

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

Exclusive Telegraph Service United Press.

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



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26, 1913.

ROMANCE AND TRAGEDY IN LIVES OF DESCENDANTS OF VICTOR HUGO.

In the Pantheon, among the immortals of France, Victor Hugo is at rest. The sublime genius who was born 111 years ago to-day, and whose birthday is annually observed by thousands of his admirers throughout France, could scarcely be proud of some of his descendants. His elder son, Georges, gained some fame both as author and statesman, and died of apoplexy in 1871 without having brought discredit on the name of his father. Charles left two children, Jeanne and Georges, but the latter has not reflected credit on the illustrious name of his grandfather. A few years ago Georges, petitioned the French government for permission to assume the name of Victor, but the application was indignantly refused.

Even before Victor Hugo's death in 1885, his grandson had become a source of sorrow. He was dismissed from the French navy on account of misconduct, and then commenced a career of the wildest extravagance. He frequently appeared in various law courts, and attained international notoriety as the French novelist, but later celebrated case. Georges had been on terms of intimacy with the wife of a French noble, and had indorsed that lady's account with a Paris merchant. The affair was broken off, and Georges refused to pay for goods. The tradesman brought suit, and Hugo's defense was that he was no longer intimate with the woman, and that the amount could not be collected by law because it was "an immoral obligation." Later Georges married the daughter of a wealthy merchant, by whom he had two children, but the alliance ended in the divorce courts. Jeanne, the daughter of Charles and granddaughter of Victor Hugo, married Leon Daudet, son of the great French novelist, but later secured a divorce and became the wife of Dr. Jean Charcot, the antarctic explorer.

Romance and tragedy also blended in the life of Adele Hugo, Victor's English daughter. She married an English army officer, whom she met at Hauteville House during her father's exile on the island of Guernsey. Her husband took her to India and later to Singapore, where he was stationed. The officer was given to drink, and while under its influence treated the delicate woman, and father of the great poet with the grossest brutality. Eventually he developed delirium tremens and committed suicide. The bride, already made desperate by the death of her child, and the insanity of her husband, was wandering about the native quarter of Singapore. She was taken back to France, and treated by the most celebrated alienists of the country, but never recovered her reason. After her father's death his estate became Adele's property, but all it could do for her was to procure the best possible medical attendance and a luxurious home in a sanitarium for the mentally deranged.

Another daughter of Victor Hugo, the beautiful and charming Leopoldine, was also the heroine of romance that turned suddenly into darkest tragedy. She married Ches. Vaquerie, a brilliant and talented young man, and the happy pair set off on a honeymoon, which was known but a few days of wedded bliss when they met death together in a boating accident.

Clementine, the natural daughter of Victor Hugo's nephew, Leonid Hugo, also had an adventure and sensational career. As a "get rich quick" agent, a blackmailer and conspirator, she used the name of Countess Hugo as an aid in her career. She lived in France, Germany and Italy. When last heard of, she was serving a term in an Italian prison following her conviction of fraud.

BASIL KING, FAMOUS CANADIAN AUTHOR OF "THE INNER SHRINE, IS 54 TODAY

With the veil of anonymity but recently lifted, Basil King, the Canadian novelist, stands forth today, the fifty-fourth anniversary of his birth, as the author of three of the most successful fiction works of recent years. Mr. King was forty-two years old, ill, and almost blind, when he essayed his first story. Despite the handicap of defective vision, he is now known throughout America and England as the author of "The Inner Shrine," "The Wild Olive," and "The Street Called Straight." All of these were published anonymously, and the secret of their authorship has only lately been revealed. When "The Inner Shrine" was published as a serial in one of the leading New York magazines five years ago there was such speculation over the authorship, but critics one and all admitted it to be the work of a genius. Its successors have been even more successful, and Mr. King is now engaged on another novel to be brought out later in the year.

William Benjamin Basil King is the full name of the author, and he was born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Feb. 26, 1859. His father was an Englishman, while his mother was a native of the United States, and Mr. King admits to being very much divided in allegiance between the empire and the republic. While he makes his home in Boston, he spends much of his time in travel. His first book was "Griseida," published in 1900, and it was followed by "Let Not Man Put Asunder," and

THE SIXTEEN AND ONE-HALF MILL TAX RATE

The budget, as arranged by Mayor Wilson's Tax Board, will warrant a careful study. The grand list is the largest in the history of Bridgeport. Despite the large reductions made by the Board of Relief, the additions to the grand list, this year, were without precedent, and the total upon which the levy is made is in the neighborhood of \$105,000,000.

