

THE COMMONWEALTH.

E. E. HILLIARD, Editor and Proprietor.

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NO. 47

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Compare our Work with that of
our Competitors.

EDITOR'S LEISURE HOURS.

OBSERVATIONS OF PASSING EVENTS.

COMMISSIONER of Agriculture S. L. Patterson recently wrote the postmaster general protesting against the sending of boll weevils through the mails. He has been assured through the postal authorities that the postal law against mailing insects and reptiles will be rigidly enforced. So we may rest about the probable spread of the boll weevil through the mails. Mr. Patterson is to be commended for his action in protesting against the mailing of the weevil to this State.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Board of Trustees of Trinity College has been called for Tuesday, December 1st. President J. H. Southgate has stated that the meeting is called to consider matters relating to Dr. Bassett's article in the South Atlantic Quarterly regarding the race question. It has been given out also that Dr. Bassett has already written his resignation. Whether Dr. Bassett intended saying just what he did say and whether he meant just what the people thought he meant, is a matter with him; but there is no doubt about the fact that his utterances have hurt Trinity College, and many people outside of the Methodist denomination think it would be better for the college if Dr. Bassett would resign and labor elsewhere.

MRS. CARRIE NATION is thought by many people to be crazy. She appeared in Washington some days ago and went to the White House to see President Roosevelt. Upon being told that she could not see him she became so violent that she had to be put out of the grounds. Soon she bobbed up in one of the Senate galleries, and astounded that august body by shrieking at them that they were traitors, and the like. She was taken out and carried to police headquarters and fined \$25 for disorderly conduct. She paid the fine and went on her way rejoicing or rather making preparations to rail at the next assembly she can find that does not adopt her method of suppressing the liquor traffic. Doubtless her first steps were taken in the hope of doing some good, but she seems to have out run her usefulness, if she ever had any.

WHETHER the following catchism is entirely orthodox throughout or not, it is worth studying a little: "What has brought this wonderful prosperity which our country now enjoys? Farming. What has brought our government back from Europe? Farming. What has brought interest down so low that every legitimate enterprise can work on borrowed capital and get rich? Farming. What of all professions would you recommend to the rising generation? Farming. What fosters commerce and stimulates manufacturers? Farming. What has caused the present boom in railroad building? Farming. What has dispersed our army of tramps? Farming. What business, if wisely conducted, will return something more than a living every year? Farming. What business is conducive to long life; and of all others least connected with crime, vice, etc.? Farming. What business, either directly or indirectly, is 'the power behind the throne' of all industries under the sun? Farming."

THE proper protection of our forests seems not to have been well impressed on the minds of the people generally. With the multiplication of railroads and the almost daily fires caused by sparks from engines, one sees destruction of forest interest at almost every turn. Long time ago the careful land owner raked around his fences and then raked off a strip of woods some hundred yards or more from the fence and burned off that strip of woods to protect his fences from the fires that might sweep in from the thickets. So the railroad ought to keep their right of way burned off to keep the sparks that fly from the engines from setting fire to adjacent woods. With the scarcity of timber and wood, every possible precaution ought to be taken against the destruction of forest growth; and if there is not a law compelling railroads to keep their right of way burned off there ought to be. Our forests must be protected. THE COMMONWEALTH has suggested before the creation of a forest commission in each county whose duty it should be to report on all forest fires and compel those who are responsible to make reparation for such loss.

THE public has read so much about the treaty with Panama that it is almost impossible to get at the real gist of what it is. Well, boiled down as well as we can see it, it is about this: The United States pays Panama ten millions of dollars for a territory ten miles wide across the isthmus of the canal, and grants an annual payment of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars beginning nine years after the ratifications of the treaty. There are several other considerations, such as the guarantee by the United States of the independence of Panama, and in turn Panama in substance agrees that the United States may do what it pleases in Panama. That is to say, the United States is to have the privilege of putting in sewer systems for the cities of Panama and Colon, and the Republic of Panama proposes that the requests of the United States in such things shall be granted. Protection in the canal enterprise is summed up in the following: "The Republic of Panama agrees if it should become necessary at any time to employ armed forces to protect the canal or the ships using the same, or the railways and auxiliary works to provide the necessary forces for such purposes, and that if it cannot effectively handle the situation, the Panama government will allow the United States to employ whatever force may be necessary for that sole purpose, the said force to be withdrawn when the necessity for its presence has ceased; that when the circumstances demand the United States may send forces to the isthmus, with or without the advice or consent of the Panama government; that no change either in the government or laws and treaties of the Republic of Panama shall, without the consent of the United States, affect in any way the provisions of this treaty."

