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THE ARGUS is essentially a paper for the home and should be a regular visitor into every household in Rock Island.

It is a fearless advocate of everything tending to promote the interests of the city and its people. It cannot be controlled by cliques and selfish corporations as has been frequently demonstrated.

The reduction in price to ten cents a week has had the effect of bringing in an average of 20 new subscribers a day since the announcement was made.

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UNCLE SAM'S MAILBAGS

When Worn Out, They Just Begin to Be Really of Service.

To see the government economically administered, go where they mend mailbags. When a mailbag is worn out, it is considered as just fit for service. A new mailbag is stiff, unyielding. When it has knocked about the world, had the starch taken out of it and its weak places discovered, it grows pliable, gives when it can't force its way and is now prepared to do business successfully.

Like a human being, the mailbag has had its experience. The most active mailbags now in the service have scarcely a hand's breadth of the original fabric. The ordinary jute mailbag is mended by women. This is one of the now few branches of the public service outside of the civil service rules. The women who mend mailbags are appointed by congressmen or public officers in the old way. A more democratic gathering cannot be found in Washington. It is dirty if not difficult work. In the numbers of women clad in their worst clothes, their heads hidden in paper fools' caps with long curling, their hands guarded by leather bands and at work on sewing so rude that it seems like a travesty on the gentle art of the needle, it is difficult to detect from one another the delicately nurtured woman, the sturdy foreigner and the negro. They are all there working in perfect amity.

Each woman sits on a low chair. She has exchanged her street dress for her working clothes in the commodious dressing room. She receives every morning a mailbag holding 10 bags. Five of these are comparatively good; five are more or less bad. It is a mild sort of lottery, which these women experience twice or three times a day, and the element of chance is not the less exciting though it lie in the depths of a dirty mailbag.

Bad or good the women are paid 25 cents a bag. For the woman who cannot earn at least \$1.07 a day there is no place in this room. They earn on an average about \$1.50 a day, and some women exceed this amount. Each woman works with a darning needle and twine thread. Her first requirement is the sailor's stitch. With this she can patch, darn or embroider. When she has finished the bags, they are carried to a central table, where on a bulletin board her name is scheduled. There her work is examined by one of three men and checked off accordingly.

Not all sew. Some string the bags at the neck and put on the tags and locks. One of these is a blind negro. She has not seen since a child, but she works rapidly and deftly while she tells with pride how she can embroider and sew at home.

These women from such varied walks in life work together in perfect accord. When to the foreman the dusty air and unsightly work seem to have depressed the workers, he suggests to some one, generally a colored woman, to start up some music. The wave of sound gathers until the whole room has joined in. It is usually a hymn, for hymns come most easily to women's lips.

The government is a kind taskmaster. The room is finely lighted and ventilated. The washrooms are abundantly and finely equipped with marble mounted stationary stands. At noon a tea and coffee bureau is opened, and the workers have all the tea and coffee they desire at the expense of their country. Washington working hours are easy. Vacations of a month are given, and certain sick leaves are provided for. The sweatshops of the government, where the new mailbags are made by contract, are in this city.—New York Sun.

A Perugian Superstition.

The girls of the Perugian highlands believe as firmly as any heroine of Theocritus that a person possessing a lock of another person's hair can will pain, disease and even death to the owner of the hair, and thus when maidens give their betrothed lovers the customary plaited tress it is virtually their life and all their power of suffering that they give into those trusted hands.

If the man should prove unfaithful and disease descend upon the unhappy woman, she is not, however, utterly lost, the experienced matrons of her village have means to transfer the complaint to a tree, to an animal or to cast it into running water. The patient must rise in the early dawn, touch a certain plant in a certain manner, saying, "May thou wither and I flourish again," or bind her complaint to a tree in a given fashion, taking care never to pass again before that tree lest the disease, recognizing its former possession, return to her again.—London Athenaeum.

Ice Cream Poisoning.

