GENERAL NEWS.

The price of nails has advanced.

The temperature of San Francisco Monday was 85 degrees.

Prairie fires are raging in Southern Texas. Three lives were lost by them on Monday.

Sugar refiners have made an advance of one-eighth of a cent a pound on all refined sugars.

The sixth annual convention of the National Kindergarten Union is in session at Cincinnati.

Rudyard Kipling's condition is so much improved that he is no longer considered in danger.

W. H. L. Barnes now stands the best show of being elected United States senator in California.

Another heavy snowstorm in Colorado has demoralized railroad traffic and work in the mines.

Mrs. Sarah Stevenson, mother of former Vice President Stevenson, died Sunday at Bloomington, Ill.

The queen regent of Spain is making strenuous efforts to avert dissolution of the Sagasta cabinet.

California's long dry spell has been broken by a fall of rain, and a fairly good wheat crop is now expected.

At Madrid the cabinet council decided to make immediate payment of arrears in dues to repatriated troops.

President McKinley and wife will take a brief trip to Thomasonville, Georgia, as the guest of Senator Hanna.

Some parts of Pennsylvania are flooded with counterfeit silver dollars. They first made their appearance in Shamokin.

John W. King, paymaster for the Missouri Pacific railroad, committed suicide by hanging at St. Louis, Thursday.

A coal trust has been organized in the east with a total capitalization of $889,000,000. J. Pierpont Morgan is the promoter of it.

The boiler of a locomotive hauling a passenger train near Winnipeg exploded Monday, instantly killing the engineer and fireman.

The gunboat Vixen has been ordered to Manila, in response to an urgent request from Admiral Dewey for another light-draught gunboat.

A preliminary meeting of the republican committee of the house appointed to draft a new financial measure, was held Monday at Washington.

By a vote of 211 to 3 the house of representatives of Massachusetts passed over the governor's veto the bill restoring days of grace on sight drafts.

A reduction of 5000 men in the ranks of the Chilean army has been decided on. It is also intended to sell several cruisers if purchasers can be found.

General Leonard Woods, at Santiago, is confronted by another formidable shortage in funds, which seriously embarrasses the administration of the government.

Professor Wallace P. Day, a director of the Illinois college of music, and well known among musical celebrities East and West, is dead at Jacksonville, Florida.

President McKinley has received from Queen Victoria a note of thanks to the American government and people for the honors paid to the late Lord Herschell in this country.

Dreyfus has been visited by a correspondent and to him the imprisoned man declared that his return to France was imminent. Dreyfus is in a state of nervous prostration.

The California court of appeals has just rendered a decision to the effect that Chinese young men cannot enter the United States in the guise of students unless they have been actual students in China.

It is reported that Aguinaldo will only release the Spanish clerical prisoners upon condition that all land and other property that they own shall be transferred to the rebels, and also that the native priests shall be recognized.

The title to the United Brethren publishing house in Dayton, Ohio, has been given to the radical branch of the church by a decision of the United States court at Cincinnati. The case has been before the courts for 30 years.

Eugene Ziegler, formerly a society leader of Woodlawn, Chicago, who is accused of stealing between $8100 and $17,000 from the Illinois Trust and Savings bank, was arrested in Seattle, and will be taken back to Chicago for trial.

Henri Fournier at San Jose, Cal., Saturday rode a world's record mile for any style of bicycle, unpaced, going the distance on his "infernal" tandem with Tom Barnaby, of Boston, steering, in 1:35, breaking the motor cycle record of France two seconds.

M. L. Hayward has been elected United States senator to succeed William V. Allen in Nebraska. He was born in Essex county, New York, in 1840. He was republican candidate for governor of Nebraska at the last state election, being defeated by 3000.

The president expresses himself as pleased in general with the outcome of the congress. He believes the failures of congress to meet the requirements, in several instances, of the executive, will not operate to embarrass the government seriously.

The monthly statement of the public debt shows that at the close of business February 28, 1899, the debt, less cash in the treasury, was $1,157,904,391, an increase during the month of $5,279,649. The increase is accounted for by a corresponding decrease in the cash.

Albert Becker, the Chicago butcher who has been in custody for a week on suspicion of having murdered his first wife, Teresa Becker, broke down under the long continued cross-questioning of the police and made a confession to the effect that he threw the woman into the lake.

"George Raymond," the highway robber who was stabbed by his intended victim Saturday night in Portland, proves to be J. D. Burke, who was released from the Oregon penitentiary February 26, after having served five years for holding up a man in Portland.

Ex-Commissary General Eagan, who has remained in Washington since the court-martial suspended him from the service for an attack on General Miles, left Washington Tuesday night for San Francisco to embark for Honolulu, where his son has large interests in coffee plantations.

