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EDITORIAL COMMENT

PRIZE FIGHTING is on the "bum." So say the reformers of the country. The Johnson-Jefferies match is threatened with all sorts of opposition. And why? Principally because of its name. If there is any reason why a sparring match is immoral we have failed to see it. We never attended a real prize fight, or even a good sparring match, never had any interest in them and perhaps we are not qualified to talk, but we fail to see why a man who displays his athletic powers with his gloved fists is any worse than the fellow who enters a jumping contest, a test of speed, or a wrestling match. If these are wrong so are all the tests of strength, games exhibiting skill, and athletic sports where the element of competition is to be considered. However there is another feature of the prize ring that does not enter so largely into other sports. That is the participation of the "sporting" classes, the real sporty sports who are dangerous wherever you meet them, gamblers and toughs of all grades. But then they are everywhere if they are permitted. Rule them out and have a good, clean bout, limit it to a reasonable number of rounds or to a specified time and close the game accordingly and boxing would be as respectable as any other sport. Properly managed it should be valuable as stimutating an interest in the art of self defense. The majority of the men today are a lot of lubbers utterly unable to protect themselves, and that is surely not a condition to be commended. Being more intelligent, a man should be as able to defend himself as any inferior animal, yet he has come to think of physical self defense as brutal and unworthy of a human being.

SOME attention should be given by the farmers who are preparing to compete for the prizes next fall, to the offers that are being made by the various seed companies of this part of the country. Lilly & Co., have entered the list of special prize doners. They are offering a fine silver cup for the best display of vegetables grown from their seeds. Butzer makes his usual offers, the Portland Seed Co. has made an offer amounting to $18.50 in credit slips for merchandise at their store. The Routledge Seed Co. offers credit slips for prises taken from their seeds amounting to $20. The Union Meat Co. again offers $25 on pens of marketable hogs.

One of the attractions for June is the Threshers' Association meeting to be held at Albany June 2 and 3. A one and one-third fare will be given and a good many fine features will make the program exceedingly interesting. P. S. Bates, secretary of the association, 215 Oregonian building, will send you all the information you want about the matter.

J. THORBURN ROSS has proven himself a very brave man. Perhaps we should say brazen. Or is he a coward. Isn't it infamous enough for a man to be known as criminal at home without dragging his infamy before the eyes of the state and the nation. It takes a lot of nerve to brave public inspection in such a way. Mr. Ross has been adjudged a criminal, and no evidence that can be introduced will show anything to the contrary. But he expects to escape on a technicality. He seems to be afraid of one thing and that is not his honor. It is the quiet, sequestered vocation of those who board at the state's expense, at the state's private hotel.

J. J. Hill has not seen all of Oregon. Not by a good deal. He has not been out over the Estacada line, has not seen the wonderful country that lies to the east of Portland, the Sandy Valley, nor has he suggested that he might take hold of the slumbering Mt. Hood road. If he wants to do something for Oregon, why doesn't he look this way? The Gresham Commercial Club will be glad to entertain Mr. Hill any time he says he wants a night's lodging.

The city council of Portland has decided that the killing of a child or two, and the crippling and blinding of a few more, is as nothing to the selling of the stock of fireworks the merchants have on hand valued at $100,000. Therefore we will have an insane Fourth of July once more.—Portland Labor Press.

Australian and South American meats are being imported for Eastern markets. With the thieving tariff off meats we could have it for six cents less a pound. Watch the present congress take the tariff off meat—nit.—Portland Labor Press.

Tuning Forks.

The tuning fork was the invention of John Stone, royal trumpeter, in 1811. Though the pitch of forks varies slightly with changes of the temperature or by rust, they are the most accurate means of determining pitch. Tuning forks are capable of being made of any pitch within certain limits, but those commonly used are the notes A and C, giving the sounds represented by the second and third spaces in the treble stave.

An Incentive.

"Won't you try to love me?" he sighed.

