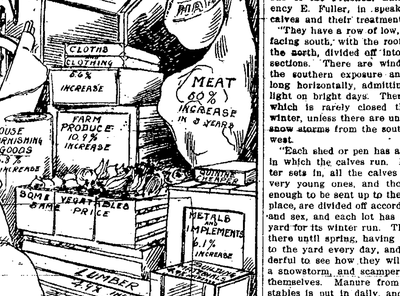
HOW COST OF LIVING HAS INCREASED



THE COST OF LIVING

HAS INCREASED 44 PER CENT. IN LAST TEN YEARS.

Meat Has Gone Up 50 Per Cent. In Those Years—Farm Products Higher—Drugs as a Rule Lower.

Chicago.—It costs more to live, anywhere in the United States, than it did ten years ago. But comparisons of Chicago price increases with those discovered by the national government show that the law of compensation has not been altogether off the job here.

For instance, coal here is higher—at full 100 per cent. higher than ten years ago. But if you have no coal, and catch cold through lack of it, you can buy quinine to cure your cold much cheaper than you could in 1898.

On the other hand, coffee is cheaper on the Chicago retail market than it was a decade ago, but the drink most in favor for curing indigestion, which coffee sometimes causes, are costlier than they were then.

Meat has gone up scandalously—in fact, 50 per cent. in three years. Oh, very well....Vegetables and canned goods are about as cheap as ever, and the logic of the household expense account is making more vegetarians than appeals to sentiment ever did.

The government figures show a higher price on the whole in 258 commodities that enter largely into the living of all the people. In 1907 the percentage was lower than in 1897 by 44.4 per cent. higher than 1897, the year of lowest prices during the 18 year period, and 29.5 per cent. higher than the average for the ten years, 1890 to 1900.

For farm products, taken as a whole, the increase was greatest—namely, 10.9 per cent.; for food, 4.8 per cent.; for cloths and clothing, 5.6 per cent.; for fuel and lighting, 2.4 per cent.; for metals and implements, 6.1 per cent.; for lumber and building materials, 4.9 per cent.; for drugs and chemicals, 8.3 per cent.; for housefurnishing goods 6.8 per cent., and miscellaneous, 5 per cent.

Chicago lumbermen say the government's estimate is about right for the increase in Chicago market prices for their wares. Increasing depletion of the forest, they say, has kept the price ascending gradually, and the average increase in cost which enters into ordinary living expenses is around 5 per cent.

Furniture and house furnishings have soared, and experts on the Chicago market say the government's 6.8 per cent. is too low to serve locally. Not less than 15 per cent., they say, has been the increase here. This is due to scarcity of material, especially oak, to higher cost of the materials for iron and brass furniture, and to higher prices of labor.

Drugs and chemicals, of such sort as to affect the cost of living, went higher, say by 5 per cent., in Chicago last year than in 1898; but they have fallen until they are about where they were, and in some instances, such as quinine, lower than ever. The higher prices were caused by the scarcity of root and herb diggers, the lower prices by the financial panic.

As to canned goods, peaches sold in 1897 for the same as they did in 1907, while some canned products were much cheaper ten years ago. The cause for this was that fruits and vegetables were plentiful last year, while the production was much larger. Last year beans were scarce and higher. Up to the time of the panic buying they not drop off, but since then prices have been dropping until they are about as low as they were in 1896.

The cost of preparing food products is much higher now on account of the increased cost of labor, also the increase in the farm products that go into them. Sugar is higher this year than in 1907, while coffee is cheaper. Tea is as cheap as it has been in several years. Staple commodities are not high this year in the grocery line. In many commodities the prices are 10 per cent. lower than they were in 1907.

A leading clothier says that clothes are higher than in the last two years and that this should not be. This is largely due to the scarcity of wool, but is in part due to existence of clothing combinations to keep prices up.

Cotton is no higher, yet the manufacturers are in combination to maintain high prices. Ten years ago woolsuits were 10 per cent. lower than they are now, and were made of as good material and as well made, but without the same degree of care as to style. Higher labor cost, higher wool, property, and combinations among manufacturers are the reasons he gives for the higher prices of clothing.

Shoes are cheaper on the average than ever they have been, but are only five per cent. cheaper than at their highest point, in 1907. They have, however, gone up in price 15 per cent. in the last 18 years, but to compensate for that they are better made. The increase in cost of shoes is due to the high price of hides, which have increased in 18 years 150 per cent. Shoes are relatively cheaper than the hides from which they are made, this seeming paradox being due to improved methods of manufacture.

The price of meat has been soaring for the last 18 years, and it is generally conceded that this has been due to the going out of the range cattle and the consequent scarcity of beef cattle, and the combination among the packers, who have virtually a monopoly of the business, having driven the small, country and town butchers out of business. This spring, during a period of ten days, some of the best stock took an upward flight of 30 to 50 per cent., and the average for the year is fully 25 per cent. higher than last year, which was 25 per cent. more than the year before.

