 and \$7.65.
New Silverware and Cut Glass—enormous showing of the very newest patterns and styles—Basement.

Emphatic Bargains in Every Dept.

Bargains of unusual merit greet the store visitor at every turn. October has never before quite equaled the purchasing opportunities of today. Throngs of eager buyers crowded the aisles all day yesterday, but we've provided so generously that there's no chance for disappointment for those who come today. Economical women will scan the list carefully.

\$1.50, \$2.00 Underwear \$1.09 Closing out our "Globe" and "Nutley" ribbed underwear for women, white and blue mixed, sizes 3 and 4 only, silk trimmed, very best style and quality—Great bargain.	Ladies' Flannel Gowns Ladies' Outing Flannel Night Robes, pink and blue stripes, tucked and braid trimming, all sizes, great value at 79c.	45c Knives 32c 32c 1000 Steel Butcher Knives, a necessity in every household, 6i-in. size, reg. 45c val. 32c—Basement.	75c Mirrors, 29c 200 French plate toilet mirrors. 75c is what you pay for them regularly everywhere. Special for this lot, 29c each—At drug department.
Brussels Rugs \$17.50 75 handsome, new Brussels rugs—9 ft. x 12 ft.—Beautiful designs and colorings, exceptional value at \$17.50. Take Elevators—Third Floor.	Ribbed Corset Covers 38c Ladies' Swiss ribbed corset covers. High neck, long sleeves, well made, neatly trimmed, all sizes, great bargain at 38c.	\$1.75 Curtains \$1.27 pair \$1.27 100 pairs of Ruffled Net Curtains, lace edging and insertion, 3 yards long, very desirable style, \$1.27 pair.	\$3.50 Suit Cases, \$2.87 40 sheep covered suit cases, top and bottom straps around case, 24 inch size. Regular \$3.50 value, for this sale, \$2.87—Third floor.
Tinted Center Pieces 25c 500 tinted center pieces in white and dark linens, choice designs, great special value at 25c ea. Free embroidery lessons on same—2d Floor.	60c Flannels 44c 44c 3 lots of new Flannel Waistings, etamine stripes, satin striped albatross and mercerized novelties—the regular 60c values.	Boys' Overcoats \$4.35 \$4.35 Boys' all-wool Fancy Plaid and Oxford Gray Overcoats, velvet collar, ages 4 to 15 years, great special value at \$4.35.	Upholstery Materials All our handsome 1/4 off upholstery materials, French Gobelin materials, Indian and Oriental striped goods, etc. Choice of the entire stock at one-fourth off.
85c Taffeta Silks, 59c 59c One week more of the great sale of our 85c wash taffeta silks at 59c. Choice of 30 leading shades. The best values of season—Suitable for waists or lining.	50c Books 23c 23c Cloth-bound 12-mo. books, 250 titles, standard authors, all the regular 50c books, great bargain, 23c.	35c Waistings 25c 25c 2500 yds. of Oxfords and Chevots in best stripes and colorings for Winter Waists, reg. 35c line 25c yd.	"4711" Toilet Water 39c 300 bottles of the famous "4711" toilet water. Regular 59c bottle. Great special for this sale, 39c—Drug department.
Men's Night Shirts Men's Flannelette 62c Night Robes in the very best patterns and colorings—big, full sizes, great special value at 62c each.	35c Waistings 25c 25c 3000 yards of heavy white waistings, basket weaves and Madras, desirable styles, the regular 35c values for 25c yard.	Men's Pants \$3.85 \$3.85 Men's Worsted and fancy Tweed Pants, neat gray stripes, all sizes—Pants worth \$5.00 per pair at the low price of \$3.85.	Combination Suits 59c "Stratford" combination suits for women, cotton ribbed, heavy fleece lined, button across the chest, white or natural color. Great bargain at 59c.
\$6.50 o'clock Teas \$4.37 \$4.37 15 handsome 5 o'clock teakertics with wrought iron stands—useful and ornamental. Chance to buy a wedding or holiday gift at a saving—Basement.	25c Waistings 12c a yard 12c 2500 yards of ladies' fancy waisting in all the most desirable stripes and colorings, regular 25c values at 12c yard—Flannel Dept.	Men's Pants \$4.35 \$4.35 Men's all-wool Tweed and Chevot Pants—brown and gray mixtures and gray—gray stripes.	English Linoleum We are showing an immense variety of choice designs in English inlaid Linoleum. Our own direct importation, at the low price of \$1.60 per sq. yd.
Nottingham Lace Curtains 200 pairs of Nottingham lace curtains, three and one-half yds. long, 50 in. wide, the regular \$1.50 val., \$1.19 pr.—3d Flr.	Boys' Suits \$2.85 \$2.85 Boys' all-wool, 2-piece double breasted suits in dark mixtures, ages 8 to 15 yrs. Regular \$3.50 values at \$2.85.	\$1.00 Underwear 79c Men's natural wool Shirts and drawers, well made and finished, all sizes, the regular \$1.00 garments, for the extraordinary low price of 79c each.	\$10 Chafing Dishes \$7.78 Just a doz. hand-some chafing dishes. The latest improved style that sells regularly at \$10.00. This lot at \$7.78.

The Great Soap Sale

"4711" Glycerine Soap, 11c	Andrew Jergen's Oatmeal, Palmetto, Elderberry and Turkish Soaps, dozen 32c	Jergen's Old Fashioned Soaps, large cakes of Oatmeal Glycerine, etc, cake, 7c
Cuticura Soap, 14c	Jap. Rose Glycerine Soap 7c	Packer's Tar Soap, 12c
Sapolita, cake, 6c	Kirk's Glycerine Soap, 3 in box, 25c value, 15c	Pears' Soap, cake, 10c
Fairy Soap, dozen, 32c	9-inch bars Glycerine Soap 6c	Woodbury's Facial, cake, 11c
25c 2-lb. bar Castile, 13c	Williams' Shaving Stick, ea. 13c	Satin Skin Soap, 2 cakes, 25c
Colgate's Med. Tar, 9c	Williams' Shaving Cake, 5c	Pears' Transparent Soap, 12c
Jergen's Pine Tar, doz., 31c	Milk Weed and Witch Hazel Soaps, Egyptian Rose, Rose of Persia, Sweet Violet, 3 cakes in box, 11c	Curative Skin Soap, 3 cakes in box, 25c value, 14c
Jap. Pine Tar, 3 in box, 25c value, 16c	Andrew Jergen's Soaps, 3 cakes in box, all odors, special, 16c	Roger & Gallet Violet de Parme, cake, 50c
Genuine Olive Oil 3-4-lb. bars, 46c		Roger & Gallet's Soap, cake 25c
7 bars Santa Claus for, 25c		Armour's Toilet, all odors 16c
Genuine Imported French Almond Oil Castile Soap, 49c		3 cks in box, reg. 25c v. 16c
4-pound bar, 49c		Andrew Jergen's 10c Toilet Soap, at 7c
12 cakes Standard Soap for 25c		Lubin's Soap, cake 26c, 41c, 65c
Anti-Rust Soap, 15c value 8c		

Black Goods Sale

Great Annual Fall Sale of Black Dress Fabrics. Entire stock marked at big reductions. Included will be found all our handsome new "Priestley" fabrics, etamines, granite cloths, voiles, chevots, broadcloths, zibelines, whipcords, in all the best grades and styles.

\$1.00 Fab. \$.87	\$2.00 Fab. \$1.63
1.25 Fab. 1.07	2.25 Fab. 1.97
1.50 Fab. 1.29	2.50 Fab. 2.17
1.75 Fab. 1.53	3.00 Fab. 2.53

Great Special Bargains in Pictures—2d Floor.

Meier & Frank Company	Meier & Frank Company	Meier & Frank Company	Meier & Frank Company
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\$18, \$22.50 Suits, \$14.45

Great special offering of Ladies' Man-Tailored Suits. These suits are all long coat styles in Norfolks, jackets and blouses in fancy brown and gray, tweeds, men's mixtures, black and blue chevots and blue zibelines, plain or pleated skirts, tailored coats with strapped seams, all sizes, the very best \$18.00 to \$22.50 values—The majority are \$20 and \$22.50 Suits—Today and tomorrow—

\$14.45

Linen Sale

The October Linen Sale offers tempting values in all lines of table linens.

The classification under which a bushel of snails, imported from Italy by a Louisville fruit dealer, had to pay duty in the Custom House here. The snails came with a big shipment of lemons, and were in a closed basket.

When the custom officials found they were intended for the Louisville dealer's table, but concluded that duty was necessary, but they were at a loss under what head to put them. The customs rules make no mention of snails as food.

ornaments, pets, or for breeding purposes, so the officials tried snakes, without any success.

The Louisville man said he was willing to pay duty on them as wild animals, so the customs officials let them go at that.

Cataract of the bladder and urethra are cured by Oregon Kidney Tea.