

FARMERS ARE RETIRING.

Many Western Agriculturists Are Enjoying the Fruits of Recent Prosperous Years.

The Nebraska towns are filling up with farmers who have retired from agricultural pursuits to take life at ease and educate their children, says a recent Lincoln report.

Prosperity has prevailed on the farms for five or six years, and the farmers of the west are showing their philosophical view of life by retiring before they are too old to enjoy the fruits of their toil.

None of them are rich in the metropolitan sense of the term. They don't feel themselves rich. All they have is a competence, but their early life away from the temptations of the town has taught them frugality and they have no particular desire to put on style. Usually when they come to town they go out to some modest suburb where the price of property is low.

They spend \$2,000 or \$3,000 for a house and lot, fix things up comfortably and enjoy themselves. Their wants are easily satisfied. They have not the theater-going habit nor the society habit; they have learned how to get what they think is good out of life without indulging in many of its frivolities. Measured by their ambitions and their wants they are as well off as any millionaire—possibly better. They have enough and are satisfied.

It is possible for a farmer to retire on a much smaller amount than most men who have investments in other classes of property. A merchant may get out of active life but leave his money in his store without feeling that it is safe. Banks, too, may fail, and the price of stocks is liable to fluctuate. It is different with the farm. Nebraska land has a very stable value, and even in panic days could be sold for fair prices. Today it is high, but a goodly harvest is assured, and if the harvest is big and prices are good there is a large addition to the surplus and money for any little indulgence.

Those farmers who prefer to stick to the farm for a little while longer are demonstrating their preservation of a sane balance by improving the appearance of their farms. Lincoln contractors have sent 30 or 40 carpenters into the rural districts to build new barns and houses in the past six weeks. Out in southeast Nebraska in the new wheat section, there has been a boom on an overlap from Kansas, where speculators are forcing up prices. The short grass country yielded in its crops this year, and there is scarcely any government land left in that section of either Kansas or Nebraska. Real estate agents have been running harvest excursions into the country and syndicate buying is now a feature of the business, whole parties of emigrants from eastern states being landed and settled in the same neighborhood on newly purchased lands.

NATIONS IN THE MAKING.

War Enters Very Largely Into the Formation of a New Country.

According to the astronomers, there was fierce conflict of forces in chaos before the worlds were thrown off from the nebular mass; and then there were many a mad flight through space and frequent collisions before the force of gravity set the planets moving in their respective orbits.

On a small scale, natural forces are still at work bringing about a stable political equilibrium on this planet. Chance and war, chiefly war, have thrown together groups of people with unlike interests, states the Youth's Companion. Wherever the interests conflict, their effort to get along together succeeds but indifferently, or fails altogether.

The most recent example of failure is the break-up of the republic of Colombia, which occurred when the people in the department of Panama decided that they would submit no longer to neglect by the central government, a neglect of which the rejection of the canal treaty was only the culminating incident.

The struggle is still going on in Austria-Hungary, where two nations, differing in race, are trying to live under one government. The emperor-king is able to keep his empire together only by making frequent concessions to the Magyars. His consent, in November, to the larger use of the Hungarian language in the army was forced from him at the price of breaching the deadlock which had left Hungary without a ministry for several months.

Germany has a similar problem, although the issue there is the proper relation of the various states to the central government. Bavaria has presented the interference of the emperor in its local affairs with so much vigor that the imperial chancellor has thought it wise to announce that the kaiser does not desire greater centralization of authority.

The British empire is a vast nebular mass, which is to be held together until it solidifies into a homogeneous unit. Mr. Chamberlain fears that it is in danger of flying to pieces unless the force of gravity, operating through self-interest, can be made to bind the colonies to the mother country.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The municipal expenses of New York are approximately \$100,000,000 a year.

Of 23,000 children placed in families by the Children's Aid society, only 60 have been arrested and sent to reform schools.

While London has 47 telephones per 10,000 inhabitants, Paris, 71; New York, 150, and San Francisco, 706, Stockholm reaches the figure of 980.

Berlin has its first female barbers—the wife and daughter of a hairdresser. In Bohemia, Hungary and Scandinavia there are many women barbers.

In the year ending April 1, 1900, Berlin imported from Italy 50 car loads of cherries, 357 of table grapes, 245 of summer fruits, etc. In the following 12 months the business doubled.

A Leipzig physician expresses the opinion that on account of their delicate sense of touch blind persons are specially qualified for practicing massage. In Japan this is done very largely.