This is a reproach to the professions of medicine and chemistry. Year after year, with mournful reiteration, there are many reports of fatal cases. The deaths from this source most immensely exceed those from hydrophobia, but Pasteur institutes spring up like mushrooms in every country, while the deaths of the victims of poisoning by the cream are passed over in silence. Would it not be well to look into this matter? Would it not be well to prove or disprove the theory of a writer that the common ice cream freezer is often an electric battery decomposing toxic products by means of the mixture acting as an electrolyte?—Medical News.

A Stammering Mate.

Hobbs and Dobbs were discussing men who stammer. "The hardest job I ever had," said Hobbs, "was to understand a deaf and dumb man who stammered." "How can a deaf and dumb man stammer?" asked Dobbs. "Easily enough," replied Hobbs. "He had rheumatism in his fingers."—London Tit-Bits.

Looking In Teats.

Maud—Why did you break off your engagement with Charley? Ellen—Well, you see he would wear shirts and neckties which didn't become my complexion.—Chicago Record.

JOSLIN.

Dec. 5.—Snow, snow, beautiful snow! Its hidden beauties are more beautiful than those that were intended for the naked eye.

On Saturday last there were born to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wainwright twin babies. Their lives were of short duration.

On Sunday evening last Rev. Dr. Mundrum preached at Joslin, taking for his text, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

During the last week Fred Bahrendt, Charles H. Osborn, Charles W. Wake, F. E. Crompton and Ira Wainwright insured their farm buildings and personal property in the Coe and Zuma Mutual.

Immediately after the last presidential election, republicans upon the public highway were as scarce as hen's teeth. Those even that had been in the habit of coming to the creamery with milk, sent their boys, but, presto change! They are crowing like bantam roosters, and bobbing up their smiling faces in every corner. Enjoy your victory with moderation, boys, politics are very fickle and uncertain.

We know it to be a fact that over 21,000,000 acres on our cultivated farm lands are owned by European noblemen, and that they hold mortgages on over 100,000,000 acres more; and also that a trifling tax on tea brought on the revolutionary war; that we send more money out of the country now annually, to non-resident landlords and money lenders than the whole tea trade of the world amounts to. The wonder is how the nation can stand it. Our present system of taxation makes it easy for speculators in land to hold valuable land out of use until they get an unjust price for it. This is an evil so great that it cannot be estimated. Add to the above the fact that 240,000 persons own more than half the wealth of this country, and that this condition and state of our country has been brought about and fostered by short-sighted and wicked politicians. I would ask how long are the citizens of the United States going to submit to it, and what are we coming to?

Hadn't those who attribute our hard times to the election of a democratic president and congress, better make some explanation to satisfy the citizen of average common sense that they are not trying? If I remember right, Mr. Cleveland during his first term was confronted with a constantly increasing surplus in the treasury. And did he not ask congress to reduce taxation, claiming that unnecessary taxation was unjust, and that the people should be relieved of the heavy burden? The excess of income over expenditure was about \$100,000,000 a year, which should be left in the pockets of the people, and in the channels of business. Was not his voice unheeded? Instead of reducing taxation the republican congress thought best to devise ways and means to dispose of the surplus on the plea that large tax levies gave prosperity. They acted upon that proposition. They disposed of the surplus by making large appropriations, so that when Mr. Cleveland entered upon his second term the treasury was practically bankrupt.

