

# A MARRIAGE MARKET

MILWAUKEE HAS ONE AND BUSINESS IS LIVELY.

But a Collapse Is Threatened—One Preacher Has Married 2,079 Couples in Three Years—Lax Marriage Laws of Wisconsin—Prosperous Justices.

**Profitable for Preachers.**  
The Milwaukee marriage market is in danger of a collapse. Not that there is a slump in prices or a falling off (either in supply or demand) of hy-meneal material, but because the higher morality of the town has made a



REV. WESLEY HUNSBERGER.

protest against the business of marrying eloping couples. For a number of years this trading in marriage certificates has been flourishing there and



each season has seen an increase. Milwaukee has become the Gretna Green of Chicago, and the entire West is pointing the finger of shame at her. The whole blame lies with the lax marriage laws of Wisconsin and the



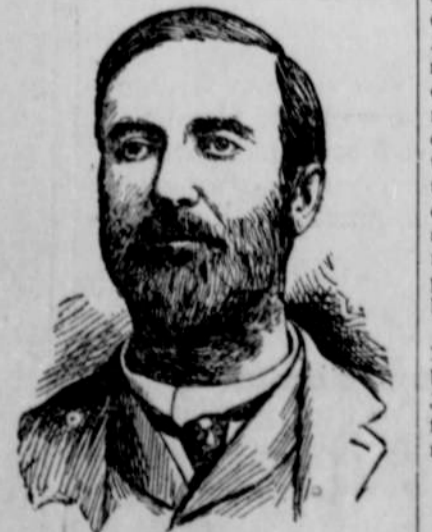
THE HUNSBERGER HOME.

Where 4,000 people have been married, aroused moral sentiment of the community will ere long demand a repeal of these statutes and the substitution of others more in accord with the Christian sense of propriety.



TOUTING FOR WEDDING CUSTOMERS.

All a man needs to get married in Milwaukee is a girl. He may take his first cousin, in case he cannot find a 15-year-old woman outside his own family who will have him. He will not have to bring the parents' consent



JUSTICE M'WHARTER.

If the parents live outside the State, nor does it matter if the girl is under 15, so long as she will swear that to be her age. No license is required and the preacher is not obliged to register

the ceremony with the keeper of city records until 30 days have elapsed. There is a fine of \$25 upon the officiating justice or preacher if the marriage is not recorded; if the groom is willing to pay that much for secrecy no record is made. All through the law there are loopholes for scheming men and women to slip through.

Milwaukee probably has double the number of marriages of any other city in the Union, in proportion to population. While eloping couples from the neighboring town and cities of this State come to have the knot tied, most of the business comes from Chicago.

In Chicago the lawmakers evidently regard the wedded state as a dangerous one, for they make it hard to get into and easy to get out of. Divorces can be easily obtained, but there are all sorts of difficulties to overcome when you want to get married, particularly if secrecy is desired. It is necessary to procure an expensive license and the publication in the daily papers of the names of the parties mentioned in the document makes secrecy almost impossible. That is why Milwaukee is popular with elopers. The boats that come up the lake, especially on Sunday, bring scores of unmarried couples who return home as brides and grooms in the evening. Cases are known where boys and girls have got into a flirtation on the boat and when they reached shore were married, half in jest. But the tie is binding.

While all the preachers and not a few justices reap the financial benefit of these lax laws, the principal beneficiaries are Rev. Wesley A. Hunsberger, D. D., pastor of the Grand Avenue Methodist Church, and Justices of the Peace McWharter and Hayden. The location close to the boat docks is what brings them the trade. The latter have runners at the dock to advertise that

they will perform the ceremony cheaply and speedily, but, while they do a good business, Dr. Hunsberger catches the cream, because there is a lingering sentiment that marriage should be a religious ceremony. Dr. Hunsberger undoubtedly holds the marriage record of the country, having united 2,079 couples during the past three years. His fees have probably averaged \$4 each—a total income for the three years of \$8,316 from this branch of his ministerial work. One Sunday he married eight couples and a memorandum in his own writing shows that his receipts for this service were \$76.50. The preacher is not ashamed of his work. He says:

"Men who rail against me for marrying people—merely because they come in large numbers—are like the foxes who concluded the grapes were sour when they found they were beyond their reach. They become very bitter and full of acid, solely because they do not get a part of the fees. It would be vanity for me to suppose that I marry about 600 couples each year because I

am handsome or popular. I attribute the unique situation to the fact that my church is the first one on the way up-town from the excursion boats. People see the church. They conclude the paragon is close by. It is the location, nothing else, that has caused the wonderful marriage record for the Grand Avenue Church. No change should be made in the law which will increase the expense of getting married. The marriage ceremony should be made as cheap as possible. It will be better for the country and society when we return to the habit of our forefathers and encourage marriage at the earliest possible age that is legal. I would favor more publicity. I have nothing to repent or regret in my wedding record. I have been conscientious in it all."

