

POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS ON TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Under this head will be printed from time to time noteworthy utterances on themes of current interest. They will be taken from public addresses, books, magazines, newspapers, in fact wherever we may find them. Sometimes these selections will accord with our views and the views of our readers, sometimes the opposite will be true. But by reason of the subject matter, the style, the authorship, or the views expressed, each will have an element of timely interest to make it a conspicuous utterance.

Needed Reform in Jury Selecting.

Progressive Farmer. Equalize the number of challenges. Give the State the right of appeal. These reforms ought to be discussed in the press and on the platform throughout North Carolina, and the next general Assembly should put them on our statute books. It is the painful truth that our present system encourages crime, weakens respect for law, fosters lynching, and menaces the peace and safety of our citizens. Let us still give the prisoner his twelve chances to one before the jury, but if the public is not to lose the power of self-protection, it must be on an equal footing with the criminal in selecting the jury and in righting the wrongs brought about by unjust ruling or corrupt practices.

"Sheldon Idea" in Journalism Successful.

Charity and Children. More than a year ago one of the great newspapers of London, the Daily News, adopted in a modified form, what is known in this country as the "Sheldon idea" of journalism. The principal feature of the policy adopted by that staid old journal was the exclusion of all reports of betting sports and all liquor advertisements from its columns. The first effect of the policy was heavy loss, more than \$100,000 worth of advertisements being withdrawn the first year. Now, it is stated, the paper is prosperous and its circulation is growing rapidly. The objectionable matter is excluded on principle, and not with a view to greater gain, the proprietor believing that betting on sports and the liquor traffic are an immoral alliance which is the source of great immorality. The success of this experiment proves, once more, the truth of the old axiom, that in the long run principle will win.

The Prevalence of Municipal Corruption.

Richmond News-Leader. It is not risking much to assert that if any one would take the trouble to collect the statistics bearing on the subject, it would be found that corruption, inefficiency, neglect and rottenness in greater or less degree constitute the rule in municipal governments throughout the United States. One rarely picks up a newspaper that he does not find support of that assertion. Every day nearly appears some new candidate for notoriety in this line. The contamination seems to be constantly spreading. The stupendous boodling unearthed in St. Louis, the gigantic system of graft Carter Harrison referred to as obtaining in the Chicago city hall, the wholesale "knock downs" that from time to time have been revealed in New York, the unblushing blackmailing and stealing that have characterized Philadelphia, but represent in more glaring form and on the larger scale the opportunity offers, what is going on in communities, big and little, all over the land.

A WEEK OF SPECIALS!

At the Big Store, Thomson Co.

This week we put on some unmatched bargains. We have scooped in some good things and our customers get the benefit.

- 5000 yards Avon Bleaching. We closed a lot of Sheeting from the Avon Mill and had it bleached. The count is 96 by 100. Equals Lonsdale Cambric. There are two lots, it goes this week for, 8c & 10c. Never again will we be able to offer such bargains. 5000 yds. short lengths heavy Shirtings. 1 1/2 to 3 yd. pieces at 3c yard. 5000 yds. Rescue Sheet-ing, Loray Mill Sheet-ing go this week at, yd. 5c

And to make this week interesting we have in every department, put out some specials.

Never before in the history of this business have we had such easy selling. Our business has grown every day since we started over two years ago. Low prices, energy, truth, and capacity are the principles which have brought this store to its present magnitude, and will promote its future growth.

Thomson Co.

The People's Store :: :: Phone 46

THE PHONE ON THE FARM.

Half a Million Installed in the Last Five Years.

New York Sun.

The spread of what is known as independent telephony, which followed the running out of the fundamental telephone patents in this country, has had many striking developments, but none more remarkable than those which have given every farmer in the land the chance to rig up a telephone and thus put himself in direct touch with the outer world. The ubiquitous trolley, running out into the rural regions from the nearest urban centres, has done much to change the conditions of rural and agricultural life; but over and above all the telephone is proving the instrumentality of what is, as a matter of fact, a new civilization.

Only those who have travelled of late through the rural parts of the great Middle States and of those in the Northwest can have the remotest idea of the manner in which, finding the telephone available and cheap, the farmer has seized upon it with avidity, and connected himself up with some co-operative system in his own neighborhood or again, with bolder effort, has pushed out and joined his own line with the network of some adjoining village. The co-operative principle has in this way received a new and striking exemplification while the economic outcomes, even at this early stage, are so wide reaching that it is hard to determine just where the effects of this change will stop.

It is estimated that during the last five years telephones have been put into nearly half a million rural homes. The farmer finds that with the telephones he can keep in touch with the market, selling his produce or live stock when quotations are the most favorable.

By sparing himself and his help useless trips back and forth for the purpose of delivering his products, or of ascertaining the status of the market, he now saves a vast amount of time in the course of the year. When he is assured by information over the telephone that he can sell to advantage he loads up his wagon and not till then.

As illustrating the advantage of keeping in touch with the market, an incident in last year's transactions in broom corn in Illinois is related. A prospective rise in the market was preceded by great activity on the part of the brokers.

