

THE RIVER'S GOSSIP.

ever talk on ever' han'—
gossip fur en free;
now de secrets er de lan',
teel 'um ter de sea.

Polly's Change of Mind.

"Polly," he was saying, "if
the question concerned only
you I should not ask you for
a simple answer, but I am
asked too deeply myself to be
led lightly, and I feel that I have
an honest right to be answered
plainly than by a short 'No.'
A significant word may be,
best insufficient."

"It was some moment's before I
could scramble to my feet. When I did
so, the school had passed on and the
flight was over. At least a score of the
snappers had fallen on board. They
were large fish, resembling a sea bass,
except in color, which, instead of being
black, was red."

SHE GOT HER BOTTLE OF INK.

But the Parcel Was Big Enough to
Contain a Safe.
One woman who lives in Pine avenue
went shopping. This happened last
Monday. She left her home with purple
plumes in her bonnet, and she lost not
one of them in her trip downtown.

"Mrs. So and So?" asked the boy with
the freckles.
"Yes," was the woman's reply.
"Kindly receipt this slip."

"The man in the parcel-room was one of
jest and merriment. He rolled nonsense
into a joke and enjoys the fun, even if
it did cost a penny or two more to the
firm.—Chicago Chronicle.

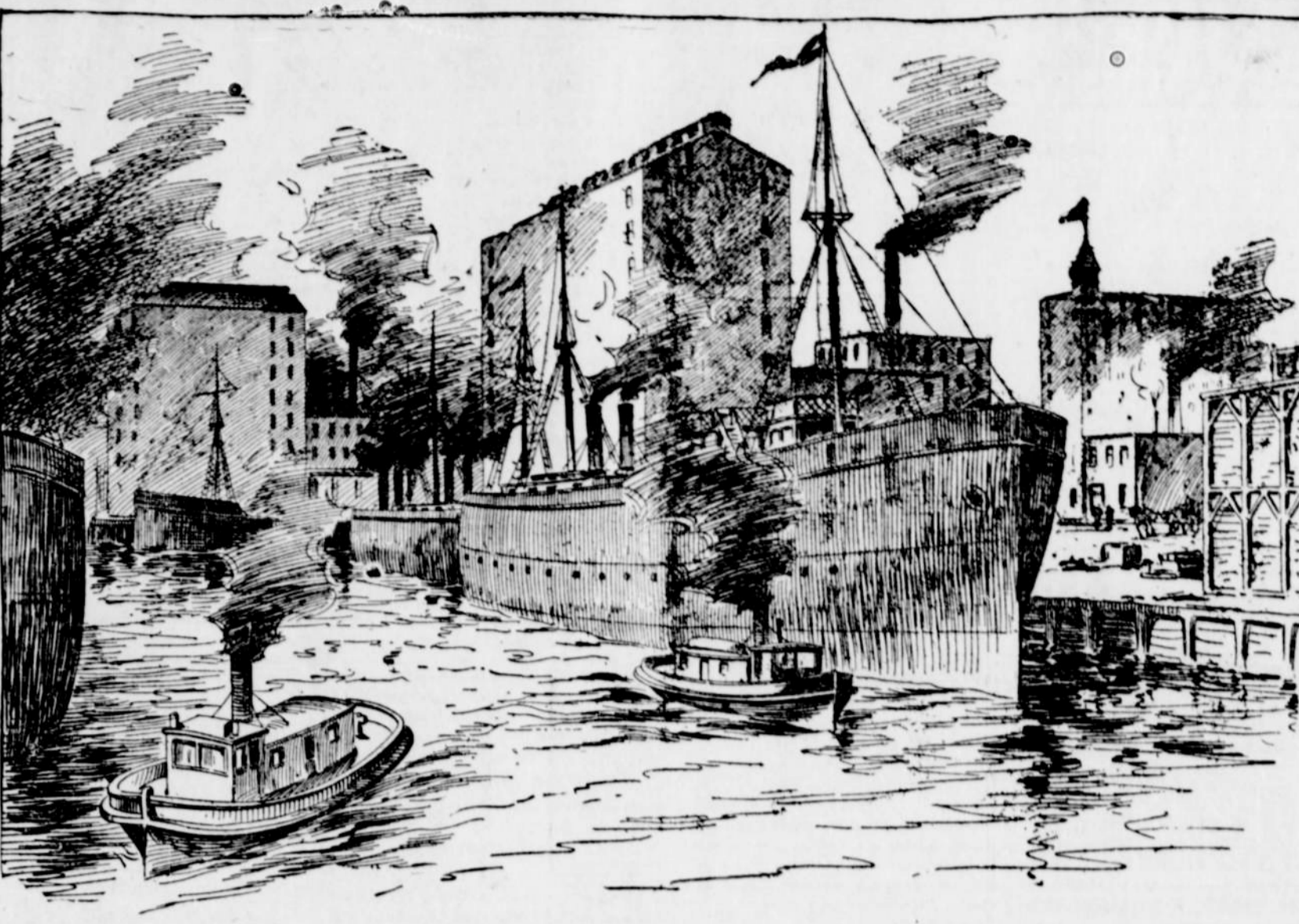
"Snake Imprisoned in a Tree.
The Rev. S. S. Crain, in the city to-
day from Emberson, reported a peculiar
incident. He had W. M. Pears, living
on the Jesse Caviness place, cutting
posts for him a few days ago. At the
end of one of the pieces of post timbers
was a hollow fork. When the cut was
split open a little black snake about
two feet long was found in the hollow.
It was alive and writhed and squirmed,
but could not escape. It was dis-
covered that an inch and a half of the
tail projected through the roof of the
outside of the bark. The fork of the
tree had completely grown around it.
The supposition is that the snake
crawled into the hollow to hibernate,
that its tail got caught in a crack of
the fork and that it grew over him
while he remained in the torpid state.
The wood had so thoroughly grown
around the snake's body that when the
chip was split open in which it was
encased the snake stuck to one side
of the chip. The snake must have been
held in its peculiar prison for years.—
Dallas News.

