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EVILS OF DIVORCE.

The United States census bureau has compiled a report on divorces which should be of interest to all persons in this country who are interested in the preservation of the sanctity of the marriage vow and who believe in making marriage the basis of home life. In this report are some figures and statistics which should cause to pause those who have been advocates in the past few years of the opening wider of the doors of the divorce courts.

According to this census report for the twenty years from 1887 to 1906, both inclusive, there were granted in the State of Illinois, which State headed the list, 82,209 divorces. Ohio followed with 63,982; then came Indiana with 60,721 in this class of States. In the Southern States Texas led with 62,655, followed by Kentucky and Tennessee, with more than 30,000 each. We are glad to see that North Carolina does not occupy a prominent position in this list of States. South Carolina stands at the foot with not a single divorce granted; for the laws of that State do not allow the securing of a divorce in that State. This stands to the honor of that State, though it would be to her greater honor if she had more restrictive laws governing marriage within her borders.

From these figures it will be seen that there is great need of improvement of the law on divorce in most every State in the Union. The marriage tie is too loosely held all over the Union.

We have long thought there should be uniform marriage and divorce laws for all the States, though we have never been able to see how such could be brought about without an amendment to the Federal constitution. But then wouldn't it be worth the trouble and expense of an amendment to the constitution to have present conditions changed. The family, the home is the basis of a republican form of government which is to be conducted on the plan on which ours was based, and is supposed to be still conducted, and when family relations and home life are ignored then we may expect the political life of the nation to be in danger. Preserve the sanctity of the home and the Nation will start on the downward road, and nothing can break up that home-life quicker than the cheapening of marriage ties. If you want to preserve the Republic, keep the family hearth swept clean.

THE RIVERS AND HARBORS CONGRESS.

When persons feel like criticising the action of the Rivers and Harbors Congress, which met in Washington last week, for its action in asking Congress to expend fifty million dollars a year for the next ten years for the deepening and otherwise improving in the interest of any one part of this whole country, they must remember that this congress was no sectional body; that it was not working in the interest of any one part of the country; that it did not represent any one class of the people of the nation; but that it was a veritable representative body of the whole American Union, representing every section of the country and every class of people in the country. Furthermore they represented the tax payers of the country—the men from whom must come the fifty millions a year Congress is asked to expend on these internal improvements. Those men there assembled represented the tax payers from the Lakes to the Gulf and from the Atlantic to the Pacific who are willing to be taxed to the amount of fifty million dollars a year and to have their accumulations for years to come to be taxed to the same amount in order to have the Government undertake the waterways improvements which they believe will add so much to the prosperity and wealth of the country in future generations. The members of the House of Representatives are no more representative of the people than were the members of this Rivers and Harbors Congress. In fact the latter are without doubt, more intimately acquainted with the needs, in a business and a commercial way, of the people they represented than are nine-tenths of the members of Congress. For this reason, when they present to the gov-

ernment their deliberate opinions as to what the country needs in the way of government aid to the industrial and commercial advancement of the country they should be given that consideration which is due to them because of their intimate acquaintance with conditions and with what is needed to improve those conditions and with what the people want.

HEARST A CRIMINAL.

During the recent campaign William Randolph Hearst tried to make a stir by reading a number of letters to other persons which he received knowing them to have been stolen from the letter files of the office of a corporation with headquarters in New York City. Hearst made no explanation as to how he got those letters. Everyone who knew anything about the matter knew that the letters Hearst was reading when on the stump were either forgeries or, if original or correct copies of originals, were stolen from the men to whom they were written or from the letter press books of those who had written them. Hearst put on a bold face and, day after day, stood up before audiences of American voters and read to them garbled extracts from private letters which had come into his hands as results of conduct of men who under different circumstances would be now serving terms in prison for their acts of larceny. Still Hearst, because of his great wealth, can almost boast of his prowess in securing such letters—private property of others—through means that could be nothing other than criminal. Many a man would have gone to prison for a much less offense than the one it is patent to all this millionaire and demagogue, Hearst, committed and publicly used for his supposed political advantage. It is a bad day for the country when any man, no matter how rich he is, feels that he can make such public exhibit of his criminality without fear of prosecution.

