

A FABLE.

Even fables may incultate the lessons of honesty, and set the standards of conduct ruling the lives of the "hill hawks." There's no question whatever that the deathbed "will" at once cost the family \$5,000. The mother of seven surviving sons and daughters was dead, venerable in her 82nd year. The four younger ones who had free use of the "old farm" for just thirty-three years, now owned all, according to the "will." The eldest of the family, a world-traveled man known wherever science is studied, was out with a dollar. The second eldest son, Robert by name, who helped clear away the stones from the fields in the hard years following the Civil war, and who had about the same "Chinaman's" chance that 6,000,000 other boys had had, also contrived to get through Penn State, and was a mining engineer in California. Robert, according to the death bed "will" got two dollars. The sister, Katherine, once surely a sprightly and beautiful girl, had married, and worked hard on a little fruit farm in Delaware. She surely was the golden soul of the family; she got four dollars. She did not wish.

The facts came out little by little, and one by one. Eureka had little to say. She couldn't be troubled explaining "thus and so" to the suggestions of older heads, and needed an automobile and a chauffeur, which, being a quite set person in her own particular way, she presently got. Herman babbled about there being more sides to the law than a good many folks off the farm understood, in which he was entirely right. Helen's heart was said to be weak, but she did the heavy work. Paul thought over his new status and of his savings on the old rent-free farm, and then he blew in the "little old New York" to see "how the old town was run," and incidentally to long-distance phone the brother (who had failed to accept that dollar) that he ought to buy in Sara's sixty acres, so as to "round out the old farm." This is the first mention of Sara, a sister who passed before her mother, leaving somewhat encumbered what should have been held now as a very important addition to the farm for many reasons. That is, the affairs of this devoted family of "hill hawks" had suddenly got rather complicated for simple, well meaning minds. The elder brother as he answered Paul over the phone, felt a sense of insecurity as he sat in the home he had built on the rock-ribbed New England shore. The deathbed "will" faced him. He was perturbed. He begged Paul to go home and keep the property intact. The means were there. The tangle could be straightened out later. But no, Paul thought he might take "a little run out to California," and "look up Robert." The elder brother again urged Paul to go home and see things were held together. However, as the items now come in, Paul started on his "little run out to California;" but when he got to Truckee, he suddenly bethought himself that he'd sort of forgot Robert's address, which he then telegraphed for on his waning funds. Of course Robert was a fairly well known mining engineer, though not quite so well known as the brother down East, whose address can be found in five minutes by any sensible person who knows how to use the directories. There was some little difficulty about Robert's last "direction." Paul got it, and then suddenly remembered it was "about haymaking time." He wrote Robert "he couldn't stop to fool with him," and then as Robert later expressed it "hurled back across the continent to make hay." Great nuts those farmers down in old Centre!

THE APPLICATION.

There are in this world those who will for a fee write and witness deathbed wills, and those who think to benefit from them. But no one ever does. There is only one principle at stake in this world, and that is a seeing fearness and kindness. That makes families great. Its absence makes them small, and finally contemptible. In this fabulous instance there is no worry for any one about those now living, not even for the sole grand-son of the "testator." But there may be a marked difference in the fate of the great grand-children. When families go down they go down forever. Although if people are childless, and yet hold themselves well, they are sure of the best in this world. It is worth the while of every one who lives, first to be honest, and next to keep that which justly belongs to him intact, and then to further some great or noble cause.

By SOLON SILONIS.

24,837,000 Bushels is Potato Crop Forecast.

The forecast of white potato production in Pennsylvania indicates a crop of about 24,837,000 bushels as compared with 28,792,000 bushels in 1924 and a 5 year average of 25,371,000 bushels.

The estimated acreage of 234,000 planted to potatoes in Pennsylvania is about 10,000 less than a year ago and 13,000 below the 5 year average. Taking the United States as a whole, the acreage is the lowest since 1907, and the estimated production the lowest since 1919.

The production estimates for all the leading potato producing States indicate a smaller crop than in 1924. The Maine crop is forecasted at 33,088,000 bushels as compared with 41,175,000 bushels a year ago, and the New York crop at 37,184,000 bushels as against 46,620,000 bushels in 1924. The New Jersey production is placed at 5,760,000 bushels or less than half of last year.

In Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, the crop in each case is estimated from 10,000,000 to 20,000,000 bushels less than in 1924.

—Get the Watchman if you want the local news.

CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO, CAVERN VAST IN SIZE.

The National Geographic society has announced the sending of an expedition to explore Carlsbad Cavern, New Mexico, which may be America's largest and most beautiful cave, and to seek further remains of the ancient inhabitants of this continent.

Partial explorations of the Carlsbad Cavern revealed a corridor, along which an inaugural parade might march farther than the mile route from the capitol to the White House, and through most of the course would have much wider maneuver space than Pennsylvania avenue affords.

A chamber of more startling magnificence than any artificial structure would provide an inaugural ball-room half a mile long by many hundreds of feet wide.

