

THE EVENING FREE PRESS.

W. S. HERBERT, Editor and Proprietor.

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PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE.

It was in Wisconsin that a doctor proclaimed his contempt for vaccination, urging that smallpox is not contagious. To demonstrate the soundness for his idiotic opinion he spent some days in a pest house in close relation with a smallpox patient, then rode about the state on the cars and visited a number of families in different towns. Efforts to capture and cage the lunatic failed. How much his criminal idiosyncrasy has to do with the spread of the epidemic is not known, but that the situation is serious is indicated by the threat of the Chicago health officers to establish a quarantine against Wisconsin. This would mean the inspection of incoming trains for the detection of any of the unscrupulous and murderous fools who do not hesitate to travel when afflicted with smallpox and for the vaccination of passengers who may have been infected. It is supposed that if any such policy shall be adopted the quarantine will affect Iowa and Indiana, also. In Des Moines there are said to be 500 cases of smallpox, and in a score of other Iowa towns the epidemic is unchecked. Similar reports have been made as to Indiana towns.—Philadelphia Record.

It seems that smallpox is becoming prevalent over the whole union; although, as has been often stated the disease does not at present have near as large a per cent. of fatalities as was the case in the past. But it is just such fool ideas as was entertained by the Wisconsin doctor that causes the spread of the disease. A stronger public sentiment should be built up for the observance and enforcement of scientific sanitary laws, than is the case at present. Also, the health of the people should never be jeopardized for the sake of saving a few dollars.

In the handling of contagious diseases each community will always find in the matter of finances it true that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"—that the expending of a few dollars at the beginning will save expending as many hundred later.

The esteemed Madison Enterprise gives us the following:

"The present Democratic election law will disfranchise at least five hundred white men in Madison county simply because they are unable to pay their poll tax on time. It is hard enough to pay taxes, much less to be required to pay them more than six months before the election. Is this right?"

As the poll tax referred to is that which was due last September with an allowance of eight months in which to pay it, we must submit that the "five hundred white men" in Madison county who are thus described have no right to complain. If they are "unable to pay" the law permits the county authorities to relieve them. We dare say but few white men in Madison who are able to pay poll tax at all would require more than the eight months allowed—from September 1st to May 1st—to make ready.

After the first of May the sheriff or tax collector is required by law to proceed against the delinquent, and all the law above complained of does is to add the penalty of a forfeiture of the right to vote for going beyond the liberal limits allowed in which to pay the tax.—Raleigh Post.

In the manufacture of cotton goods, the two Carolinas lead all the states of the south and are only surpassed in New England by Massachusetts and Rhode Island. South Carolina holds first place, having \$39,258,946 invested in cotton mills and machinery. Its annual product amounts to \$29,723,919, with 42,663 looms. North Carolina has \$23,011,516 invested, has 25,469 looms, and the value of the products is \$28,372,796—a better showing as to product upon capital than South Carolina shows.

The much-heralded coming of Prince Henry will probably be postponed until later in the year on account of the illness of President Roosevelt's son. Of course we are glad to have the prince come to this country and he will receive a warm welcome, but are we not making too much of his coming?

Geo. H. White, the North Carolina negro ex-congressman, must have deeply felt the "cold shoulder" turned to him by his own color in Brooklyn. Serves him right for the "haughty" manner and seeming contempt in which he met most of his race when he was in office.

It is intimated that President Roosevelt's forthcoming decision will satisfy the extremists of neither faction in the Schley-Sampson controversy. "Straddling" would not have been expected of Teddy sometimes before he was president.

The Ellen M. Stone news is becoming about as tiresome as the South African war news.

Little New Hampshire has the largest legislature of all. It has 421 members and the ratio is one member for every 974 population, which is ridiculous.—Wilmington Messenger.

The steel trust people say they have more orders than they can fill, and are buying steel in Germany to help out. But Hanna says the trust couldn't get along without tariff protection.

March is said to be the month of fires—but how about February? This February, so far, has broken all records. Millions of dollars worth of property have gone up in smoke in different parts of the country.

The Wills of Noah and Jacob.
The origin of testaments is lost in obscurity, but doubtless they followed soon after the first institution of private property. Eusebius says that Noah made a will soon after the flood where-in he disposed of the whole world. He was certainly possessed of a considerable landed estate, but Eusebius' story of the testament in writing and witnessed under his seal needs confirmation.

In the forty-eighth chapter of Genesis, however, we do find mention of a will, wherein Jacob bequeathed to his son Joseph twice as much as to his other children. This was not a testament in writing, but a verbal or nuncupative testament, declared by the testator "in extremis" before witnesses and depending upon oral testimony.

Such nuncupative testaments were at one time recognized in English law, but in the eighteenth century, Blackstone says, they had fallen into disuse and were hardly ever heard of.

Neither Better Than the Other.
"This dollar"—began the cashier of the restaurant as he scrutinized the coin.

"Is bad, eh?" interrupted the sour looking patron.

"Well, it doesn't look very good."
"That so? Just bite it, and if it's anything like the dinner I had it'll taste even worse than it looks."—Catholic Standard and Times.



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