Taft comes South this week for his Winter sojourn. Irrespective of party affiliations all Southern people should wish that he finds his stay among us pleasant and profitable to him in the way of becoming better acquainted with our people. We believe he will to the utmost of his ability act as the "President of the whole country"—not using this as an empty phrase but in all earnestness and reality. Of course we do not expect him to turn Democrat even so far as the South is concerned but we do believe it is his intention to give the South, as forming an important part of the nation, a fair showing and that he will try to his utmost to put aside all sectional feeling.

A Charlotte man says he was drugged and robbed of six hundred dollars in Washington. The man charged with the crime says he won the money in a crap game. Either way you put it, it does not look well for the Charlotte man. He would not have been doped if he had not been keeping bad company or been where he had no business being.

If that Panama canal money passed through the channels the New York World says the records show that it did, a heap of folks will always believe some of it stuck on the way, no matter how vociferously President Roosevelt denounces the editor of that paper as a liar.

It looks like Roosevelt is up against a pretty stiff proposition on that Panama canal matter with the two northern papers. The New York World shows from the records that he is mistaken as to his facts in some of the statements he has made.

CURRENT COMMENT.

—It was on December 9th, 1608, that John Milton was born. His tercentennial birthday fell last Wednesday and was widely celebrated. His millennial birthday will fall December 9th, 2608, and if at that time man is still a dweller upon the earth it will not be passed by forgotten.—Charlotte Observer.

—President Schurman, who wrote and spoke vigorously against the election of Mr. Bryan, said a few nights ago in a lecture at Monclair, N. J.: "Mr. Bryan has done more by example and by precept for purity of American politics than any other man in the country." That will be the impartial judgment of history.—News and Observer.

—Nobody ever dies in Tombstone, unless they brought it "with" or fall into a 600 vertical shaft, or buy an automobile, or "sass" their mother-in-law, or try to thaw out powder, or take cyanide of potassium for sugar, or start off a county seat removal racket. Some die of old age, some old partners of Daniel Boone, but none have ever been known to die from physical irregularities contracted in Tombstone, aside from the above-mentioned causes, and occasionally an abnormal tightness about the throat, superinduced by a coil of manila rope, or from a cold, caught through a hole made by a 45.—Tombstone (Ariz.) Epitaph.

—Until the question: "Who got the \$30,000,000 paid by the Government of the United States for the Panama Canal property?" is answered, with absolute candor and with full knowledge of the circumstances under which the money was disbursed and to

whom it was paid the Government will not be able to silence the tongues of so-called "scandal-mongers" or to allay the suspicions of many disinterested Americans who seek only the truth. Therefore Congress should order an investigation and determine finally the truth or falsity of charges which reflect upon the honor of the Government of the United States.—Baltimore Sun.

—Instead of breaking the solid South we had better maintain it as a rallying point and nucleus for conservatism and real democracy. Instead of going over to the Republicans we should bring the Republicans and the great Democratic masses of the country to us. In a movement of this kind Virginia can take the lead. She has gifts with the strength and brains and sons, but under the influence of forty years of repression and following meekly the leadership of others they have become timid. Almost in any condition and in any department of endeavor the bold policy is the best and the advantage always is with the attack. We would like to see some Virginians go right to the front and announce that the South intends to take charge of the Democratic party and to invigorate it back to strength and purpose.—Richmond News Leader.

—The Observer is astonished to find itself interrogated by an intelligent and long-time reader as to its position on the tariff. Our correspondent expresses its views on this subject exactly; the views it has always held, and many times reiterated; except that the correspondent is more liberal in his opinion in respect of free raw material than we are. Free raw material means that the manufacturer would get the material that goes into his product cheaper, which would simply enable him to get his material at a lower price without reducing in the least the price to the consumer of his finished product, permitting him to put the difference in his pocket. To say it once again: The Observer believes in a tariff for revenue. This necessarily means a tariff for protection. This tariff should be equitably adjusted, with a view to protection to all interests alike, as nearly as may be, but in no case levied for the purpose of protection alone.—Charlotte Observer.