"Dick's Good Time.
A Very Human Boy Enjoying His
Well-Earned Reward.
A portly gentleman sat on the porch
and smiled, while a small boy, also
smiling, painted the front fence.
"Look at that boy," the portly man
remarked to a visitor; "he thinks he is
having a good time. A small boy is
surely the drollest creature on earth.
When I was a youngster I remember
that there were certain kinds of work
I considered play, and one of them was
painting. I was always fond of paint.
Many times I have taken a bucket of
muddy water and an old paint brush,
and have spent a whole half day put-
ting a thick coat of the side of my
father's barn."

"A Fin-de-Siècle Church.
The rector of St. Mary-at-Hill
Church, Monument (the Rev. W. Car-
lisle), in whose church the telephone
has for some time been installed, is
now arranging for the introduction of
a large gramophone, to be used at the
1:15 o'clock daily limelight service in
the church. By means of the gram-
ophone the congregation—wholly com-
posed of city merchants and clerks—
will hear brief addresses from the lead-
ing dignitaries of the church and from
a number of prominent laymen.—Lon-
don Globe.

"If I want to make a woman good
and mad, ask her where she appears in
a new dress where she had it dyed."

Deep Water from Lakes to Gulf



OCEAN GOING FREIGHTERS LOADING IN CHICAGO.

WHEN the first water of the
great Chicago drainage canal
topped over the big bear-trap
dam at Lockport, to most residents of
the vicinity it signalled the end of a
titanic undertaking—the sanitary water-
way had been completed, and there
ended the job. When that water first
plunged, hissing and writhing, down
the valley of the Desplales to its junc-
tion with the Illinois River on its way
to the "Father of Waters," men who
watched the work felt that a great les-
son was ended.

An outflow of some \$33,000,000 had
been poured out by Chicago, ostensibly
to purify the water supply, vitiated by
a thousand sewer conduits. But the
real service had not commenced, for
the sanitary feature of the mighty
canal was and is but a subsidiary ele-
ment. The real object sought to be
attained when the work was under-
taken was and is the beginning of a
ship canal to unite the chain of inland
seas with the salt tide-water of the
delta of the Mississippi River, some
1,200 miles away.