Buyers from the outside began to clean up the broom corn at \$60 a ton, when a telephone manager called up the farmers on his system and told them the market was rapidly rising. The result was that before the season ended they got \$240 a ton for their crop. One farmer reports that in addition to getting nearly double the usual work out of his teams, through their being saved futile trips to market, he has been enabled to do away with the hire of two men, as he could spend more time on his farm and save the diminished output of the hand at work in his absence.

Another farmer saved all his buildings by being able to summon help quickly from a nearby town and also from his neighbors when a fire broke out. Still another, by getting a physician promptly, saved the life of his only son, when the delay of half an hour would have been fatal.

It is now a common practice for the country doctor to give directions by telephone for caring for the patient both diagnosing and prescribing. In Illinois the speeches of a recent political convention were listened to by the farmers on a rural system as they sat in their homes from fifteen to thirty-six miles away. Being in speaking distance of his neighbor, not only does the farmer feel a new sense of personal security, but he knows that his belongings are safer from molestation than they ever were before. The telephone has been instrumental in causing the arrest of many horse thieves and outlaws and in some districts the farmers have almost broken up chicken stealing and petty larceny by telephoning the police and commission merchants of their losses, and thus enabling prompt arrests to be made.

That some women have ingenious ideas of their own as to the purpose of the telephone is evident from the stories that crop up from time to time of the experiences of the inspectors. One of these officers relates that one of his linemen went into a house to inspect the telephone on a rural line in Adams county, Ill. Seated in a rocking chair, con-

tendedly occupied with her knitting, was the wife of the subscriber to the system.

At first sight the lineman thought she was wearing a novel kind of head-dress, but a second glance discovered the fact that she had tied the telephone receiver to her ear and was listening to every conversation that passed over the wire.

Another woman wanted to go on an errand some distance down the village street, so she took the receiver off the hook, and left it on the table near the cradle, telling the central operator that if her baby began to cry she was to call her up at the grocer's.

An innovation in the use of the telephone which promises to be the vogue is already very popular. The local grocer or butcher, realizing that time is money, pays for the monthly rent of the telephone of any of his customers who spend \$25 at his store during the month, or makes a corresponding discount for a smaller expenditure. He finds that in the increased amount of business coming through the greater ease of transmitting orders, and the reduction in his staff of order men, he can well afford to throw in the telephone service, which furthermore becomes a splendid advertisement for his store.

In the early days of the rural telephone the farmers were content to utilize their fence wires for intercommunication, and in many districts, particularly in the Western States, this method so reduced the cost of installation as to enable many communities to have a tolerably effective service, which otherwise would have had to go without any. But the farmers are becoming more fastidious. They now want good service and they are getting it.

The systems employed range from a single line, with from three or four to a dozen instruments connected, to comprehensive systems covering entire counties and having hundred of patrons. For instance, in Geauga county, Ohio, near Cleveland, where there is a population of about 14,000, there are over 1,000 patrons, the number in each township ranging from fifty to nearly four hundred. Great attention is paid to toll service, and the best construction and apparatus are insisted on as being in the long run the most economical.

An example of the village and rural exchange in Few Augusts, Ind., with seventy-five subscribers, fifty of whom are farmers, the most distant being about seventy miles. When a single neighborhood line with a few instruments attached is desired a switchboard is not necessary. The subscribers signal each other direct by giving different combinations of rings.

So easy has the organization of rural telephone systems become that it is safe to predict that within a very few years the majority of the 4,000,000 farmers said to be yet unprovided with telephone service will have followed the example of their more enterprising brethren and brought themselves within touch of civilization. If any community wishes to install a system, no matter how limited, it has only to communicate with a reputable installation firm to receive the fullest and the clearest instructions as to how to go about it.

A favorite method of organizing is for the farmers to form partnership or co-operative (mutual) companies for the furnishing of service only to the locality in which the subscribers live. Sometimes the service is furnished by nearby telephone exchanges running lines into the rural districts.

In some places service cannot be given by city companies. In such case, the farmers can form themselves into a company, subscribers for the stock on pro rata or other basis, and install the system, running a direct line from their switchboard to that of the nearest town or city exchange. This is called the community system, the heart of which is the small switchboard, from which radiate in different directions the lines to which the various subscribers' telephones are attached.

The forty-third annual State Fair opened Tuesday at Raleigh with the largest attendance in its history.

Cuy L. Bush of Washington has been appointed bank examiner for North and South Carolina to succeed Mr. Walter R. Henry of Charlotte who recently resigned at the request of the Comptroller of the Currency.

TOO MANY STUDIES.

The Curriculum of Schools so Crowded that Necessary Instruction is Not Given in the Simpler and More Useful Studies.

Baltimore Sun.

