

The Children's Play Corner

Pitch Basket.

Select a number of small fruit baskets all of the same size and have a box of checkers handy. Suppose you have five baskets; on the bottom of one mark 20, on another 15, on two 5 and on the other 0. Place the baskets in a row on the floor.

Choose sides, giving the black checkers to the leader on one side and the red checkers to the other side.

One side lines up about ten feet away from the baskets, the leader giving each player a checker. If any are left he keeps them and has the right to throw them. Each one in turn throws his checker into any basket, trusting to luck that it falls into a basket with a number on it. When all have played, the leader of that side turns up each basket to see its number and counts the number of checkers thrown into it. If there were two in basket 20 it would count 40; if three in No. 5 it would be 15, and those in basket 0 count nothing. Thus the score for that side would be 55. The players on the other side then line up and play as the first did.

The order of the baskets must be changed occasionally, so that no one knows which is which. The game continues until a certain number—300 or 500—as previously agreed upon, has been reached. The side first scoring that number of points is victorious.

Hidden Animals.

1. Old Abe arrived in Milwaukee yesterday.
2. He found Eli on board a steamer.
3. He preferred a badge rather than money.
4. Where is Ella? Mamma wants her.
5. I found him in Chicago at a hotel.
6. Oh, Leo, pardon me just this time!
7. I abhor secret societies of all kinds.
8. We know it to be a version quite correct.

Answers.—1, bear; 2, lion; 3, badger; 4, llama; 5, goat; 6, leopard; 7, horse; 8, beaver.

Animals' Clothing.

Animals are covered with fur, hair and feathers because those substances prevent the heat of the body from escaping.

Numerical Enigma.

Contains thirty-six letters and spells the name and birthplace of a noted American.

The 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 was sent out, and 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 always went after it.

He was very strong and could carry a 14, 15, 16, it seemed to me.

In the 17, 18, 19, 20 we employed a Chinaman.

He charged 21, 22, 23, 24 than we liked, but we were in a new 25, 26, 27, 28 and could not expect the customs of old 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 to prevail there.

Answer.—George Washington, Westmoreland, Virginia. Words: Washing, George, ton, West, more, land, Virginia.

Plants Like Moonlight.

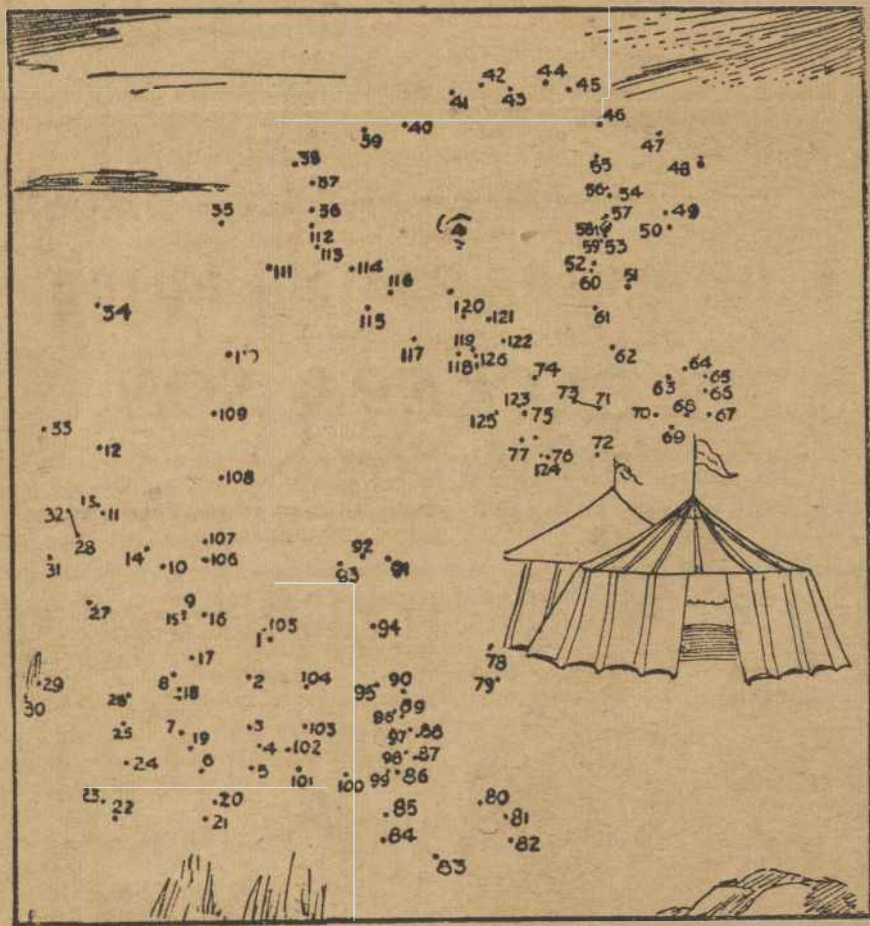
Plants grow quicker on bright moon light nights because such nights produce dew, which is very good for plants.

