

Sometime ago THE FREE PRESS placed before its readers a letter from some silk manufacturers to the president of the chamber of commerce relative to the erection of a silk mill in our midst. What has become of the suggestion then made that our business men look into the matter? No one will deny that such an enterprise would vastly benefit the community. It would bring a large number of desirable wage earners into our midst; and it would undoubtedly prove a financial success to the stockholders. The silk mill men wanted to know what inducements or advantages we could offer.

The location of our town is an unexcelled advantage; and the enterprise and confidence shown by our recent vote on the bond issue is a standing advertisement for us.

We are offering these advantages and more too. Let our business men take hold of the project and see what is in it.

CLEAN THE BACK YARDS.

Now that the city has voted to spend money on public improvements let's see if there are not some essential private improvements that should be attended to.

Many yards of the city are in a disgraceful condition. The superintendent of health showed this in his excellent communication to THE FREE PRESS recently. But it does not require the attention of a specialist to discover this fact: the untrained observer—the wayfaring man, though a fool—provided he has at least partial use of his eyes and nose, cannot fail to be thoroughly convinced of the disreputable conditions to be found in many places.

This criticism applies especially to the back lots of business establishments. There are, probably, very few homes with unkept back yards. There should not be one.

There is not one scintilla of reason why people should not keep their places of business just as cleanly as they do their premises at home. The health of the "breadwinner" is just as valuable as is that of the wife or children at home; and his health is constantly menaced by conditions surrounding the store or office where he must spend the greater part of the time.

Now is the time to clean up. Burn up the accumulated trash, and haul off such as won't burn up. Drain off the standing water before it is alive with mosquitoes, tadpoles or bullfrogs, besides a choice lot of germs of various classifications. Then it is to be hoped that our town authorities will strain the resources at hand to "get a move on" those garbage wagons, so that they will make more frequent visits.

The spring is now well opened up, and summer will soon be here. WE MUST NOT HAVE DISEASE BREEDERS IN OUR MIDST. Prompt and careful attention to the filth that has accumulated in back lots, will save us much trouble for the future. It will not require much effort on the part of each individual. But that little effort is imperatively needed.

I have no legal or moral right to keep my premises in such a condition that my neighbor is liable to suffer thereby—even though I don't care anything for my own health and comfort. Now is the time to clean up!

TWO VIEWS.

Kinston held an election on Monday under a special act of the legislature to choose municipal officers and on the question of issuing bonds for city improvements. Persons who had registered under the grandfather clause were not allowed to vote under their certificates. If the poll tax payment provision applies to municipal elections it seems to us that the grandfather clause should also.—Wilmington Messenger.

There will no doubt be some differences of opinion as to this matter, but, in our judgment, the Kinston people settled it correctly. The permanent record of voters under the grandfather clause does not give to the man registered under that clause a better position than others. It merely makes him eligible to vote for all time without being subjected to the educational test. His certificate, while giving him this perpetual right to vote, ought not to exempt him from the duty of observing the necessary details to preserve the value of his ballot. The new constitutional amendment does not secure itself. It provides that no man registered under the grandfather clause shall be denied the right to vote, but that is all.—News and Observer.

DID HERSELF PROUD.

Kinston did herself proud Monday in the election on the question of issuing \$125,000 bonds for improvements. The bonds were carried by a large majority.—Wilmington Reformer.

FOR THE CHILDREN

The Lazy Cuckoo.

The cuckoo, though it does not actually lay its eggs in another bird's nest, does deposit them there with its beak after laying them on the ground. The egg is hatched out in due time by the foster parents, and the young cuckoo is reared by them.

As it acquires strength it makes use of a peculiar depression between its shoulders to raise and eject from the nest any eggs or unfortunate nestlings which may be there. The hedge sparrow, yellow hammer, pied wagtail and meadow pipit are among the birds whose nests are most frequently made use of by this intruder.

An American variety of cuckoo called from its note the cow-cow, seen very rarely in Europe, does not place its eggs in the nest of other birds, but builds and hatches for itself. It lays at long intervals, so that the young in the same nest often differ very much in age.

A Champion Swimmer.

