

## THE MODERN BLACKSMITH



BLACKSMITHS in country towns important positions are allotted nowadays. Since the times of which early poets wrote the business of the horseshoer has broadened out to such an extent that he is recognized as running a shop second in importance to no other in town.

In thousands of instances the blacksmith wields an influence in the town council; frequently he is the mayor. It is a common thing to find him an alderman, and in some instances at least, the residence of a

village blacksmith in a prosperous town is as fine as that of the banker. In a great many instances he has a good store of books; there are fine pictures on his walls. The earnings from his trade are invested in shops that are equipped with every modern appliance and in many other ways his general prosperity is made plain to the world.

Men in the country now are more particular about having fine horses on their farms and naturally more careful about the way they are shod. There has been almost as much improvement in fitting a shoe on the foot of a horse as there has been in the work of a dentist in repairing the human teeth.

And all this change despite the invasion of the equine field by the automobile!

## FIGHTING OPIUM IN PEKIN

Pekin, the capital of China, is fighting the "opium-shop evil." Efforts are being made to reduce the number of dens and to restrict the smoking of the drug and to curtail the loafing and vice that accompany opium smoking by compelling each shop to take out a license and to pay a tax according to the number of "lamps" in each shop. The shops are divided into four classes and the fees are graded accordingly from \$1 a month to twenty cents for each lamp, payable on the 10th of every month. The recent proclamation of the Peking sanitary department reads as follows: "Opium smoking is extremely harmful to the health and the shops where opium is smoked are the retreats of loafers. Such places should really be altogether prohibited, so that the people might enjoy more prosperity, and dens of thieves would thus be done away with. But as opium smoking has become such a habit it cannot be got rid of entirely and at once. The evil can only be removed gradually.

"There are in the outer city of Peking many opium shops, and it is evident that the smokers are increasing every day, which is very bad. The department has taken into consideration the matter and arrangements have been made for those who will abandon the habit. In addition, the opium shops opened in the outer city of Peking have been divided into four classes and are to be taxed after certain regulations. They are to register themselves according to their classes and the number of lamps for the payment of taxes so that inspection can easily be effected. "Shop owners are hereby informed of the regulations and that they are to come to this department for registration beginning from the 30th day 1st moon 31st year of Kuang Hsu. If any one dares to make a false declaration as to his class or the number of lamps, opens shops without license or refuses payment of the tax, if discovered, the building used for smoking opium will be confiscated and the owners strictly fined as a warning to these private dealers in opium shops. All must respect this order and not disobey."

## HAD TO BE IMPRESSED

The driver of the Oaktown stage was a person of much amiability and a large fund of anecdote, but his memory was by no means of the best. The inhabitants of his native town made many excuses for him, but summer visitors found his falling a particularly trying one.

"That man should be complained of and should lose his position as express agent and mail carrier!" said one exasperated man who had been obliged to remain in Oaktown over another night, owing to Ranny Peet's forgetting to call for him.

"Well, now, I guess you didn't impress it on Ranny that he was to take ye," said an Oaktown man, moved to mild remonstrance.

"Impress it on him!" echoed the summer visitor. "I wrote my name on his order book in the postoffice."

## TRAVEL BY STAGE COACH

It was in 1658 that the first regular stage coach began running between the two capitals, London and Edinburgh. It ran once a fortnight and the fare was £4, which would be a good deal more than \$20 to-day. The time taken to the journey is not accurately known, but between York and London it was four days. This lavish system of communication was not, however, kept up, as in 1763 the coach ran between London and Edinburgh once a month only, taking a fortnight, if the weather was favorable, to the journey. In 1754 a heroic effort was made to improve the London and Edinburgh coach. The Edinburgh Courant for that year contained the following advertisement:

"The Edinburgh stage coach, for the better accommodation of passengers, will be altered to a genteel two end glass coach, being on steel springs, exceeding light and easy, to go in ten days in summer and twelve in winter, to set out the first Tuesday in March and continue it from Hosea Eastgate's the Coach and Horses, in Dean Street, Soho, London, and from John Somerville's, in the Canongate, Edinburgh, etc. Passengers to pay as usual. Performed, if God permits, by your dutiful servant, Hosea Eastgate."

