

Let The Children Go Barefoot.

That interesting and instructive Chicago Journal makes a plea that somehow we are fain to agree with and endorse. It heads an editorial: "Let Children Go Barefoot," in support of which declaration it says, in part:

Because a certain exceedingly sensible class in the community saves sole leather as well as discomfort by letting its children run barefoot in the warm weather, a certain other class makes its youngsters run the fierce summer through with their little feet sweltering in shoes and stockings. There is really no danger that children will be the worse for being allowed to go with the foot covering nature designed for them—not even socially. If there is nothing more than shoes to stamp the caste of Vere de Vere, the child might just as well be barefooted as in patent leathers. There is a foolish theory that going barefoot 'spread' the feet and makes them larger. Nothing can be further from the fact. It gives the feet natural growth and shape, fills them with compact, well-knit muscle, makes them healthy and efficient and has a tendency to leave them small, just as good muscle is smaller for the same strength than flabby muscle.

As to how natural it is to go without shoes and stockings the yearning and craving of the children themselves bear most eloquent witness. The Chicago Journal says further: "If any grown person requires further proof he may have it by noting the quickness and ease with which his own feet harden themselves at the beach within a few days. It is the natural and comfortable thing to do, and if more grown folk could be induced to do it from childhood on there would not be so many to regret the unnatural and distorted feet which prevail too largely. Let the children run barefoot—it is their natural right."

It is a wonder that our esteemed Windy City contemporary has not quoted in this connection something of really the finest poem in American literature, written by America's greatest poet:

Blessing on thee, little man,
Barefoot boy, with cheek of tan;
With their turned-up pantaloons.
And thy merry, whistled tunes;
With thy red lips, redder still,
Kissed by strawberries on the hill:
With the sunshine on thy face,
Through thy torn brim's jaunty grace;

From my heart I give thee joy,
I was once a barefoot boy.

Well why not the barefoot girl, too?
When children go to the seacoast, they
take off their shoes and stockings and
revel in the sand and surf. Everybody
enjoys it with them.

Next to Mother Nature—that is the
idea. And children can do it better
than if clad in \$7.50!—Portland Journal.

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Two Sisters And Brother
Drowned at Quincy.

Clatskanie, Ore., June 29—The bodies of Ezlund, aged 12; Annie, aged 8, and Emma, aged 6, the three children of Thomas Bassi, of Quincy, were found today in a tide slough near here by a searching party which has been out since last night.

The children left home yesterday for a berry hunt. When night approached and they failed to return, the parents became alarmed. Summoning help a large party of searchers was formed. This was divided into several sections which proceeded to beat through the country, laboring under the impression that the children had missed their way home.

Reaching a tide slough this morning the searchers came upon the three bodies. A boat was tied to a post rising from the middle of the slough. It is believed that the children, desiring to cross the slough by means of the boat, attempted to walk along some poles floating in the water, in order to reach the craft, and that they fell in and were drowned. The bodies were carried to Bassi home at Quincy. The parents are prostrated.

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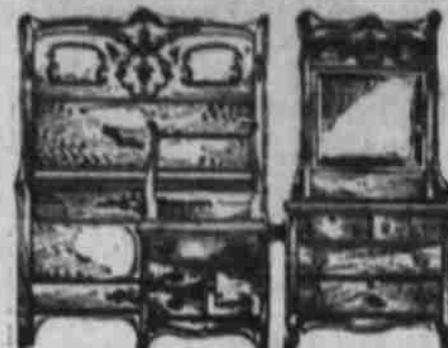
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