

BRIDGEPORT EVENING FARMER

(Founded 1790.)

THE FARMER PUBLISHING CO. Farmer Building, 177-179 Fairfield Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.

TELEPHONES Editorial Rooms, 1287 Business Office, 1208

REPUBLICAN FARMER, Published Fridays.

Daily Edition.....\$6 per annum Weekly Edition.....\$1 per annum

Entered in Post Office, Bridgeport, Conn., as Second Class Matter.



FRIDAY, DEC. 26, 1913.

EDITORIAL NOTES

People like to receive useful Christmas gifts, but they don't seem to enjoy giving them.

Some people find their New Year's resolutions strongly fortified by liberal doses of liquid Dutch courage.

A popular way of making New Year's resolutions is to swear off on everything you don't want to do.

It doesn't seem to make much difference what the telephone and telegraph lines would cost, so long as the government can borrow the money.

A train load of 129 cars of hats has just been sent from New York to St. Paul, and Minnesota did not elect a governor last November either.

The only way to persuade people to buy their gifts early would be to make them think the stores would be empty just before the holiday.

No wonder the cost of living is high, where so many of our reckless and extravagant people are seen reading the advertisements of winter vacation trips.

President Huerta has declared a series of bank holidays, but he cannot expect to become the idol of Mexico as long as he lets people work in the factories.

The new Wisconsin eugenics law requires health certificates from men who want to get married, but persons are permitted to go courting in spite of pronounced symptoms of heart trouble.

The paper weight, blotter holder, and desk pad, that your women friends gave you litter your desk, but it will be perfectly safe to chuck them into the waste basket in a week or two.

Judging by appearances the Chicago school board cannot be made up of married men, or they would have known they couldn't put Mrs. Ella Flagg Young out of her position.

In spite of the liberal provisions of the new currency law, those scoundrels and grasping leeches, the bankers, continue to ask to see a man's collateral before loaning him any money.

The enlistments to the army have rapidly increased, presumably because some people think the pursuit of Mexicans may be substituted next fall for the annual deer hunting season.

EVOLUTION.

The first development of Darwin's epochal and revolutionary theory of the origin of species through natural selection resulted from his memorable voyage on the brig Beagle, which sailed away from England eighty-two years ago to-day. Capt. Fitzroy, of the Beagle, asked that a naturalist be supplied to accompany the expedition of exploration to South America, and a young man who had just graduated from Cambridge, Charles Darwin, by name, volunteered for the place. For five years the Beagle cruised about South American waters, and the youthful naturalist, by the accumulation of a vast mass of scientific data and a close observance of the manifestations of nature, laid the foundation for his life work, which was to overturn many of the accepted notions of science and religion. On that trip Darwin discovered a new world of thought, and, like another Columbus, returned to Europe to startle and confound the world. Modern evolution was born when the Beagle sailed on Dec. 27, 1831.

DUKE OF NORFOLK.

England's peer, the fifteenth Duke of Norfolk, was born sixty-six years ago to-day. The man who heads the roll of the British peers with a family tree that had its roots in the twelfth century, is the "worst dressed man in England" by right of being Earl Marshal, and is the head of the heralds' College, a quaint and medieval crew which is mustered only when a king dies or is crowned. The Duke has many titles besides that of Norfolk. He is Sir Henry FitzAlan-Howard, Earl of Arundel, Surrey and Norfolk, Baron FitzAlan, Clun, Oswaldre and Maltravers, Earl Marshal and Hereditary Marshal of England, Premier Duke and Premier Earl, Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of Sussex, Knight of the Noble Order of Christ, and honorary commander of several military organizations. For five years the Duke was

Veteran Policemen Marked For Wholesale Retirement Because Politicians Want More Jobs

MAYOR WILSON is evidently destined to go down to history as the inventor, or the visible proxy of the inventor—of wholesale, involuntary pensions.