"I have tried," she replied kindly, but firmly.

"My rich aunt has just died," he went on.

"In that case, dear, I will try again."—Puck.

A Blunt Answer.

Mother (to her daughter)—You'd better accept Peter, my dear. He is a nice boy, though he may not be handsome. After all, good looks fade, don't they, papa? Father—Rather!—Fliegende Blatter.

The Ways of Men.

Many a man who would be unable to find the family Bible if he hunted all day would have no difficulty in putting his hand on the corkscrew, even in the dark.—Chicago Record-Herald.

An Empty Dream.

Bobby—Say, sis, what's a "empty dream?" Dotty—One you have when you've been sent to bed without any supper.—Cleveland Leader.

IDEAL SCHOOLHOUSES

Movement to Improve Rural Educational Institutions Spreading.

SHOULD BE MADE INVITING.

Have Rooms Well Ventilated, Lighted and Heated So That the Health and Mental Energy of the School Children Shall Not Be Impaired.

The past twenty years have witnessed a marked advance in school architecture in many towns in the rural sections of the country. More attention is being paid today to school buildings, sanitation, surroundings and location than ever before. The United States was slow in making the start, but now that the initiative has been taken there is no excuse for progressive school directors not doing everything in their power to relegate the old, obsolete and frequently insanitary buildings to oblivion, replacing them with modern, up to date, sanitary and sightly schoolhouses.

"I cannot urge too strongly the need of an enlightened and liberal policy in schoolhouse construction to the end that the schoolhouse be attractive in appearance and scientifically constructed," says Iowa's superintendent of public instruction. "It may require a few dollars more to secure such a schoolhouse, but it should be remembered that the district is building for half a century at least, and only the best should be considered. The schoolhouse with its surroundings should be the most attractive place in the district, in which every child and every patron will take pride. And the schoolroom should not only be inviting, but it should be so ventilated, lighted and heated that the physical health and mental energy of the children shall not be impaired."

In various Iowa counties the old barren, barnlike structure is being supplanted by neat, commodious and comfortably equipped buildings. Many of them are making rapid strides.

The problem of supplanting the old schoolhouse with a new structure carries with it the discussion of several important topics, chief among them being the school site, the school building and the ventilation of the building. We can do no better in this connection than to quote from Professor W. H. Gemmill, superintendent of schools in Dallas county, Ia., who gives practical advice on all these subjects, as follows:

"In selecting a site the area of the lot, the elevation, the character of the soil, the drainage, the direction of the slope and the central location should be considered. No school ground should ever contain less than one acre, with a frontage of 180 feet and a depth of 240 feet. In the larger consolidated district it should contain not less than two and may very properly contain three acres. If possible it should be an elevated piece of ground, a small knoll or a gentle slope, and the drainage should be away from the yard and house. The soil should be light, dry and porous. A sandy or gravelly subsoil affords the best drainage, while an eastern or a southern slope secures rapid evaporation. Under no circumstances should the stratum be clay impermeable to ground water. It is desirable that the schoolhouse should be located near the geographical center of the district, and the board should select the site with this is mind, but the site should be high and dry and the brightest and most beautiful spot near the center. Under no conditions should pleasant and wholesome surroundings be sacrificed if a better and more suitable site can be secured some little distance away. The additional distance in traveling will be labor well spent if thereby the pupils are placed in more beautiful and inspiring scenes.

"The house should be placed in front of the center, with the playground in the rear. Where the house is heated by a furnace the fuel supply should be stored in the basement. If there is no basement a small building for fuel should be erected at the rear of the schoolhouse.

"The foundation walls of the schoolhouse should be brick or stone and extend a little below frost line. The walls should be at least one foot in thickness and extend about three feet above the surface. It is usually well to have a vertical air chamber, and if there is no basement suitable ventilators should be provided on each of the four sides, so as to permit of thorough ventilation of the space between the surface and the floor during the summer months. Good shutters should be provided for these openings in order that the winter's cold may not affect the air within the room near to the floor.