In the clear atmosphere the other day Bostonians could see from Boston two mountains, Wachusett and Monadnock—that is, those Bostonians who took the trouble to climb Mount Bellevue, West Roxbury, could.

If all the reports that have reached the police within the past few days are true, diamond stealing by servants has reached the proportion of a mania in New York. Three young women employed in as many fashionable homes in the up-town section are now under arrest on this charge.

A Vermont town supports two papers which live in friendly discord. The Herald printed a meaningless item about one Slaets S. Weneht, a Syrian, and the News copied it, without the formality of giving credit. Gleelessly the Herald now points out that the fictitious Syrian's name spelled backward proclaims the truth, well known locally that "the News steals."

WOMAN A PESSIMIST.

After a Certain Age Their Faces Show Signs of Mental Worry and Distress.

The average woman is a dyed-in-the-wool pessimist. Almost every woman over 30 years of age looks distressed. Her brows are bent, her mouth drawn into a tight line, and there are deep furrows down her cheeks. She looks exactly as if she were considering how to provide a dinner for 25 cents that will satisfy twenty-five small children, when in reality she may have nothing more serious on her mind than buying a pair of socks for George. No wonder women grow old faster than men, for they hug their worries to them and let them show in their faces.

There was once an elderly servant who was superstitious to a degree and who always expected the worst to happen. Did she find a needle on the floor, did a picture fall in the house or a bird fly into one of the rooms, she was instantly plunged into woe. "We're going to have a heap of bad luck!" she would say, and then she'd be lachrymose until some one had the toothache or the cows got into the corn, when she would consider the demon luck exercised or satisfied for a time and grow as cheerful as if it was her habit to be. Some one once asked her if she did not have any good-luck signs.

"Why, certainly," she replied, "but they don't count—I don't believe in the good-luck ones," which, by the by, is thoroughly characteristic of the sex.

Here is a woman who suffers—suffers is the word—from insomnia. "I can't imagine why I don't sleep," she says to her friends. "I'm sleepy as anything when I go upstairs, but then I begin to wonder if my son Arthur, who travels for a drug firm, is on a train, and in a minute I see him just as plainly bleeding and mangled in a wreck. When I decide that he is really dead, I think of John, and worry because he hasn't a better position. Then Molly comes into my mind, and I feel sure that one of her children must be ill. I feel so blue about her. I fret over Lucy's throat a bit then, and by this time I'm wide awake. It's the strangest thing! I don't understand why I should be so wakeful!"

Her physician does, however, and now he's prescribing for her a course of cheerfulness and of "looking for the best." It's a medicine that most women need—their faces show it—but there are few who are sensible enough to take it.

Death Caused by Mosquito.

Mosquitoes are now charged with communicating erysipelas as well as malaria and yellow fever. A New York physician has issued a death certificate in the case of a 14 months' old babe, in which he says "Death was caused by erysipelas due to the bite of a mosquito." It is only fair to the mosquito to record that the board of health officers refused to accept the certificate until a corner's physician had investigated and concluded that there was no other apparent cause for the death than the mosquito bite.—Youth's Companion.

ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION.

The Orthographic Chaos in Which the English Language is Involved—Some Notable Illustrations.

We are waltering in an orthographic chaos in which a multitude of signs are represented by the same sound and a multitude of sounds by the same sign, says Harper's Magazine. Our race as a race has in consequence lost the phonetic sense. What can we hope for the orthoepy of a tongue in which, for illustration, the short sound of e, found in let, is represented by ea in head, by eo in leopard, by ay in says, by ai in said, by ei in heifer, and by a in many? Or of the correspondingly long sound given by us to the same vowel, which is represented by e in mete (to measure), by ea in meat (an article of food), or by ee in the verb to meet; and furthermore by i in machine, by ie in believe, by ei in receive, by eo in people, and by ae in aegis? Or take the sound denoted by the digraph sh, seen in ship. It is represented by ce in ocean, by ci in suspicion, by ti in nation, by xi in anxious, by sci in science, and by a followed by u in sure. There is no object in heaping up further harrowing details, which, indeed, could be multiplied indefinitely. They have been introduced merely to show how hopeless is the prospect of attaining under such conditions a uniform standard of pronunciation which all will recognize at once, and to which all will unquestioningly bow.

WHAT A COOL SUMMER DOES.

It Effects to the Entire Business Community, Farmers Included—Keeps Money from Circulating.