The plan to pick out many of the most competent men in the police department, retire them on half pay, and put others in their places on full pay is the recourse of men desperate to keep election promises.

Young men in a police department are necessary and excellent. None but young men in the pink of physical condition should be appointed. Because the city DOES PENSION superannuated patrolmen, it has a right to ask that those whom it employs in this business shall be young, strong and vigorous. It wants a long term of service before the pension becomes due.

But the young men are not the backbone of the police force, more than they are of an army. The veterans of a force are its backbone, those of ripe experience and gray hairs.

Superintendent Birmingham, Captain Arnold, Captain Anderson and Lieut. Quinlan still have good work in them. They have not asked for retirement. When the public pension scheme was created it was not the purpose that men should be thrown out of the service against their will, in order that other men might be put in their places, as a reward for political service.

Recently Mayor Wilson caused to be added to the force some 50 men. He best knows the conditions under which those men were named and it is enough to say that there are those among them who will be unable to do police duty long before the veterans who are to be the victims of involuntary retirement will have ceased from usefulness.

The people of Bridgeport will do well to ask what sort of business methods reign where police are added to a force without the usual safeguards to obtain men who will be long in the service without having to be pensioned, while at the other end veteran and competent men are forced out of the service, while they still have good work in them.

How does the police service of Bridgeport suffer by the presence of these veterans? Has crime increased? What has happened?

How much better off is Bridgeport with its fifty additional police, than it was before? Has crime decreased? Is the citizenship wealthier, happier or better off in any way?

These veteran policemen should stand upon their rights. They should refuse the tyrannical demand for their resignations. If they do so, and are afterward persecuted or deprived of justice because they have stood upon their rights, they may depend upon the people of Bridgeport to protect them.

The proposal to create these vacancies with a corresponding increase in the expense of operating the city is the last word in political impudence.

It is time enough to retire policemen, wholesale when they ask to be retired.

BANKS WILL COME IN.

SOME 400 National banks and a number of trust companies have applied for admission to the government's currency system already. All National Banks, with here and there perhaps an exception, will come in. The banker's have made a complete surrender, even those who opposed the measure.

MARRIED TEACHERS EFFICIENT.

SUPT. MAXWELL has shown by the records that the married teachers in New York city schools are superior in efficiency to the unmarried. The disclosure would not have been unexpected. It has long been known that married men as a group are more devoted to their employment than unmarried men. They have given more hostages to industry. Youth is new in the world. There are many things to attract the attention of the young, which are the major part of the unmarried. But Supt. Maxwell's disclosure will not necessarily change the minds of New York's board of education, which has declared motherhood an offense sufficient to cause the dismissal of a teacher, prejudice yields but slowly to reason.

FEDERAL SUPERVISION OF RAILROAD SECURITIES

THE SUPERVISION of securities of railroads ought to be in control of the Inter State Commerce Commission. The alternative is control by state commissions, which will with difficulty be effective over lines that transverse several states.

The swindling operations which railroads have carried on through those entrusted with their management for seventy-five years have for the most part been possible only because these managers were able to issue securities at their will. Most consolidations have been accomplished, not with the use of cash, but by an exchange of the stock of one company for the stock of another.

Had the New Haven company been obliged to find cash for its merging transactions, many of them would not have been made. But these mergers were easy to bring about, because the directors had merely to authorize an issue of stock or bonds for the purpose, and the trade was accomplished.

Thus we have the paradox of a railroad enjoying the most prosperous and most profitable year in its history unable to pay a dividend upon its stock. The reason is as plain as can be. A man may have a house worth \$5,000, and it may yield an income sufficient to pay five per cent. upon its value. But if the man turns himself into a stock company, mortgages his house for \$10,000, and sells stock in his house to the amount of \$20,000, the income will barely pay interest on the mortgage, and nothing on the stock.

This simple illustration describes pretty accurately the system of finance by which railroad investors have been looted in New England and elsewhere.