"It would also be a step in the right direction if there were a basement under the entire building, partitioned into a furnace room, a workshop and a kitchen. Adequate but inexpensive tools for manual training can be bought for $25. Here the boys would learn to construct simple things in a scientific manner and even supply the apparatus necessary for the school. A good stove and some kitchen utensils would be sufficient for the teaching of the principles of domestic economy.

"No more important question is before the farmer today than that involving the housing of his children of school age. With an awakened appreciation of the fact that better rural schools will bring about a stay-at-home family which will not find it necessary to seek the town for the desired education there has come a realization of the fact that more practical studies must be taught in more sanitary and more sightly buildings."

GRANGE IN MICHIGAN

Patrons Propose to Organize a Life Insurance Company.

There Are 809 Granges In the Wolverene State With 48,000 Paid Up Members—Patrons' Fire Insurance For Farm Buildings an Important Feature—Proportional Representation In the National Grange Again Recommended.

If there is a liveller grange state in the Union than Michigan we do not know its location. When the Patrons assemble in annual session there is something doing from the first roll call of delegates until those same delegates pack their trunks for home. The recent session was no exception to the rule. They were there and every one enthusiastic over the grange and anxious to lend a hand and a voice, too, to promote the interests of the Order. There were seventy-seven counties represented, sixty-three having Pomona granges represented by 103 delegates and 320 subordinate granges represented. The total number of granges in the state is 809 and of paid up members 48,000. The report of the treasurer showed that on Dec. 1 there was cash on hand amounting to $7,152.93,

N. P. HULL,
[Master Michigan state grange.]

receipts coming in since that time bringing the total to $24,774.04; disbursements, $20,195.05; balance, $4,578.99. The committee on co-operation has received from percentage on trade contracts the past year a total of $8,568.32. The expenses of this subcommittee were $2,364.64, leaving $6,203.68 to the credit of the grange. At the direction of the executive committee this subcommittee purchased during the year 6 per cent Oklahoma school bonds to the amount of $13,000, the total cost, including premium and interest, being $14,881.70. On Dec. 1, 1908, the total securities and cash in the care of this subcommittee was $39,355.36. On Dec. 1, 1909, the total of same was $43,266.55, a gain of $3,911.19.

There was a spirited discussion over a resolution favoring the assessment of the iron and copper mines, in which northern Michigan abounds, on ad valorem basis. The resolution was adopted after a long discussion. Another, urging members of the grange not to vote for any candidate for the legislature who would refuse to pledge himself, through the papers, that, if elected, he would vote for that candidate for United States senator who receives the most votes in the state primary, was adopted. Other resolutions approved were these: Relative to pure food, that the name and address of every manufacturer be placed on the package; that delegates to the national grange be instructed to work for representation in the national grange based on membership; that a law should be enacted restraining any board of supervisors from granting any franchise to any person or corporation to control the water power of any stream in the state without compensation, at the rate of 10 per cent on the capital invested in said franchise and at the rate of an increase of 1 per cent each year thereafter.

The matter of organizing a grange life insurance was discussed and referred to the executive committee to perfect details and complete organization.

In the report of the committee on forestry it was recommended that there be an increased extension of the farm wood lot and a reforestation of all lands not fit for farming. On good roads the grange approved the state aid policy. The committee on temperance presented a recommendation that all liquor and questionable amusements be barred from the state and county fairs and that local option is the best method of combating the liquor traffic. The annual report of the secretary of the State Patrons' Fire Insurance company was as follows: The company now has 7,368 policies in force, amounting to $12,415,617. The report shows that during the year 1,063 policies were written and between 300 and 400 increases and only 60 decreases. It has also written 2,100 reinspective policies.

Do It Now.

Decision never becomes easier by postponement, while habit grows stronger every day. Common sense as well as conscience says, "Choose this day."