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THE GULL.

Gray of the morning sky,
White of the foaming sea,
Birds in the crystal air,
Buoyant and free—
Out of the sea drift and up
from the rift,
Shining wings still in the
leagues of endless blue,
Swinging, dropping low to the
little ships that go
As the white-winged moths
that flutter in the dew,
Breasted in the sea-lave, riding
on the green wave,
Dreaming in the south wind
till the sun stands west;
Then up, up and back, down on
the golden track—
The sea is good in day, but
at night the land is best,
White of the evening sky,
Gray of the nearing sand—
Home to the lichen cliff,
Home to the land.
—George Speer in Book News
Monthly.

Hermiston people are alive to the fact that public school work is something that should be made more efficient. The four walls of any school room or left entirely to the teachers no matter how well qualified the teachers may be.

The East Oregonian correspondence from Hermiston yesterday tells of the monthly meeting of the parents and teachers in the high school room. There were 50 mothers in attendance at the meeting and a number of businessmen as well as all the teachers. Subjects of vital interest were discussed and through the meeting the parents and teachers became more closely in touch with reference to the subject of school work.

The news from Hermiston shows the people of that project town are up-to-date in school affairs as well as in the handling of the hog and dairy industry.

Through a suit that has been brought in the northern district of Illinois by Miss Elsie De Wolf of New York income tax. The income tax is to be tested. The objection is raised that the graduated tax levied on incomes above \$20,000 per annum is not consistent. Under the law incomes ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000 pay an additional or surtax of one per cent; incomes ranging between \$50,000 and \$75,000 two per cent; incomes from \$75,000 to \$100,000 three per cent; incomes from \$100,000 to \$250,000 four per cent; incomes to \$500,000 five per cent and above \$500,000 five per cent. This surtax is always in addition to the one per cent tax on all incomes above the \$4000 limit for married men and the \$3000 limit for single men.

In the suit that has been brought no complaint has been made against the principle of the graduated tax but it is asserted that the very large incomes are not taxed sufficiently high in proportion to the smaller incomes. As may be seen from the above classification it is true that the graduated tax does not increase in proportion to the increase of the income. If it did the man with an income of \$500,000 a year would have to pay a surtax of 10 per cent instead of only five per cent as provided for under the law.

In the event the contention raised by the suit that has been filed should be sustained by the courts it will seemingly be up to congress to amend the law so as to provide a more equitable graduated tax. As such action would hit only those having incomes above \$50,000 a year the suit that has been brought will cause country newspapermen no worry.

Discussing the subject of the most frequently visited places in the United States the New York Evening Post recently had the following as an editorial: What is the most frequently visited spot in the United States? In so far as there are figures to indicate, it is Independence Hall.

Last year its visitors numbered more than 250,000. Next to it in this respect comes the Metropolitan Museum of Art in this city, with 250,000 visitors last year, and then the American Museum of Natural History with 240,000. These statistics are unsatisfying, however, since no record is kept of the number of visitors to the Capitol, Bunker Hill, the Boston or New York Public Library, or many other places of national and international interest. The Department of Interior lists the number of those visiting the larger museums of the country, and thus compiles a table gratifying to Philadelphia, or it shows a stream of nearly 2,500,000 visitors to various museums in the Quaker City, and only 1,800,000 to those of New York. Next to these two cities comes Milwaukee, with 500,000 visitors while Boston is far down the list with 225,000, or only a few more than Chicago.

Nothing could show how narrow is the basis of comparison more clearly than these figures. What we require, is a table which shall tell us how many persons visit the monkey cage in Bronx Park every year, and whether more or fewer persons go to Memorial Hall in Fairmont Park, Philadelphia, than go to the zoological gardens hard by. There ought to be some way of distinguishing, too, between the number of out-of-town visitors—those who take the trouble of making a more or less extensive trip to famous shrines—and those to whom a visit to the same place means nothing more than an afternoon holiday.

President Wilson has work enough on hand without having to struggle with illness. He has had a continuous session of congress ever since his inauguration and legislation of the greatest importance is still to be enacted. He is one man whom this country cannot afford to lose at this stage of the game.

One good rabbit drive deserves another, the Holdman farmers think and they are right, because rabbits multiply quickly.

Why does the price of wheat always soar after most of the wheat has been sold?

BY THE SCISSORS

SMITH'S PLAN.

Once Sydney Smith, author of "Memoirs of Half a Century," was a guest at a dinner given by an arch-deacon. A fellow guest with a passion for natural history was a decided bore if allowed to dwell upon his hobby. At the solicitation of his host Smith promised to keep the naturalist from monopolizing the conversation. As soon as they were seated about the festive board the naturalist perceived his chance to be at hand. Turning to the arch-deacon, he said:

"Have you seen the pamphlet written by my co-worker, Prof. Dickens, upon the extraordinary size of the eye of the common house fly, my dear deacon?"

"Why, no," replied the deacon, politely, "I cannot say that I have." "I recommend it to your attention, then, with all my heart," smiled the bore pressing his advantage. "It is a most remarkable pamphlet, setting forth clearly full particulars as to the abnormal size of a fly's eye." "I must take exception to that statement," said Smith's voice from the other end of the table. "You mean," cried the bore, in arms in an instant, "to call into question the research and observation of my most learned friend? May I ask

upon what authority you take such a stand?" "Upon very well known authority," replied Smith, easily, but with a wicked twinkle in his eye. "Based in fact, on evidence wedded to an immortal verse known to every scholarly gentleman at this table." "Will you, sir, have the kindness to quote your authority?" queried the naturalist with great heat. "With great pleasure, sir. The evidence is in those well known, nay, immortal lines: "Who saw him die?" "I said the fly," "With my little eye." The merriment which ensued completely silenced the bore and the dinner drew to a delightful conclusion without further mention of natural history.