The opening of the mammoth chan-
nel, over 200 feet wide and deep enough
in all its thirty miles to float the heav-
iest warship, was really the opening
wedge of a project which has been
dreamed of, legislated upon and striven
after for half a century. It means that
the expressed fears of Federal engi-
neers, of communities dreading water
contagion, of shippers anticipating a
loss of commercial prestige, the dep-
letion of our lakes, have all been set at
rest. It means that the Hennepin canal—
the father of the sanitary canal—is
in a fair way of accomplishment, and
by the use of a grand natural water-
way the largest chain of fresh water
on the globe unites with one of the
largest rivers in the world, piercing a
mighty nation down its middle.

Never since the first hasty \$50,000 sur-
vey was made in the shallow Illinois
has the general government been able
to rid itself of the idea that the fru-
ition of the plan would encompass the
triumph of the grandest scheme of in-
ternal improvement ever undertaken in
this land. The first great step to con-
summate all this is the proposed turn-
ing over of the Chicago River to the
drainage canal trustees, to enlarge, to
improve, to change, on the same prin-
ciple that can make of the veriest creek
in the land that would not float a skiff
a channel wide enough and deep
enough to float a warship of the first
class with a draft of twenty-eight feet.
Without a particle of improvement the
Chicago River can to-day carry vessels
which haul 100,000 bushels of grain—

that means something more than 4,000
ton of cargo. Brief work in the line
done on the canal and an ocean high-
way is opened up for Chicago and the
West, in meats, in grain, in all those
commodities that now go to Liverpool
by other and more expensive routes—
for water carriage is much cheaper
than rail carriage, and farmers who
grow grain in Kansas, Nebraska and
Iowa are to-day in a measure at the
mercy of the rail lines. Ocean rates
from Galveston and New Orleans
would enable them to beat the sea-
coast rates from New York by from
10 to 20 cents on a bushel.

It is said that nothing but money and
the authority to go ahead is needed in
the work south of Lockport. Half or
\$25,000,000 would make the lower chan-
nel adequate. There is a great deal of
dredging to do; docking, and the
straightening out of crooked
courses; but competent engineers have
been looking over the field, and the plan
is simple when understood.

The lower Mississippi problem is one
of the worst of the canal project. Many
millions of dollars have been jumped
into that river by succeeding Con-
gresses and engineering boards without
substantial improvement. The river
has depth sufficient for present com-
merce, and no decided effort has been
made to deepen it at certain "cross-

ings" where sand has piled up and the
lightest vessels run danger of striking
the bottom. Engineers of national
reputation are a unit that the Govern-
ment should begin the work of improvement,
substituting docks of masonry for
wooden wharfs.

The pace has been set by the drain-
age canal. It has been demonstrated
to the world that ship highways can
be constructed inland wide enough and
deep enough to float any warship on
the high seas. The West now offers the
finished product of its efforts to that
higher authority which alone can exe-
cute one of the grandest projects of in-
ternal improvement ever presented to a
nation.

In this project every farmer in the
West is vitally interested. The agricul-
turalists of this section ship through
Chicago nearly 40,000,000 bushels of
grain a year. Upon this, should the
transportation be made by the pro-
posed route, the saving would be some-
thing enormous. Aside from the strict
commercial interpretation, there is the
problem of making the great lakes a
useful body of water for defense. No
outlet to the sea now exists, but Can-
ada and Great Britain have an inlet
which is controlled by them. The Mis-
sissippi project would be purely of the
country and for the country, involving
a new grand highway.

hired from me about a dozen well-at-
tired people to stand in front of his
picture at an exhibition, the conse-
quence being that his painting attract-
ed considerable attention. Where do I
get the people? Oh, there is no diffi-
culty about that. Some of them are
sandwich men in the daytime, and
work for me at night; others work for
me in the day, and appear on the stage
as "supers" in the evening. I pay
them so much per hour, and find the
clothes. I have a most elaborate stock
of garments, and can turn out quite
an aristocratic looking crowd.