In the days of stage coaches people sometimes clubbed together and hired a post chaise for their journey as being quicker and less expensive, and Scottish newspapers occasionally contained advertisements to the effect that a person about to proceed to London would be glad to hear of a fellow "adventurer" or two bent on the same journey to share the expense.

## THE ONE NEEDFUL THING

Acadia College, Wolfville, N. S., had as its president for many years a very able New England divine, the Rev. A. W. Sawyer who was not given to much smiling or joking. On occasion, however, he knew how to press wit and even sarcasm into his service with great effect, and he was very popular with his students.

When the large female seminary building erected near the college was nearing completion, the financial committee, of which Dr. Sawyer was a member, if not chairman, was charged in stentorian tones by a minister, fluent in speech, but without college training, with being guilty of deeds of darkness that needed to be uncovered.

## REALM OF THE MIND

I walk with Plato through the storied grove Of Academus; climb Horeb's mystic mount With Israel's leader; with Salathiel rove The changing world, and the swift centuries count.

And you would bid me to a narrow hall To hear you boast this day the all in all!

I hear the mighty music of the spheres, The chorus of the worlds that grandly sing The story of the ages, and the years; A psalm to the universal king.

You fancy I would find it great delight To hear your pretty Diva sing to-night!

Look where Antares blazes, dully red— The Scorpion's splendid star—in the southwestern sky; By many worlds like this his flames are fed, Behold a mighty solar system die!

O creature of an hour and a day You ask me to a "fireworks display!"

In this, my star-ship through the vasty deep Of space, I make the mighty cycle of the sun,

A million miles in one brief hour I sweep, And scarcely is the race of worlds begun!

Must I, then, marvel at the small-like pace, At which your engines crawl the world's small face?

Peace, peace, O fool! Go on your petty way, Nor chatter of what your life's moment brings;

I have to do with aeons—nor may stay, Urges my business with eternal things.

Enjoy your little hour; laugh and weep, Then—crawl into your narrow grave, and sleep!

—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## NORTHERN PRESBYTERIANS AND CUMBERLANDS UNITE

Most Important Ecclesiastical Event of This Generation.

## SEPARATED NINETY-SIX YEARS

Assembly Also Agrees to Join National Federation of Evangelical Churches For Charitable and Humane Work.

Des Moines, Iowa.—One of the most important ecclesiastical events of this generation is the union, which is formally announced, of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (the Northern Church) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. It is important in itself because of the extent of the two communions; it is important as a political sign, for it unites a Northern church with a church which is preponderantly Southern.

The Northern Presbyterians have 7,729 churches and 1,669,170 communicants; the Cumberland Presbyterians have 2986 churches and 181,104 communicants.

The announcement of the reunion was received with great rejoicing at the assemblies of the two churches at Des Moines and at Decatur, Ill. "I do solemnly declare and here publicly announce that the basis of reunion and union is now in full force and effect and that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is now reunited with the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America as one church."

As with these words Moderator Hunter Corbett officially established the union of the two branches of the great denomination, which had been an object of labor and prayer for many years, the vast ecclesiastical assemblage at the general assembly here burst into a storm of rejoicing. Hand-clapping, cheering and waving of handkerchiefs continued for many minutes.

Following the receipt of a telegram from the Cumberland Assembly at Decatur announcing the adoption of the joint resolution authorizing the union it became necessary for the Presbyterian assembly to take similar action. Moderator Corbett put the question, which was in the form of a resolution, and called for an affirmative vote, to be expressed by the commissioners rising. In an instant the assembly hall was converted into a stamping, cheering crowd. As the hand-clapping and cheering died down and the commissioners took their seats, the Moderator said: "All who are of the opinion that the union should not prevail will please rise."