TWINKLINGS.

—Lady (on Pullman)—Boy! Where are the porter's quarters on this train? Candy Kid—in the passengers' pockets yet, Miss.—Boston Transcript.

—"So Algernon is going to devote himself to poetry?" "Yes, but only after a season in the bank. I don't want the poor boy to die without even knowing what money feels like."—Life.

—"I wonder what the President would have done at Pompeii when it rained hot ashes and molten lava." "Seized the occasion in all probability, to go for a nice walk."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

—He Knew—Teacher—Yes, children, when the war broke out, all the able-bodied men who could leave their families enlisted in the Army. Now, can any of you tell me what motives took them to the front? Bright Boy (triumphantly)—Locomotives—Tit-Bits.

—"I would like to meet a man like the one Shakespeare mentions in 'Two Gentlemen of Verona,'" said the trader who was short of steel common at 34. "Who was that?" asked his friend. "I've forgotten his name, but they said 'his golden touch could soften steel.'"—Boston News Bureau.

—"I hope you were a good little boy while at your aunt's and didn't tell any stories," said his mother. "Only the one you put me up to, ma," replied her young hopeful. "Why, what do you mean, child?" "When she asked me if I'd like to have a second piece of cake I said, 'No, thank you; I've had enough.'"—Harpers Weekly.

—Tourist (after a long discussion with station master on the subject of catching a steamer)—So you would advise me to come back by the Sunday night train in order to catch the boat on Monday morning? Station Master (Severely)—A wud advise nae man taek profane the Sawbath; but a'll jist repeat—if ye wait till the Monday ye'll nae get the connection.—Puck.

BRILLIANT GULF WATERS.

Streaks of Blue and Green Seen in the Darkness. (Tampa Times.)

A most remarkable marine phenomena was observed by the steamship Dover, Capt. Yon A. Carlson, as that vessel steamed to Tampa from Mobile. When at a point 35 miles from Mobile light, at 7 o'clock on the evening of the 24th, the ship ran suddenly in a streak of light coming from the water which alternated blue and green, the colors being so brilliant that the vessel was lighted up as if she was covered with arc lights with colored globes. A half mile streak of dark water, and a blackness that settled like a pall over the ship followed and a second streak of the same brilliant hued waters was encountered. The second streak was about as wide as the first one, and when the ship ran out of it the same black waters and a night of exceptional blackness was also encountered. A. D. Montmollin, traveling freight agent of the line, was on board the vessel, and he and Chief Engineer T. J. Cole fully substantiated Capt. Carlson's statement regarding the phenomena.

The Inaugural Committee on Civic Organization has announced that the right of line in the parade of civic organizations on the day of President-elect Taft's inauguration shall be given to the members of the class of '78 of Yale University of which class Mr. Taft was a member.

Would Mortgage the Farm. A farmer on Rural Route 3, Empire, Ga., W. A. Floyd by name, says: "Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured the two worst sores I ever saw: one on my hand and one on my leg. It is worth more than its weight in gold. I would not be without it if I had to mortgage the farm to get it." Only 25c. at R. R. Bellamy's drug store.