Against the Current.
It is well known that salmon can
swim against a strong current, and
leap up falls, but it is not so well known
that trout are also famous jumpers.
On the Beaverkill is a three-foot dam,
with four inches of water on the breast,
and a gentleman sat near and watched
the trout go up. In many instances a
first attempt failed, owing, however,
more to an apparent want of judgment
than lack of physical ability in the fish
to accomplish the feat; the smaller fish,
as a rule, failing to get over in the first
attempt. The larger fish made a clean
jump into the smooth water above the
apron of the dam. These fish were en-
abled to swim straight up this down-
pour of water by the great muscular
power they possessed; there was no
trick about it, but pure strength which
is evidently centered in the tail and
tail fin. The query naturally arises:
If a ten-inch trout can swim up such
a fall, what is the capacity of a forty-
inch salmon under similar conditions?

Character in Red Hair.
Red-haired women are ardent and
vivacious, especially if they have with
it hazel eyes, in which case they have
a bright and quick intelligence. They
have a great deal of natural felicity for
study and good memories. Red hair
with blue eyes shows the same warmth
of character, but not so much intelli-
gence; bright golden hair, of a rich,
deep color and of a crisp and waving

Record in Submarine Diving.
Edward Hooper, a professional diver,
has made a record in his line of busi-
ness. Off the coast of South Africa he
descended to the wreck of the ship
Cape Horn and there remained, at one
submergence, for forty-two minutes at
a depth of over 200 feet. At this point
the pressure is eighty-three and one-
half pounds to the square inch and no
other person, it is asserted, has been
able to remain below this depth.

Offside Play.
Boney—Unable to increase Hawley's
salary, and not desiring to lose his ser-
vices, the Sharpes have taken him into
the firm.
Skinnie—That's great!
Boney—But then the firm is losing
money daily.—Philadelphia North
American.

More Ornamental than Useful.
Dorothy—Papa, we girls have a new
name for those men who call on us, but
never take us out anywhere.
Papa—What is it, daughter?
"We call them 'freside companions.'"—Life.

Capacity of Labor-Saving Machines.
It is estimated that the productive
capacity of the labor-saving machinery
in the United States is now equal to a
hard-working population of 400,000,000.

Nearly every man, when he goes to
a strange town, has a better under-
standing of why a king travels in cog-
nito.

"Where are you going?"
"Lieutenant," replied the chaplain,
"I am going to bury the dead."
"For goodness' sake, give us a chance
to get killed first," rejoined the officer.
"Lieutenant, I am going to bury the
dead that have already fallen," re-
sponded the chaplain, whereupon the
lieutenant quickly replied:
"Get your pardon, chaplain, I was
too hasty."—Buffalo Express.

Salisbury's Gift to Philadelphia.
The Philadelphia law library has re-
ceived as a gift from Lord Salisbury,
the English premier, twenty-three un-
bound volumes of the report of the
English commission on the Venezuela
boundary dispute. This is the only copy
of the report sent to the United States.

Battle Peasages.
There are now just three living Brit-
ish peers who have won their titles on
the battlefield—Viscount Wolsley,
Lord Roberts of Kandahar, and Lord
Kitchener of Khartoum.

RECENT INVENTIONS.

For boats a newly patented propeller
has a horizontal rod projecting through
the rear of the boat and adapted to be
reciprocated, with a square frame on
the end of the rod, in which leaves are
hinged to close and push the boat ahead
at each backward thrust of the rod.

In a new airship designed by a
Haitian, a series of fans are mounted in
a car partially supported by a gas bal-
loon, the fans being used to drive air
through adjustable pipes, which are
adapted to turn toward any point to
move the ship in the opposite direction.

To measure small doses of medicine
without the use of a spoon a new bottle
stopper is provided with graduations
inside the hollow top, with a double
passage through which the liquid flows
into the measure, being prevented from
flowing back by a dam partially cover-
ing the passages.

Rain water is thoroughly purified by
a new filter, which receives the water
into its lower chamber, allowing the
heavy impurities to settle, with gauze
partitions placed at intervals through-
out the filter to support filtering ma-
terial, through which the water rises to
the outlet pipe at the top.