A laugh went around the hall, for it was believed the request was a mere formality and would meet with no response. To the astonishment of all present two commissioners arose. Pandemonium broke loose, and it was feared for an instant that indignity would be offered the lonely men who opposed the union. One of the men was Dr. William Laurie, of Bellefonte, Pa., and the other Rev. Roger F. Cressey, of Jacksonville, Ill.

The former was a stalwart Scotchman, and his personality dominated the convention as he said: "Greatly as I dislike to record my vote against this union, and deeply as I feel the pain of being forced to disagree with my fathers and brothers, yet I cannot conscientiously vote for this union. It is purely a question between me and my God. I have to oppose it."

Rev. Mr. Cressey said: "This is a matter of conscience with me. I cannot honestly vote for the union." A motion was made that the negative votes be recorded. Cries of "No!" were raised. Dr. Laurie was on his feet immediately, declaring: "I desire that the negative votes be recorded. I never yet was ashamed to stand by my convictions." The record was duly made.

The proposed federation of the evangelical churches of the country for charitable and humane work was approved by the General Assembly. The report of the committee recommending that the Presbyterian Church go into the federation was unanimously adopted. The preamble to the agreement adopted declaring that all churches which believe in the "divine" Lord and Savior should unite in the work. The Unitarians, disclaiming the divinity of Christ, are thereby excluded.

The branches of work upon which it is agreed to unite were marriage and divorce, Sabbath desecration, social evils, child labor, the relation of labor to capital, problems that are created by foreign immigration, the bettering of the conditions of the laboring classes, the moral and religious training of the young, etc.

Washington, D. C.—The Free Alcohol bill, relieving denatured alcohol from an Internal Revenue tax, was passed by the Senate, substantially as reported from the Committee on Finance. The only amendment made in the Senate was one providing that denaturalizing shall be done upon the application of any registered distillery in denaturalizing bonded warehouses especially designated for that purpose solely.

Roosevelt Said to Favor Taft.

Many public men in Washington, D. C., think President Roosevelt aims to have Secretary Taft nominated to succeed him in the White House.

Telephone Company Climbs Down.

The New York Telephone Company, in a letter from its Vice-President to the Mayor, offered to reduce its rates, invited an inspection of its accounts by the city and even suggested paying for its franchises.

Oil Trust's Private Telegraph.

The Standard Oil hearing in Cleveland disclosed that the trust has an extensive telegraph system, leased or owned, and does not depend on the regular telegraph service.

## FEATHERED HATS DOOMED

New York's Game Commissioner to Prosecute Users of Plumage.

Wages War on Milliners and Devotees of Fashion Who Sell and Wear Aigrettes.

Albany, N. Y.—Milliners, manufacturers of millinery, and followers of fashion will risk prosecution if there be a continuance of the sale and wearing of aigrettes.

Commissioner Whipple, of the State Forest, Fish and Game Department, served notice through the press to the milliners of the State, retail and wholesale, that his department intends to use every legitimate means to enforce the law prohibiting the possession or sale of the bodies or feathers of wild birds, whether taken in this State or elsewhere. Realizing the opposition which will undoubtedly meet his efforts to rob woman of her most popular hat trimming, he says "this department, being entrusted with the protection of bird life, is desirous of obtaining results without working any hardship to the public and the trade." The penalty for each violation of the law is a \$50 fine, and an additional \$25 for each bird or part thereof sold, offered for sale, or possessed. Commissioner Whipple's notice follows: "I respectfully call attention to our State law covering the possession or sale, for the purpose of dress or ornament, of the bodies or feathers of wild birds, whether taken in this Commonwealth or elsewhere. This law covers the skins and feathers, or parts thereof, especially of insectivorous birds, herons (aigrettes), gulls, song birds, terns, etc., whenever and wherever taken. It is respectfully suggested that you can best observe the spirit and letter of the law by removing from sale all such feathers and returning them to the wholesalers, and, further, by refusing to buy or sell such feathers, aigrettes, etc."

The Audubon Society has for some time waged war on the use of aigrettes made up from the plumage of the heron and osprey. It is a fact that the destruction of heron has been widespread of recent years as the dictates of fashion called for the manufacture of thousands of these millinery ornaments.

