

THE ARGUS.

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BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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Tuesday, February 10, 1914.

No matter how straight a husband may walk he is not immune from criticism. Even a tight-rope walker is being sued for divorce.

The icemen are able to sit up and take some nourishment today. They are making active preparations to harvest a crop if it's only of tissue paper thickness.

An eastern inventor announces that he has discovered a method of transmitting thought by wireless. If the tolls for this service are anything like the telegraph tolls, a penny will fall far short of settling the thought bill hereafter.

Representative Clyde H. Tavenner's efforts for Rock Island arsenal and government manufacture of armor plate seem to be all but crowned with complete success. The house bill which the Rock Island congressman was so conspicuously instrumental in getting through the house passed the senate yesterday and is now up to presidential sanction.

With the death of Conrad A. Spelding this morning passes one of Rock Island's sturdy pioneers. At the age of 85 he retired last August from the drug business in which he had been continuously engaged since 1858.

ARMY REJECTIONS.

According to the Army and Navy Journal, the total number of applicants for enlistment in the army during 1913 in the eastern, middle, southern and western sections of the United States was as follows: In Chicago, 11,920, with 9,342 rejections, or 78.4 per cent of rejections; in New York, 17,055, with 13,758 rejections, a percentage of 80.6; in Savannah, New Orleans and Little Rock, 3,855, with 3,911 rejections, a percentage of 78.1; at San Francisco, 5,504, with 4,443 rejections, a percentage of 80.7.

The Journal of the American Association thinks that it does not argue well for the physique and the stamina of our young men, or perhaps may be accounted for by the supposition that the best do not offer themselves for enlistment. In England, it is said, the average Tommy Atkins is deteriorating, but in a comparatively new country like the United States the descendants of hardy pioneer stock, reared amid abundance and under favorable health and climatic conditions, should make a much better showing.

UNDEED, THE WORLD DO MOVE.

Late advices from Constantinople state that the powers that be of Turkey have decided that women have some rights that should be respected. Permission has been granted to the fair sex of the Ottoman empire to attend universities and other institutions of learning, where they can obtain an education fitting them for usefulness in life.

It has been held heretofore among the Turks that women should learn only what was needful for them to know in their homes and they were given few rights outside the harems of their lords and masters. But "the world do move," and nothing of late has furnished such strong evidence of the fact as that Turkey is awakening to the call of the forward-looking days of the twentieth century in the matter of woman's right to exercise her own personality and to be a factor elsewhere in life and its activities than behind the closed doors of a harem. Under the inspiring influence of ed-

ucated women in public affairs, Turkey may yet become an up-to-date nation. It has long been called "the sick man of Europe" and its boundaries have been diminished until it now holds dominion over a very small portion of its one time large empire in Europe. Its decline was due to the barbaric Asiatic customs it maintained.

BUT IT DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK.

It is often remarked that the way to economize in governmental expenditures is to go ahead and economize, as the late Horace Greeley would have said. One way to do it would be to spend less money.

We are not sure about this, now that we have late returns from Peru. The president of that republic was taken prisoner one day this week, a revolution having been put on for the purpose of locking him up.

Of course there were pleas in extension of the crime of President Billinghurst. It was mentioned that his country had got in a bad way financially. There was a chronic condition in which revenues were not adequate to expenditures. It wasn't practical, the president thought, to raise more money by any sort of direct or indirect taxation; and so he did the next obvious thing, went ahead and reduced expenditures.

From this we should perhaps learn that economy in administration of state affairs is not the simple thing that it is conceded to be. The man whom it hits may make an awful noise. The state is not run by an uncomplaining piece of machinery.

The men and the women of a village sit round in a circle, leaving a space in the center of some six yards in diameter. I describe it as I saw it myself. The strongest man in the village is then picked out of the crowd, and, armed with a whip of hippopotamus hide, he and the young man who is to strive for the title enter the arena.

STRIPPED AND FLOGGED.

Fearful Ordeal of the Ackou Binat in the Sudan. Is the black man more stoical or merely less sensitive than we are? "At a fantasia in the Sudan," says Mr. Edward Fothergill in "Five Years in the Sudan," "I have myself seen the part that a young man plays of his own free will in order to obtain the title of ackou binat (the brother of the girls). This ceremony would turn a reformer's hair gray."