Roland B. Molineux has been indicted in New York city for murder in the first degree. He is charged with having sent poison by mail to a man named Cornish, in the form of bromide-seltzer, which was given to Cornish's aunt, Mrs. Adams, who died from the effects of it.

It seems to be generally anticipated in wool circles in Philadelphia that the amalgamation of a number of large woolen manufacturers of this city into a large company is a matter of the near future. This is expected to follow the recent formation in New York of the American Woolen Association.

Bishop Henry W. Warren, one of the foremost dignitaries of the Methodist church, is suffering with appendicitis at Buenos Ayres, Argentina. An operation was performed upon him March 1, and he is resting from the shock of that at the present time. He is in Argentina on church business.

The Chinese minister, Wu Ting-Fang, expresses himself as highly gratified at the definite determination of the United States to keep its hands off of China, and to resist the intimations of other powers that the time is ripe for this country to take for itself a part of the coast line of China.

Two bicycle riders, Dave Arato and Dan Murphy, collided on the country road between Mayfield and Mountain View, California, in the darkness while riding in opposite directions at a high rate of speed. Arato was killed almost instantly. Murphy was cut and bruised and had all the fingers of his left hand broken.

The body of E. H. Eads, a brother of the famous engineer, James Buchanan Eads, who designed and constructed the bridge across the Mississippi at St. Louis, and who also demonstrated the feasibility of deepening the channel of the Mississippi by the construction of jetties, was found Sunday night in his cabin in Mike mining gulch, near Helena. He had died a natural death, aged 71.

It was a bitter disappointment to the war department that the request of the president for authority to appoint only one additional major general of regulars should have been negatived. It was the purpose to name for that honor General Shafter, in order that he might retire with the laurels he had earned. The general must be retired by law on the 14th of the present month and must go out with only a volunteer commission.

Admiral Montejo, who was in command of the Spanish squadron destroyed by Admiral Dewey in the battle of Manila Bay, and the commander of the Cavite arsenal, has been incarcerated in the military prison at Madrid pending trial for their conduct at Manila. The Spanish government has also ordered the prosecution of General Linares, who was in supreme command of the Spanish forces at Santiago at the time of the capitulation to General Shafter.

In the last hours of congress it was provided that the admiral of the navy should receive the pay and emoluments of the last general of the army. This legislation was supplemental to the passage of the bill reviving the grade of admiral for the benefit of Admiral Dewey. Its effect is to give Admiral Dewey compensation at the rate of $14,500 a year. Of this sum $13,000 is the regulation pay of an admiral of the navy. The extra $1500 is the allowance made to the general of the army of $125 per month for quarters.

THE STRENGTH OF BEARS.

A Hunter Says It is Marvelous in Some Particulars.

The strength of grizzly bears is almost beyond belief, says a hunter, in Public Opinion. I have read about the powerful muscles in the arms of African gorillas but none compared with those in the arms and shoulders of a big grizzl bear. I have seen a grizzly bear with one forepaw shot into uselessness pull its own 1100 pounds of meat and bone up precipices, and perform feats of muscle that trained athletes could not do. I have seen grizzly bears carrying the carcasses of pigs that must have weighed seventy pounds several miles across a mountain side to their lairs, and I have heard hunters tell of having seen cows knocked down as if by a thunderbolt with one blow from the forepaw of a bear. Three summers ago I spent the season in the coast mountains, near Hudson's Bay, and one moonlight night I saw a big grizzly bear in the act of carrying a dead cow home to her cub. I had a position on the mountain side where I could see every movement of the bear in the sparsely timbered valley below me. The creature carried the dead cow in her fore paws for at least three miles, across jagged, sharp rocks ten feet high, over fallen logs, around the rocky mountain side, where even a jackass could not get a foothold, to a narrow trail up the steep mountain. She never stopped to rest a moment, but went right along. I followed, and just about half a mile from the beast's lair I laid her low. The heifer weighed at least 200 pounds and the bear about 450.

A NEW LAND DISTRICT.

The District of Peavy, in Alaska, Which is Rich in Minerals.

A new land district in Alaska is created by a proclamation signed by President McKinley, and shortly to be promulgated. Its boundaries are: North of the Porcupine and Yukon rivers, except as to the latter river only, from its intersection with the 66th parallel and north of that parallel as it extends to Behring sea, and west of the 154th meridian. This leaves a strip 160 miles in width, extending north from the Yukon to the Arctic ocean, which is still retained in the district of which Weare is the land-office location. The United States land office will establish a new town, Peavy, located at the head of navigation on the Kayukuk river, about 800 miles from its junction with the Yukon. Twelve steamers are reported to have navigated the river as far as Peavy last season, and the country from this point to the Arctic ocean is very rich in mineral deposits.