Prosperity and high wages, as well as the scarcity of cattle, are given by the packers as being responsible for the rise in prices in the last ten years.

LET PASTOR WASH IN CREEKS.

Two Congregations Can't Afford Bathroom for Parsonage.

Pennburg, Pa.—By a decisive vote the congregations of the Sumneytown Lutheran charge have decided that cleanliness and godliness are not correlated to such an extent that a bathroom should be provided for the parsonage.

The pastor, Rev. Charles L. Dapp, is spending the summer in Germany, and some of the members proposed to equip the parsonage in Sumneytown with a bathroom prior to his return. Special meetings were held by the two congregations at Sumneytown and Keeler's church, which comprise the charge, and determined opposition to the bathroom project developed among the older members. They and their pastors had managed to get along for generations without bathrooms, they argued, and they saw no reason for introducing such newfangled notions.

Three cases in the neighborhood, it was intimated, afforded abundant opportunity for bathing.

When the vote was taken the result in the Sumneytown congregation was 24 in favor of the improvement and 74 against, while the majority against the bathroom in Keeler's congregation was almost as large.

Strip Mountain for Coal.

Pottsville, Pa.—One of the biggest coal strippings ever exploited by the Reading Coal & Iron company, is to be opened in the vicinity of Gilberton, the mining engineers having completed their plans for the gigantic feat.

The entire north side of the mountain is to be dug off, laying bare the mammoth vein, which has a thickness of more than 20 feet at this point.

There will be from 1,200 to 1,500 square feet of coal surface exposed ready for preparation for the market at slight cost.

OPEN AIR TREATMENT.

Calves Are Healthier When Kept in the Open.

For the past 12 years or more Hood farm in Massachusetts has been rearing its choice Jersey calves and carrying them through the winter by what is termed the "open air methods." In describing this plan in a recent issue of the Practical Dairyman, Val ency E. Fuller, in speaking of the calves and their treatment, says:

"They have a row of low, long sheds facing south, with the roof sloping to the north, divided off into about five sections. There are windows facing the southern exposure and they are long horizontally, admitting the sun light on bright days. There is a door which is rarely closed through the winter, unless there are unusually bad snow storms from the south or southwest.

"Each shed or pen has a large yard in which the calves run. Before winter sets in, all the calves except the very young ones, and those not old enough to be sent up to their Vermont place, are divided off according to ages and sex, and each lot has a shed and yard for the winter use. They are left there until spring, having free access to the yard every day, and it is wonderful to see how they will go out in a snowstorm, and scamper and enjoy themselves. Manure from the horse stables is put in daily, and of course changed every day, and the calves find it an aid in warming their bodies at night when they lie down.

"This system has resulted in producing strong, rugged heifers and young bulls, and helps to make larger cows. When treated in this way, they are not pampered, and while they are exposed to the severe weather of Massachusetts, sickness is very rare.

"If dairy farmers would have their cow calves in the early fall, and treat the calves in this way, they would get splendid growth in the winter and would be ready to put them out on pasture in the spring, thereby guaranteeing good growth, rugged animals and a good sized heifer when calving time came.

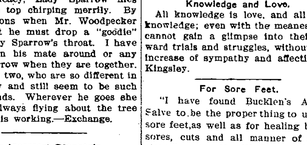
"Further along in the same row of sheds are the pens for the service bulls, with yards adjacent.

"It is very rare to see the bulls in the sheds, except in very inclement weather, and then only for a very short time, and as they are never tied up, they are usually roaming about the yards, and the same may be said of the heifer and bull calves. The coats of the bulls grow very long. It is quite a sight to see them in the way of treating the bulls. They remain in these yards and pens summer and winter. This prolongs life, makes them vigorous and active, docile, and is, in fact, conducive to health in every way."

DERRICK FOR BULLOCK OR HOG.

Convenient Apparatus for Lifting and Handling Heavy Carcasses.

Three poles of 2x6 pieces 14 feet long are required to make a derrick like that shown in the accompanying illustration taken from Prairie Farmer. A rod from a self dump hay rack



Derrick for Bullock or Hog.

can be utilized with a wheel attached at one end. I use one pulley at the top over which is passed a ⅝-inch rope with a hook on the end, as indicated.

THE SOW WITH THE PIGS.

What One Farmer Considers the Best to Feed Her.

The best feed I have found for the brood sow with a litter of pigs is ground oats and corn mixed with a little mill feed, writes a correspondent in the Farm and Home. When soaked ten or twelve hours before feeding it serves better. I feed the sow all she will eat up clean.

The pigs will soon learn to like this slop, and I have had them eat at three weeks old. As the pigs grow older the feed can be varied by adding fruits and vegetables, which they will relish. In summer do not omit anything green that is handy. By feeding only a small amount in a well made trough it will be always clean and it will be no difficult task to make pigs weigh 150 pounds in seven or eight months.

THE LIVESTOCK.

Not much work should be expected of a horse that is fed nothing but grass or hay.

Useless work on the part of the horse must be paid for in feed.

What is the objection to rotating the barnyard where the stock is kept? Screen the windows in the new stables. This will keep out both flies and mosquitoes.

TAXPAYER SEES HOPE.

Effect of Ownership of Property is to Make Better Citizen.

"Many a time," said a policeman in the southern part of the city, "when arresting men, especially intoxicated men, I have been told by my prisoner that he was a taxpayer and that he helped pay my wages.

"I always regarded this sort of back talk as merely drunken insolence, and never paid much attention to it until about a year ago, when I bought a house and lot and became myself a taxpayer. I had always rented before and never gave a thought to taxes, but as soon as I moved into my own house I began to appreciate the feelings of the men who resented arrest because they paid taxes. There is certainly a considerable addition to the dignity of the man who helps support the government. He feels a degree of responsibility that a renter or roomer never understands, and the idea is that every man in the country ought to become a taxpayer as soon as he can, and the mere fact that he does help to support the government and bears his share of the expense, makes him a better citizen. Habitual criminals, excepting, of course, high financiers, are rarely taxpayers. They know they may have to run any day and perhaps never come back, so they do not buy real estate, but are roomers and lodgers all their lives."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

FORMS OF SPORT IN BURMAH.

Popularity of Bull Racing—Pugilists Strike with Their Eyes Shut.

A form of speculation not generally known in England but very popular in Burmah is bull racing. A certain native sportsman is the owner of one of these bulls, for which he has refused an offer of 10,000 rupees. It has won several races and is looked after and as carefully tended as a Derby favorite. The owner values it at 25,000 rupees, and it is said it brings him in an annual income of from 12,000 to 15,000 rupees. It is carefully guarded by four men lest it may be got at and "doctored."

Burmans also patronize boxing eagerly, but the art can scarcely be practiced according to Queensberry rules, for we are told by a provincial reporter that he has observed that "even the best boxers strike out with their eyes tightly shut, and if they do hit each other it is more by chance than anything else."—Calcutta Statesman.

Queer Bird Friendship.

I am deeply interested in watching the strange companionship of two of the largest black and white woodpeckers with red crown I have ever seen and a sparrow. For two weeks they have been very friendly and constantly together and seem to be the best friend of friends. In front of the window where I am writing they spend a great deal of their time in a dead horse-chestnut tree. Near the top of one of the trunks is a very large hole. While Mr. Woodpecker goes in to find some delicacy, Lady Sparrow flies about the top chirping merrily. By their actions when Mr. Woodpecker comes out he must drop a "goodie" down Lady Sparrow's throat. I have never seen his mate around or any other sparrow when they are together. Just these two, who are so different in every way and still seem to be such good friends. Wherever he goes she follows, always flying about the tree where he is working.—Exchange.

His Incorrect Diagnosis.

He was not a regular traveling man, or the break he made at a little Missouri hotel never would have occurred.

The waitress limped up to him with the graceful gait of a crippled duck, and said:

"Steak pork chops ham an eggs an cole-meats."

Not hearing anything in the telescoped sentence that appealed to his clip-bred appetite, and not having the limitations of the hotel, he looked up and asked:

"Have you got frogs' legs?"

"Nah!" said the waitress, indignantly. "Roomatiz!"—Chicago News.

"On Himself."

A house painter in a New Hampshire village was proceeding down "the main street" one day when he was accosted by a fellow townsman.

"Hello, Tom!" called the latter. "Why, I thought you were working on old Spinner's house to-day."

"I was about to commence the job," said the painter, "when the old man picked a quarrel with me. He said he'd put the paint on himself."

"Do you think he'll do it?"

"Well," said the painter, with a smile, "when I passed just now, that is where he had put a great deal of it."

Australian Accent.

We follow England very closely. We speak of "lifts" as an Englishman does, and not of "elevators," as the American; but we have "paddocks" instead of "fields," and "creeks" instead of "streams," and "scrubs" instead of "woods," and "pannikins" and "quart-pots" and "billy tea" at picnics and all sorts of lovely Australian things, which make one perfectly homesick to think about. All the same, I am never homesick for the crude Australian accent.—The British Australian.

Physical Hardships.

"It's a pity that the band's tour is a failure, but don't be too much cast down. Come, face the music."

"How can I, when I'm backing it?"—Baltimore American.

Kind of a Testimonial.

E. H. Hartman, Druggist, Chicago, writes: "Last year I suffered three months with a summer cold so distressing that it interfered with my business. I had many of the symptoms of hay fever and a doctor's prescription did not reach my case and I took several medicines which seemed only to aggravate it. Finally I insisted on having Foley's Honey and Tar. It quickly cured me. My wife has since used Foley's Honey and Tar with the same success.

Brundage & Rogers.

Was Probably Thirsty.

The youthful hopeful of a well-known local newspaper man, having been told by his fond papa that electricity was juice broke seven incandescent light globes the other day, looking for some of the juice.—Illustrated Sunday Magazine.

Why James Lee Got Well.

Everybody in Zanesville, O., knows Mrs. Mary Lee, of rural route 8. She writes: "My husband, James Lee, firmly believes he owes his life to the use of Dr. King's New Discovery. His lungs were so severely affected that consumption seemed inevitable, when a friend recommended New Discovery. We tried it, and its use has restored him to perfect health." Dr. King's New Discovery is the King of throat and lung remedies. For coughs and colds it has no equall. The first dose gives relief. Try it. Sold under guarantee at Brundage & Rogers drug store. 50c. and $1.00. Trial bottle free

Strange Idea of Beauty.

Women of the Ivory coast in Africa lengthen their necks by wearing iron rings. Every year they put a new ring around the neck, which they can stretch so far that it is considered a fine trait to act as long as the face.

Attention, Asthma Sufferers!

Foley's Honey and Tar will give immediate relief to asthma sufferers and has cured many cases that had refused to yield to other treatment. Foley's Honey and Tar is the best remedy for coughs and colds and all throat and lung trouble. Contains no harmful drugs.

Brundage & Rogers.

Excellent Health Advice.

Mrs. M. M. Davidson, of No. 379 Gifford Ave., San Jose, Cal., says: "The worth of Electric Bitters as a general family remedy, for heahache, biliousness and torpid liver and bowels is so pronounced that I am prompted to say a word in its favor, for the benefit of those seeking relief from such afflictions. There is more health for the digestive organs in a bottle of Electric Bitters than in any other remedy of I know of." Sold under guarantee at Brundage & Rogers' drug store 50 cents.

Knowledge and Love.

All knowledge is love, and all love knowledge; even with the meanest we cannot gain a glimpse into their inward trials and struggles, without an increase of sympathy and affection.—Kingsley.

For Sore Feet.

"I have found Bucklen's Arnica Salve to be the proper thing to use for sore feet, as well as for healing burns, sores, cuts and all manner of abrasions," writes Mr. W. Stone, of East Poland, Maine. It is the proper thing too for piles. Try it! Sold under guarantee at Brundage & Rogers' drug store. 25c.

CASTORIA
Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.
The Kind You Have Always Bought

Enlarging Your Business

If you are in business and you want to make more money you will read every word we have to say. Are you spending your money for advertising in haphazard fashion as if intended for charity, or do you advertise for direct results?

Did you ever stop to think how your advertising can be made a source of profit to you, and how its value can be measured in dollars and cents. If you have not, you are throwing money away.

Advertising is a modern business necessity, but must be conducted on business principles. If you are not satisfied with your advertising you should set aside a certain amount of money to be spent annually, and then carefully note the effect it has in increasing your volume of business; whether a 10, 20 or 30 per cent increase. If you watch this gain from year to year you will become intensely interested in your advertising, and how you can make it enlarge your business.

If you try this method we believe you will not want to let a single issue of this paper go to press without something from your store.

We will be pleased to have you call on us, and we will take pleasure in explaining our annual contract for so many inches, and how it can be used in whatever amount that seems necessary to you.

If you can sell goods over the counter we can also show you why this paper will best serve your interests when you want to reach the people of this community.

NEW YORK INVENTORY

WORK CUT OUT FOR NEWLY CREATED COMMISSION.

Body of Men Under Direction of Pinchot to List Resources of Entire Land and Will Compare Results for Good of All.

Washington.—Actual work on the inventory of the natural resources of the United States has begun. Under the direction of the national conservation commission, it will be carried on vigorously throughout the summer. This is necessary in order to enable the commission to make the report President Roosevelt has requested of it for January 1, 1909.

A meeting of the chiefs of bureaus of the executive department has been held, and the heads of the various divisions concerned with the country's natural resources have offered their hearty co-operation in the task the commission has undertaken. So now, within only a few days more than a month from the date the national conservation commission was created by the president, active work is going on in every bureau of the government that can furnish material available for the commission's report.

A great amount of this material already is available in the government department; other important parts of it, however, will be collected through special channels. Among those will be the state conservation commissions, which the governors are appointing; and some of the great national organizations that were represented at the White House conference and that have entered with spirit into the general conservation movement. In other words, the machinery for making the inventory of the entire resources of the nation ever attempted has been set in motion and is running smoothly.

Gifford Pinchot, chairman of the commission, has changed his plans and will return to Washington shortly to continue personal supervision of the work. By early fall the commission expects to have in hand sufficient material to begin the study of the stock of the country's resources, and by the middle of October it hopes to have the greatest part of this material in hand. This will be necessary in order that the full commission, which holds its first meeting Tuesday, December 1, in Washington, may take up at once the study of the facts that the summer's work has brought together.

One week later the commission will hold a joint meeting in Washington with the governors of the states, or their representatives, and a volume bringing about further and closer co-operation with the various state commissions.

The commission has devised a new and interesting method of work to collect this material. A schedule of inquiries, embracing the whole subject of conservation—waters, forests, lands and minerals—has been arranged and sent to each bureau chief with a request for suggestions and criticisms. This has resulted in obtaining the expert advice of the men at the head of the different bureaus who will have immediate charge of the collection of the material.

President Roosevelt, who is keeping in close touch with the commission, has approved this method, and has written to each chief of bureau a letter commending the enthusiastic co-operation shown by the bureau chiefs and emphasizing his belief in the great importance of the work the national conservation commission has in mind.

Among the government bureaus that will furnish a large part of the important information the commission is seeking are the bureau of corporations of the department of commerce and labor, under Commissioner Herbert Knox Smith; the bureau of the census, under Director North; the forest service, under direct supervision of the chairman of the commission and Overton W. Price, secretary of the forest section of the commission; the reclamation service, under Director Newell; the geological survey, under Director Smith; the corps of engineers of the army, under its new chief, Gen. William L. Marshall, and almost every bureau under the department of agriculture.

Co-operation among all the agencies now engaged in this inventory-taking is a conspicuous feature. Taking the membership of the national commission and the several memberships of the state commissions together, the number of persons engaged and interested in the work is large. One of the most important requirements is, therefore, to make sure that every step of the work is known to all who are sharing in it, so that there may be the utmost amount of co-ordination and co-operation, no misdirected energy and no duplication.

Accordingly, bulletins of progress and information are issued to the officers of the commissions, the state commissions and others, and a voluminous correspondence is kept up. In this way the work, complex and scattered as it is, is effectively centralized and simplified.

SPARROWS ATTACK A CAT.

Little Birds Turn Tables Nicely in a New York Park.

New York.—Black and White, a cat that for years has lived in the city hall and conducted innumerable hunting expeditions in City Hall park, met with a defeat from a new sparrow which filled him with shame and chagrin. To make matters worse, the crowd of park loungers saw it and jeered him unmercifully as he fled from the field.

The cat started out to find his luncheon on the grass to the west of the city hall and saw, to his great delight, about 20 sparrows so busy chattering over their private affairs that it seemed the easiest thing in the world to bring one of them down. He crouched in the grass, drew nearer and nearer, and crept up close enough to spring. He did spring, but came down, not on a bird, but on the ground.

Before he could recover himself the sparrows were flying around him in a flock. They kept out of reach and wheeled rapidly backward and forward over his head. Black and White sprang at them and missed again, and they flew lower and lower. He became confused and struck out wildly. The birds flew in still closer. Some of the bystanders were found willing to aver that they even pocked his tail and tweaked his nose.

Black and White soon had enough. He gave up the unequal fight, and, bedded of the jeers of the men who were watching him, dived between their legs and made for city hall.

PEARLS IN WHITE RIVER.

Indiana Boy Finds Gem Which He Sells for $500.

Muncie, Ind.—For the first time pearl hunting this season has become a distinct industry in White river. Many campers along the stream hunt pearls, while a few persons make it a regular occupation.

As yet no very valuable pearl has been discovered nearer this city than Farmland, 12 miles away, where a boy found a gem which he sold for $500. Many pearls are found, but most of them are worth no more than a dollar or so, and are bought at these prices by local jewelers.

Every day local jewelers receive pearls, many of all known sizes, or imperfect stones. Usually a part of the gem is good, but most of it is worthless, and when the valueless and a cut off the remainder is so small as to be little worth.

A boy who walked all the way from Windsor, 12 miles east of here, was greatly disappointed when a local jeweler gave him only five dollars for three pearls. The lad decided to keep them himself.

Local jewelers have begun making regular shipments of White river pearls to the eastern markets where the gems bring considerably more when polished and set than is paid to the pearl hunters.

TAKE TRAMP, THOUGH OLD.

Aged New England Couple Enjoying Queer Vacation.

Lynn, Mass.—A 60-year-old couple are spending a vacation just now in a remarkable manner. Mr. and Mrs. William H. Morrison of Lynn are walking about New England, rambling through the different states, enjoying strange adventures and sights, and not at all fatigued from the many miles they make each day in spite of their age.

They carry but little baggage, their necessities being inclosed in a little handbag of Mrs. Morrison. They have been on their jaunt now for four weeks, and will probably tour northern New England for the next month or two. They are not out to break any records as pedestrians, but the honor of being the first to accomplish certain stunts has has already come to them.

They are traveling at an average of twenty-two miles a day. The first week they surprised Portland by announcing that they had walked the 100 miles between Lynn and Portland. It was said to be the first time that a woman ever made the trip on foot, and the feat of Mrs. Morrison doing it at 60 years of age excited much comment. During their stay in Portland and vicinity they attracted nearly as much attention as Edward Payson Weston.

The Land of the Free.

"There's eight nations represented in this ward of ours," said Mr. Halloran to his wife on his return from a political meeting. He began to count them off on his fingers.

"There's Irish, Frinch, Eyetalians, Poles, Germans, Roosians, Greeks and—"

Mr. Halloran stopped and began again.

"There's Irish, Frinch, Eyetalians, Poles, Germans, Roosians, Greeks—an' ain't it queer I disremember the other one? There's Irish, Frinch—"

"Maybe 'twas Americans," suggested Mrs. Halloran.

"Sure, that's it," said her husband. "I couldn't think."—Youth's Companion.

RAISING ALLIGATORS

ONLY TWO PLACES IN LAND WHERE INDUSTRY PREVAILS.

From 500 to 800 Reptiles Kept on Ranch at Hot Springs, Ark., and Culture is an Interesting Process.

Washington.—It is claimed that the alligator farm in Hot Springs, Ark., is larger than that in St. Augustine, Fla., and that these two are the only farms of the kind. The farm in Hot Springs is on a small mountain stream that feeds a series of little lakes or ponds. These are made use of to form the "breeding grounds," "stockyards" and "winter quarters" for this stock industry.

There are at all times on this farm between 500 and 800 alligators, ranging in size from little baby gators, less than six inches long, up to Big Joe, nearly 15 feet long. The little fellows have all been hatched on the farm, but the big ones were caught in the swamps and bayous of the south.

The alligator is a cannibal, and for that reason it is necessary to separate the ponds by means of heavy wire netting and to place reptiles of very nearly the same size in each enclosure. Big Joe, the monarch of the establishment, weighing nearly 600 pounds, is kept by himself. Otherwise, it is alleged, he would soon be the only alligator there.

The eggs are placed in incubators quite similar to those for hatching chickens. After being hatched the young ones are placed in a separate inclosure, to prevent their elder brothers and sisters from eating them. They grow very slowly, so that an alligator two feet long is about two years of age, and one 12 inches long may be 15 years or more. The snake reach a length of 16 or 18 feet.

If allowed to follow their hibernating habits in captivity, the alligators would bury themselves in the mud and lie dormant for nearly half of the year, and business would have to be suspended during that time on the alligator farm. Some way had to be devised for avoiding, in part, at least, this hibernating instinct. The winter quarters are in a long, low building divided into many compartments. Each compartment contains a pool of water through which run steam pipes, so that the water can be kept at a constant temperature. The small pond will contain 200 or 300 alligators.

Hundreds of baby alligators are sold every year to patrons of the health resort at Hot Springs for pets, for home ornamentation, and for curious mementos to be sent to distant friends. For these purposes little creatures not more than six inches long are preferred. Reptiles of larger size, from two feet in length up to the largest than can be obtained, are sold for use as advertising novelties, and for exhibition in amusement parks, museums, shows and menageries. Large numbers of all sizes are killed, stuffed and mounted in striking or fantastic attitudes and used for ornamental and decorative purposes. The skins are tanned and manufactured into suit cases, satchels, handbags, belts, pocketbooks, and, in fact, almost anything that can be made of leather. The durability, beauty and costliness of the tanned hides cause them to be esteemed among the most desirable of leather materials. Even the teeth are not wasted, being manufactured into small ornaments and articles of jewelry and sold as curiosities.

"TREED" BY A CLOUDBURST.

Six Men Have Narrow Escape While Attending a Picnic.

Oxford, Pa.—Caught by a cloudburst up the stream, which swelled the water of the Octoraro creek into a raging torrent, six men were cut off from land and forced to climb trees, which for hours were repeatedly struck by wreckage of barns, outbuildings and bridges, and it was all they could do to hang fast.

During the entire time 500 friends, who had been with them at a picnic, stood on the shore, not 50 yards away, but could do nothing to help them, as the boats had been carried away and no raft could live in the seething waters.

One of the marooned men was Samuel W. Wilson, 75 years old, who was almost exhausted from the trying ordeal when the stream finally receded and they were rescued. Several times, but for his son, Harry Wilson, who had climbed up the tree with him, he would have fallen and been drowned.

Seizes Warships for Debt.

Paris.—French bailiffs have wide powers, and, no matter how small the amount owing, can restrain all the debtor's property in sight.

The reductio ad absurdum was reached when a disabled workman, disputing with the government his pension of $100 a year, legally seized all the war ships at Cherbourg, worth about $10,000,000. The affair caused the red tape to get busy quickly.

Andover News, $1.00 the year

CAUSED BY LACK OF THOUGHT.

Cruelty Most Frequently Inflicted in Carelessness.

Most of the cruelty of the world is thoughtless cruelty. Very few people would intentionally add to another's load or make his burden in life heavier or his path rougher. Most of the great heart wounds are inflicted in a moment of anger, when, perhaps, we were too proud to apologize or to try to heal the grievous wounds we had made. Can anything be more cruel than to discourage a soul who is struggling to do the best he can, to throw stumbling blocks in the path of those who are trying to get on in the world against great odds? No life is just the same after you have once touched it. Will you leave a ray of hope or one of despair, a flash of light or a somber cloud across some dark life each day? Will you by thoughtless cruelty deepen the shadow which hangs over the life, or will you by kindness dispel it altogether? No matter how you feel or what is disturbing your peace of mind, never allow yourself to send out a discouraging, a cruel, or an unkind word or thought.—Success Magazine.

