

IDAHO IS A BIG STATE.

Larger Than All New England With Maryland Added.

To those of us who remember Idaho in our school geographies as a small pink block, shaped like an easy chair facing east, it may be of interest that this state, which in 1890 added the forty-fifth star to the constellation of the flag, is nearly as large as Pennsylvania and Ohio combined and larger than the six New England states with Maryland included for good measure.

Idaho covers an area of 83,888 square miles, divided principally between the Rocky mountain region and the Columbia plateau, only a small part in the southeast corner of the state lying in the great basin. In elevation above sea level the state ranges from 735 feet, at Lewiston, to 12,078 feet at the summit of Hyndman peak. It is drained mainly to the Columbia through the Snake river and its tributaries and has an annual rainfall of about seventeen inches, the range in a single year at different places being from six to thirty-eight inches.

The industries of the state are chiefly agriculture, stock raising and mining. Hay, wheat, oats and potatoes are the principal crops. A large area is cultivated by irrigation. The mineral production includes gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc.—Geological Survey Bulletin.

TOO MUCH FOR HIM.

He Admits He Can't Grasp His Wife's Ideas of Economy.

"I can understand," remarked the office philosopher to the visitor to his sanctum, "most of the feminine traits and characteristics that puzzle the ordinary man, but when a woman begins to practice economy she leaves me lashed to the mast and quivering with helpless astonishment.

"Of course, the whole sex is economical. You have to admit that, because every woman says she is economical, and no gentleman would undertake to dispute a lady's statement—at least, no gentleman of my acquaintance would undertake to dispute it in his own house. What—to use a vulgarism—gets my goat is the method they employ.

"Take my wife, for example. Whenever she tells me she is going to economize I emit a single agonized shriek, and then leap for the tall timber. Her plan is to think up a whole lot of things she cannot possibly do without, and then do without them. By this device she saves at a single stroke the cost of the entire list. Having thus accumulated a surplus, she naturally proceeds to spend it, and she is always prepared to prove she has saved much money in the process.

"There is no answer, or no answer worth making. On occasions of this kind it is my custom to pass, for, without looking at my hand, I know I can neither trump nor follow suit."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Shark Stories.

A shark is very tenacious of life, and Dr. Gunther, the ichthyologist, pointed out in one of his contributions to the literature of his subject that "wounds affect fishes generally much less than higher vertebrates. A Greenland shark continues to feed while his head is pierced by a harpoon or by a knife as long as the nervous center is not touched."

A Norwegian antarctic explorer, H. J. Bull, gives a startling word picture of a shark's tenacity of life. This man-eater was caught at the Iceland codfishery. His liver, heart and internal arrangements were removed so as to put a period to his career, and the thus mutilated body was then cast into the sea. He simply gave a leisurely wag of his tail and swam rapidly out of sight.—Chambers' Journal.

His Own Shame.

Robert's mother's admonishments to her small son generally ended with the words, "I'd be ashamed of you if you did so and so," and the word ashamed therefore was constantly in his ears.

One day after he had eaten up his little sister's candy his mother said to him:

"Robert, did you eat Dorothy's candy when I told you not to?" "Yes, ma'am," said Robert in a tone of triumph, "and I'm just as ashamed of myself as I can be, so you needn't be ashamed of me at all."—New York Post.

Both Died as They Wished To.

Tennyson, who was a shy, reserved man, could never understand Robert Browning's love of society. He had been heard to remark that Browning would die in a white choker at a dinner party. The two poets died as they would have wished to die—Robert Browning in the grand Palazzo Rospicci, with his son by his bedside, and Lord Tennyson in his beloved Surrey home, surrounded by his loved ones.

Arrogant.

"How are you getting along with her father?" "Not at all. He's too arrogant for me."

"What's the matter?" "He even wants to pick his own sons-in-law."—Detroit Free Press.

OUR FEARFUL FIRE LOSSES.

Most of Them Are Caused by Untidiness and Carelessness.

The fire loss in the United States is about \$250,000 a day, or an aggregate of \$750,000,000 a year. Careful observation from detailed statistics compiled on the subject shows that most of this loss would be prevented by the observation of reasonable precautions, particularly in the direction of more tidiness. Sixty-five per cent of all fires take place in homes, and cases show that 90 per cent of all fires are due to carelessness, ignorance or both.

The 65 per cent occurring in homes, it is readily shown, would never occur if persons had taken reasonable care in respect to tidiness. Rubbish is the chief cause, and rubbish does not necessarily mean the accumulation of paper and things of that character in and around buildings, but the unnecessary accumulation of old furniture, magazines, carpets, supplies of all kinds in cellars and attics which accumulate dust and lie there for years.

What applies to the home in respect to rubbish is true to a marked degree in many business premises. Just a little thought and the expenditure of a little time along these lines generally would greatly reduce the fire loss. The absence of fire extinguishers in the average home or business premises is a serious omission. Careless handling of matches, careless use of oil, the accumulation of oily rags and waste material and a host of small matters like these are the causes of a great many fires and a great deal of loss.—Lumber Trade Journal.

AERONAUTICS IN WARFARE.

Why Napoleon Did Not Favor the Use of Observation Balloons.

It is on record that the first employment of aeroplanes to observe the positions of an enemy were made during the French revolution. It was a Dr. Coutelle who produced hydrogen gas from the decomposition of water. He had been interdicted the employment of sulphuric acid in this preparation, as there was a lack of sulphur for the making of gunpowder.

Dr. Coutelle was ordered to put himself at the disposal of General Jourdan, who commanded the army of the Sambre and Meuse. On presenting himself to Duquesnoy, a commissioner of the convention, that dignitary rose in wrath, exclaiming: "A balloon, a balloon in the camp! You look to me like a suspect. I am going to begin by taving you shot!"

