

IDAHO IS A BIG STATE.

Larger Than All New England With Maryland Added.

To those of us who remember Idaho in our school geographies as a small pink block, shaped like an easy chair facing east, it may be of interest that this state, which in 1890 added the forty-fifth star to the constellation of the flag, is nearly as large as Pennsylvania and Ohio combined and larger than the six New England states with Maryland included for good measure. It is divided into thirty-three counties, the smallest of which is half as large as the state of Rhode Island and the largest greater than the combined area of Massachusetts and Delaware.

Idaho covers an area of 83,888 square miles, divided principally between the Rocky mountain region and the Columbia plateau, only a small part in the southeast corner of the state lying in the great basin. In elevation above sea level the state ranges from 735 feet, at Lewiston, to 12,078 feet at the summit of Hyndman peak. It is drained mainly to the Columbia through the Snake river and its tributaries and has an annual rainfall of about seventeen inches, the range in a single year at different places being from six to thirty-eight inches.

The industries of the state are chiefly agriculture, stock raising and mining. Hay, wheat, oats and potatoes are the principal crops. A large area is cultivated by irrigation. The mineral production includes gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc.—Geological Survey Bulletin.

TOO MUCH FOR HIM.

He Admits He Can't Grasp His Wife's Ideas of Economy.

"I can understand," remarked the office philosopher to the visitor to his sanctum, "most of the feminine traits and characteristics that puzzle the ordinary man, but when a woman begins to practice economy she leaves me lashed to the mast and quivering with helpless astonishment."

"Of course, the whole sex is economical. You have to admit that, because every woman says she is economical, and no gentleman would undertake to dispute a lady's statement—at least, no gentleman of my acquaintance would undertake to dispute it in his own house. What—to use a vulgarism—gets my goat is the method they employ."

"Take my wife, for example. Whenever she tells me she is going to economize I emit a single agonized shriek, and then leap for the tall timber." Her plan is to think up a whole lot of things she cannot possibly do without, and then do without them. By this device she saves at a single stroke the cost of the entire list. Having thus accumulated a surplus, she naturally proceeds to spend it, and she is always prepared to prove she has saved much money in the process.

"There is no answer, or no answer worth making. On occasions of this kind it is my custom to pass, for, without looking at my hand, I know I can neither trump nor follow suit."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Shark Stories.

A shark is very tenacious of life, and Dr. Gunther, the ichthyologist, pointed out in one of his contributions to the literature of his subject that "wounds affect fishes generally much less than higher vertebrates. A Greenland shark continues to feed while his head is pierced by a harpoon or by a knife as long as the nervous center is not touched."

A Norwegian antarctic explorer, H. J. Bull, gives a startling word picture of a shark's tenacity of life. This man-eater was caught at the Iceland cod-fishery. His liver, heart and internal arrangements were removed so as to put a period to his career, and the thus mutilated body was then cast into the sea. He simply gave a leisurely wag of his tail and swam rapidly out of sight.—Chambers' Journal.

His Own Shame.

Robert's mother's admonishments to her small son generally ended with the words, "I'd be ashamed of you if you did so and so," and the word ashamed therefore was constantly in his ears.

One day after he had eaten up his little sister's candy his mother said to him:

"Robert, did you eat Dorothy's candy when I told you not to?"

"Yes, ma'am," said Robert in a tone of triumph, "and I'm just as ashamed of myself as I can be, so you needn't be ashamed of me at all."—New York Post.

Both Died as They Wished To.

Tennyson, who was a shy, reserved man, could never understand Robert Browning's love of society. He had been heard to remark that Browning would die in a white choker at a dinner party. The two poets died as they would have wished to die—Robert Browning in the grand Palazzo Rensselaers, with his son by his bedside, and Lord Tennyson in his beloved Surrey home, surrounded by his loved ones.

Arrogant.

"How are you getting along with her father?"

"Not at all. He's too arrogant for me."

"What's the matter?"

"He even wants to pick his own sons-in-law."—Detroit Free Press.

Inefficient.

Mechanic—I've gone over that car of Smith's pretty careful, but I can't find nothing the matter with it. Garage Owner—Ye can't, eh? What do ye suppose I hired ye for?—Newark Eagle.

LIGHT WAVES.

Some Too Tiny to Be Seen, Yet Science Can Measure Them.

The very smallest thing on earth which has been actually measured is a light wave.

Light waves, of course, are of different lengths. In the spectrum the red waves are longest, orange next, yellow next, and so on to the violet, which are shortest of the visible waves. So if we were to give the measurement of the very smallest thing we would have to take one of the light waves in the violet end of the spectrum or, better still, one of the waves of the ultraviolet portion which is invisible.

The shortest of these that has been determined is 120 millionths of a millimeter. Changing this to fractions of an inch, we can comprehend the smallness of the wave better. If these waves were placed one on top of the other there would be more than 200,000 of them in a line one inch long. The negative corpuscle which is a constituent part of the atom is known to be smaller than this, but its exact size has not been determined.