NOTHING AND SOMETHING.

"It's nothing to me," the beauty said, With a careless toss of her pretty head, "The man is weak if he can't refrain From the cup you say is fraught with pain."

It was something to her in after years When her eyes were drenched with burning tears, And she watched in lonely grief and dread, And started to hear a staggering tread "It's nothing to me," the mother said, "I have no fears my boy will tread The downward path of sin and shame, And crush my heart and darken my name."

It was something to her when her only son From the path of life was early won, And madly cast in the flowing bow A ruined body and a shipwrecked soul. "It's nothing to me," the merchant said, As over the ledger he bent his head; "I'm busy today with tare and tret, And have no time to fume and fret."

It was something to him when over the wire A message came from a funeral pyre— A drunken conductor had wrecked a train And his wife and children were among the slain. "It's nothing to me," the young man cried; In his eyes was a flash of scorn and pride— "I heed not the dreadful things you tell, I can rule myself, I know full well."

'Twas something to him when in prison he lay, The victim of drink—life ebbing away, As he thought of his wretched child and wife, And the mournful wreck of his wasted life. "It's nothing to me," the voter said, "The party's loss is my greatest dread." Then he gave his vote for the liquor trade, Though hearts were crushed and drunkards made.

It was something to him in after life, When his daughter became a drunkard's wife, And her hungry children cried for bread, And trembled to hear their father's tread.

Is it nothing to us to idly sleep While the cohorts of death their vigil keep, Alluring the young and thoughtless in, And grind in our midst a grist of sin? It is something, yes, all for us to stand And clasp by faith our Savior's hand To learn to labor, live and fight On the side of God and changeless right.

Money in Farming.
Rich Square Times.
There is money in farming at present prices of farm products, perhaps better returns than most any other line of work at this time. As an instance of what can be done we mention the case of W. Ray Newsome, a colored man living near Rich Square. Some eight or ten years ago he bought a farm on the Eagle-town road near Rich Square on time and had to get supplies on time. He had no capital except a wife and several small children, yet during the last ten years he has paid every cent due on his farm, bought another farm and paid for it, owns new wagon and buggy and good horses, in fact has his farm well equipped and is now putting up a new residence and has the money on hand to pay for it. He owns real estate worth \$2,000. It is needless to say his credit is good. All this has been made in a period of great depression, part of the time cotton being down to five cents and less. Of course he worked hard to accomplish all this, but no harder than others work who are in cities and on railroads.

There are many examples of successful farming in this section. Our farmers live better, have better health and perhaps enjoy life better than any other class of workers. They are truly independent except those who persist in remaining in the old rut.

CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY IS PLEASANT TO TAKE.
The finest quality of granulated loaf sugar is used in the manufacture of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and the flavor is in its preparation, give it a favor similar to maple syrup, making it quite pleasant to take. Mr. W. L. Roderick, of Pooleville, Md., in speaking of this remedy says: "I have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy with my children for several years and can truthfully say it is the best preparation of the kind I know of. The children like to take it and it has no injurious after effect. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Scotland Neck, and Leggett's Drug Store, Hobgood.

IT KEEPS THE FEET WARM AND DRY.
Ask today for Allen's Foot Ease, a powder. It cures Chillsblains, Swollen, Sweating, Sore, Aching, Damp feet. At all druggists and shoe stores, 25

UNCLE SAM'S PRINTING SHOP.

FINEST PLANT IN THE WORLD.