The ornamentation ranges from bamboo-like mazes of slender formations, which a brush of the hand will crush, to stalagmites 100 feet high and double that figure in base diameter.

Plants and bats will be two other subjects of the expedition's study. The natural opening of the cave now is used exclusively by bats. At dusk, each evening, they begin to leave and for three hours the wind stream pours forth like smoke from a smokestack.

Dr. Willis T. Lee, who made the preliminary exploration of the cavern, and who will head the National Geographic society's expedition writes:

"Repellent as these little mammals are on close acquaintance, it is fascinating to watch the countless thousands of them leaving home, and to speculate on their destination and to nocturnal adventures awaiting them."

"It is equally fascinating in the early morning to watch these same countless thousands returning home; to see each little creature fold its wings in midair and dart downward into the cave with incredible speed. Within each individual seeks its own chosen nook or crack in which it may hook a tiny claw and hang at ease until darkness again calls it forth."

The cavern now is remote from beaten travel routes, and after arrival the visitor is precluded from the natural entrance, at which there is a vertical drop of 170 feet. Only the more intrepid would venture into a guano bucket to be lowered into a bat-inhabited chamber.

An interior survey which will be made by the National Geographic society expedition, taken with a topographic survey of the region, will show the thinnest places in the rock shell covering the cavern and thus a favorable point for an artificial entrance will be selected.

Even the small portion of the cavern traversed revealed that it is a natural wonder of foremost rank and it has just been set aside by order of President Coolidge as a national monument.

The plants near Carlsbad Cavern add picturesque quality to the landscape and invite scientific study. There are thorn bushes and thorn trees, Spanish bayonets and Spanish daggers. The predominating characteristic is thorniness. There are prickly pears and cat-claws, sagebrush and greasewood, thorny mesquites and screwbeans.

The sotol grows near Carlsbad Cavern. Formerly the natives roasted the heads for food, after removing the sawblade leaves. From the fermented trunks is distilled the intoxicating "sotol" drink. The long, tough leaves are used for thatching and making baskets, mats and rough cordage.

The cavern itself is exceptional; and it is surrounded by features which enhance its future scenic value.

Southwestern New Mexico, little known and seldom visited, has mountains nearly 10,000 feet high.

Carlsbad Cavern is one of a dozen or more caverns in Guadalupe Mountains, others are known to be of phenomenal size, and it may be that Carlsbad is connected with some of these by underground passages.

25,000 JOBS FOR VETERANS.

There are now 25,000 rehabilitated world war veterans who need jobs. A drive to find places for them in industry has been started by the National Association of Manufacturers.

No undue consideration is asked for these men. They have been so trained that they have a distinct pride in their ability to stand on their own feet and render a service fully equal to the compensation they get.

It would seem as if the business concerns that get these men would be fortunate. Much money has been spent on their training, and they ought to know the most modern ways of performing various kinds of work and exercising management.

The hard experiences they have been through ought to make them a very determined type of fellows. They have fought a war successfully, and they should be equally able to fight the battles of peace. They would take their duties seriously, and have the same spirit of earnestness that they showed as soldiers.

It is very common for workers to take their jobs in a trifling way, looking at them merely as a method of earning spending money, and they are anxious all day to see the clock hands move round so they can quit and go in for the sports. The business men all know that type, and they have had to employ too many of them.

These veterans' first anxiety will be to make good and make themselves useful to their employers.

It would seem a lasting reproach on this country if these men are allowed to remain idle long. They gave us everything they had, and went into battle so that our country could maintain its ideals safe from interference. We now owe them a great debt. But can never be repaid by money. But we can see to it that the doors of industry open to them and they are given a chance.

Hoped it Did. Kindly Old Lady (whispering)—"Dearie, one of your garters is showing." Flapper—"Well I hope it does."

Bathing by No Means a Universal Custom

In Japan we would learn that the Japanese idea of cleanliness is. In this quaint country of beautiful sunsets and colorful costumes people bathe twice daily. And there is no question that many of them have no convenient bathroom as we do. In China the family has a large stove which is used for a bed at night so they can keep warm.

Between this picturesque empire and India, separated by miles and miles of lonely country and ocean, a great change of customs would be seen. In these out-of-the-way places we find people living in mere hovels. They enjoy no running water systems and other conveniences as the most segregated parts of our country enjoy.

In India, where plagues continually cause the death of thousands of families, you will find towns that have no water and sewerage systems. You can see the Indian women balancing on their heads huge jars which they have filled with water drawn from the town well or the sluggish and muddy river.

From Calcutta to Bagdad, thence to Constantinople, you will see that bathing is considered only for the white man and the native aristocracy. On the deserts of Arabia, where water is necessarily used only for drinking, the desire to keep clean is accomplished in a rather "rough" manner. Instead of using water for the bath the Arab vigorously rubs himself with the sand of the desert.