FARMERS ARE INTERESTED.

In the current issue of Farm and Fireside, the national farm paper published at Springfield, Ohio, Judson C. Welliver, the Washington correspondent of that publication writes an interesting article in which he shows how farmers have to pay high rates of interest in this country because they have no system of collective credits, such as has been developed for the benefit of farmers in certain foreign countries. The substitution of community credit for individual credit is what always reduces rates of interest. Cities borrow their money at lower rates of interest than individuals because they act as a community. Following is an extract from Mr. Welliver's article showing the rates of interest farmers pay in this country at the present time:

"Recently the Department of Agriculture investigated interest rates paid by farmers all over the country. It was found, through statements made by several thousand banks in answer to questions, that on loans to farmers, secured and unsecured, the average rates run from a trifle under six per cent in most of New England, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, up to 10.57 per cent, in Oklahoma, 10.57 in New Mexico, 10.15 in Arizona, 10.13 in Montana, 10.70 in North Dakota, 9.97 in Texas, 9.48 in South Dakota, 9.98 in Georgia, 8.80 in Florida, 6.23 in Ohio, 6.47 in Indiana, 6.31 in Illinois, 6.88 in Michigan, 6.24 in Wisconsin, 7.93 in Minnesota, 7.21 in Iowa, 7.28 in Missouri, 6.86 in Kentucky, 8.28 in Tennessee, 8.26 in Mississippi, 8.33 in Louisiana, 9.67 in Arkansas, 9.37 in Wyoming, 9.24 in Colorado, 8.61 in Utah, 9.93 in Nevada, 9.92 in Idaho, 8.99 in Washington, 8.32 in Oregon and 7.44 in California.

"Broadly, banks accommodate their interest rate with reference to the average balance the borrower may be expected to carry in the bank. A business man borrows \$10,000 for ninety days. His experience with that man justifies the bank in expecting that his daily balances throughout that ninety day period will average \$5,000; therefore it shades the rate of interest to him. But a farmer borrowing money is likely to take the entire amount

away in his wallet, and to maintain mighty important balances during the period the loan has to run; then he will sell a bunch of hogs, cattle of a bin of wheat, and with the proceeds pay the loan. Because of such conditions, the farmer must of necessity pay higher rates for his money because, it might be said, he uses it harder."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Conversation had drifted more to the ever-interesting subject of marriage. The smoking room was full, and almost every man had contributed something out of his own personal experience to the discussion.

Some said long engagements were better than short ones, some held that marriage was an utter failure, and others that it was the only thing that made life worth living.

One perky little person insisted that a man should be "master in his own house," but was violently opposed by

a regular giant, who believed in "leaving things to the wife," and so on.

This subject, however, was sidetracked by somebody observing that it was curious to note how little men almost invariably married large women. At this, a very small, unhappy looking little man burst suddenly into life.

"No sir; you are wrong," he protested mildly. "In my opinion, it is the big women who marry the little men."

IN MIRTHFUL VEIN

BAD COMPANY.

A negro with a bad cut in his head came to a doctor. The doctor fixed him up and as the man was about to depart the physician said:

"That's a pretty bad cut in your head, Henry. Why don't you profit

by this lesson and keep out of bad company in the future?"

"Well, I'd like to, doctor," replied Henry sadly, "but I ain't got no money to get er divorce, you see."—Lippincott's.

WORK IN DISGUISE.

"Mike," said Plodding Pete, "what would you do if you was rich?"

"I'd lead a life of ease," replied Meandering Mike.

"No you wouldn't. You'd be playing polo or golf or takin' physical culture. Let well enough alone. A life of ease ain't nothin' but work in disguise."—Washington Star.

Matrimonial.

A Brooklyn woman was married 22 years ago and didn't tell her sisters about it until last spring. Now, in Chicago, where they marry so often, this wouldn't be considered the least bit curious.—Cleveland Plaindealer.

Paw Knows.

Willie—Paw, what is a free thinker?

Paw—An unmarried man, son.

Maw—You go to bed, Willie.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

IT PAYS to take good care of the Stomach, Liver and Bowels, and—at the first sign of distress—to take

HOSTETTER'S Stomach Bitters

Just Arrived

A fresh shipment of

Whitman's Candies

Direct from the makers at Philadelphia. Quality and freshness of each package guaranteed by us.

Tallman & Co.
Exclusive Agents

The Alexander Dept. Store Bring the Children to TOYLAND

Tonight and see "Santa Claus." He will be in the Window 7:30 to 8:30

ANNOUNCEMENT!

Madam Root of Portland, Oregon, will be with us all next week, with a high grade line of Hair goods and Facial remedies.

She is an artist in her particular line

WE GIVE S. & H. GREEN STAMPS.

DIAMONDS



THE value of diamonds is advancing and we sell but one grade—the pure white stone without a blemish.

We have a number of diamond solitaires from \$10 to \$45 and in every instance the quality is the same as our larger stones.

There is much money spent on gifts that are short lived which are rendered useless by the change of fashion, or are discarded after a season of use but the diamond, however small, is a lasting gift that retains its value.

Our gems are carefully selected and priced so low as good business methods will permit and we guarantee the quality in every instance.

Royal M. Sawtelle
Jeweler