It Pays Four Million Dollars in Wages a Year.

Washington Dispatch to New York Sun.
Uncle Sam's big new printing shop is about in apple pie order. It is undoubtedly the finest establishment of its kind in the world.

The removal of the shop from the old, ramshackle building erected long before the civil war by private individuals who used to do the government printing by contract, has been going on for the past month or six weeks. The old structure was an overcrowded and unsatisfactory place, and the wonder is how the government ever turned out within its walls the necessary public documents. Many of the difficulties were overcome by having a part of the force quartered in rented buildings in various parts of the city.

The agitation for a new printing office started in earnest fifteen years ago. Repeated warnings were given by experts that the building was unsafe. With the heavy machinery and type and the enormous amount of paper and other material that had to be kept constantly in stock, it is not remarkable that at times, vibrations of the building were felt which almost created a panic among the thousands of employes.

When Ford's Theatre, in Tenth street, which was occupied by the Record and Pension Bureau of the War Department, collapsed some years ago and killed a score or more of clerks, the prediction was made that, if Congress did not soon provide a modern and more spacious home for the printing office, there would be another disaster of the same kind.

In those days, Washington real estate syndicates or combinations seemed to have the power to hold up Congress. But Congress has learned a thing or two; and instead of submitting to being pestered by real estate sharks, when a site for a public building is wanted, it now orders condemnation proceedings. That finally had to be done in securing the site for the printing office.

Much delay was occasioned because the late General William Mahone, of Virginia, and his friends made a stubborn fight to sell the government a square which they owned. Mahone had lost much of his fortune; and Senators, especially, felt sorry for him because at one time, while a member of the Senate, he enabled the Republicans to maintain a majority. But the House would not go into the scheme.

It was not until 1899 that the first appropriation for the new printing office was authorized by Congress. The limit of cost was then fixed at \$2,000,000. A year later it was increased to \$2,429,000. It will be strange if further appropriations are not called for at the approaching session of Congress to decorate the interior, to purchase additional machinery and to provide furniture and fixtures.

Solidity rather than showy architecture was aimed at in the construction of the big building. Constructed mainly of brick, it is pronounced by officials to be about as nearly fireproof as it is possible to make it.

It is a U-shaped building, and the window frames are of cast iron. Hard woods have been used throughout. The walls are uncommonly thick, and there is nothing of an inflammable nature dividing the various rooms, under the flooring or in the roof.

The building has a frontage of 403 feet on G street and 175 1/2 feet on North Capitol street. It is seven stories high, with basement and attic, and there are spacious damp proof vaults for storage purposes under the G street and North Capitol street sidewalks.

Aside from the large appropriations for building and repairs, the sum set aside for operating the printing office proper has been increasing steadily for several years at the rate of from \$400,000 to \$500,000 each year. The constantly increasing demands upon the gigantic shop are responsible for this.

In round numbers it costs something like \$6,235,000 a year to operate the plant. It is many more times expensive than similar government plants of Great Britain, Germany, Russia and other leading European countries.

Our Public Printer, considering the onerous duties devolving upon him, his manifold responsibilities in having to employ and look after an army of between 4,000 and 5,000 people, is a very poorly paid official. His salary and allowances are but little in excess

WORTH A KING'S RANSOM.

Saved From the Maelstrom of Catarrh How Peruna Saves Lives



MRS. COL. E. J. GRESHAM, Treasurer Daughters of the Confederacy, and President Herndon Village Improvement Society, writes the following letter from Herndon, Fairfax county, Va.:
Herndon, Va.
The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, O.
Gentlemen— I cannot speak too highly of the value of Peruna. I believe that I owe my life to its wonderful merits. I suffered with catarrh of the head and lungs in its worst form, until

Ask your Druggist for a free Peruna Almanac for 1904.

of \$5,000 a year. Hundreds of men at the head of private enterprises of this sort—and not nearly so important—get more money than he does, and certainly earn the salary.