Commissioner Whipple says the law has been sustained by the Court of Appeals in the Siz case, which involved the use of game birds out of the closed season.

TRUST GOT RIVAL'S MESSAGES.

Interstate Inquiry Expected to Involve Telegraph Company.

Cleveland, Ohio.—The evidence which the secret agents of the Government have unearthed is said to show, among other things, that through an arrangement with one of the large telegraph companies the Standard Oil Company is said to receive information regarding every matter, business, political and social, which can in any way affect its business interests.

By alleged arrangement with one of the telegraph companies, it is stated, that messages which are sent by the telegraph company and which are of interest to Standard, are repeated immediately over the wires of the pipe line company and thus to the Standard Oil general offices in New York.

In this way the Standard Oil Company is enabled to obtain daily information of the business of their competitors.

All of this information, gathered daily from all parts of this country and by cable from all foreign countries, is sent to the general offices of the Standard, at No. 26 Broadway, New York, and there discussed.

PERKINS NOT GUILTY.

No Crime Committed in Giving Insurance Money to Campaign Funds.

New York City.—George W. Perkins, former vice-president of the New York Life Insurance Company, was discharged from custody by an unanimous decision of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to the effect that contributions to political campaign funds by life insurance companies did not constitute larceny.

Mr. Perkins paid \$48,000 to the National Republican campaign fund at the request of President John A. McCall, and later was reimbursed from funds of the company. The charge of larceny was made and Mr. Perkins was arrested.

KEBATE GIVERS GUILTY.

Jury Convicted Broker G. L. Thomas and Clerk—Out Thirty Minutes.

Kansas City.—George L. Thomas, a freight broker, of New York, and L. B. Taggart, a clerk employed by Thomas, were found guilty by a jury in the United States District Court of conspiracy with shippers to give rebates. The jury considered the case only thirty minutes.

Valuable Cape Cod Cottage Burned.

The Cape Cod (Mass.) summer home of Roland C. Nickerson, of New York, was destroyed by fire, and Mr. Nickerson, who was in the house, ill with an attack of heart disease, was awakened and carried out safely. The Nickerson home was one of the finest on Cape Cod, and with its furnishings, paintings and bric-a-brac, was said to be worth nearly \$200,000.

Deep Snow in Colorado.

San Miguel County, in Colorado, is covered with eighteen inches of snow.

Drastic Meat Inspection.

The Senate, Washington, D. C., passed a drastic Meat Inspection bill, insuring pure meats for home as well as foreign consumption.

Rate Bill in Conference.

The Rate bill was sent to conference by the House, Washington, D. C., after Mr. Cooper, of Wisconsin, had charged Chairman Hepburn with conspiring to cut out the express company amendment.

J. P. RICKMAN, President J. A. MADDEY, Cashier

## Bank of Hendersonville

A STRONG BANK

Four per cent paid on time deposits

We extend to our customers every courtesy consistent with sound banking

W. J. DAVIS, President GEO. I. WHITE, Vice-Pres. K. G. MORRIS, Cashier

## The Commercial Bank

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### ONE DOLLAR

Starts a Savings Account with this bank

TRANSACTIONING A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS

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### CASH or CREDIT

We Buy and Sell Horses and Mules, Wagons, Buggles, Harness, Feed Stuff of All Kinds

We will trade anything we have for anything you've got. Come and see us. We're open for business.

**NEWSY GLEANINGS.**

The public debt increased \$2,789,908 during the month of April.

Across Atlantic trips are expected to be shortened to four days by 1910.

The Society for Ethical Culture reports assets of more than \$1,000,000.

France imported \$300,000 worth of apples from Canada last summer and fall.

The latest census gives the population of London and the suburbs at 3,581,402.

Gifts of \$200,000 and \$125,000 from unnamed donors to Union Theological Seminary were announced.

Twenty-four thousand elementary school teachers in Ohio last year averaged but seventy-two cents a day.

The last batch of Russian prisoners returning from Japan arrived at Odessa recently, making a total of 67,000.