The tax rate is fixed at sixteen and one-half mills. This result has not been accomplished without the elision of appropriations for things most useful and necessary.

For months the mayor has insisted that the very heavens must fall should money not be raised with which to build a new almshouse. The people, at the polls, twice signified their belief that the necessary sum ought not to be raised by long term taxation. The Board of Charities then sought an appropriation of the Tax Board, but none was given them. In lieu of beginning the work as a charge against the budget, Mayor Wilson elected to seek bonds, this time without consulting the citizens. In other words he hopes to obtain from the General Assembly permission to issue Alms House bonds over the heads of the electors of Bridgeport and without consulting them in any way. This repudiation of the referendum is called to the attention of the thousands of citizens of Bridgeport who in the past have found it a useful protection to their pocketbooks and their homes.

The budget includes little or nothing for PERMANENT PAVEMENTS, although such pavements are needed, and the mayor has had much to say about their necessity.

Here again, he and his sponsors prefer to rely upon the borrowing power, which they wish to exercise without reference to the views of the fellow citizens who put them into office and power.

There is one item of the budget that is conspicuous for its presence. It is the appropriation for fifty new policemen, and nine expensive lieutenants of police. Here is an addition to the annual expense of something like \$60,000 a year. The sum, by reason of what the increase will bring in its train, will soon be \$100,000 annually.

There is no more need for these policemen and this expense than there is for skates on an automobile.

But the administration and the peculiar forces it represents, need them, to help carry party primaries, next fall.

Alms houses and permanent pavements have not votes. They do not register in primaries. They cannot hustle for the boys. But several hundred police appointments, those to be actually appointed, and those to whom appointments are promised, can do a lot of work in that line. They can do it in more than one party, and Mayor Wilson has designs on more than one party, or his sponsors have.

Mayor Wilson, prior to his nomination, promised a flat tax of 15 mills.

This newspaper said that the flat tax was merely a lure, and that his actual purpose was to borrow heavily, and plunge the city into debt as deeply as might be.

How well circumstances have since fulfilled this prognostication any citizen who reads the newspapers will know.

In September there was submitted proposed debt amounting to \$2,200,000. It was defeated, most of it overwhelmingly.

The mayor now has proposed and there is pending before the General Assembly further projects to create a debt amounting to \$1,175,000, making a total debt proposed by the mayor, of \$3,375,000, which is going some in a city famous throughout the United States for its strict adherence to the pay as you go plan.

Now a sixteen and one-half mill tax raises about \$1,700,000, which is about half the amount his honor has strenuously advocated by way of debt.

Mayor Wilson's ACTUAL PROPOSAL to the people of Bridgeport, therefore, is a budget of \$5,075,000, composed one-third of tax levy and two-thirds of debt.

His actual tax rate, had he had his own will, would have been not 16, but 48 MILLS, a financial policy which, if long continued, would bring Bridgeport to its knees.

Nor would this have been all. The debt created would in some instances have compelled the creation of further debt. The Hering sewer plan could not have been carried to completion, for instance, short of \$6,000,000, and it would have brought large additional expense to the annual budget for expenses of maintenance and operation.

His has been a policy of financial folly inspired by the owners of municipal service corporations, seeking to delay as long as possible municipal ownership of those things.

The people of Bridgeport have seen through the pretense of the fifteen mill rate, plus unlimited borrowing. Next November they will take themselves out of jeopardy, by putting into office somebody whose ideas of municipal finance are a little more conservative.

several other novels. These were published under his own name, but were not highly successful and he was comparatively unknown when "The Inner Shrine" was published anonymously in 1908. Although he began his literary career late in life, Mr. King declares that from his youth he held the conviction that he was a born author.

Lathrop Brown of Long Island, who will succeed Martin W. Littleton as congressman from the First New York district next week, is thirty years old today, and will be the "baby" of the Sixty-third Congress. Clyde H. Tavenner, a newly-elected member from Illinois, is the next youngest member of the new House. He was thirty-one this month.

Ferdinand I. Tsar of the Bulgars, will receive the congratulations of citizens on his fifty-second birthday. The Bulgarian King, is as sprightly and active as a youth of half his years, which he attributes in part to his adoption of the sour milk diet of his adopted land—a diet made famous by Prof. Elie Metchnikoff. Ferdinand was the youngest son of the late Prince Augustus of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha and was elected prince of Bulgaria in 1887. Five years ago Ferdinand declared Bulgaria to be independent of Turkey, and named himself Tsar. Just now he is one of the most popular of rulers, owing to the success of his army in Turkey.