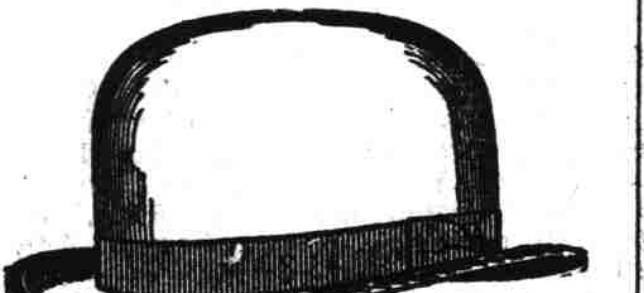
New York, Dec. 4.—The two-year dispute between the railroads and the makers of steel rails over the quality and price of rails has been settled, and it was announced today that large rail orders would quickly be negotiated. One of these is for 160,000 tons, which the Pennsylvania Railroad will place. With the embargo off, orders for from 300,000 to 400,000 tons of rails for delivery next spring probably will be given. This would involve the outlay of from \$10,000,000 to \$12,000,000. The agitation over rails started from the numerous train wrecks in 1906 and 1907 that were traced to broken and split rails. This naturally reflected on the quality of rails milled. The Pennsylvania Railroad was the leader in the agitation for better quality, and it was supported by the Harriman lines. Judge Gary, of the United States Steel Corporation has had endless conferences in the last year or more with the railroads, trying to determine the basis of equalization of quality and price. The adjustment continues the price at \$28 a ton for standard sections, with the buyer promising to take discarded rails, or "seconds," as they are known in the trade, also at \$28 a ton.

Lynchburg Special to Washington Herald: There are many indications that by the new year the Southern Railway will resume active work upon the construction of the "cut-off" line around the city, over which nearly all of the traffic of this system is to pass when completed. Two immense steel bridges, one over the James river and the other over Blackwater creek, both of which are in city limits, wholly or in part, will give employment to an army of bridge-workers, who will be employed as soon as the cement foundations can be completed. The "cut-off" means the erection of a passenger station to cost \$50,000 and a big viaduct to avoid a grade crossing. This will also cost \$50,000. There will be two other smaller overhead street crossings on another steel bridge, the latter having been completed before the panic.

Gastonia News: Tuesday a little three-year-old child of Mr. Thompson, living on the M. J. Kincaid plantation near Pleasant Ridge, had a narrow escape. The little child and older brother were out in the yard playing and the three-year-old fell into the well that had been started last year and been abandoned at thirty feet depth. The other child went into the house and the mother asked where the younger child was and the reply was: "He fell into a hole in the ground." The mother went to investigate and heard the screams of the child in the well thirty feet below. Help was hurriedly secured and a physician was sent for. When the little fellow was examined it was found that he was not much hurt. Two ribs were broken and a few little scratches.

A HUMAN ENGINE.

Without good fuel the 20th Century Limited would travel little faster than a common yard engine. It takes good fuel to develop power, endurance and speed. Every ambitious man is anxious to push forward, to get ahead, yet many are "coaling up" on food prepared with lard, regardless of the fact that lard is indigestible and really clogs up the system, just as poor coal clogs the grates with clinkers. Don't eat lard-soaked food; eat food prepared with COTTOLENE, a vegetable oil cooking fat, so pure, wholesome and easily digested that physicians recommend it even for invalids. "COTTOLENE shortens your food, lengthens your life" and you will travel farther, swifter and easier on it than on food prepared from the fat of the hog.



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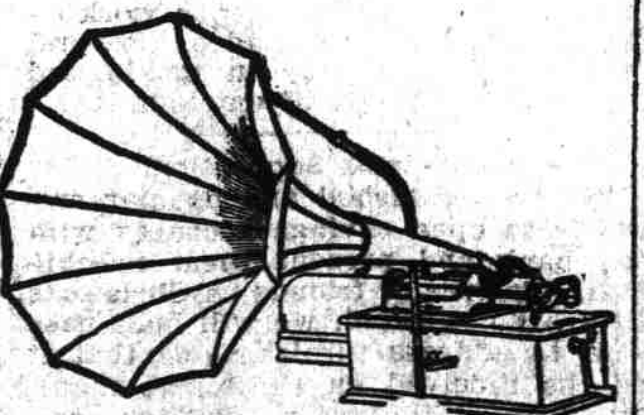
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The AFTER-ALL-DAY TEST



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ALL NEED

A stimulant at sometime or another, therefore remember that January is not far off—and supply yourself while our stock of WINES AND LIQUORS is still complete and now selling at reduced prices. Atlantic Cafe GIESCHEN BROS. Props. Opposite Union Depot. nov 20th