New Use for Slot Machines.

From the London Chronicle we learn there has been started in that city the novel enterprise of a savings bank designed to carry on its business largely through the mechanism of the penny-in-the-slot machines, which have become so notable a feature of our civilization.

The president of the proposed bank in an interview with the Chronicle explained that upon a person placing a penny into a slot he would receive a [illegible] in return which he would hold as [illegible]cher for his deposit. At any [illegible] person could take or send [illegible] vouchers to the bank and be [illegible]ited with the amount in the books of the bank, while they undertook to repay the amount of the voucher within a reasonable time after deposit. Any attempt at fraud will be speedily detected, the mechanism of the automatic boxes rendering it impossible of fulfillment. As the pennies are received into a box they will fall into a tube with a "thermometer-like" register, the number at the side corresponding with the ticket that is issued to the investor. In cases of metal disks being inserted and vouchers obtained these will be disallowed when an investor has his account made up. In no case will a voucher be redeemable within a week, in order that the bank authorities may be able to assure themselves that there has been no fraud.

The scheme is so ingenious and so simple it ought to have been devised by a Yankee rather than a Britisher. It will be a great saving not only of pennies but of time. One will not have to go to the bank to deposit his nickel. He can drop it into a slot and get his check at any street corner. People will be able to save their pennies so easily that no one will feel inclined to risk them on a cigar raffle or drop them in the hat of a beggar. It is a case of thrift made easy, convenient and always handy.

Teaching Children Good Manners.

Good manners cannot be learned in a moment. There are certain forms which society has agreed people must conform to if they wish to appear well bred, and these are often not at all what the natural inclination would prompt one to do under the circumstances. Children must be taught these conventions, and we must not be surprised if they are sometimes slow in learning them, nor despair if after much teaching they at times relapse into native barbarism. Patient perseverance in training them will at last produce the desired result. The constant repetition that seems so irksome, combined with the silent force of daily example, will effect the end in view—a well-bred child.—February Ladies' Home Journal.

The president's nomination of Richard Pearson Hobson, to be advanced 10 numbers from number one on the list of assistant naval constructors, is said by naval officers to constitute the greatest material promotion as a recognition of gallantry in the history of the naval service. It will make Hobson a captain at the age of 30.

THE ERGOGRAPH

The ergograph is being tested in the public schools in Chicago. The ergograph is a machine which makes a thorough physical-psychological test so as to ascertain not alone a child's physical but mental ability, and to thus accurately guage the grade to which the child rightly belongs and the physical and mental exercise for which he is ready and fitted.

It sounds impossible, Utopian, fanciful, but such are the strikes of science. If the ergograph is all that it is expected to be then the reign of cramming is over. Overtaxing and undertaxing will alike be abolished, and how shall the lazy one escape in the face of so great attestation?

The ergograph is the X ray of the mental. It shows up conclusively how much brain-power there is, how rapid the thoughts are and how much work the brain is capable of doing without injury. It discloses dementia, melancholia or fatigue to the slightest particle. Asmodeus never looked into an unroofed home with keener gaze than the ergograph operator into the science of self laid bare.

The ergograph is a machine where the arm and hand is held steadily, so that one finger catches hold of a line to which a wire is attached, and which is worked as rapidly as possible. Everyone of these motions is recorded—upon a revolving drum, and every little fatigue, even when so slight as to be unnoticed by the individual being examined, is exactly recorded which also serves as a record of the resisting power of the individual.

There are various tests possible. Nerve energies may be measured to the thousandth part of a second on a fine machine. Immediate change can be detected, and even an infinitesimal amount of fatigue determined. The swiftness or slowness with which a thought is taken to the brain and acted out by the muscles is easily measured. Suppose a reaction-time test were made—though this will hardly be done in Chicago—so soon as the individual would be blindfolded and told to press a button with his left hand, when he was touched on his right. The touch given is immediately registered, and his responsive touch also and thus the period between receiving the impression and acting upon it is absolutely and accurately guaged, and mental alertness utterly foreshadowed. The usual time elapsing between the signal and the response is 180th part of a second. In cases of feeble mentality or great fatigue the time is lengthened, and in cases of extraordinary alertness the time is sensibly briefer. Helmholtz of physics and optics fame was the beginner of the reaction-time test.

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Professor Krohn, late of the University of Illinois, has been carrying on experiments in Illinois. He has been making tests on the abnormal mind at Kankakee in order to the better determine their relation to the mind normal. He finds that paretics register slowest. Sufferers from melancholia are also inconceivably slow, but sufferers from acute dementia register with amazing swiftness. In the maniac the nerves are all on the qui vive.