"The candidate for honor is stripped to the waist. He stands with his arms folded in the center of the ring, and the strong man dances up to him to the tune which is being played. He brings the whip round with all the force of which he is possessed and lands it on the bare back of the man in front of him. He dances away; again he advances, and the operation is repeated. This goes on until the number of strokes previously agreed upon have been dealt. In the particular case I saw it was twenty-five. If the man who is being flogged winces, if he so much as moves an eyelid as the whip descends, he is disqualified and branded as a coward until such time as he may choose to undergo the operation a second time.

"On this particular occasion he went through with it like a Trojan. Indeed, the man who was delivering the blows got tired first, and the last three cuts of the twenty-five were unsteady and flickered round the ear and neck of the 'brother.' I leave my readers to imagine the state of his back when all was over, but he appeared to be as happy as a king, and certainly he was accorded a great ovation by the assembled crowd of women."

STAKED HIS HEAD.

The Wager Sir William St. Clair Laid With King Robert Bruce. Edwin Noble in "The Dog Lover's Book" recalls the historic story of the two famous deerhounds Help and Hold, a monument to which can be seen this day at Roslin chapel. The legend is that King Robert Bruce while hunting upon the Pentland hills had several times started a white deer, but had hitherto been unable to capture it. It had always so quickly outdistanced his own hounds that he began to imagine that it was gifted with supernatural pow-

Capital Comment

BY CLYDE H. TAVENNER Congressman from the Fourteenth District.

(Special Correspondence of The Argus) Washington, Feb. 5.—Secretary Wilson in his first annual report of the work of the department of labor, gives



some striking facts in connection with labor disputes. One of the principal functions assigned to the department by law is that of acting as mediator in strikes. The first year of this week, at least, shows that when labor difficulties arise it is the workers who usually show the greater spirit of fairness. The employers are the ones who stubbornly resist settlements by peaceful means.

THE RIGHTEOUS COURSE

(Chicago Journal.)

President Wilson has announced that he will use every legitimate means in his power to secure the repeal of the exemption clause of the Panama canal act—the clause which grants free passage to boats of the coastwise shipping trust, while ships of all other nations must pay tolls.

A piece of bad faith is to repeal it before troubles arise. The president does not assume to dictate to congress in this matter, but no one can doubt that he will have his way. As in so many other instances, the whole country is behind him in his wishes, and only the special interests are against him.

"The Young Lady Across the Way"



We asked the young lady across the way if she didn't think our industrial relations were showing some improvement and she said she didn't know about ours but for her part she didn't have any relatives among that class of people.

The ONLOOKER BY HENRY HOWLAND



A king who long had worn his crown, Whom lesser kings beheld with awe, Who from his high throne banded down What served his people as their law. Stepped forth in simple garb, one day, And in the fields and crowded marts Beheld his subjects roll away.

He stroked the curls of many a child, And many a sad complaint he heard, And here and there benignly smiled, Or passed a speak a cheering word: Gray-bearded, bent old men he hailed. As fellows of his brotherhood.

What He Wanted Most. "Now," said the head of the reception committee, when the distinguished visitor had stepped from the car, "if you think you'd like it we've got a drive through the park."

Lost. "I spent more than \$5,000 on my daughter's voice. Now she has gone and got married, and I suppose she will never think of trying to sing again."

That Would Catch Them. "I wish I could think of some way to get people to come to my church. I have tried to preach sensible sermons, and I have done my best to get out and mix with our citizens—to make them feel that I am interested in them and their affairs. But it seems to be useless."

Optimism. The optimist lay in the street. From many wounds he bled; The robbers whom he chanced to meet Had nearly split his head. He gravely pondered for a time, Then on the curb he sat: The rogues had left him not a dime, He'd also lost his hat.

Poetry. Poetry is simply the most beautiful, impressive and widely effective mode of saying things, and hence its importance.—Matthew Arnold. There are no eyes so sharp as the eyes of hatred.—Hillard.

The Daily Story

HIS EDUCATION—BY JOHN TURNLEE. Copyrighted, 1914, by Associated Literary Bureau.

Tom Ainsworth was for many years a prospector in western gold fields. He missed several chances to make a fortune on account of not being able to analyze the dirt he took out of his holes. He was not even ordinarily educated. On one occasion he took a specimen of ore to a chemist for an assay and was told that there was no gold in it.

He turned on his heel and went away. Ainsworth knew that the paper he had offered was merely a pretense for an attempt to drive them off the claim. Charlie was not at home at the time, but when he came in his father informed him of Harding's visit and what it meant.