Postmaster-General in Lord Salisbury's cabinet. He is a Roman Catholic, and England's leading Catholic layman.

NEARLY 80 YEARS WITH ONE PAPER.

Hon. Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Canadian Senator, former Prime Minister of the Dominion, and for nearly 80 years, connected with the Belleville, Ont., intelligence, was born in Suffolk, England, ninety years ago to-day, Dec. 27, 1832. In 1854 he entered the intelligence office as an apprentice or "devil," thus forming a journalistic alliance that was destined to continue

about it all," asserted the veteran statesman and editor, "and my only trouble resembled that of an old gentleman of whom I have heard. He was very old, but still active, and one day he walked to a neighboring town, distant several miles from his home. When he arrived there his friends exhibited great astonishment, and asked him how he had managed to perform such a pedestrian feat at his age. "Oh, I got along all right," was the reply, "until I came to a warning sign which says, 'Slow down to Fifteen Miles an Hour.' That held me back some."

PRESIDENT WILSON, DEVOTEE OF SPORTS.

Because he wears spectacles, and has been the president of a university, and has written a number of books, many people imagine that President Wilson is a hopeless high-brow and without any "red gore" in his veins or sporting instincts. Such persons will have to guess again. The eminent occupant of the White House who will celebrate his fifty-seventh birthday to-day, is and has always been a "fan" in regard to all manly outdoor sports and pastimes. Anybody who labors under the mis-conception that President Wilson is what one of his eminent predecessors would call a "mollycoddle" had better guess again. In his youth, when he was assimilating learning and lore at Davidson College, Princeton and the University of Virginia, "Tommy" Wilson was to be found right out there flinging the pill over the pan and indulging in other sports popular among college undergraduates. It was in baseball, however, that the future President of the United States was most proficient. As an athlete he was stronger on brain than on brawn, and the diamond pastime, in which rapidity of action of mind and muscle is more important than mere strength, naturally appealed to him. When the bicycle was invented Prof. Wilson was one of the first to adopt it as a means of getting from where he was to where he wasn't, as well as affording a healthful exercise. Rowing was also one of the favorite sports of his youth, and at a later period he took up golfing. President Wilson is not so proficient in golf as Prof. Taft, nor so good an all-around sportsman as Col. Roosevelt, but his abilities in those lines are not to be despised. He is still an ardent fan, and during the last season he attended every ball game in Washington when the affairs of state would permit. Naturally a little reserved in his demeanor, on the ball field he proceeds to "forget it," and roots as heartily as the next man. The President has declared that he will not consider his administration an entire success unless Washington wins a pennant and a world's flag before he quits the White House.

MESSINA, 5 YEARS AFTER QUAKE, BEGINS WORK OF RESTORATION

Five years ago on Dec. 27, 1908, the inhabitants of Messina, Reggio and half a hundred smaller cities and towns, went to sleep in fancied security. In the dark hour that precedes the coming of dawn, a great earthquake, a singing sound, as of some giant chanting a wordless dirge. The singing grew louder, until it rose to a shriek, and ended in a rumble and a roar. The earthquake reached the doomed cities of the strait, sending apart the solid earth and tossing it up into waves and billows, on which the houses and the inhabitants were but as wreckage tossed about on an angry sea. Messina became a heta-comb, Reggio a ruin, and the other towns mere heaps of brick and wood and debris. The tidal wave reached itself over the Calabrian and Sicilian shores, and completed the work of desolation and destruction. In Messina alone a hundred thousand died that awful night, and in all the earthquake and tidal wave claimed nearly a quarter of a million victims. The whole world stood aghast at the most appalling catastrophe of modern times.

Five years after the earthquake Messina is still in ruins, and the work of restoration has barely commenced. Labor troubles have hindered the Italian government in its project for the restoration of the harbor works. In all the churches of Calabria and Sicily special memorial services for those who died in the disaster will be held, and it is hoped that the anniversary will mark the inauguration of real, earnest work on the rebuilding of Messina.