To Dr. W. S. Christopher, professor of diseases of children in the Chicago Policlinic and member of the school board, is due the credit for endeavoring to establish the physical-psychological test in the public schools. But this, he explains, is utterly outside his position as a doctor, and quite within his role as member of the board. It is in sense a medical test: it is entirely physical-psychological, and though he, as a board member, has called attention to what he believes the worthiest of objects, other men in Chicago and elsewhere are keenly interested in the experiment—men like Stanley Hall, Professor Argell and Professor Dewey of the University of Chicago, Professor Krohn of Kankakee, Dr. Collins Scott of the normal school, Dr. Jastrow of the University of Wisconsin and Professor O'Brien of the University of Indiana and others.

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Dr. Christopher is himself a famous children's doctor, and is one of the busiest men, although he took time to explain its effects:

"What we propose to do is to make a test of as many pupils as possible between now and the close of the school year, and from that determine upon the use or nonuse of the ergograph. The observations we propose to make are but three or four in number in order to determine how nearly the pupils arrive at or depart from the normal average. We will note the height, the weight, the ergographical record and the school or intellectual record as given by the teacher. The school record should include memory, power of attention and grasp of subject. The data is then compared with the physical measurement of the child.

"Dr. William Townsend Porter, assistant professor psychology at Harvard, made tests of many heights and weights among school children in St. Louis when he lived there. He made teachers point him out their brightest pupils and found their weight average—now, what do you think, greater or lesser than the duller ones? Ah, yes, I thought you would guess wrongly. They averaged greater weight. He drew the conclusion then that school capacity was merely a function of weight.

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"We hope to go further than Dr. Porter; we propose to determine by means of the ergograph test the average power of endurance, mentally as well as physically, among the children of the different grades, with a view to deciding how far the amount of work put upon them is just, and whether the work put upon children in grades is advisable for such grades. We think we can classify the qualities and requirements more accurately than in Porter's case. By comparing heights, weights, ability to withstand fatigue and intellectual capacity, a very interesting and valuable record will be made and a real effort to make school training what it ought to be."

Dr. Christopher is emphatic in reasserting that the ergograph is in no sense a medical examination, but a physical-psychological test, which introduces the psychological element into the determination of school standing. In these days of talk of "child culture" and "motor activities" this should not be difficult to comprehend.

* * *

"Besides," says Dr. Christopher, "It is another variation of 'Simon says thumbs up,' with the same idea of associated reaction time, only with delicate instruments to accurately record the length of time it takes to make the thought and to act upon it. Take the famous 'pigs-in-clover' puzzle which raged throughout the land a decade ago. It was really a high test of nerve control, and designed for that, and not for a popular toy. It was a test of the muscle sense and of co-ordination. The person who was deficient in either could not successfully work that puzzle. The pigs would not get into clover."

The ergograph will determine whether the child suffers from the chronic fatigue so common in great cities, or the fatigue that runs on to immediate exhaustion and for which there is immediate recovery. It registers mental as well as physical fatigue, and the resisting power, or lack of it, in the individual.

* * *

"Most of our schools are equipped with a gymnastic apparatus," says Dr. Christopher, "but it is not safe to assume that every child can stand or ought to have the same amount of muscular exercise. While the ergograph is practically to be started in connection with physical culture in schools, we will use it as a basis for determining the type of physical culture, and how much of it the individual requires. We want to get a definite standard and then see how far they depart from the average. I sometimes have an 11-year-old girl brought to me with the growth of 12 and the mental development of 10. She is probably stoop-shouldered, for her muscles have not developed sufficiently to hold her height up. She has a rapid pulse and a nervous heart, but seeing her round shoulders, the probability is that people will tell her to exercise diligently and straighten up. But this gymnastic exercise may quicken her pulse more, increase the nervous action of the heart and ruin her for life. By the ergograph test we shall determine before any exercises are given whether the child can do them safely, and also determine the exercise time. Thus we shall classify pupils for physical exercises not by their grade but by their physique."

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As far as is known, the Chicago board of education is the first one in the country to officially authorize work in the line of modern physiological psychology. This recognition will be highly appreciated by scientific educators throughout the United States.

SQUEEZING THE GOVERNMENT.

The government is again at the mercy of the armor plate manufacturers. The plain proposition now is that the navy department must pay $545 a ton for the best armor plate, or discontinue its plans of building new battleships. Otherwise stated—and by officials—the Cramps exact $545 a ton for armor plate, and the naval committee has decided that that shall be the maximum. The Cramps did not ask any more.

Two years ago the senate resolved not to pay more than from $300 to $400 per ton for armor plate. The armor plate manufacturers refused to bid, and the government was obliged to pay $425 per ton. The senate then authorized a commission to select a place on which the government should build its own works, but this proposition died a natural death. The proposition to build government factories is six years old, and is always revived when the manufacturers become too grasping.