Justice McWharter, who has tied 1,600 knots, declares that he is in the business because it is profitable and Justice Hayden, who has a score of 481 for last year, says it pays his office rent and typewriter's salary.

**Enthroning an Archbishop.**  
Whenever a new archbishop of Canterbury is appointed he has to pay out nearly \$4,500 in fees before he can be "enthroned." Some of the recipients of this tax are the officials of the board of green cloth, the gentleman usher of the black rod and other similarly obsolete and useless functionaries.

# PHONES ON THE FARM



The practical utility of having a telephone on the farm is fast being demonstrated in many agricultural districts, and the system is bound to spread. Outside of the business aspects of the project, the social side of the question has helped on construction. From the experiments of a mere boy there has grown in one eastern section a system with sixteen wires, covering seven townships. The demand has spread, in this instance, for telephonic service, until now farmers miles apart sit in their homes with receivers at their ears, and listen to speeches, songs and recitations sent whirling over the wires, or express with one another, with readiness and convenience, what shall be done to kill the weevil and keep up the price of wheat.

The farm telephone is the outgrowth of no corporation, and no charge is made for rates. It should either be a purely personal venture, or conducted on the lines of the Grange, for mutual improvement and benefit. The person starting into this enterprise will find enthusiastic helpers. Farmers instantly realize that they have an opportunity to build their own lines at nominal cost. As the great bulk of the farmer's business is, after all, with other farmers, and with local dealers in the nearest town, he is practically independent of the long-distance companies, and serves all his needs by a short line to the town and to the homes of his nearest neighbors. The experiments already made will soon become popular, and the near future will doubtless see a farmhouse with a telephone as naturally a part of its equipment as is a windmill or a cistern.

Communication between farmhouses in time of peril or trouble has always been slow and tedious. Fire, murder, robbery and other disasters which naturally enlist the sympathies of neighboring farmers are liable to occur almost any time on a farm far away from its neighbor. If the place is left, as is often the case, in charge of the women while the men are at work far away in the fields news of some important happening can be transmitted only at the cost of a long journey, which many times is out of the question. But if on the wall of a farmhouse hangs a telephone connected with a neighboring system a dozen or a score of farmhouses may be alarmed in an

instant, and if a crime is committed which calls for swift retribution or a chase after the offender the instant wings of electricity will aid in the pursuit.

The first step toward easily and cheaply constructing a farm telephone line is to get the telephones. Cell batteries are a prime requisite, and can be ordered at any hardware store; so can the transmitter and receiver. It will take some studying to understand just what part this equipment plays in the whole ensemble, yet it is simple and practical when properly comprehended. The barb wire fence should be utilized where there are no breaks, and where wire loops can be employed to connect with other farms. Where this cannot be done, however, wire can be strung from tree to tree, across country or along the highways. No insulation is necessary, the wire being simply fastened to the limb with staples. Sometimes bare spaces may need poles. These need not be the great, tall, well

trimmed poles of the telephone company, but material cut in the woods, and branches lopped off.

When a line is complete, part or all barb wire fence, or current carried aloft on a home-made line strung to trees, roofs and poles, the farmer has a decidedly new luxury secured at a very low expense. An instrument complete costs but \$6 and wire is \$2.70 a mile. If the barb wire fence method is used the wire costs nothing, for it is already on the ground, strung and ready for service. With hundreds of miles of barb wire fence practically continuous all over the country, there would



seem to be nothing to prevent farmers from installing telephone systems which would be independent of the companies which charge such exorbitant tariffs. Private lines among neighbors or lines to town, with a small exchange and switchboard in the postoffice or general store, could be easily and cheaply installed, and when once in service the farmers would fight before relinquishing them.

The practical utility of the independent telephone may be realized by taking the case of an isolated settlement not on any railroad. Everyone must drive to some other town to see anybody or to find out what is going on. If they had a telephone line, even a single instrument in the settlement, the advantage would be enormous. The original cost would be scarcely anything, \$10 or \$15 perhaps. After that there is no expense and the convenience will never be appreciated until the line has been in operation for awhile. There are a hundred and one



ATTENDING THE CONCERT BY 'PHONE.

things that a settlement like that would want to get into communication with a town for. If they had a line to some near village they could have messages transmitted over the long distance wire to large cities, and if a farmer wanted something in a hurry instead of waiting for it and waiting for the slow delivery of the mails there he could call up his dealer in the city, order it by wire and have it come out by express that day.