Business men who advertise for youths to fill positions requiring a knowledge of "the three Rs" complain that the boys who apply for employment often spell badly, know little arithmetic and display general ignorance in matters of everyday concern to themselves and their employers. They can recall isolated facts in a number of ologies. They can also parse, and they may have a smattering of algebra and Euclid. As respects baseball records and names of champion football experts they have well-stored minds and retentive memories. But to do a comparatively simple sum involving the exercise of a little common sense, the manipulation of a few vulgar fractions or decimals and the application of familiar rules—this is beyond them. Boys of from 14 to 16, in an age of abundant and costly free schools, are wanting in the very elements of a practical education. Nor is this confined to poor boys, the sons of parents struggling with adversity, but presidents of colleges and technological schools affirm that rich men's sons now days come to their institutions wretchedly equipped as respects the three R's. The skill required to write decently a plain English sentence and spell the words correctly seem to be scarcer and scarcer every year. Our engineering exchanges are continually harping on the propriety of an engineer's being able to write a report in intelligible English and in words so spelled as to avoid bringing his technical knowledge into contempt. The "education," in fact, engenders its greatest obstacle in the shortcoming of the lower schools. The cause of this decrease of efficiency in the schools that give the average boy all the education he ever gets is to be found, it is believed, in the multiplicity of subjects taught at the dictation of faddists, interested publishers and ignorant school authorities. The latter are perpetually adding to the curriculum new sciences or accomplishments, thus laying new burdens on the backs of the harassed teacher. In almost every grade the boy also suffers, being forced to cram a far greater variety of subjects than is studied by the boy of the same age who is being educated in an expensive private school. Both teacher and pupil have more than they can do. The former is unable to give his individual attention to each of his many pupils, and the latter lack the mental capacity to absorb the multifarious sciences, arts and crafts presented to their undeveloped faculties. The system is at fault. The boys get no thorough grounding in essentials, but are hurried on from grade to grade, digesting such scraps of knowledge as they can. The remedy is to sweep away the ruck of ologies which prevent a thorough training and recur with constant emphasis to the three Rs. Reading, writing and arithmetic, taught with old-fashioned attention to spelling, would satisfy the educational requirements of the great majority of boys vastly better than the present chaotic curricula. A way must be provided for bright boys who want more, but the needs of the average boy who "goes into business" should be the first concern of our school authorities. As things go, "education" for the latter is a mockery. It is a mockery because it ignores the well-tried maxim, "Not many things, but much."

Peco Petticoats Always in the Lead



The very best black mercerized Saten Petticoats that we have ever offered at these prices; and they have the Peco label, which is a guarantee of the meritorious materials, cheaply cut, excellent workmanship and invaluable values. Absolutely nothing on the market that can touch these matchless garments.

Prices: \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2.25, \$3.00, \$4 JAS. F. YEAGER

Horses and Mules

The season has now arrived for the Horse and Mule trade and we are prepared to furnish you what you may need in this line. Have already received our car-load of good Tennessee Horses and Mules and expect another car of Mules by the last of this week. Among them will be some extra nice matched pairs suitable for farm or team use. Call and see them.

WAGONS.

We have just received a car-load of Old Hickory Wagons. They are too well known to need describing. We can give you any size you need.

RAKES AND MOWERS.

We still have some McCormick Mowers and Rakes to be sold on easy terms.

BUGGIES AND HARNESS.

We always have a nice line of Buggies, Surreys, and Harness, and have just received a nice line of winter Lap Robes.

When in need of any thing in our line we will be glad to have you call and will take pleasure in showing you our stock.

Craig and Wilson.

Gastonia Banking Co.

Gastonia, N. C.

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS, \$75,000.00

State Bank Incorporated May 13, 1903

STATE AND COUNTY DEPOSITORY

Table with 2 columns: OFFICERS and DIRECTORS. Officers: JNO. F. LOVE, President; R. C. G. LOVE, Vice Pres.; JAS. A. PAGE, Cashier. Directors: R. C. G. LOVE; JNO. F. LOVE; EGGAR LOVE; ROBT. A. LOVE.

The Road to Clothing satisfaction leads to this store.

WELCOME to THIS STORE

AUTUMN AND WINTER OPENING, 1903-04.

If you wish to know how to dress correctly for this Autumn and Winter seasons and at the same time economically, we cordially invite you to visit our store to-morrow morning and inspect the new season's Suits and Top Coats which we have gathered from the best manufacturers in the country. We have not confined our purchases to any one or two houses, but selected the best from many and the results certainly surpass every previous effort. It is not alone the moderate prices that count with us, but the great values which we offer at such prices and the growing readiness in every line and thread and the same rule applies to our Hats and Hosiery.

We are proud of the clothing we are able to make at such prices: Men's Top Coats, \$10.00 to \$25.00; Men's Suits, \$15.00 to \$30.00.

There is one collection, however, which we wish you to see particularly, and which will exemplify every phase of the new season's fashions, in fabric and design, and they are the Suits and Top Coats which we have marked.

You could not get the same quality and style made-to-measure for less than \$25, and even then you will not be as sure of the fit and satisfaction as you are with these.

BOY'S CLOTHING.

The boy will use his clothes hard if he is healthy, and it is a good sign. It is "up-to-you," therefore, to provide the kind that will "stand the racket." If you buy of us, we guarantee that they will do so, and our prices will always save you money.

Our display of Autumn Hats and Hosiery is complete with the finest that the market affords, and on every purchase in either department, we guarantee a direct saving of money for you.

J. Q. Holland & Co.

THE OLD RELIABLE



Absolutely Pure THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE