

THE WORLD GROWS BETTER.

Oh, the earth is full of sinning
And of trouble and of woe,
But the devil makes an inning
Every time we say it's so.

A COWTOWN EPILOGUE.

[By Thomas B. Montfort.]

SEE them two old plugs over
there?" the landlord of the
Maverick hotel asked, pointing
across the street.



THE BALL CUT A LOCK OF HAIR FROM AB'S HEAD.

The drummer made no reply, and a long silence followed. At last, however, the landlord emitted a soft chuckle and, pointing across the street, said:

and worked on the Triple X ranch, 'bout twenty miles south of town. And he was shore a holy terror. There was lots of mighty tough cowboys round here in them days, but the toughest of 'em was as mild and harmless as babies compared with Joe. Their little scrapperin' and shootin' wa'n't much more than Sunday school work when looked at alongside of what he done.

"Among the eccentric notions Joe got into his head was one to the effect that this town didn't need no marshal and shouldn't have none. Accordin'ly, as soon as that idea hit him he set in word to the marshal invitin' him to resign or move away and sayin' that he would be up in a few days and would be under the painful necessity of vacatin' the office with his six shooter if the marshal disregarded his well meant invitation.

"The marshal was a young feller, and he hadn't never felt any special longing to quit this world for another that he didn't know anything about, so he suddenly decided that he'd give up his job and go away to some place that was more conducive to longevity. Accordin'ly, he tendered his resignation and without waitin' for it to be accepted lit out.

"After that there were other marshals, but none of them held the office very long. As fast as they were elected Joe invited them to resign, and they showed respect for his wishes. Some of them were a little slow, though, and he had to come in and press his invitation by firin' a few shots just close enough about their heads to make them nervous and loosen up the muscles of their legs.

"I'll git him yit, though," Joe declared. "I'm jest bound to do it before I quit."

"Ab made the same declaration, and we was all shore one of 'em would be killed before the thing come to an end. Didn't seem like it could wind up any other way.

"But it transpired that we was all entirely mistaken, as you can see for yourself.

"One day, 'bout three months after the last shootin' scrape and jest when we was expectin' Joe to make another appearance, a covered wagon drove into town and stopped in front of the mayor's office. The wagon was from the Triple X, and we couldn't understand its bein' covered that way, so we all gathered round to see what it meant.

"'Yep, I reckon so," Joe replied. "'And it won't be long either,' Ab went on, 'till we can resume our little pastime of shootin' each other up.'"

"Joe turns around and looks Ab straight in the eyes and says: 'You may think me a coward if you want to, but I say right now that if there's any more shootin' done you'll have to do it. I'm through for my part. Before I'll shoot a man who took me in and cared for me like you did I'll pull up stakes and leave the country.'"

"Ab looked surprised for a moment; then he stretched out his hand and said: 'Put 'er thar, pard. Them's my sentiments exactly.'"

"And from that day them two fellers has been jest like you see 'em now, quiet and peaceful as lambs, the very best of friends and always hangin' around together."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT ENDORSES DAVIS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL BILL.

Congressman C. R. Davis, of Minnesota, feels greatly encouraged concerning the passage in the near future of his industrial high school bill. The numerous endorsements from the leading educational men of the United States, including favorable resolutions from many educational organizations, farmers' associations, State colleges of agriculture and mechanic arts, commercial organizations, boards of trade, manufacturers' organizations and industrial organizations generally throughout the country have inspired the hope that Congress will be induced to consider favorably the measure during the present session.

By appointment Mr. Davis had an interview with the President recently in which the provisions of the bill were considered. He was very much gratified to receive from the President his hearty and full endorsement of the measure. In this interview allusion was made to the President's speech at Keokuk in October last, and the President was gratified to know that his ideas then expressed concerning this measure were receiving such favorable consideration throughout the entire country. In this speech the President said:

"We should strive in every way to aid in the education of the farmer for the farm, and should shape our school system with this end in view; and so vitally important is this that in my opinion the federal government should co-operate with the state governments to secure the needed change and improvement in our schools. At present there is a gap between our primary schools in country and city which must be closed and if necessary the nation must help the state to close it. Too often our present school tend to put together too great a premium upon mere literary education, and therefore to train away from the farm and shop. We should reverse this process."

Among the hundreds of endorsements Mr. Davis has received and to which the President's attention was called, a letter written by Judge Peter J. Shields, of the Supreme court of California, especially attracted the President's attention. He not only approved of its contents but urged that great publicity be given to it as embodying briefly the desirability and necessity of developing education along industrial lines as embodied in this bill.

The President was much gratified at the equitable manner in which this bill distributes technical and industrial education among the masses. He was especially pleased to know that this bill divides the money about equally as between agriculture, the mechanic industries and home making.

Judge Shields' letter, written to his friend, Col. Weinstein, of Sacramento, California, is as follows: November 2nd, 1907. My Dear Mr. Weinstein: I received your letter enclosing a copy of the 'Davis Bill' which I now re-enclose to you. I was familiar with the bill from conversation with interested parties but never seen it and was glad to get it through you. I regard it as a very good bill; if it works out well it will prove a great help. The only wrong about it would have to come in its administration, it is perfectly sound in its purpose. You know that when a Federal fund is provided for State distribution what a scramble there is for it.