Thomas William Lawson, of "Frenzied Finance" fame, is fifty-six to-day, and sixth street—Adv. 1 2 3

LIBERAL SUNDAY BILL IS URGED

MINISTERS OF MANY CHURCHES AGREE WITH WORKERS ON ALLOWING AMATEUR SPORTS.

HEAR OPPONENTS LATER Professor Willard Fisher Calls Connecticut Town on Sunday Most Desolate of Places.

Hartford, Feb. 26.—"The most desolate spot in the whole world is a Connecticut town on Sunday," declared Professor Willard C. Fisher before the judicial committee yesterday afternoon in arguing for more liberal Sunday laws. Prof. Fisher said that he was in favor even of professional baseball where an admission fee was charged. He said that the day is religiously devoted to the powers of local boards of health giving such boards power to declare mosquito breeding places nuisances. The main bill, House Bill 25, more practically presents the way for draining mosquito breeding areas throughout the state, both fresh water and salt marshes. It makes an appropriation of \$200,000 for the purpose and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to "go to it."

The room was crowded with eminent doctors who appeared for the bill and Dr. W. H. Carmalt of New Haven had charge of the many acres of marsh land exist in the state and how much it would cost to drain them, a later speaker placing the figure at \$7 million. He said that about one-tenth of the entire area had been drained last year by private subscription and enterprise but the work must be statewide in order to attain the desired results. He said that malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes and while the number of deaths from that disease is not large the loss of time incurred by its victims should be taken into consideration. He emphasized the fact that both shore and inland marshes must be drained. "It cannot be done by private subscription as it is too big a job," he said. New Haven had done some work and the results were highly satisfactory.

Dr. Moss Gompertz of New Haven said \$6,000 was spent about that city in the work last year of which about \$500 was spent in ditching. The amount asked for in the bill is small, he said. Dr. E. T. Bradstreet of Meriden, president of the State Medical Society, was heard in behalf of the measure and called attention to the eminent backing which it was receiving. He said that the \$200,000 asked for would probably be but a small part of what would be expended if the work was started as private enterprise would aid.

Dr. E. K. Root of this city spoke as a member of the state board of health and told of the work which the city did in the South Meadows and of the success of the undertaking. He said, however, that its success was somewhat hampered by the fact that work had to stop at the city line and nothing could be done to keep mosquitoes from breeding in Wethersfield. Dr. C. W. Gaylord of Branford, and other physicians were heard for the measure as was State Entomologist W. E. Walling.

At the afternoon session the committee considered three tenement house bills. The first taken up was introduced by Mr. Koppelman of Hartford and related to the establishment of a state board of tenement supervision as its prime object and provided for certain conditions as to wall-papering over old paper and the whitening of cellars. There were several, aside from Mr. Koppelman, who spoke in favor of the measure and a number offered opposition on the ground that the boards of health in the city would be empowered to do, and thus the appointment of such a body would be nothing more nor less than an incumbrance. Mr. Koppelman outlined the provisions of his bill and added that he had always been interested in bettering the condition of the poor, that he had made a study of the subject and that he thought it duty of the Legislature to protect the poorer people who are really the ones to be safeguarded. He said that the majority of the owners of tenements were inclined to do the right thing but that there were a few whose someone who would take the cheaper way out in dealing with questions and it was these, that the bill was framed to hit.

Thomas J. Cummings explained that the bill was not to provide a salaried commission for the violations would take care of any compensation for the members. The bill provided for inspectors to enforce the law but the supporters of the bill did not know how many would be required. Alfred J. McKeon of Bridgeport said the people of this city were vitally interested in the bill, as Bridgeport was a cosmopolitan city and the conditions in many of the houses were awful. This was particularly true of the tenements owned by people living outside the city and he said people were forced to live in the tenements so as to be near their work. The Board of Health, he thought, was empowered to handle the situation and he added that there was no intent to burden the state, but simply to aid the poor. He thought the spread of contagious disease was in part due to the fact that new wall-paper was allowed to be placed over green lichen walls without the old paper being taken off. All of the doctors present, however, disputed him on this point.