A well known business man says that the ordinary observer did not stop to consider what a cool summer meant to the entire business community, according to the Philadelphia Record. Said he: "It affects everything that depends upon trade for life. I have no doubt that the present slump in stocks is due in part to the cool summer, which has made the crops so uncertain. Let us start with the farmer. He has had poor luck with his corn, melons and all kinds of truck. The merchants who sell summer clothing and all kinds of seasonable wear have hardly paid expenses; every seashore resort has been running light. This means so much money lost from circulation, and all the mechanical trades and industries must suffer. Of course, no one is to blame, and the only thing to do is to live and let live until a real hot summer comes to push things along again."

CHARITY FOR CRIPPLES.

Unfortunates Aided by Society Organized Named "The Guild of the Brave Poor Things."

"The Guild of the Brave Poor Things" is the curious name adopted by a company of English charity workers, whose womanly efforts are being directed toward the amelioration of the condition of cripples, young and old.

The guild has recently acquired a country holiday home at North Common, Chalfont, Sussex. It is called the Heritage, and was formally opened in June by the duchess of Bedford. The home is picturesquely situated and will accommodate 50 guild members—men, women and children—some of whom will become permanent residents and others will be taken from the various branches of the guild for short vacation periods. As soon as may be it is intended to start a school of arts and crafts for the crippled and deformed inmates, and the work will be sold for their benefit.

The youngest pedagogue in Missouri, and perhaps in the United States, is teaching a country school near Gainesville, in the Ozark mountains. He is Glenn Harrison, aged 13 years, says the Kansas City Journal. Glenn is the oldest son of Guy T. Harrison, a lawyer.

He completed the course of study of the Gainesville public schools in March, 1902. The same month he took the examination given candidates for third grade teachers' certificates in Ozark county, making a good average and securing a certificate. He continued to study, and just after he became 13 years old he took the examination for a second grade certificate. This time his average grade was the highest made, being 96 per cent. Mr. Harrison believed his promising son was too young to teach, and refused to let him accept several offers. But one day when his father was absent attending court, Glenn took the job of teacher of a rural district, the directors of which came and offered him the place. He began work before his father returned, and the latter, finding him so ambitious, decided not to interfere.

Glenn now has 29 pupils. The majority are larger and older than he, but he maintains a degree of discipline which many older and more experienced teachers may well envy. "How are you getting along, Glenn?" asked his mother one day, when he came home at the end of a week's work. "I had to whip several of the boys," the youngster replied. It turned out that among others he had larrupped an obstreperous youth that weighed 180 pounds. Glenn doesn't weigh much more than half that.

A recognized authority—The Weekly Oregonian.

Air Ship Has Wings.

Chicago, July 30—Frank M. Mahan of Chicago, president of the Lingren Mahan Fire Apparatus company, has declared that in the near future he will start for Washington in an airship of his own make, and that he will reach that city within 10 hours.

"I don't simply promise this," said Mahan. "I'll do it. I have studied the aerial navigation problem for 16 years and I have the solution beyond the peradventure of a doubt. I can make from 125 to 150 miles an hour in the airship I propose to construct."

The projected airship will be a flying machine pure and simple. It will have wings like those of a bird, and these wings will have the sole motive power, though they will be worked by a gasoline engine.

The feathers of the wings on fowls of the air, Mahan says, are so arranged that practically every one has a specific part to perform on its flight. In the wings of a flying machine the inventor is to place valves so constructed that in the upward and downward strokes there will be two distinct motions, as there is in the bird's wing movement—a lifting and propelling power combined.

Mahan is an engineer known all over the United States.

Forest Fires in Idaho.

Boise Idaho, July 28.—Forest fires are raging in the White Pine regions of the Pierce City district and in the Clearwater country. Three fires are also reported from Lewiston and it is stated that a total of 5,000 acres of timber is in danger of destruction.

On the north fork of the Clearwater the state owns 30,000 acres of valuable pine land and State Land Commissioner Munson is in Moscow securing a large force to aid in checking the spread of the flames.

Half a Ton of Clothes.

New York, July 30—J. Pierpont Morgan is coming back from London with half a ton of clothes. To be more definite, there are 127 suits.

The average man hardly knows what he would do with 127 suits, but Mr. Morgan likes to be well dressed. He likes a multiplicity of suits, yet never before has he come back from Europe with such an outfit. It would keep 150 men busy a week and take cloth costing \$10,000 to make the 127 suits.

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