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The jobbery in the present instance appears to be that the manufacturers knew two years ago of the policy of the navy department to enter extensively on the construction of armored vessels.

The Cramps meanwhile began the use of the Krupp armor plate, and as this is considered the best, and the government was counted on to accept only the best, it was an easy matter to fix the price at $545 or any other figure which the government could stand. This is $145 a ton more than the maximum agreed on by the senate two years ago and $245 a ton more than its minimum figure.

The responsibility for the acceptance of the $545 is shrewdly enough placed by the naval committee of the house on the navy department, because there can be no acceptance until after tests supervised by the navy department.

Capt. Charles O'Neill, chief of the bureau of ordnance of the navy, who will be on the board to test the armor plate does not regard the $545 a ton for the Krupp armor plate as excessive.

As nearly 9000 tons of this new armor plate will be ordered for three battleships, the approximate cost will be $4,904,000, the cost for one battleship being $1,630,000. At the old price of $400 a ton one of the new ship's armor, the Maine, the Ohio, or the Missouri, would cost $1,200,000, the profit per ship to the Cramps being $410,000.

BLOOD THICKER THAN WATER.

Americans and Britons Must Stand or Fall Together.

What was done in 1859 by the gallant Tatnall and his men can never be forgotten by Britons, and has ever since borne fruit. Hope and his squadron lay mauled and in terrible difficulties under the fire of the Pelho forts, Tatnall, the American commander, was on the spot—not to help us, but to watch over his country's interests. When, however, he saw that numbers of the British wounded were in danger of perishing miserably, he did not scruple to send his boats and his surgeons to save them from falling into the hands of the Chinese; and when he knew that Hope, the British rear-admiral, was wounded in his temporary flagship, the Cormorant, under the Chinese forts, he went to visit him, in spite of the hail of shot from the batteries; and, while he was below, his boat's crew, one of whom had been killed in coming alongside, manned the bow gun of the short-handed British Plover, and fought it, with our flag flying over them, until Tatnall reappeared.

A somewhat similar incident, though fortunately it led to the sacrifice of no American life, occurred at Alexandria in 1882, when Lord Charles Beresford, threatened for a moment with serious opposition from the mob, received a quiet assurance of steady support from a United States officer, who, if I mistake not, had been told by his superiors that on no account must he interfere between the British and the Egyptians. Work of the same good kind has since been done, scores of times, by American ministers and ambassadors in London, though certainly not in consequence of any definite orders from Washington. It would, indeed, be hard to exaggerate the services in this direction of men like Lowell and Bayard. Officially, they were merely the paid representatives of a great foreign power; personally, they were also the unpaid apostles of that international sentiment which instinctively looks upon Britons and Americans as natural friends who, in the hour of stress, must line up freely and unasked, and then proudly stand or fall together for any cause that is truly great and noble.

Lincoln and the Constitution.

In these days, when politicians, editors, and even presidents, are disposed to play "fast and loose" with the constitution, it is refreshing to have the respect in which President Lincoln held that document brought to mind. In a thoughtful paper by Prof. F. W. Shepardson, of the University of Chicago, on "Suggestions from the Life of Abraham Lincoln" in Self Culture for February, the position of the president who has, more closely than any other, represented the sound common sense and honest judgment of the people of the United States, is thus defined. "The war was begun," writes Prof. Shepardson, "with the views of Mr. Lincoln unchanged. He believed that the end of slavery was near, no matter what effect the war might have upon it. 'I am naturally anti-slavery,' he said. 'If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong. I cannot remember the time when I did not so think and so feel. And yet I have never understood that the presidency conferred upon me an unrestricted right to act upon that judgment and feeling. It was in the oath I took, that I would to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States. I could not take the office without taking the oath. Nor was it in my view that I might take an oath to get power, and break the oath in using that power. I understood, too, that in ordinary civil administration, this oath forbade me practically to indulge my private abstract judgment on the moral question of slavery. I did understand, however, also, that my oath imposed upon me the duty of preserving to the best of my ability, by every indispensable means, that government, that nation of which the constitution was the organic law. I could not feel that, to the best of my ability, I had even the power to preserve the constitution, if, to save slavery or any minor matter, I should permit the wreck of government, country, and constitution all together.'"

SIX PER CENT MONEY.

The State Will Loan the Public School Fund Hereafter at That Rate.

The law providing for the lending of school money at 6 per cent (house bill 374) is:

Section 1. All the lands selected under the provisions of an act authorizing the governor to appoint an agent to select all lands donated to the state by the United States and to ascertain all losses sustained by the state by reason of the occupancy of sections 16 and 36 by or through the United States government, approved February 19, 1895, now unsold, and to which no valid right to purchase has attached, are hereby withdrawn from sale.