This to some extent has been true of the agricultural college endowment, although in the long run that has worked its way out and proved a really great success. The danger which I have pointed out however is very well guarded against in the 'Davis Bill' by requiring the several States to first provide the grounds, the farm and the school buildings and making the payment of the several annual amounts dependent upon the right use of proceeding sums, and placing the Secretary of Agriculture in control of all disbursements.

Rightly enforced the bill is admirable. First it provides for technical, industrial and practical education as distinguished from the old theory of educating all alike regardless of his type or the life he was to lead; secondly, the boy or girl books it that they might thereby acquire the strength and fiber of mind to later learn men and things. The character of education proposed by this bill will teach the realities of life direct and in the process cultivate the mind as well as the old plan. One of the most fruitful fields of the education of the future will be nature, the work of the world we live in and of this field agriculture comprehends its best features. This bill is broader than that however including mechanics and domestic science within its purposes. I am sure that a vigorous distribution of learning in these arts and sciences can do no harm and will do incalculable good. I am not afraid of vulgarizing the world or making it less 'utilitarian' by teaching all of the people to know plants and animals; through domestic science to feed the baby with wholesome food and the soul with all of the finer things which are comprehended within the limits of the real home, or through the mechanic arts which train men's bodies to their highest usefulness and to give expression to the mind's best conceptions. I am not afraid of the fate of a country whose people are given over to breeding perfect animals, rearing crops of best excellence, building good roads, labor saving machinery, automobiles, and railroads, constructing convenient houses, furnishing them perfectly and making real homes of them, to the building of bath tubs, arranging plumbing, weaving fine cloths and making them into right form. If the doing of such things does not make peace and union, for moral industry and wholesome progress then my judgment is hopelessly at fault.

Nor can I doubt that out of such conditions will surely spring the soundest moral and intellectual culture and impulse. This bill represents this general direction and purpose and I have no hesitation in pronouncing it sound and wise. When I see you I will enjoy talking it over with you and getting your views of it. My own are even more favorable to it than I have been able to state. Very truly yours, PETER J. SHIELDS.



"IF THERE'S ANY MORE SHOOTIN' DONE, YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT!"

him. But it happened that the mayor was away from home and wouldn't be back for a week.

"Ab studied a little while. Then he said to the driver: 'Take him down to my house. I'll keep him and do the best I can for him. That seems to be all there is for it.'"

A Well Mannered Bus.

Riding in an omnibus up Regent street recently, an old lady was annoying the other passengers by her remarks. The conductor remonstrated with her, saying, "Ma'am, remember you are in a public vehicle, and behave as such."—London Spectator.

In a Nitroglycerin "Hill."

In the "danger area" the severest discipline is maintained. All entrances are carefully guarded by searchers, who rigorously examine every individual that desires to enter, relieving him of any metallic objects that may be carried upon his person, together with matches and other suspicious objects which upon coming into contact with the dangerous chemicals used in this zone might provoke serious trouble. No matter how often an employee engaged within the hill may pass in and out, every time he enters he must submit to this preliminary and essential operation. There are also some 500 girls employed, and these are under the charge of matrons. Hairpins, ordinary pins, shoe buttons, metal pegs within the soles of the shoes, knitting and other needles are all religiously barred. Their hair is tied with braid or ribbon, and, as with the male employees, every time they enter the "danger area" they are similarly searched by the matrons. — Scientific American.

A Hard Knock.

Railroad claim agents have little faith in their fellow creatures. One said recently: "Every time I settle a claim with one of these hard headed rural residents who wants the railroad to pay twice what he would charge to build it if he gets a sheep killed, I think of this story, illustrative of the way some people want to hold the railroad responsible for every accident, of whatever kind, that happens. Two Irishmen were driving home from town one night when their buggy ran into a ditch, overturned, and they were both stunned. When a rescuer came along and revived them the first thing one of them said was, 'Where's the train?' 'Why, there's no train around,' he was told. 'Then where's the railroad?' 'The nearest railroad is three miles away,' he learned. 'Well, well,' he commented, 'I knew it hit us pretty hard, but I didn't suppose it knocked us three miles from the track!'"—Argonaut.

The Page Between.

A New Orleans woman, well known for her work for charity, recently accepted an invitation to speak at an anti-tuberculosis meeting. On the platform she found herself seated between a bishop and a rabbi, and the tone of the meeting seemed to be rendered extremely solemn by the combination.

She Was a Bit Bashful.

Mr. Peet, a very diffident man, was unable to prevent himself being introduced one evening to a fascinating young lady, who, misunderstanding his name, constantly addressed him as Mr. Peters, much to the gentleman's distress. Finally summoning up the courage, he earnestly remonstrated: "Oh, don't call me Peters. Call me Peet!" "Ah, but I don't know you well enough, Mr. Peters," said the young lady, blushing, as she withdrew behind her fan.—London Telegraph.

The Onion in Cooking.