Articles on display in show windows
can be removed without disturbing the
window by a Connecticut man's device,
which has a pair of curved fingers
mounted on one end of a pole, with a
grip and thumb lever at the opposite
end connected by a cord to the fingers
to shut them on the article desired.

How Dewey Won Manila.
J. J. Ligon, a retired capitalist of St.
Louis, has received a letter from Capt.
John C. Williams, commander of the
English steamer Winston Hall, in
which he gives the details about 132
cases of six-inch shells belonging to
England, getting aboard the American
fleet just after the battle of Manila, at
a time when Dewey badly needed that
kind of ammunition. While Capt. Wil-
liams does not, for obvious reasons,
mention the name of his informant, in-
ferentially, it came from an officer
aboard a British cruiser in Manila bay.
He writes:

"After Admiral Dewey had sunk the
Spanish ships he found that the last
shell for his six-inch guns had been
fired. Among other vessels anchored
not far from Dewey's fleet was H. M.
S. Immortalite. There were also two
German warships lying near. Admiral
Dewey wanted sand for scrubbing
decks, paint, etc., so he decided to send
his boats to the beach for some and
sent three boats off after dark. They
were anchored close to the beach.

"About midnight the launch returned
for the boats and found them filled.
Before daylight eighty-three bags filled
with sand and other things had been
hoisted up and stowed away on Dewey's
ships. About three months after this
one of the United States warships
went up to Hong Kong. Before going
into dock she landed 132 cases, and
each case contained one or two six-
inch shells, the broad arrow of Eng-
land appearing on each. I will leave
you to infer how the shells got on you
ships."—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Got an Unexpected Retort.
"When Montana was in its last ter-
ritorial years and on the eve of becom-
ing a State," said J. W. Lamar, of
Helena, Mont., "the Clark-Carter Con-
gress contest occurred and most bitter-
ly was it fought out. Anything that
could be turned or twisted into a cam-
paign argument was sought out and
brought to the front. Commissioner
Sparks, at that time head of the gen-
eral land office, had made a ruling that
hereafter no trees less than eight
inches in diameter should be cut down
for agricultural or mining purposes in
territory belonging to the United
States. This ruling had aroused a storm
of indignation in Montana and had
straightway assumed a prominent place
as one of the main issues in the Clark-
Carter campaign.

"I was speaking one night at Rose-
man and, as was natural, I attacked the
ruling of the land commissioner and
what injury and injustice it did to both
farmer and miner and so I worked up
to what had always previously proved
an effective peroration by asking the
question, 'What, my fellow citizens,
can the farmer do with eight-inch
trees?' The answer to this had pre-
viously been silence, but this time a
shrill voice in the rear of the hall blurted
out: 'Why, split 'em, of course, ye
d—d fool,' and I sat down amid the
ribald and derisive yells of that vast
audience."—New York Tribune.

Hasty About Burying the Dead.
One night Chaplain Jones, of the
Texas, heard volley firing on the Cuban
coast, which was being guarded by his
blockading squadron, and was told that
marines were being landed from the
Marblehead. The next morning Captain
McCalla came alongside of the Texas
in his launch and announced that four
of his men had been killed, and that
there was still fighting. Chaplain Jones
then approached Captain Phillip and
said that he would like to go ashore
and look after the wounded and read
the services for the dead. Captain
Phillip gave instant permission, and the
chaplain prepared to go ashore with a
boatload of marines that was in charge
of a young lieutenant. As the worthy
chaplain clambered over the side of the
Texas the lieutenant looked up from
the boat and called out:

"Where are you going?"
"Lieutenant," replied the chaplain,
"I am going to bury the dead."
"For goodness' sake, give us a chance
to get killed first," rejoined the officer.
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CHINESE THE MOST WIDELY SPOKEN LANGUAGE.



The relative proportion of persons speaking the chief languages of the world is represented by this series of national types. The total population of the world is 1,452,000,000. The languages not represented in the above illustrations include Japanese, Turkish, Brazilian, all with less than 35,000,000.