In wages alone Public Printer Palmer paid out during the last fiscal year more than \$4,000,000. In his estimate for the coming fiscal year, ending June 30, 1904, the Secretary of the Treasury will ask Congress to vote \$4,500,000 for wages in the printing office.

In round numbers the paper bills amount to \$750,000; material and supplies other than paper cost last year \$680,000, and the bills for lithographing and engraving amounted to \$210,000.

Uncle Sam's book-binders is as complete as money and skill can make it. Much costly machinery is bought for this branch as the government is yearly turning out finer publications. The map printing is also an expensive and artistic feature of the work.

For some of the so-called little articles the following amounts are paid out in a year: Thread, \$12,000; twine, \$3,000; flour, for paste, \$600; soap, \$700; sponges, \$890.

In a single year the enormous number of 1,645,519 documents, including those received and distributed, were handled by the office.

The labor unions have had a firm grip on the printing office for years, and so great is the power of the Typographical Union especially, that the old method of setting type by hand still prevails. All attempts made in Congress to install type-setting machines have failed.

The first signal defeat met here by these organizations was through the stand taken recently by President Roosevelt in declaring the printing office an "open shop" and ordering Book-binder Miller restored to his place, in spite of the protests of the Central Labor Union of Washington, the International Bookbinders' Union, and the International Typographical Union and others.

About fifteen years ago steam presses were ordered for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in place of the hand presses so long in use. The labor unions kicked up such a rumpus over this innovation that the late Congressman John J. O'Neill, of St. Louis, who was then chairman of the House committee on labor, did not rest until the old-fashioned hand presses were restored.

Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets are becoming a favorite for stomach troubles and constipation. For sale by E. T. Whitehead & Co., Scotland Neck, and Leggett's Drug Store, Hobgood.

ed. Those opposed to the use of steam presses said they turned out inferior work, but the officials stoutly denied the assertion.
Employees of the government printing office doing time work receive good wages, the records showing that exactly 1,886 men in a year earned between \$1,000 and \$2,000 each. Fully two-thirds of this number averaged about \$1,400. Many of the 1,886 received between \$1,500 and \$2,000.
The most costly publication turned out by the printing office is the agricultural report. It cost \$220,000 for the last issue, and 2,300 employes were engaged on it at different times, all doing piece work.
For several years before his expiration as Speaker, the Hon. Thomas Brackett Reed used fairly to rave about the great amount of printing ordered by Congress, and he did his utmost to have expenses reduced, but in vain. He was always a fierce opponent of giving members leave to print in the Record speeches that were not actually delivered. And he never wandered over to the Senate chamber and heard the venerable and loquacious Mr. Morgan of Alabama, delivering one of those ten-hour discourses that he did not exclaim: "What a waste of human time!"
Just before his death Mr. Reed predicted that if some plan were not speedily adopted to shorten the speeches and abolish the print privilege, the Congressional Record would soon become too voluminous for the average library.
A RUNAWAY BICYCLE.
Terminated with an ugly cut on the leg of J. B. Orner, Franklin Grove, Ill. It developed a stubborn ulcer unyielding to doctors and remedies for four years. Then Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured. It's just as good for Burns, Scalds, Skin Eruptions and Piles. 25c. at E. T. Whitehead & Co.'s drug store.
There are animals purporting to be whales a-swim in the ocean of Fame of whom Posterity will easily pack a dozen at a time into a sardine box.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.
A REMARKABLE CASE.
One of the most remarkable cases of a cold, deep-seated on the lungs, causing pneumonia, is that of Mrs. Gertrude E. Fenner, Marion, Ind., who was entirely cured by the use of one Minute Cough Cure. She says: "The coughing and straining so weakened me that I ran down in weight from 148 to 92 pounds. I tried a number of remedies to no avail until I used One Minute Cough Cure. Four bottles of this wonderful remedy cured me entirely of the cough, strengthened my lungs and restored me to my normal weight, health and strength." Sold by E. T. Whitehead & Co.

To Cure a Cold in One Day
Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. *E. T. Whitehead*
Seven Million boxes sold in past 12 months. **on every box 25c.**