DOG SPECTACLES THE LATEST.

English Aristocrat May Have Started a New Fad.

A dog in spectacles is the latest fad. It has not reached New York yet, but Lady Aylesford has been seen in Piccadilly with one of her famous breed of chows in tow, wearing a pair of gold-rimmed spectacles. Her friends smiled, and she explained that the poor doggie's eyesight had become so defective that she had taken him to an oculist who fitted him with glasses.

Dogs in New York have been taken to dentists and their teeth have been filled with gold; they have had their nails manicured by experts, the hair of poodles, spaniels and Scotch terriers have been dressed and curled by "tonsorial artists;" some delicate dogs, such as Italian greyhounds, have been dressed in sealskin coats; other pampered pets have worn gold bracelets and diamond collars, but spectacles seem new.

The fad step will probably be for some one to fit a British bulldog with a solitaire eyeglass and a cigarette.

Knew Meat from Carrion.

Tenderness of conscience was in the olden days—Andrew Johnson, a Democrat, once president of the United States, and Gustavus A. Henry, a Whig, known as the "eagle orator of the South."

They ran against each other for governor and when a long series of joint debates had reached its close Johnson addressed the Whig orator in audience: "I have spoken with the boasted eagle orator from the Mississippi river to the Ocaka mountains, and yet I see no fresh in his talons or blood on his beak."

Quick as a flash Henry was on his feet, saying: "The American eagle is a proud bird and feeds not on carrion."—Nashville Banner.

Doctor Not Needed.

"I got an awful funny note once from Gen. ——, an Irish-American on the staff of Gov. ——," said Dr. Shackelforth. "His wife was taken with a sudden indisposition, he summoned his servant and bade him get the buggy ready to come for me. By the time the horse was hitched up and the general had written me a note his wife recovered. But he sent the note anyway, with a postscrip.

"'My Dear Doctor: I wish you would hurry around this way as fast as you can. My wife is deadly ill. Jump into my buggy and come along. Don't let anything stop you.

"'P. S.—My wife having recovered, you need not come.'"

Our Names Lack Color.

At any early period, and indeed well toward the beginnings of modern history, proper names told something as to paternity, occupation and station; to-day they are quite colorless. A new Ulysses would no longer be Laertides; no Peter indicates that he is the son of Paul. A Carpenter or a Weaver is likely to be a lily-fingered stock broker. Even the place names, complains the Nation, have pretty much disappeared, except in the case of nobility, and since the average gentle family has not for years lived on its titular estate, or perhaps has had none at all, our new Gastons de Foix give us a name about as sapless as John Jones.

How a Cat Caught Two Rats.

I once had a cat who did a rather remarkable rattling feat. He stalked two rats on the eaves of a low flat stable roof, and caught one in the usual way. The other jumped on to an elderberry tree just below. Bob, however, not satisfied with the one grasped it firmly in his mouth, and then jumped headlong for the other. Either he was very lucky or extraordinarily agile, for he fell to the ground with one rat still in his mouth and the other in his paws, and promptly killed them both.—Scotsman.

Women as Imitators of Men

By Rebecca Harding Davis

Womanity vs. Humanity—Vanity of Modern Woman Over Her Achievements — Business Not Her Highest Occupation—"To Keep House and Be a Joyful Mother of Children" a Woman's Birthright.

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Mrs. Rebecca Harding Davis has long been known as a talented writer of fiction. Among her many works may be mentioned "A Law Unto Herself," "John Andross," "Frances Waldeaux" and "Dr. Warrick's Daughter." Her home is in Philadelphia. She is the mother of Richard Harding Davis, the author.)

Surely we are all familiar by this time with the claims to admiration of the new woman; the beauty and energy and keen mother wit which, as Americans believe, set her apart from the women of other nations and make her unique, as was once the huntress Diana among the gods.

She never tires of counting over her recent successes, from the marvelous costumes that she wears to her achievements in biology, in cookery or in founding new religions. The woman of the last generation walked in a narrow path; in her life, as in a Chinese song, there were but three notes—love, marriage and motherhood. But this queen of the modern world has a thousand parts to play. You never know where to find her. She may be driving a four-in-hand in Broadway or looking for the north pole in the arctic seas or nursing some poor beggar in the slums, or, most likely of all, she may be settling herself comfortably for life as duchess or princess in some of old English or Italian family.

We all look on with pride, and wonder complacently what she will do next.

The chief difference between her and her grandmother—and it is a very curious difference—is that the modern woman regards herself simply as part of the human race. The man was its head, its spokesman. She thought of herself as his child, his wife or his mother.

The woman of to-day is not only his equal but his antagonist. She talks not of humanity but womanity.