The principal observance of the anniversary will center in the old church of San Nicolo, in Messina. The church, built in the fourteenth century, was condemned by the authorities as unsafe shortly before the earthquake, and yet, strangely enough, it was the only church in the city that escaped destruction. The famous Messina statue of Neptune also escaped unscathed.

Messina was one of the wealthiest cities in Italy and millions of dollars have been recovered from the ruins, while other millions still lie buried in the debris. The people of Messina, having scant faith in banks, were given to hoarding their money, and nearly every house contained secreted hoards that represented the savings of years. In a small safe in a small store there was found \$400,000 in cash. The old Norman cathedral held art treasures worth \$10,000,000, the bronze altar alone being worth nearly a million. The last report showed that \$140,000,000 had been recovered from the ruins. Soldiers constantly guard those sections of the city which have not yet been searched. It has been alleged that the money recovered by the government from the ruins of Messina was used to finance the war for the conquest of Tripoli, but this has been officially denied.

About 70,000 of those killed in Messina have been buried, but the number of bodies that have not yet been forever denied that last tribute. Thousands were burned to death, and the charred remnants of their bodies mingle with the ruins of their homes which are now covered with vines.

The old Messina is very much as it was on the day following the earthquake, but a new Messina, a city of wooden huts built with money supplied by all the peoples of the world, has sprung up. About 175,000 peo-

ple now live in the new Messina of wooden bungalows. The Italian government has promised to expend \$120,000,000 in the rebuilding of Messina, and it is likely that within a few years the work will be complete. In the meantime, the people of the wooden city, with little or no rent to pay, are prospering as never before, as is shown by the fact that the Messina postal savings bank now has nearly double the amount of deposits that it had five years ago, while the government pawn shop's business has shown a great decrease.

NEWTOWN

Mrs. B. McNamara and daughter, Miss May McNamara, went to Danbury Christmas Day to be present at the first mass of Rev. William Killoyne in St. Peter's church, Danbury, at 9:30 a. m. The reverend father is connected by marriage and blood with many other Catholic families in this vicinity.

Miss Marilla George of St. Margaret's school, Waterbury, is a guest of Rev. James H. George at Trinity rectory for the holidays.

Mrs. Margaret Egan and daughter, Miss May Egan are guests of Mr and Mrs. M. J. Donohue, New York, for the season's festivities.

Assistant Town Clerk Edward Pitzschler is visiting friends in Flushing, L. I. He will return Monday.

Rev. Father Siroc surprised the St. Rose Sunday school with a Christmas tree in the afternoon of the feast at St. Mary's hall. P. H. Gannon acted the part of Santa Claus acceptably, and the children and teachers were made happy.

Among the "shut-ins" who were cheered on Christmas Day by friends was Mrs. James Turner who took great interest in a Christmas tree at her home with Miss Mary Harrigan, furnished by thoughtful people.

Patrick Clabby and Henry Smith, employed by the O'Brien Construction company on state road work were arrested Wednesday night by Sheriff Blake-man, Constable Carlson and a posse of citizens on the Bethel road near the Harris home. Their team collided with another and was overturned in the darkness. Neighbors recognizing the horse as the property of Jeremiah Maroney in the hands of strangers notified the authorities. It took the combined efforts of five citizens, including officers to apprehend the men and lodge them in the lock-up where they took Christmas cheer from Constable Carlson. Yesterday they were brought before Justice P. H. McCarthy, found guilty on intoxication charges and fined \$5 and costs, all other charges being dropped. Both think they have enough money due their employers to make their stay in good so they are kept in custody awaiting the arrival of the cashier of the construction company with the money.

A large number of our Jewish citizens will attend the Chanukah festival at Cutter's hall, Long Hill, Sunday, Dec. 28, given under the auspices of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Fairfield County Jewish Farmers' association. Bridgeport musical talent will assist in the musical programme.