In the world of sport today there are to be found some very clever boys. Most notable in swimming do the youths of England take their stand alongside the men. In this art the boys in some towns are a good deal smarter than the men, for who does not know of the prowess of David ("Boy") Billington of Buncup, now a full fledged champion and still a boy? Last year was Billington's season, and no mistake, for winning distance championships and breaking records of long courses have been his chief delights in 1902. David was born in 1885, and at ten years of age his father taught him to swim in the Maiden baths of Buncup. At twelve years of age the boy covered 1,000 yards in 15m. 55s., at thirteen years compassed a mile in 20m. 42s., phenomenal pace for a youth so tender in years. About 300 prizes Billington possesses.—Boy's Own Paper.

Lost in the "Bush."

The experiments in many beauty made possible by variations in the manner of growing a beard must at times create very mixed sensations among the friends of the experimenter, and we can sympathize with the little girl in the following anecdote, says the Little Chronicle.

A man had been away from home for some time and during his absence had raised a pretty luxuriant crop of whiskers, mustache, etc. On returning home he visited a relative, whose little girl he was very fond of.

The little girl made no demonstration toward saluting him with a kiss, as was usual.

"My child," said the mother, "won't you give Uncle Will a kiss?" "Why, mamma," returned the little girl, with the most perfect simplicity, "I don't see any place."

Boys' Cleverness With Flowers.

"If the public schools ever add to the curriculum the making of bouquets as a fine art, the boys will take much higher honors than the girls," lamented a perplexed teacher. "I used to wonder why it was that all the employees in a florist's establishment were men. Having no other explanation to fall back on, I concluded that the preference was due to their superior physical strength, but I know now that it is because they have better taste in the arrangement of flowers. With all her supposed inherent talent in the matter of home adornment, there isn't one girl in a thousand who can make a lot of flowers up into a decent bouquet without coaching, while on the other hand the boy who cannot put them together in artistic style is rare."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Shadow Buff.

This game, if well played, is great fun. A large white sheet is first hung securely on one side of the room, and on a table some distance behind a very bright lamp must be placed.

Then the players take it in turn to sit on a stool facing the sheet, while the rest pass behind, between him and the lamp. As the shadows are thrown on the sheet the sifter has to guess who the shadow represents.

This is more difficult than many people imagine, because you may disguise yourself in any way or make absurd grimaces or gestures, which makes the guessing far harder.

Either Head or Foot.

"Johnny, Johnny," wailed the fond parent, "I hear from school that you are at the foot of your class."

"So am I at the head of the class, ma," said the young hopeful. "It all depends on from which end you look at it."—Baltimore Herald.

Comp'ny's Comin' to Tea.

Norah's makin' a layer cake, A spicy kind; I wish She'd hurry an' put it in to bake, So I can scrape the dish. She's cross as sticks, an' the kitchen's just As hot as hot can be. It smells so good that I'm like to bust, Comp'ny's comin' to tea.

We'll have the chiniest ev'rything, An' I'll drink coffee—p'rhaps, An' more'n a dozen times ma'll ring To carry off the scrape. We're goin' to have ice cream, I know—I hope it's lemon, gee—An' soda biscuits—I saw the dough. Comp'ny's comin' to tea.

I mustn't talk at the table much; I mustn't kick my feet; I mustn't smack my lips or touch The stuff that I won't eat, An' I must take, when plates are passed, Whatever's nearest me (But not, of course, if it's the last). Comp'ny's comin' to tea.

I'll wear the dandiest blouse an' tie, An' if I'll stay about An' not get dirty ma says I May clean the dresser out, An' so I daren't tear an' moose Or climb a single tree Or sweat or soil my hands or face. Comp'ny's comin' to tea. —Woman's Home Companion.

ROSE THROUGH MERIT.

M. E. Ailes, Who Represents the Rockefeller at Washington.

Milton E. Ailes, who has just resigned his position of assistant secretary of the treasury to become vice president of the Riggs National bank of Washington, is the second of Secretary Gage's assistants who have been given responsible positions by the National City bank of New York, which owns a large interest in the Riggs bank, the largest institution of the kind at the national capital.