That these light waves can be measured is due to the fact that as light waves are refracted it is only a matter of determining the angle of refraction and by triangulation finding the length.—Kansas City Star.

THE ENGLISH PHEASANT.

Originally From Asia, It is Still Found In China and Tibet.

Generally speaking, the English pheasant is misnamed, since it came from Asia and is still to be found in India, Tibet and China. The birds were brought to Europe more than 500 years ago, turned loose on hunting preserves and thrived amazingly. They supply the finest bird shooting in Scotland and England, and so much care is taken in raising them that they may almost be regarded as a half domesticated bird.

Under the present system the eggs are hatched by hens or in incubators. The chicks are carefully fed on insects and prepared foods, and when they are able to shift for themselves they are turned into the woods. While the common pheasant will roost in trees, it is a ground bird. The female will remain under cover until it is almost stepped upon.

Because of this trait the pheasants are aroused by men who beat in the thickets until the pheasants take flight over shooting boxes, where the hunters are concealed.—Philadelphia North American.

Dodging Mother Meng.

Infant prodigies are not unknown in China, and Chinese Buddhists find it easy to account for them. According to the doctrine of the transmigration of souls, persons passing through hades on their way to the wheel of life (which relaunches souls into the bodies of babies or animals just being born) have to cross a bridge. Before mounting the bridge they are stopped by an old hag called Meng, who, ladle in hand, compels each soul to drink a mouthful of the waters of forgetfulness, for which the popular name is Mother Meng's soup. Those who drink of this forget all that they had passed through or had known in their former life and thus on being reborn into the world are entirely ignorant. Some, however, manage to dodge Mother Meng and enter the world full of knowledge, which they display as soon as they can articulate.

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First Stamps of Nippon.

It was in March, 1871, that postage stamps were for the first time issued in Japan, following the system of western countries. The stamps were of four denominations of mon. These stamps, however, disappeared shortly after their issue, to be replaced in 1872 by another series in the denomination of sen. These denominations are still in use today, but at the present time there is a far wider variety, the values being from one-quarter of a cent to \$5. The first stamps were extremely crude in appearance, were without gum and were printed by the ancient method of wood engraving. Today electric machines turn out the stamps, as we know them in this country, in enormous quantities.—Japan Society Bulletin.

Animals Under Water.

The ability of a beaver to remain under water for a long time is not really so tough a problem as it looks. When the lake or pond is frozen over a beaver will come to the under surface of the ice and expel his breath so that it will form a wide, flat bubble. The air, coming in contact with the ice and water, is purified, and the beaver breathes it again. This operation he can repeat several times. The otter and muskrat do the same thing.

Reckless.

"Better let that woman send thirty words for a quarter if she likes."

"Why so?"

"It will save the company money. She has already torn up about \$1 worth of blanks trying to boll her message down."—Pittsburgh Post.

Must Keep Them.

"Does he keep his promises?"

"I guess so. I never heard of anybody wanting to take them."—Detroit Free Press.

What He Made.

"How's business, old man? Been making anything lately?"

"Yes; an assignment."—Boston Transcript.

Sweet is the destiny of all trades, whether of the brow or of the mind. God never allowed any man to do nothing.—Bishop Hall.

Look ahead for Christmas, for that Victrola, at Reed & Horton.—Adv.

Christmas cards, 1 cent each, at Reed & Horton, drugs.—Adv.

"Hobson's Choice."

"Hobson's choice" may best be translated; "that or nothing." Tobias Hobson was a carrier and innkeeper at Cambridge, who erected the handsome conduit there and settled "seven lays" of pasture ground toward its maintenance. But the story about him, as told by the Spectator, is as follows: "He kept a stable of forty good cattle, always ready and fit for traveling. But when a man came for a horse he was led into the stable, where there was great choice, but was obliged to take the horse that stood nearest to the stable door, so that every customer was alike well served, according to his chance, and every horse rode with the same justice." Milton wrote two quibbling epigrams upon this eccentric character.

Muddled Thinking.

It would be foolish to say that a dynamo and an electric light are the same thing, that green apples is a term synonymous with indigestion, that an architect's plans are the same thing as a completed building or that sex attraction is but another name for the social institution called the family. In the same way it is an evidence of muddled thinking to maintain that being good is the same thing as being religious.—Bernard I. Bell in Atlantic.

Why Ammonia Cleans Clothes.

Ammonia, the great spot remover of the American people, is really a gas dissolved in water. It belongs to the alkali family, and on account of its mineral origin is the foe of all oils and grease, which explains the easy way it disposes of spots that soap and water cannot affect.

Recovered Too Soon.

"I thought she knew you?"

"I expect she does. I was engaged to her at one time."

"But she snubbed you!"

"Yes; you see, she threw me over, and then I didn't take to drink."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Improved the Opportunity.

"I'm sorry I asked the girl to clean the typewriter."

"Why?"

"She took fifteen minutes to clean the type and two hours to manure her finger nails afterward."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

It requires very little trouble to find fault. That is why there are so many critics.—Holmes.

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