At the Congregational church, Sunday, the minister will preach on the theme "Time-Its Value And Use" with special application to the closing of the old and the beginning of the new year, at the 11 a. m. service. In the evening at 7:30 the Christian Endeavor meeting "Our Church At Work For the World." References Mark 15: 14-20 verses—in charge of the Missionary committee. The annual meeting of the church has been set for Thursday, Jan. 8, 1914.

On December 30 at the Town hall the Dramatic club will present the play, "The County Minister" for the play loving public of Newtown. The cast of characters shows names familiar to the public in the past and are a sufficient guarantee of a good presentation of the play. A good house should greet them.

The news that a canning factory in the Philippines has begun to manufacture roselle sauce is of interest as marking the initial commercial stage of an industry possessing great possibilities. Roselle was introduced a few years ago into the far southern United States from the West Indies, and has just begun to be cultivated in the Philippines, says the Scientific American.

Until recently the only edible part of the plant was supposed to be the fleshy calyxes, from which can be made a sauce exactly resembling cranberry sauce in appearance and flavor, as well as syrup, jelly and wine. Lately it has been found that the leaves and young stems of the plant also yield palatable products, and the exploitation of roselle has been furthered by publication of the United States department of agriculture in the Philippine bureau of agriculture.

Tables have been arranged bearing price tickets at 25, 50 and 98 cts. Visitors will find attractive bargains on these.

Stationery, Jewelry, Leather, Goods and Holiday Novelties, on the Main Floor

It just pays anybody to walk through the store several times a day, for it seems as if fresh values were put out every hour. One cannot make lists, for alas, before the type could cool the values might be gone. The tables have each their tickets,

12 1/2, 25, and 50 cts. to remain the rest of the month. One comes, is surprised to find what she does, and buys.

The D. M. Read Company.

RADFORD B. SMITH

1072 Main St. DEPARTMENT STORE, 89 Fairfield Ave.

"The Store to find scarce articles" and the store that pays the cartage.

Monday, Dec. 29th Last Day at Our Old Store Move Tuesday

The D. M. Read Co.

Established 1857

After-Christmas Sales Tempting Values in all Departments, that allure the economic shopper.

The Semi-annual Clearance of Trunks Bags and other Traveling Paraphernalia Now in Progress.

20 per cent Discounts in Order In addition to this discount are specially priced pieces, Suit Cases, Trunks and Traveling Bags marked very low. A fortunate time to buy baggage.

Tailored Gowns at Clearance Generous reductions have been made on every Tailored Suit that remains in the department. There are embraced fine gowns of wool ratine, Bedford cord, zibeline, and novelty worsted, made up with the best tailoring.

Suits that have been \$28.00 to \$30.00, \$40.00 and \$50.00. Suits that have been \$25.00 to \$28.00. Suits that have been \$22.50 to \$25.00. Suits that have been \$15.00.

Clearance of Elegant Dress Tunics and Garnitures

On lace net and chiffon, white and crystal, elaborately applied, some exceedingly dainty effects in white and blue.

Black Tunics with applications of steel and jet, also some fine styles with ribbozine embroidery on black net.

Persian designs on black net. Garnitures of jet, steel and crystal. Every one marked half-price. Prices \$5.00, \$7.00, \$7.50, \$8.00, \$8.50, \$9.00, \$10.00 up to \$25.00.

A Tunic, it will be remembered, is almost a gown of itself. All that is needed is the silk lining or slip. It can be seen readily that very inexpensive dancing frocks and dinner gowns can be arranged with this offering to help.

Odd China and Bric-a-Brac

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A marriage license inscribed "I've found out some things and have changed my mind" was returned to the Washington authorities by Mrs. Catherine McConnel. It was obtained by Harry Mills, who was "not employed anywhere."

Phya Prohakaravongsa is the newly appointed Minister from Siam at Washington.

An annual tax is to be placed on all musical instruments in Ticino, Switzerland.