Financiers consider that Mr. Ailes in his new position will represent the Standard Oil bank's interests in Washington. The National City bank of New York, which is controlled by the Rockefellers, now has subordinate institutions in Chicago, St. Louis and Pittsburg, and it is deemed essential that the organization should extend to Washington.

From a minor clerkship Mr. Ailes worked his way up in the treasury de-



MILTON E. AILES.

partment until he secured a berth in the secretary's office. In 1896 he remained in office after the coming of the McKinley men for the purpose of breaking in a new corps of private secretaries. He was a Democrat and had no expectation of remaining in the department, but Secretary Gage soon became so impressed with his ability and good common sense that he made a special request that he remain as his private secretary after Frank Vanderlip had been promoted to an assistant secretaryship.

Since then Mr. Ailes' various important promotions have been warmly supported by Mr. Gage. There has been no political influence exerted in his behalf, although after a promotion had been decided upon it always met with the hearty approval of Senator Hanna, who had become impressed with Mr. Ailes' ability.

Mr. Frank Vanderlip was the first of Mr. Gage's secretaries to be given a position by the National City bank. He first attracted the attention of outside financiers by his handling of the Spanish war bond issue. He has been a vice president of the National City bank for a little less than three years. The first year his salary was \$10,000, the second \$20,000, and now it is \$30,000. Mr. Ailes' salary in the treasury department was \$4,500. His salary in his new position is probably much larger and offers greater opportunities.

RELINQUISHES HER ART.

Why Beautiful Miss Derrickson Retires From the Stage.

The stage has lost a noted beauty and charming actress by the retirement of Miss Marie Derrickson, who for two seasons has been playing the part of Mrs. Thornton in "The Mummy and the Humming Bird" in John Drew's company. Announcement was recently made that Miss Derrickson is soon to marry Francis O'Neill, a wealthy New York business man, and the stage will know her no more. Miss Derrickson has already left Mr. Drew's company, her place being taken



by Miss Georgie Mendum, who has rejoined the Drew forces. Miss Derrickson's first metropolitan success was as a member of the Empire theater stock company, and later she played important roles in "Eben Holden" and "Soldiers of Fortune," in both of which she attracted attention by her beauty and grace.

It Distressed Her. "I let him hold my hand last evening," she told her dearest friend. "Well," she said, with a regretful sigh, "he was satisfied with that."—Chicago News.

HINTS FOR FARMERS

Pick the Bagworms From the Trees.

On many fruit trees and shade trees one may find the cocoons of bagworms. They are usually from one to two inches long and are suspended by one of the pointed ends from the smaller branches of the trees. Each of the larger cocoons contains during the winter a large number of eggs. If these are allowed to remain on the tree until the eggs hatch in the spring, there will be produced from the eggs in a few cocoons enough young worms to strip all the leaves from a tree early in the summer. These worms seem to be especially fond of cedar trees and are very likely to be overlooked on these trees until they have become so numerous as to seriously damage the trees.

With these worms a stitch in time saves ninety. The cocoons picked from the trees should be thoroughly destroyed. Should it become necessary to destroy large numbers of the worms in the summer a good plan would be to dust or spray the trees with paris green, london purple or some other arsenical poison. One of the larger cocoons left on a marked limb of a small tree should afford a crop of worms which would give interesting and instructive object lessons to boys and girls and older folks. This crop of worms should be thinned from time to time, and when the worms retire into the cocoons to pupate the twigs from which they hang may be placed in covered glass jars. The male moths emerge as winged adults, but the female moths remain in the cocoons.—Midland Farmer.

Grape Black Rot.

Black rot in grapes causes the decay of the green berries, which do not fall, but dry up on the branch. The leaves and twigs of the grape are affected by the brown rot as well as the fruit. The first signs of it are whitish patches which later turn brown. Affected berries turn dark brown and wither. Powdery mildew, a parasitic disease, appears on leaves and twigs as a powdery growth. Sometimes the fruit on mildewed vines cracks open.

Where these diseases show themselves it is well to keep the vines in vigorous health and spray before the buds open in the spring, after budding and once ten days later. Four pounds of blue vitriol and four pounds of slaked lime mixed with a little water and diluted with fifty gallons of water make a good spray.