The Strike Cat.



I have a great big pussy cat. Who never yet has caught a rat. She is so proud and haughty-like. I really think she's gone on strike.

Fill In Picture Puzzle No. 1



WHAT sort of a picture is this? Start your pencil at 1, draw a line to 2, 3, 4, etc., until all of the numbers have been linked together and you will be surprised and pleased with the result of your art work. This picture always carries a trunk when it travels about, likes to pack that trunk itself and, strange to say, part of the picture plays billiards all over the world. Now this is all you are to be told about it. Get busy with your pencil and find out what the puzzle is.

Color Tones For Whistler.

About the time James McNeill Whistler, the artist, was causing a sensation with the painting which he called "A Harmony in Black and Red," "A Nocturne in Blue" or some such name he had a misunderstanding with his club regarding dues. The secretary finally wrote to Mr. Whistler saying that the club would be glad to receive from him "an arrangement in gold and silver."

Age of the Harp.

The harp, which was suggested by the lute, is ascribed to Jubal, 3875 B. C., and was King David's favorite instrument. The harp was used by the Welsh and Saxons and also by the ancient peoples of Ireland. One of the oldest harps in existence is in the Dublin college museum and originally belonged to Brian Borohme, king of Ireland.

Caustic Wit.

Curran, the well known Irish barrister, once said to Father O'Leary, the most witty priest of his day: "I wish you were St. Peter." "Why?" asked Father O'Leary. "Because," said Curran, "you would let me in." "It would be better for you," said the priest, "if I had the keys of the other place, for then I could let you out."

Only a Lady in the Making.

Five-year-old Freddy often showed pugilistic tendencies. One day he had been using his fists on three-year-old sister Helen. His visiting auntie said: "Freddy, don't you know that a gentleman never strikes a lady?"

Instantly Helen stopped crying and exclaimed, "They do too."

"Why, Helen!" said auntie. "When did you ever see a gentleman strike a lady?"

With an air of convincing proof the little maid replied, "Why, my daddy spansks me."—Christian Herald.

SHED YOUR LIGHT.

Talents are not wasted in a narrow sphere. Your lamp could add but very little to the great glow that illumines the world, but it may fill with light a home that without it would be in darkness.

Three Cats Mummified.

Shoals, Ind.—When moving a house in the business district of town, workmen found the bodies of three cats, which were mummified. The cats evidently died under the dwelling, but the bodies had not decayed. The house had been occupied by one family for forty years.

FARGO NEWS

Portland visitors during the week were John Kister, Peter Kister, Ralph Tauffest, Mr. and Mrs. John Schwabauer and family, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Fargo.

Mrs. Dr. D. M. Roder returned from an extended trip through the east to spend Christmas with her son, Mr. Ralph Roder, where she will shortly reside.

Mr. Wm. Hawthorne, brother-in-law of Mr. Ralph Roder, who has been spending the holidays here, returned to his home in Olympia, Washington, Monday.

Misses Nellie and Carolyn Fargo spent Christmas with their brother, F. B. Fargo, returning to Portland Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tauffest and family spent Christmas with relatives at Maxburg.

Miss Grace Babcock of Salem, spent Friday and Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Fargo.

Miss Danella Roder spent the week end and Christmas with her uncle, Ralph Roder, returning to Portland during the week.

The shadow social given by the pupils of Butteville school was well attended and a good program was rendered as follows:

The shadows sold netted the school over twenty three dollars.

Miss Grace Babcock, the celebrated child reader, of Salem, gave several selections and responded repeatedly to encores at the Butteville school program Friday evening, December 22. The program was published in full in last week's Observer.

The first quarterly conference of the Richardson Memorial M. E. church took place Sunday following church service. Dr. Ford, district superintendent, presiding.

Dr. Ford, district superintendent of Salem, spent Sunday here.

MACKSBURG

Like a Christmas benediction the sun shone on the morning of December 25th, making the day a truly joyful one.

Even the awesome Mt. Hood seemed to join in the general gladness and looked out from the foggy obscurity, where he has been invisible for weeks past.

The time honored and never satiating Christmas tree, laden with the fruits of affectionate toil graced most of the homes, and many were the Christmas home comers who enjoyed them.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hepler, with their daughter, Florence, spent the day with Mr. Hepler.