So Charlie went away to college. His father feared that his taste for out of door sports would overtop his desire to learn and during his son's college course kept himself informed as to what Charlie was doing. The first news of an honor conferred on his boy was disappointing. Instead of being given for an essay on some chemical subject, it was an appointment as pitcher of the university baseball team.

Charlie spent most of his time for two years in college attending to athletics and neglecting his studies. Then, being two years older than when he entered, he grew ashamed of himself. He was a practical chap at bottom and began to look at the subject practically.

His main object was to set himself right with his father. What was the surest way? He decided to leave the academic department of the university and enter a school of mines. To mining engineering he devoted himself exclusively as he had to athletics and after taking his degree returned to his home, ready for an application of what he had learned.

"I forgive you, Charlie," said his father, "for the time wasted in pitching balls, considerin' what you done in latin' about mines." "You can't tell, father," replied Charlie, "what's going to be most useful to a fellow in this world. During those two years I was practicing those curves I was laying the foundation for good health, though I'll admit that it was the scientific reason for the curves that interested me more than the physical exercise."

Charlie Ainsworth began to practice his profession about the time that gold was discovered in a new region, and nothing would do but that the family must pick up, bag and baggage, and seek its fortune in the latest opened territory. Mrs. Ainsworth, who had been with her husband through several experiences in nearby discovered gold fields and knew that the people in them were like a large pack of dogs fighting for a very few bones, was loath to go, but the men of the family overruled her.

Charlie, whose muscles seemed to crave exertion, resolved to suspend professional work for others and give himself solely to repaying his father for the education he had given him. So the two went to work with pick and shovel, and Tom Ainsworth found that what he had always believed about the importance of his own assaying was true. Charlie could form opinions from the character of the rocks and the soil, the way they lay together and their tilt, which were very valuable. Besides, he could assay any specimens they suspected of being valuable and get the result at once without going to an assayer, who might deceive them. So the old man was happy, even if he did not discover a mine.

Whether from Charlie's knowledge of minerals or from sheer luck, a very valuable piece of property was struck by the two men. Charlie one day assayed some ore from a new opening, and it turned out the vein from which it was taken opened instead of closed as they dug down. They kept their secret, but as ill luck would have it, the parties digging on the next claim struck a continuation of the same vein, but at its end. Following it toward the Ainsworth property, they found that it opened in that direction, showing that, though their own property was of little value, that of their neighbors was liable to be a bonanza.

One evening one of the neighbors, Harding, came to the hut with a dirty piece of paper on which something had been written and handed it to Tom Ainsworth. "What's this?" asked the latter. "It's a deed to this property you're on."

Harding folded the paper and put it in his pocket, saying: "This yere property belongs to me and my pals, and yer wants to understand that we hain't got no use for claim jumpers. We'll give you tomorror mornin' at 9 o'clock to get out." He turned on his heel and went away. Ainsworth knew that the paper he had offered was merely a pretense for an attempt to drive them off the claim.

The morning brought an end to any suspense they felt. A few minutes after 9 o'clock their neighbors showed signs of an offensive movement. They came out of their cabin and stood talking together, casting occasional glances at the Ainsworth home. They were about 200 yards distant, the intervening ground being covered at intervals by protruding rocks, earth thrown up from digging and an occasional tree. Charlie Ainsworth insisted on his mother keeping in the cabin, behind the log walls of which she would be safe from bullets if any were fired.

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These neighbors were three toughs, named Harding, Murphy and Gunn. They resolved to drive off Tom and Charlie Ainsworth, hoping to do so before they should discover the value of their property, or if they knew of the vein they possessed they might fortify themselves; if they did not know it they might be easily frightened into abandoning it. If the three men could not scare the owners they might kill them in a free fight, which would be lawful in that lawless country, though murder was apt to be punished by a vigilance committee.

Meanwhile Tom and his son were working away with a view to finding out as much as possible about the nature of their mine, its paying qualities and its extent, after which Charlie was to go back to the east and get capital for its development. The family lived on the property in a hut it had built. "The school board, the police board and the jail board are all in the limelight at once for trouble."

"Yes, it certainly does seem as if our city public affairs were going by the board."—New York Journal. Feb. 10 in American History. 1763—French and Indian war ended by treaty of peace at Paris. 1876—Reverdy Johnson, statesman, died; born 1793. 1904—President Roosevelt proclaimed the neutrality of the United States in the Russo-Japanese war. 1906—Paul Laurence Dunbar, negro poet, died; born 1872.