Rural Free Delivery.

We hear more or less complaint about the service on some rural free delivery routes. While some patrons are much better off under the new system, others who live off the main roads are worse off than they were before the little post offices were given up. Of course no one expects that a complete change of system, as this is, would work without any hitch from the start, but there ought to be steady and rapid improvement. The delivery systems in town and city are constantly being changed and improved. The same must be done with rural delivery. It will not do simply to change the system of country delivery and then let it alone. The best is none too good for the farmer.—Rural New Yorker.

Hungarian Grass.

If Hungarian grass were cut for hay as early as it should be—that is, in first blossom—it would be more highly regarded, for while it has not been ranked with hay made from the leguminous plants its analytical classification approaches so near to them that it is worth considering. Its habit of quick growth makes it especially valuable for planting after some earlier crop is removed.

Unless the land is very rich all these crops will manifest appreciation of an application of about 250 pounds acid phosphate, 40 pounds muriate of potash and 10 pounds sulfate of soda and heavy applications of the manure of tillage.—W. F. McSparran in Stockman and Farmer.

Barren Cornstalks.

Of course all farmers have noticed the large number of barren stalks in almost every field of corn. These barren stalks tassel and produce pollen, but the female blossom or silks are not pollinated, and no ears are formed. It has been determined by tests at the experiment stations that this barrenness is the result of seeds that have grown from plants fertilized by barren stalks. Where barren stalks have been cut away before the maturity of the pollen the number of barren stalks grown from the seed thus produced was greatly reduced. Therefore seed grown in fields having many barren stalks should never be used for planting.—Farm and Ranch.

Setting Strawberry Plants.

Strawberry plants will be injured badly by ten minutes' drying in the air while being set. A good plan is to distribute them in little boxes along the rows. They are taken from the boxes one by one and set immediately. Set even with the surface and press so firmly that a leaf could be pulled off without starting the plant. To cultivate the newly set plants a horse weeder is the implement to use.

Farmers Should Keep Accounts.

Every farmer should know just what every horse, cow, hog, sheep, hen, duck, goose, turkey, tree, vine, field and garden on his farm costs him and nets him. He can know this only through the keeping of accounts.

Facilitates Thinning.

The chief reason for training fruit trees with low heads is that it facilitates thinning, which can never be properly done where high topped trees are to be trained.

GOOD BLOOD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF



You know when rich, red blood is coursing through the veins, for it shows in the brightness of the eye, the beauty and clearness of the complexion, the smooth, fair skin, and robust, healthy constitution. It is good blood that imparts strength and energy to the body and keeps it in a state of healthfulness and vigor. Good blood is the foundation of good health, and to be physically and mentally sound it must be kept pure and untaunted.

People with good blood possess strong, steady nerves and are blest with good appetites and digestion, and enjoy sound, refreshing sleep. If we could always maintain the purity of the blood then we might enjoy perpetual health, but it becomes infected and poisoned and most of the ills that afflict humanity and undermine the constitution are caused by an impoverished or polluted condition of this vital fluid.

When the blood is diseased the skin loses its healthy appearance, and the complexion, its freshness and beauty and becomes red and rough and full of pimples and spots. Itching, scaly eruptions, blackheads, boils and rashes break out upon the body when the blood is too poor or too thin and acid, and is not supplying proper nourishment to the system. Debility, poor appetite, bad digestion, restless sleep and nervousness more often come from sluggish, impure blood than any other cause. To build up the blood, restore its lost properties and make it rich and nutritious again is the only rational treatment, and the proper way to get rid of skin troubles. There is no remedy like S. S. S. to accomplish this and it does it promptly and thoroughly. S. S. S. antidotes and removes from the blood all poisons and humors, and restores it to a normal, healthy condition, and invigorates and tones up the general health. When rich, red blood is again flowing through your veins all skin eruptions disappear, the appetite improves, the complexion clears and you get rid of those miserable depressing feelings and nervousness, and enjoy once more the blessings of good health. S. S. S. is nature's remedy for all blood and skin diseases. It contains no minerals whatever, but is guaranteed purely vegetable. Write for free book. No charge for medical advice or other information desired.

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