Being in receipt of a copy of the Liverpool Daily Post of England, I find that the carpet manufacturers of that country are very much excited and thoroughly aroused over the recent importation into their midst of American moquette, ascimsters and certain other productions from the looms of Alesander, Smith & Sons, through their New York selling agents, W. and J. Sloane. As might be expected this shipment of American carpets has caused considerable unfriendly comment on the part of those engaged in that industry on the other side. Alesander, Smith & Sons say that they have entered the English market and are there to stay. The McKinley duty on moquette and ascimsters is 60 cents per square yard and 40 per cent ad valorem. In other words, the duty on a square yard of imported carpet valued at \$1 is exactly \$1.40 or 100 per cent. Now, then, I would ask any protectionist if American carpets can be sold in England in open competition with English. I would like to know why so high a duty as 100 per cent is required to protect the American manufacturer in his home market? Why so heavy a duty on carpet wool, when, in spite of it, we can send the manufactured product to compete with the pauper labor of Europe? Does not this need some explanation by the advocates of a high protective tariff? Do not protectionists see that now this Chinese wall of protection is removed that the American carpet manufacturers will have desirable access to the markets of the world? Is it not supreme folly to shut ourselves out of the world's markets, pile up our surplus product in warehouses and turn out of employment an army of operatives to remain idle until the surplus is exhausted by home consumers? Should not the carpet manufacturers who clamored for protection that they might pay better wages to their employes, rise up and explain. Won't McKinley and his followers have something to answer for at the day of judgment?

PROBATE.

74.—John G. Surman to Huber & Peetz, lot 55, Huber & Peetz's add., Rock Island, \$700. Jannette McMaster to John C. Dar-enport, lot 7, block 3, McMaster's Third add., Rock Island, \$500.

5.—Estate of Magdelene Krone. Jury impanelled and sworn for trial of claim of Lizzie Lee, administratrix. Verdict for claimant \$100.

Conservatorship of Charles G. Lydehn. Hearing on petition for conservator. Jury impanelled and sworn and verdict that C. G. Lydehn is mentally distracted and that a conservator be appointed. Gust Ed and Nels Swanson were appointed conservators under bond of \$500.

Dec. 4.—C. V. Moray, New York. Hattie H. Purdy, Pleasant Valley, Iowa.

5.—Julius Peters, Lena Holdorf, Rock Island.

ALONE ON THE PRAIRIE.

The day was in that transitory state when twilight lingers in the lap of day and darkness struggles for the ascendancy. The sun hung in a great red ball of lurid flame between heaven and earth; there was a feeling of profound quiet which seemed to settle on all things animate and inanimate. The birds, the insects, the very trees and sprouting plants were for the moment hushed as if in expectancy of some unforeseen, some inexplicable something which seemed to pervade the very atmosphere. A bull frog gurgled softly as he fell back into the limpid water. Suddenly, over the brow of a distant hill, there appeared a solitary man, seated astride a great bay horse; he cast one long sweeping glance around him and then went back over the brow of the hill again. And that same night over seven hundred people were turned away unable to gain admission to the opera house where "She Couldn't Marry Three" was being played to the most delighted audience of the season.

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The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, Fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Hartz & Ullemeyer.

American Catarrh Cure.



The American Catarrh Cure is the result of 26 years study and treatment of the disease. One bottle convinces the most skeptical. It is always ready for use, needing neither docher nor atomizer. It relieves the hearing, cures the hoarseness, catches a cold, expelling it, removes the headache and nose bleedings, increases the appetite, produces sound sleep, invigorates the whole system and increases the vitality. Prepared only by W. H. Jones, M. D., 25 & 27 North Seventh street, Philadelphia, or mailed anywhere for \$1.

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At last a medical work that tells the cause, describes the effects, points the remedy. This is scientifically the most valuable, artistically the most beautiful medical book that has appeared for years; 51 pages every page bearing a half-tone illustration in tint. Some of the subjects treated are Nervous Debility, Impotency, Sterility, Development, Varicocele, The Urinary System, Stricture, Hemorrhoids, etc. Every man who would know the grand truth, the plain facts, the old errors, and the new discoveries of medical art as applied to man's life, should read this book. It will be sent free under seal. Address the publishers, 210 Madison St., Buffalo, N. Y.

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Choice, all week, of any ladies' fine shoe, square or opera toe, plain or patent tip, regular \$3.25 or \$3.00 shoes, only \$2.50.

Misses' fine Dongola, square toe, patent tip, regular \$1.75 shoes, all week \$1.25.

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