The greatest of French cooks, being asked to give the secret of his success, answered: "The very foundation of all good cooking is butter and onion! I use them in all my sauces and gravies. They have the effect of making a customer come back for more. Butter without onion will drive the customer away after a few days. Boil the onion till it melts or entirely disappears; then add the butter and call the mixture stock."—Exchange.

Artificial Flies.

Dame Juliana Berners, prioress of the nunnery of Sapwell, near St. Albans, England, was the author of the first book on angling in the English language, printed in 1496. She gives a list of twelve flies, and now, after a lapse of more than four centuries, artificial flies, constructed after her formula, would prove as successful as any of the up to date creations.

Helpless.

Ellie—What a helpless girl she is! Stella—Yes. If somebody should provide the mistletoe and furnish the man she couldn't do the rest. — Canadian Courier.

These figures Mr. Davis contends are altogether encouraging as showing that national appropriations have not tended to relieve the States of the sense of responsibility but have in fact quickened the sense of responsibility in the States which are benefited. The schools provided for in this measure are of exactly the same class as those inaugurated under the Morrill Act of 1862, and like them will strengthen the States directly and the Federal Government indirectly. As these State colleges have remained under the State control so will the schools of agriculture and the schools of mechanic arts provided for in this bill remain under State control, hence no cause for alarm from centralization. Instead of destroying the unity of our school system, this measure bridges the gap between the education of the school house and the education of the home, the farm and the shop. Heretofore our education has lacked unity, it has been too much centered about the literary, the non-industrial; its forms and substance have been too little co-ordinated with the training of the home, of the shop, of the farm and of the great outdoors. Through technical training it will keep our youth out of a peasant or submerged class; and by encouraging the States to expend more money for education it will greatly increase general as well as technical education.

A Hundred Million Ties a Year.

In the construction of new track and for renewals, the steam and street railroads used in 1906 over 100,000,000 cross-ties. The average price paid was 48 cents per tie.

Oak, the chief wood used for ties, furnishes more than 44 per cent, nearly one-half of the whole number, while the Southern pines, which rank second, contribute about one-sixth. Douglas fir and cedar, the next two, with approximately equal quantities, supply less than one-fifth apiece. Chestnut, cypress, Western pine, tamarack, hemlock and redwood are all of importance, but no one of them furnishes more than a small proportion.

Oak and Southern pine stand highest in both total and average value; the average value of each is 51 cents. Chestnut ranks next, followed by cedar. Hemlock, at 28 cents, is the cheapest tie reported.

More than three-fourths of all ties are hewed; and with every wood from which ties are made, except Douglas fir and Western pine, the number of ties hewn is greater than the number sawed. In general, when lumber has a relatively low value the proportion of sawed ties increases, because the market for ties is always active, while that for lumber is frequently sluggish. All Western species are affected by this condition, for stumpage is abundant and its value relatively low.

Ten per cent of the ties purchased were treated with preservatives either before they were purchased or at the treating plant of the railroad company. At least ten railroad companies are operating their own plants for the preservation of their construction material.

Of the many forms in which wood is used, ties are fourth in cost, sawed lumber being first, firewood second and shingles and laths third. It has been calculated that the amount of wood used each year in ties is equivalent to the product of 600,000 acres of forest, and that to maintain every tie in the track two trees must be growing.

With nearly 300,000 miles of railroad track and approximately 2,800 ties to the mile, there are over 800,000,000 ties constantly on hand in general use. The railroad's report that in the form of ties cedar lasts 11 years, cypress 10 years and redwood 9 years. These woods, however, lack the desired weight and hardness, and, what is more important, they are not available in the region of the trunk lines of the central and eastern States. When it is considered, then, that the service of the longest-lived tie in general use is chestnut, white oak, tamarack, spruce and Douglas fir—is but seven years, with some, as the black oak, it is but four years, whereas a treated tie with equipment to lessen wear will last fifteen years, it is apparent how much the railroads can save if preservative treatment of ties is universally adopted. The saving in the drain upon the forests is of even greater moment.

Details of the consumption of ties in 1906 are contained in circular 124, just issued by the forest service in co-operation with the bureau of the census. This pamphlet can be secured by application to the forester at Washington, D. C.

Mme. Paderewski.

It has usually been the task of the musician's wife to look after her husband's health and in a measure after his business, and to play in fact the part that falls so often to the husband of the Prima Donna. As Mme. Paderewski has a rather larger responsibility in that particular than the wife of any other virtuoso, she rises to it in a correspondingly efficient manner. She has an exact knowledge of every detail of her husband's business and is the mistress of the Paderewski farm at Morges. It is to Mme. Paderewski that every statement of expenses on the private car of the pianist is taken, and she sees to it that the naturally extravagant tendencies of her husband are held in check.

A Boy Inventor.

"The originator of the safety pin," said an historian of inventions, "was a little boy, an English blacksmith's son. The little boy Harrison by name—had to look after his baby brother. The baby often cried and his tears were usually traced to pin punctures. The boy nurse tried a long time to bend pins into such a form that they could be used with safety to his brother's flesh. 'In this he failed; but his father, the blacksmith, perceiving the utility of the idea the lad had been at work on, took it up on his own account, and eventually turned out the safety pin that is in use today all over the world.'"

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