Mr. Will Roth received a visit from her brothers, Bennie and Glenn.

Miss Anna Hepler, with her brother, George, and their little sister, Maude, visited their brother, Jos.

Mrs. Henry Brush, with her son, Francis, were guests of the Senior Mrs. Brush.

The Elder Mrs. Brush is happy in the hope that the recent operation on her eye for cataract may prove successful in the complete restoration of her sight.

Mrs. Simon Miller, whose serious illness was mentioned in last week's Observer, is resting easily at present, but shows little sign of regaining strength.

The Sunday School festival held on Sunday evening at the Lutheran church was an event not soon to be forgotten. An elaborate program was finely rendered, showing the careful training given the children by Rev. Father Lucas, notwithstanding multifarious parochial cares. The gifts were well chosen and certain of lasting appreciation by all who received them and nothing seemed wanting to the complete enjoyment and benefit of the school.

Our entire community received a sad surprise last week in the tidings of the sudden death of Mr. Morens Oezer, former pastor of the Lutheran church at this place.

Mrs. Morens Oezer was highly esteemed and greatly beloved in her husband's congregation and by all who knew her during her sojourn among us. We wish to convey through the Observer, our sincere sympathy with her husband and children in their irreparable loss.

The Mothers' club met on Dec. 21st, at the home of its secretary for its last session of the year. Its being the closing meeting for 1916, election of officers was in order. Mrs. John Hepler, president, was reelected by acclamation, while the vice-president, Mrs. Simon Miller, with the secretary, Mrs. G. M. Baldwin, each received a majority vote for reelection. The visitors at the meeting were Mrs. Frank Brush and Miss Louisa Heinz. The next meeting is to be on January 4th, at the home of Mrs. John Heinz.

California readers of the Observer were greatly pleased with the December: Leibart Dwarschak, Louie Walch, Harry Goertzen, Emil Walch, Elmer Kister, Fred Kauffman, Lena Goertzen, Florence Hepler, Nora Dwarschak, Lena Walch, Katie Nofsizer, Julia Kauffman.

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SAFETY DEMANDS FEDERAL CONTROL OF THE RAILROADS

Only Way to Meet Emergencies of Nation, Says A. P. Thom.

STATES' RIGHTS PRESERVED

Principles Which Railways Hold Should Govern Regulatory System in Interests of Public and the Roads—Compulsory System of Federal Incorporation Favored.

Washington, Dec. 4.—That the interests of national defense require that control of railway lines should rest with the federal government and not with the states was the claim advanced by Alfred P. Thom, counsel to the Railway Executives' Advisory Committee, in concluding his preliminary statement of the case for the railways before the Newlands Joint Committee on Interstate Commerce.

"We must be efficient as a nation if we are to deal successfully with our national emergencies," said Mr. Thom, "and we must appreciate that efficient transportation is an essential condition of national efficiency. If we are to halt and weaken our transportation systems by state lines, by the permanent imposition of burdens by unwise regulation, we will make national efficiency impossible."

States' Rights Would Not Suffer.

Mr. Thom cited many instances in which shippers in one state were injuriously affected by selfish regulations imposed on the railroads by neighboring states. He pointed out that federal regulation would be no invasion of the rights of the states but would be the means of preserving the rights which they acquired when they entered the Union, one of which was the right to the free movement of their products across state boundaries.

What the Railroads Advocate.

The principles which the railroads believe should be incorporated in any just system of regulation were summarized by Mr. Thom as follows:

1. The entire power and duty of regulation should be in the hands of the national government, except as to matters so essentially local and incidental that they cannot be used to interfere with the efficiency of the service or the just rights of the carriers.
2. As one of the means of accomplishing this, a system of compulsory federal incorporation should be adopted, into which should be brought all railroad corporations engaged in interstate or foreign commerce.
3. The Interstate Commerce Commission under existing laws has too much to do and is charged with conflicting functions, including the investigation, prosecution and decision of cases. The latter duties should be placed in the hands of a new body which might be called the Federal Railroad Commission. Regional Commissions should be established in different parts of the country to assist the Interstate Commerce Commission by handling local cases.
4. The power of the Commission should be extended to enable it to prescribe minimum rates and not merely maximum rates as at present. This would increase their power to prevent unjust discriminations.
5. Justice to Public and Roads.

It should be made the duty of the Interstate Commerce Commission, in the exercise of its powers to fix reasonable rates, to so adjust these rates that they shall be just at once to the public and to the carriers. To this end the Commission, in determining rates, should consider the necessity of maintaining efficient transportation and extensions of facilities, the relation of expenses to rates and the rights of shippers, stockholders and creditors of the roads.