Trade between the United States and British Australasia in 1905 aggregated \$38,000,000 and will be larger this year.

Commerce of the United States with Argentina aggregates over \$40,000,000 per annum, and is growing very rapidly.

Zion City's eighty-foot watch tower, the first structure built by Dowle, has been torn down and made into sidewalks.

Several Japanese, who recently arrived at Vladivostok, have been arrested near the batteries and the forts as spies.

According to the United States Geological Survey the production of anthracite in 1905 amounted to 69,399,152 tons, valued at \$141,879,000.

In payment of a share of the French spoliation claims, now 100 years old, S. W. Curtis, of Chicago, has just received a check for eighty-eight cents.

Representative "Goulden" of New York, told the House Judiciary Committee that Senate "rats" at Albany, N. Y., have been reported as worth \$50,000 a year.

**THE LABOR WORLD.**

Milan and its World's Fair are paralyzed by a workmen's strike.

The Alien Labor bill was rejected on second reading in the British House of Lords.

The brickyards at Coeymans, N. Y., resumed work with a full complement of men.

The signing of the scale brought 2500 miners back to work in the mines of Belmont County, Ohio.

Paris coach builders have decided to continue the strike and employers are equally determined not to yield.

President John Mitchell, of the Mine Workers of America, has refused a \$30,000 position on the staff of a New York real estate concern.

A mercantile establishment in Peoria, Ill., has voluntarily cut the hours of work of its clerks. The store will open at 8 and close at 5:45.

Owing to sudden dullness on the Peru division of the Wabash seventeen locomotive firemen have been discharged and eight engineers put back to firing engines.

Four thousand workmen are employed in the manufacture of straw braids and hats at Florence, Italy, and 80,000 women and children devote their spare time to braiding and pleating.

Labor unions in San Francisco have used every means to further the relief work in that city. While the regular schedule of wages and hours have been maintained, all overtime pay has been suspended.

The Louisville Federation of Labor is preparing to take an active part in the coming Congressional campaign in the Fifth Kentucky District, in pursuance of the policy advocated by Samuel Gompers.

A bank organized and conducted by organized labor was opened, with \$500,000 capital, at Chicago. While labor leaders will be in actual control, the executive authority will be vested in men with banking experience.

**A Cheaper Way.**

Old Kelly—Do ye think men should be chloroformed at sixty, Norah?

Mrs. Kelly—Phat, wid chloroform so expensive! Phat's ta' matter wid an ax!—New York Press.

**NATIONAL GAME.**

George Stone, of St. Louis, has been stinging the ball hard.

Pitcher Witherup, of Boston, stands six feet high and weighs 185 pounds.

Al Orth has been pitching remarkably fine ball for the Highlanders lately.

The New York Club has transferred outfielder Eddie Hahn to the Chicago Club.

President Ebbetts, of Brooklyn, believes there should be legislation to more batting.

Congalton has replaced Jackson, the Cleveland outfielder. Jackson has not been hitting.

In view of Frank Schulte's great work there is no regret in Chicago over Sebring's defection.

Both Lajoie and Wagner have fallen off in batting this season. Who will be the new king of swat?

Walsh, of Chicago, is the only pitcher who has ever held Cleveland down one hit in a nine-inning game.

The Cleveland boys are not as good of that hunting as they were during the practice trip in the South.

Five Chicago Nationals are hitting over .300. They are Chance, Sebring, Steinfield, Kling and Reulbach.

Fred Parent has improved his batting twenty-five per cent. over last season, playing speedily up-to-date ball.

The poor hitting catchers in the American League are Kittredge, Guire, Buglow, Spencer and Powers.

In the game at St. Louis May 10, Tinker, of the Chicago, stole a base while the pitcher was delivering the ball.

If young Clarkson keeps coming may some day require the skill and feetiveness of his famous brother John.

The three S's are doing great work for Chicago. Sheard, Schulte and Slagle make a fine trio of outfielders and hitters.

One of the features of Constable is the great number of that roam its street. They are a common property of the city, and valuable as scavengers.