In one of these settlements where a line is now in actual operation it is claimed by its users that they absolutely could not get along without it.



## AN ELECTRIC DRILL

With It a Six-foot Hole Can Be Bored in One Minute.

The economy and practicability of using electricity in mining coal has been demonstrated, and its more general introduction should greatly cheapen the price of our winter fuel. Only a few days ago a Philadelphia operator said that in the course of a few years coal will probably be selling at tide-



BORES A SIX-FOOT HOLE IN A MINUTE.

water for the price now paid for mining it—namely, 45 cents a ton. The picture shows an electric drill which is used for making holes in the face of the coal seam. It is capable of drilling a six-foot hole in one minute. In this connection it is interesting to note that coal undercut by machinery does not require as powerful cartridges for the blasting as coal undercut by hand, and the rapidity with which the

holes are drilled by electric power effects a great saving and largely increased output. The weight of the drill represented, with post for a six-foot vein, is only 152 pounds. This can easily be handled by one man. The drill works so quickly that it takes the greater part of one man's time to attend to the feed mechanism and augers together with starting and stopping the drill, while the other man is arranging and picking the places for the holes. By the time he has another place ready the drill has finished the preceding hole and is ready to be moved. Two men can very quickly reset the drill and then get it started again. This machine has drilled enough holes in ten hours to "shoot" or blast down 800 tons of coal in a seven-foot vein. It consumes about three-horse-power, and the one shown in the cut is a Jeffrey machine.

**Geniuses Gain Fame While Young.**  
According to Professor Halleck over 80 per cent. of the greatest musicians, artists, poets, and scientists became famous before the age of 30. "In the case of the vast majority," said the Professor in a recent lecture in Philadelphia, "the brain attains its maximum weight by the age of 15. Examination of sections of the spinal cord have shown that between the time of birth and the age of 15 there has been 100 per cent. increase in the number of developed nerve cells, while an increase of only 4.6 per cent. has been shown after 15."

**What Was Required.**  
"So you are the music teacher that answered my advertisement?"  
"Yes, sir."  
"Well, sit down here and play a couple of duets, so I can see what you can do."—Answers.

## A GAY PARISIAN.

Cleo de Merode Is the Sensation of the Day in New York.

New York music hall patrons have been worshipping at the shrine of Cleo de Merode, the gay Parisian beauty and ballet girl. Cleo's appearance created a sensation among the gay New Yorkers. Her visit to New York is for the purpose of filling an engagement in one of the music halls, which will net her \$1,500. At its conclusion she will return immediately to Paris.

Merode's fame and money-earning qualities rest upon an unenviable basis.



CLEO DE MERODE.

She is not a great singer, not even a great dancer. In Paris she gets \$10 a week for kicking up her heels in the ballet of the Grand Opera and no one ever discovered that she had talent in any line. But she was beautiful and one night when King Leopold, the wicked old monarch of Belgium, sat in the front row her shapely figure and handsome face appeared to him and he applauded her. That was the first

mark of distinction Merode ever received. After that, when Leopold openly paid attentions to her and she and the gay old King had merry times in and out of Paris, there was gossip that spread throughout the world. Merode is young—just past 20. She is slender and her features are small. Her manner is quiet and refined.

## Tons of Food Wasted.

A weekly newspaper in London gives some curious facts as the result of recent inquiries throughout the British metropolis and provinces into the subject of wasted food in workhouses. These show how tons of bread are wasted every week and consigned to the swill tub. It is a common custom, also, it appears, in some workhouses to throw away plates of untouched meat. This is owing to the hard and fast rules of the local government board. A fixed quantity of food is ordered to be served to each inmate, whether it is wanted or not, and, as nothing is allowed to be used a second time, all that is left becomes waste.

## More Territory for England.

The rapid rise of the land about Hudson Bay is said to be the most remarkable gradual upheaval of an extensive region ever known. Driftwood-covered beaches are now twenty to sixty or seventy feet above the water, new islands have appeared and many channels and all the old harbors have become too shallow for ships. At the present rate this shallow bay will disappear in a few centuries, adding a vast area of dry land or salt marsh to British territory in America.

Somehow, when an old maid finally succeeds in getting married, her baby never looks just right.