Sec. 2. All money belonging to the irreducible school fund, university fund or agricultural college fund shall be loaned by the state land board at 6 per cent per annum, payable semi-annually, on the first day of January and July of each year. The principal and interest shall be made payable in gold coin of the United States or its equivalent; and such loans shall be secured by note and mortgage to the state land board on real estate in this state, of not less than thrice the value of the amount loaned, exclusive of perishable improvements, of unexceptionable title and free from all incumbrances, or by a deposit of United States bonds, or the bonds or treasury warrants of this state of a face value of not less than 25 per cent in excess of all such loans. All the loans herein provided for shall be made for the period of one year; provided, that in case the interest is promptly paid and the security remains unimpaired, the board may in their own discretion permit the loan to stand for a period of not longer than 10 years. Upon the payment of any loan the principal shall again be loaned in like manner as in this section provided.

Sec. 3.—The maker of any note for any loan heretofore made from any of the funds mentioned in this act desiring to secure the 6 per cent rate provided in this act, may do so by paying up all arrearages in interest and 25 per cent of the face of his loan, without diminishing the security. Upon paying the arrearage in interest and 25 per cent of the face of his note, the rate of interest on the balance shall be computed at 6 per cent per annum, and shall be payable semi-annually on the first day of January and July of each year; provided, nothing herein shall be construed as authorizing the continuance of any loan which is not adequately secured.

Sec. 4. All notes hereafter given in the purchase of lands shall bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, payable semi-annually.

Sec. 5. The holder of any certificate of sale heretofore issued, desiring to pay up all arrears of interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, shall be entitled to do so; provided said arrears of interest and so much of the principal as shall leave only one-third of the purchase price unpaid, shall be paid to the state land board within six months from the date on which this act goes into effect, and all forfeitures of such certificates of sale are suspended for said period. In case the holder of such certificate of sale shall make the payments herein provided, his note for the remaining one-third of the purchase price shall bear interest at 6 per cent and in case the interest is paid promptly, shall be permitted to stand until demand is made by the board.

Took effect February 17.

A STORY OF THE DAY.

A Peculiar Custom Practiced in a Pennsylvania Town.

An unfortunate old woman, poor, her usefulness gone, her friends driven from her by her peculiarities incident to old age, has just been sold at auction to the lowest bidder by the overseer of the poor of Lackawaxen township, Pike county, Pennsylvania, according to the Milford (Pa.) correspondent of the Syracuse Post-Standard.

The woman who was put on the block is Mrs. Elmira Quick. She is 77 years old, and has resided nearly the whole of her life in Lackawaxen township.

Her sale at auction was in pursuance of a custom which has long prevailed in that township.

It has been customary for the various poormasters to sell the poor of the township each year to the lowest bidder in preference to being annoyed with the case themselves, and about the beginning of the year a large sign, with the glaring headline, "A Woman for Sale" can be seen posted about the township, for it seldom befalls a man to become dependent upon the district. The successful bidders, in addition to receiving a small allowance each week from the poor authorities for the maintenance of the indigent, manage to have much work done about the house by the unfortunate.

Mrs. Quick, it is asserted, has long been subjected to such drudgery, and her mind has long been at work to devise some scheme whereby she might thwart some plans of the poormaster and bidders at her annual sale, and at last she has been successful.

When the bidders assembled at Warren K. Rutan's hotel, at Rowland Station, the overseer of the poor, Mr. Rosencrance, a former Pike county commissioner, and Warren Rutan, who also acted as auctioneer took the floor, and announced that a woman was to be "sold to the lowest bidder for keep for the year."

The room was crowded, and many outside clamored for admission to the little hostelry.

The bidding started at $4 a week and was very spirited.

The auctioneers were about to knock down the woman to a backwoodsman for $1.50 a week when Mrs. Quick, who had been a silent listener to the proceedings, arose from her chair and in quiet tones said:

"I will bid $5 a month. I will have no trouble to maintain myself on that amount."

This turn in the proceedings was wholly unanticipated, and created general surprise. How was the aged woman to live on 16 cents a day?

No one seemed willing to go below Mrs. Quick's bid, and the auctioneer saw no alternative but to sell the woman to herself, and the papers were accordingly drawn up.

Mrs. Quick is a widow and has three sons and a daughter, but none seems willing to care or provide for her, and she drifts about as a pauper on the township.

The annual sale of the poor each year at public auction has no sanction in law in Pennsylvania, and it is only in Lackawaxen township that the practice is adhered to.

HOW TO PREPARE VEGETABLES.

Lent is the season par excellence for vegetarians, and it is as well a period in which housewives should make their daily menus attractive by serving appetizing vegetables. Few people adequately appeciate how necessary vegetables are to all people, and they are especially so in the spring of the year. In these days, when almost all varieties of fresh vegetables are procurable, it is unnecessary to resort wholly to canned goods, and in many instances the fresh variety is not more expensive. Potatoes can be served in many savory ways.