Dr. Frank W. Wright of New Haven was of the opinion that there should not be any more acts relating to the building laws, as the builders now hardly knew where they stood. All places where there was contagious disease he said were distinguished. Dr. C. T. Boisford agreed with this sentiment and said that the Hartford board of health had all the authority it wanted. Dr. Edward B. Hooker objected to the bill because he said that the law should not give scientific instruction as to the details of scientific work, believing that should

be left to the administration of scientists.

The men who opposed this bill were in favor of a bill amending the present law in regard to tenement houses. Dr. Wright replied that he thought if amendments were needed that they ought to be put in now and have a law that would stand without amending for some time.

F. E. Walling, a farmer living near Yukon, Mo., strongly recommends Foley's Honey & Tar Compound and says: "I have been advised by my family doctor to use Foley's Honey & Tar Compound for my children when there was a cough medicine needed. It always gives the best of satisfaction and I recommend it to others." F. B. Brill, Stratford avenue and Sixth street—Adv. 1 15

FIRST THINGS

The first of the several terrible earthquakes from which Lisbon has suffered occurred 382 years ago to-day, Feb. 26, 1531. Fifteen hundred houses, comprising the greater part of the Portuguese city, were destroyed and 20,000 persons were killed. A number of neighboring towns suffered the same fate. During the following two centuries the city was frequently shaken by the fact that new wall-paper was allowed to be placed over green lichen walls without the old paper being taken off. All of the doctors present, however, disputed him on this point.

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MOSQUITOES DOOMED THROUGHOUT STATE

THAT IS IF LEGISLATIVE BILL GOES THROUGH. Can Drain Salt Marshes For \$7 An Acre—Tenement House Question Before the Committee.

Hartford, Feb. 26.—The committee on public health and safety broke all morning in hearings by calling on for 10 o'clock the morning when it heard men in favor of several bills for the extermination of mosquitoes.

Three of the measures were scheduled being of minor importance relating to the powers of local boards of health giving such boards power to declare mosquito breeding places nuisances. The main bill, House Bill 25, more practically presents the way for draining mosquito breeding areas throughout the state, both fresh water and salt marshes. It makes an appropriation of \$200,000 for the purpose and the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to "go to it."

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THE COYNESS OF MR. JUDGE

(Hartford Times.) John A. Judge, in his letter to Senator Babcock, expresses a yearning to appear before the committee to give his recital concerning the three fingers that Senator Hurley saw. But Mr. Judge restrains his natural impulse upon advice of learned counsel. As one is led to understand from his honeyed words he won't come until he has to come and he doesn't believe he will have to come—at least not before the present investigating body.

It must be admitted that Mr. Judge, quoting the advice of his counsel, advances certain reasons for his hesitancy which seem fairly sound. There is a question as to the competence and impartiality of the committee. Perhaps this is unjust, but on the surface there is sufficient doubtfulness to justify some coyness on the part of a citizen who may find himself seriously involved. Legislative committees, undisciplined by court procedure, are not infrequently more responsive to the inclinations of their political faiths, do not, as tribunals, command the respect and confidence vouchsafed a duly organized court of law. Many people dodge them by instinct.

But Mr. Judge must be heard somewhere. A senator of the state of Connecticut has made a blunder in offering the offer of a bribe. He points to Mr. Judge as the man who attempted the bribery. A number of people seem to be giving evidence that their personal desires would be well served by the collapse of the whole case or its dismissal as a humorous incident investigated in the fashion of opera bouffe. But the state of Connecticut can't afford to have it dropped. If the legislative committee can't secure the witnesses and can't find out all there is to be found out about it then some superior agency must be invoked.

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Our 1913 Special Sheet, 72 x 90, 50 cts. Pillow Cases, 42 x 36, 10 cts; 45 x 36, 12 cts. Embroidered Pillow Cases, 45 x 36, 75 cts a pair.

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The man who pauses to look at the display of those woven Madras Neglige Shirts in the Fairfield Av. window will hardly fail to make a selection of one or more, especially when he realizes the price is only 98 cts for a shirt regularly sold for \$1.50 and \$2.00. An exceptionally good offer.

Imitation of mother of pearl Initial Wafers are a dainty novelty. Each packet contains 25 Wafers gummed at back ready for attachment on note paper, envelopes, etc. 10 cts a package. Stationery Section.

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A WISE GIRL

He was the happy father of a very pretty and bright little girl of twelve. "Dad," she said to him, one evening while he was reading the paper, "every morning when I am going to school the boys catch hold of me and kiss me." "But, Ethel," he said, "why don't you run away from them?" "Well, dad, if I did, perhaps they wouldn't chase me." He went on reading.

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