Every village has its club of women who urge each other to new professions, work or studies which have hitherto been considered the business of men only.

Every newspaper has a woman's department in which the successes of the sex in wresting trades and handicrafts from their brothers and husbands are daily noted.

I saw to-day the announcement that a woman was now filling a place as policeman in a northern city. This fact is told with a hysterical sob of triumph, as though when this energetic young person laid her hand on the brake she had dealt a fatal blow at the foe of her sex and had made for herself a long stride upward in the scale of being.

In our national exhibitions, too, there is always a woman's department where statues, pictures, soaps, confectionery, etc., made by our sex are exhibited apart to prove that women are as skillful with their fingers as men.

I confess I do not understand this belligerent attitude in the modern woman, nor her vanity. Is she not human, like the man? Has she not the same fingers, eyes and tongue? She is not a monkey nor a freak that her cleverness should be trumpeted and paraded as abnormal in the public eye.

A man when he invents a new plow or paints a picture does not shout out: "A man—a man has done this! Not a woman! See how superior the male of the race is to the female!"

But we American women of late years never weary of boasting of the doings of our sex, and especially on the ground that they are so much like the doings of men!

It is true that at the close of the civil war our women were forced to compete with men for work and wages in every part of the field of labor. They had to make a place for themselves then as wage-earners or starve. It was no wonder that they were aggressive and sharp during that time.

But why squabble and fight now? The whole field is open to them. All of the fences are down. There is not now, I believe, a single honest occupation by which a living can be earned which is not open to a capable, decent woman to try for it. Men give her a fair field and much favor. Whether she chooses to drive a garbage cart or write a hysteric novel, they invariably are kinder to her endeavors and applaud her more loudly than if she were a man.

Why, then, this incessant, dogmatic assertion of woman's achievements and possibilities?

This constant noisy boasting seems to be akin to the loud cackling in the barnyard of a hen over each new-laid egg, as if an egg never had been laid before.

Another mistake, it seems to me, is made by my energetic young sister when she thinks that her chief errand into life is the work which she does to keep herself alive. She sings such energetic paeans over her success as a doctor or china painter or saleswoman—she is naturally in her need of money so thankful to have work to do and so glad that she can do it—that she begins to think that when she was sent into the world, to work was to be her highest occupation.

It is not true. There is not a fiber in her body nor an impulse in her nature which does not show that the real primary business in life is to be the mother of children, as of a man and the mother of his children.

God in His wisdom may have denied her that highest and best work, but whatever else she may do she knows in her heart that it is the highest and the best.

A "southern woman" the other day rated her sisters of the south sharply because, she said, it was evident that no woman is a wage-earner except from necessity and that when the necessity is removed she would gladly resign her place and vocation—that of the lily of the field."

And why not?

The vocation of the lily of the field is to be fair and sweet, to make one little spot in the world of God's earth a fairer and fitter for His sight and to reproduce its kind to do the same work when it is dead.

The woman who makes her home a center of help and intelligence and high endeavor, who brings forth children and fits them in that home for their future life, has done enough. She does not need to earn a single dollar in any way to justify her right to live.

"As for the woman who voluntarily gives up her birthright—"to keep house and be a joyful mother of children"—in order that she may busy herself with public work, she is precisely in the position of that mad English peer of whom we all read a few years ago, who turned his back on his birthright—his estate and revenues—in order that he might tramp on the high road grinding a hand-organ for a dancing monkey.

Nothing is more the meaner part is her ambition to exploit herself before the public. No club work is as honorable or helpful as a gentlewoman's management of her home and family; nothing that her talents enable her to give to the world—whether book or statue or lecture—will ever be as important or powerful an influence in it as a true home.

This is not a pleasant subject, but when we read that the births of children of native American parents have fallen off one-half in certain northern states in the last two decades, it surely is worth our consideration. As men go, the native American is a whole-some good bit of that human stuff which makes up humanity. The world seems to need him just now. If he is not to be born into it, I doubt whether the books or charitable work given to it by childless American women will fill his place.

There is one pleasant fact, however, which cheers and comforts us in all these doubts and dangers. That is, that the large majority of American women have kept their footing during all the struggles of their sex since the close of the civil war. They have earned money when it was necessary to do it, but they have not raised money-earning to the highest place among the achievements of life. They have been shrewd, amused listeners to the feminine wrangles in clubs and newspapers, but are themselves usually silent and unpublished. Occasionally they have exerted the power of dumb resistance with most salutary effect, as when for several decades they have silently refused to claim the right of suffrage.

They are best known by what they do not do. They prefer to live in homes, not in boarding houses and hotels. They are not childless mothers nor divorced wives. They find no higher code of truth to teach their little ones than that which Jesus brought to the world. They do not replace it by the sharp worldly wisdom of Confucius or the vague yearnings of Buddhism. They answer all arguments by the question: "Who has led man so far upward as Christ?" and go on quietly teaching their