The possibilities of cold boiled potatoes are great. Hashed potatoes au gratin are delicious, and they can be served either for dinner or luncheon. Chop eight medium-sized cold cooked potatoes and place them with a half cupful of milk over the fire. Add one tablespoonful of butter and a pinch of salt and pepper. Cover and cook five minutes. Remove and pour the potatoes in a baking-dish. Sprinkle half a cupful of grated cheese and two tablespoonfuls of grated bread-crumbs over the top. Pour over a little melted butter and bake a light brown in a hot oven.

Creamed potatoes—Cut eight cold boiled potatoes in small cubes; place them in a saucepan: add half a tablespoonful of butter, one-quarter teaspoonful salt, a pinch of white pepper and three-quarters cupful milk. Cover and place over the fire. Cook six minutes. Mix one teaspoonful flour with one teaspoonful butter; add it to the potatoes, stir gently and cook a few minutes. Remove, add one teaspoonful fine chopped parsley and serve.

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Waldorf potatoes—Pare and wash some potatoes, cut them round and round in curls, in the same manner in which apples are pared. Place two dishes of fat over the fire for deep frying. When smoking hot, drop the curls into one kettle and fry until just commencing to color. Remove with a skimmer to the second kettle and cook until tender and nicely browned. Drain on soft paper in the oven. Serve on a doily, after dusting with salt.

Parisian potatoes are excellent served either with meat or fish. Cut out of uncooked potatoes a pint of little balls and cook them in salted boiling water for ten minutes, or until nearly tender. Drain and toss into a frying pan with four teaspoonfuls of melted butter and a little salt. Set the pan in the oven, shaking it frequently until the potatoes are thoroughly cooked and well browned. Add a little fresh butter, more salt if needed and a tablespoonful of chopped parsley. Toss the balls about to distribute the ingredients evenly and serve at once.

Potatoes a la English—Boil the potatoes till nearly tender, cut in thick slices and arrange in layers in a buttered baking dish with sliced bacon and grated cheese between. Moisten thoroughly with a little stock, cover with grated cheese and a few bits of butter, and bake in an oven half an hour, or until brown.

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Every vegetable that comes under the head of "greens" is highly thought of by physicians. Great care, however, should be taken in preparing greens. Spinach is now in market, and it can be served in several ways.

Minced Spinach—Boil the spinach in salt and water until tender. Drain in the colander, and chop fine in the tray. Season well with pepper and salt. For each quart of chopped spinach put two tablespoonfuls of butter and one of flour in a frying pan. When this has cooked smooth, and before it has become browned, add half a cup of cream or milk and stir three minutes longer. Arrange in a mold on a hot dish. Garnish with a wreath of sliced hard-boiled eggs at the base, and finish the top with another wreath. Spinach cooked in this manner can also be served in bread boxes. Chartreuse of spinach is excellent served with fish as well as with game or sweetbreads. Boil a large carrot and turnip; cut them into slices lenthwise three-eighths of an inch thick, then into strips of the same width. Butter well a tin basin or mold. Ornament the bottom with hard-boiled egg, or with fancy pieces of the vegetables. Around the sides of the mold place close together alternate strips of the carrot and turnip. Fill the center with spinach prepared as for minced spinach and press it down and cut off the strips of vegetables so that they are even. Heat the chartreuse by placing the mold in a pan of hot water and putting both in the oven for a few minutes. Turn white or a vinaigrette sauce can be served if desired with the chartreuse.

Escalloped okra and tomatoes make a pleasant change in the weekly menu. Cut the okra in thin slices and mix it with tomatoes (canned), allowing one pint of tomatoes to two of okra. Put the vegetables in a stew pan with one teaspoonful of salt and a little pepper. Simmer half an hour and add one tablespoonful of butter, and turn into a baking dish. Cover with bread or cracker crumbs, dot with butter, and bake half an hour.

Parsnip balls—Mash one pint of boiled parsnips. Add two tablespoonfuls of butter, one teaspoonful of salt, a little pepper, two tablespoonfuls of cream or milk, and one beaten egg. Stir on the fire until the mixture bubbles; then add the egg, and set away to cool. When cold make into balls one-third the size of an egg. Dip them in beaten eggs and crumbs. Put in the frying basket and plunge into boiling fat. Cook till a rich brown.

Another homely vegetable, the carrot, is delicious when properly prepared. Spring carrots are now procurable. Wash and scrape them, parboil for ten minutes, and dry them on a cloth. Return to the saucepan with one heaping tablespoonful of sugar, one cup of stock, one tablespoonful of butter and boil gently about half an hour or until perfectly tender, then remove the cover and boil fast until the stock is reduced to glaze. Sprinkle with a little chopped parsley and serve with the glaze on them. Creamed carrots are savory. They should be boiled until tender, then cut into dice, thoroughly drained and then covered with rich cream sauce.

Canned tomatoes can be scalloped successfully in the season when fresh ones are too expensive. Season a can of tomatoes with one teaspoonful of salt and one-quarter teaspoonful of pepper. Sprinkle a shallow baking dish with a thin layer of bread crumbs; pour in the tomatoes, sprinkle over them a teaspoonful of sugar and a few drops of onion juice. Cover the top with a cupful of bread crumbs which have been moistened with a tablespoonful of melted butter. Bake in a hot oven for fifteen minutes. Serve in the same dish. A novel way of serving canned corn is to turn it into a sieve and let a little water run over it from the faucet. Put it into a shallow baking dish, add to one cupful of corn one tablespoonful of butter, one-half cupful of cream or milk, one-half teaspoonful of salt, and a dash of pepper. Place in the oven to brown the top and serve in the same dish.

New York's New Fad.

Now that the horseless carriage is no longer an experiment but a reality in New York, the residents of Gotham are discussing the probability of what they term "autotrucks" succeeding the drays and vans of commerce. While New Yorkers have always had the highest regard for the horse in the abstract they are now acquiring a dislike for him because they find that horse traffic and clean asphalt streets are not compatible.

They want clean streets and hence they have decided that the autotruck is a necessity. They are looking forward to the days when the horse will be seen no more on the streets and are predicting for the era of cleanliness that will be introduced great things. They have expressed the belief that with the advent of that era the cleanly fad will become more popular, that men will cease to spit on the floor of street cars and that dust will be a thing almost unknown. All this moves an extremist writing in Harper's Weekly to point out that thorough cleanliness cannot be secured until the dog is abolished from city life. The horseless truck, the writer argues, is a step in the right direction, but the crying need of the metropolis is a dogless dog.

If this sort of thing goes on it is difficult to decide where it is going to end. The gentle, yowling cat will fail under the ban next and then an edict will perhaps go forth against the Italian family, that traditional acme of uncleanliness.—Spokesman-Review.

RESERVOIRS FOR OREGON.

Geological Surveyors Propose Them for the Eastern Portion of the State.

A Washington special dispatch says: The geological survey has forwarded to congress a statement relative to reservoir sites in the various Western states where reservoirs are needed for storing up water through the spring months for use in the summer for irrigating purposes and for supplying certain towns whose present water supply is unreliable in the dry months of the year. The report covers 10 or 12 states, among them being Oregon, Washington and Idaho, in which such improvements have been considered, and which, it has been calculated, can be installed, by the erection of proper dams, at a cost of $250,000 in each of the three states, or $750,000 in the three states combined.

Of the proposed reservoirs in Oregon, the following statements are made:

"The reservoir sites of the greatest importance in Oregon are those to be found along the headwaters of Walla Walla river, which flows westerly from the Blue mountains into the Columbia; and on Malheur and Owygee rivers, flowing into Snake river. It has been pointed out that, while there is an excess of water in these localities during the spring, a general deficiency prevails during the summer. It has been noted that the water supply of Malheur county is below the needs of the present population, and that in 1888 and 1889 there was great suffering among farmers living along the lower part of the streams. In the upper valleys much of the water might be conserved by the erection of suitable dams."

THE BATTLESHIP OREGON.

It is gratifying to learn that the Oregon has not changed her habits. She has not acquired the tricks and the contrariness that the public has come to associate with stars of all descriptions. In fact, she still holds to the characteristics so noticeable when she was making her reputation. To be slangy but expressive, the Oregon continues to be "Johnny-on-the-spot" in spite of persistent reports to the contrary.

* * *

Dewey cabled that he wanted the Oregon for political reasons, and immediately all sorts of rumors were afloat. The Oregon was laid up for repairs at Honolulu. The Oregon had broken something and would not be able to proceed until a duplicate casting of some kind had been sent to her from this country. The Oregon would have to return to San Francisco and the Iowa would go to Manila instead. All this was disturbing, for it was not at all like the Oregon. It was opposed to all the traditions of the boat. It has not been her custom to stop for repairs when she was wanted.

* * *

But there was no need for worry. The Oregon was, and is, all right. Instead of being laid up for repairs at Honolulu when Dewey telegraphed for her February 24 she had anticipated his request and was four days out on her way to Manila.

Hurrah for the Oregon! It isn't safe to believe anything reflecting upon her unless it is signed and sealed before a notary, duly attested by her captain and countersigned by the secretary of the navy.—Chicago Post.

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