The Interstate Commerce Commission should be invested with the power to fix the rates for carrying mails.

The federal government should have exclusive power to supervise the issue of stocks and bonds by railroad carriers engaged in interstate and foreign commerce.

The law should recognize the essential difference between things which restrain trade in the case of ordinary mercantile concerns and those which restrain trade in the case of common carriers. The question of competition is not the only fair criterion.

The law should expressly provide for the meeting and agreement of traffic or other officers of railroads in respect of rates or practices. This should, however, be safeguarded by requiring the agreements to be filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission and to be subject to be disapproved by it.

"My legal proposition," Mr. Thom said, "is that the Constitution as it now is gives full authority to Congress to regulate the instrumentalities of interstate commerce in all their parts. If the power of regulation is to reach the public requirements, it must be co-extensive with the instrumentalities of commerce."

Mr. Thom explained that the roads are not asking either of the Committee or of Congress any increase in revenues, but that they are merely asking the perfection of a system which will be responsible to any need that may arise.

PRINCE COMPOSER

Kaiser's Youngest Son Enlivens Melancholy of War.

HAS WRITTEN SIX MARCHES.

His Popularity With Men of Army Is Perhaps Greater Than That of Any of His Brothers—Compositions Known in Every Trench—Only Recently Married.

Berlin.—Prince Joachim, the emperor's youngest son, has been enlivening the melancholy of the war not only by getting married, but by composing some stirring war marches. Since August, 1914, he has written six marches—"The Men in Field Gray," "Young Germany," "Gloria et Patria," "The Liege March," "1914" and "With God For King and Country." For a long time his music had been introduced to the court, his father taking the greatest pride in putting his compositions on the programs at the court concerts, but the general public was unacquainted with it.

The prince, being the youngest of the six sons of the emperor, has always been a great favorite with the people,



Photo by American Press Association.

PRINCE JOACHIM.

and his popularity with the men of the army is perhaps greater than that of any of his brothers. His marches are known in every trench.

There was disappointment that his marriage recently to Princess Marie Auguste of Anhalt was not celebrated as a public festival. It took place at the Castle Bellevue, one of the royal residences, and there were no guests except the members of the two families. Emperor William was not present, the empress and her daughter, the Duchess of Brunswick, representing the imperial family. The little bride is in her eighteenth year, while the prince had his twenty-fifth birthday last December. They will probably live at Cassel when they set up a family establishment after the war. This is near Wilhelmshohe, the old capital of Hesse, where Napoleon III. was held captive after the battle of Sedan and where the empress goes to stay for the month of August every year, as well as a part of September.

Prince Joachim is a member of a hussar regiment belonging to Cassel. When he was severely wounded in December, 1914, and taken to Berlin for hospital treatment his Cassel regiment was kept informed of his condition, and the prince spent his convalescence writing letters to his army comrades.

The young corporal who rushed to his aid when he was struck on the battlefield and the private who donated his fresh package of bandages to dress the prince's wounds received letters from the hospital of remembrance for their service.

LOST IDENTITY FOR YEARS.

Hurt in San Francisco Earthquake, Recovers Memory in Milwaukee.

Milwaukee, Wis.—Samuel Samuels of San Francisco "awoke" in Milwaukee, he says, after his memory had been dimmed for ten years through an injury sustained during the San Francisco earthquake.

Wandering aimlessly, as though lost, Samuels, who is about sixty years old, accosted a policeman at Van Buren and Brady streets with the question, "Am I in San Francisco?" When told that he was in Milwaukee, 2,000 miles from San Francisco, Samuels was dubious.

"I owned a clothing store in San Francisco and had money," he said. "Where have I been and how have I lived all this time? I know I have wandered and tramped to many places, but until this day I did not know my own name or where I belonged."

Jawbone of Fossil Elephant.

Baker, Ore.—A fossil, declared by local scientists to be the lower jawbone of the prehistoric tetraodon, one of the earliest species of elephant of which there is any record, has been placed on exhibition here. It was found in the excavation of the Virtue mine near here.

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Superstitious Musicians.

Musicians are often singularly superstitious. Paderewski once ordered an expensive apartment in London, but refused to enter when he found it was No. 13 of a certain street, although he paid for it. Massenet has written twenty-one operas and many other compositions, but on all of his manuscripts page 12 1/2 is written in place of 13.

A Matter of Stripes.

A St. Louis boy, who has often seen the convict labor of his state, was visiting a relative in Chicago, who one day took him to the zoo. Among the creatures that particularly interested the youngster was a zebra. "Say, uncle," exclaimed he, pointing to the queer beast, "look at the convict mule!"—New York Times.