Coutelle returned to Paris, and his balloons were afterward put to use at Bonn, at Coblenz and at Andernach. At the last named place General Bernadotte, the ancestor of the present reigning house of Sweden, was invited to go up in a balloon. "No," responded that careful man, "I prefer the road of the asses."

There was a school of aerostation at Meudon, which Bonaparte closed after his return from Egypt. As nothing could prevent other nations from using like air fliers, the balloons, he claimed, might become an embarrassment to all the armies, without any special advantage to the French army.—Cri de Paris.

"Hobson's Choice."

"Hobson's choice" may best be translated, "that or nothing." Tobias Hobson was a carrier and innkeeper at Cambridge, who erected the handsome conduit there and settled "seven lays" of pasture ground toward its maintenance. But the story about him, as told by the Spectator, is as follows: "He kept a stable of forty good cattle, always ready and fit for traveling. But when a man came for a horse he was led into the stable, where there was great choice, but was obliged to take the horse that stood nearest to the stable door, so that every customer was alike well served, according to his chance, and every horse ridden with the same justice." Milton wrote two quibbling epigrams upon this eccentric character.

Muddled Thinking.

It would be foolish to say that a dynamo and an electric light are the same thing, that green apples is a term synonymous with indigestion, that an architect's plans are the same thing as a completed building or that sex attraction is but another name for the social institution called the family. In the same way it is an evidence of muddled thinking to maintain that being good is the same thing as being religious.—Bernard I. Bell in Atlantic.

Why Ammonia Cleans Clothes.

Ammonia, the great spot remover of the American people, is really a gas dissolved in water. It belongs to the alkali family, and on account of its mineral origin is the foe of all oils and grease, which explains the easy way it disposes of spots that soap and water cannot affect.

Recovered Too Soon.

"I thought she knew you?" "I expect she does. I was engaged to her at one time." "But she snubbed you!" "Yes; you see, she threw me over, and then I didn't take to drink."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Improved the Opportunity.

"I'm sorry I asked the girl to clean the typewriter." "Why?" "She took fifteen minutes to clean the type and two hours to manure her finger nails afterward."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

It requires very little trouble to find fault. That is why there are so many critics.—Holmes.

MISSISSIPPI HAD CAMELS.

When It Was a Sandy Desert With a Tropical Climate.

The geology of mountain regions is generally more difficult to master than that of plains, because the rocks have been more broken and tilted about, but the geology of certain parts of Mississippi is almost as difficult as that of a mountainous region, because certain widely distributed formations bear few definite identification marks, particularly remains and impressions of plants and animals that lived at the time the deposits were formed.

A peculiar sandstone, which geologists have called the Catahoula sandstone, has been studied with care by G. C. Matson and E. W. Berry of the United States geological survey, department of the interior, who have been able to identify and follow the sandstone by means of the remains of plants.

Among the plants found were plums, ferns, leaves of date palms, tropical myrtles, figs, and a tree closely related to the present day Mexican and Central American sapota, from which most of the material for chewing gum is obtained. These fossil plants show that at the time the sandstone was formed—perhaps 5,000,000 years ago—the climate of this region was tropical, and bones of camels found by other geologists in the region and the similarity of the sand composing the sandstone to certain tropical desert sands have a similar implication.—Geological Survey.

THE KNOTTY FOOD PROBLEM.

A Scientist Finds Its Solution in a Nutty Proposition.

Leave it to the bewhiskered old boys of science, they of the square spectacles and ear muffs, and this world will be pulled through its rather precarious existence. Some time ago somebody who needed the money wrote an alarmist article for a magazine, stating that in a very short time—in fact, within 8,000,000 or 9,000,000 years—the earth's food supply would be entirely exhausted.

This set all the scientists going like gyroscopes, and in the dizzy whirl of investigation some very interesting things came to light. It was up to the scientists to find something for the people to eat 8,000,000 or 9,000,000 years hence. It was not wholly a new problem. Scientists long ago evolved the scheme of sawing up timber into breakfast food and said that a mar could go forth with a bucksaw and get enough sawdust out of a fence rail to keep himself and his family supplied for some time.

One learned scientist thinks that he has solved the problem for all time. He says that the nut trees could in a pinch supply food for the entire world. This knotty question has become a nutty question and one which he has apparently solved. Those who are on earth now should be of good cheer. They will not have to starve 8,000,000 years hence.—Topeka State Journal.

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The year throughout has been a prosperous and satisfactory one. Good crops of all kinds; good prices, good wages and plenty of work, to say nothing of the glorious Democratic victory in November.

Christmas was celebrated with the usual exchange of presents and entertainments by the various Sunday schools. The holiday season closed with a big masquerade ball in the public hall on New Year's evening.

The closing scenes of 1916 found this thriving town about as it should be. While we have had our share of the vicissitudes of life, mortal man is here to bear his part of the burden and we have manfully strode along with our share on our shoulders. The worst at present is the high price and great scarcity of coal. As to the health situation, it has been remarkably good; so good in fact that our doctors inquire of people passing by if they know of any one who is sick.

The oil drilling development on the Christ Sharer farm is now at a standstill. After reaching a depth of 2215 feet on December 15th the drillers stopped, locked up their tools and said they

Medical.

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were going home for Christmas. Not a word would they say further but all kinds of rumors are afloat. Some are in effect that the drillers found a good lead of both oil and gas. Another story is that they found a nine foot vein of hard coal. But all any one does know for sure is that the drilling plant is still there intact and the drillers gone.

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