Long and Short Lives in Scheme of Nature

One of the most wonderful things in Nature is the manner in which things are balanced up. The long-lived things propagate their species slowly; the short-lived, rapidly. For instance, elephants, whales, tortoises and carp have been credited with lives of anything from four hundred years downward. And at the other end of the scale we find insects which have a life of hours only. Many theories have been put forward to account for these remarkable distinctions, but the one now most commonly accepted is that the slower the creature is in reaching full maturity and the less its powers of reproduction, the greater will be its average longevity or length of natural life. Nature's object in such an arrangement is fairly plain even to our limited human intelligence. For if such creatures as locusts, breeding with incredible rapidity, had themselves a life of centuries, the world would be within a little while impossible for other existence. And the same result would occur did an elephant with a life of perhaps a couple of hundred years, breed like a locust. In some way, which as yet we may not fully understand, the principle of Nature is to maintain a balance of power in our world.

Explorer's Ruling Passion

When Columbus landed for the first time in the New world he found the Indians, who greeted him "a very poor people." His friend, Las Casas, who wrote the abstract of the Journal of the First Voyage to America, gives the admiral's own account of his interview with the natives as follows: "I was very attentive to them and strove to learn if they had any gold. Seeing some of them with little bits of this metal hanging at their noses, I gathered from them by signs that by going southward or steering around the island in that direction there would be found a king who possessed large vessels of gold and in great quantities." The first thought, even of the man who had just discovered a new world, was of gold!—Youth's Companion.

Reference in Advance

The prospective maid of all work was stating her terms: "I want \$15 a week paid in advance, and I don't wash nor scrub floors, nor—" "But," began the mistress of the house feebly. "Or work after six o'clock," went on the woman steadily, "and I want every evening off and a fine reference, and—" "But surely the reference can wait till you leave us?" broke in the mistress, nervously. "No, I want the letter now," returned the domestic firmly. "I've tried getting them when I leave, and I've never got a good one yet."—Minneapolis Tribune.

English at Home

"When I was cycling through England," writes R. B. W., "I started off one morning to ride from Clacton to St. Osyth. After a while I became uncertain about the road and meeting a laborer I inquired, 'Am I right for St. Osyth?' The man looked puzzled and said he never heard of any such place. "A second wayfarer whom I asked was equally ignorant. Then came a third. This fellow scratched his head, but presently a look of comprehension dawned upon his face. 'Ay, to be sure. I have it now—it's Snosey ye mean!'" —New Haven Register.

College and University

The college has about the same relation to a university that a state has to the federal government—that is, as a rule, many colleges go to make a university. The term university, however, has been used loosely in the United States, sometimes applied to an institution offering non-professional instruction beyond the bachelor's degree and having affiliated professional schools.

DEPUTIES ARE NAMED FOR VACCINATION IN CENTRE COUNTY.

Dr. J. L. Seibert, of Bellefonte, county medical director, has been notified by the State Secretary of Health, Dr. Charles H. Miner, that the following county physicians have been appointed as official deputies to re-vaccinate, free of charge, school children who have undergone two or more unsuccessful attempts at vaccination against smallpox. The appointees are:

- Dr. George H. Woods, Pine Grove Mills.
Dr. H. S. Braucht, Spring Mills.
Dr. E. H. Harris, Snow Shoe.
Dr. L. E. Kidder, State College.
Dr. W. J. Kurtz, Howard.
Dr. David Dale, Bellefonte.
Dr. Robert Jackson, Osceola Mills.
Dr. G. S. Frank, Millheim.

School children living in the rural districts who have been twice unsuccessfully vaccinated, or those who had been admitted to school last term on an official temporary certificate must be re-vaccinated by the county medical director, or one of the official deputies, who will grant a temporary certificate which will admit them to school for the current school year. In cities, boroughs or townships of the first class having organized boards of health, this official re-vaccination must be performed by the board of health physician.

Teachers or school principals may not admit children the first day of school unless they present, or have already filed a certificate of successful vaccination, or in the case of unsuccessful results, present the official temporary certificate, which must have been issued since July 1st of the present year. Temporary certificates issued during the previous school term are void. The State Secretary of Health states that teachers must absolutely observe this law the first day of school or be subject to prosecution by department inspectors.

It is of vital importance that every school child should be protected against smallpox by vaccination. The Pennsylvania law requiring successful vaccination for school attendance was enacted in 1895 and consequently the younger generation of native inhabitants is more universally vaccinated than in any other State of the Union, and the State has had the lowest smallpox record in the Union for a number of years. Of the 233 cases of smallpox in Pennsylvania for 1925, all but three of them have been on the western border of the State and in the city of Philadelphia. The border cases have been traced to infections from the State of Ohio principally, where vaccination is not compulsory. Three cases reported from the northeastern section of the State have been brought in from a neighboring State. Not a single case of smallpox has occurred in the central or interior sections of the State during 1925.

School inspectors are directed by the secretary of health to see that the vaccination law has been fully enforced by every teacher, and to pass upon the validity of vaccination certificates filed. Teachers may not accept certificates issued by the family physician or by the school medical inspector exempting pupils from vaccination because of alleged physical disability.

Don't Say: "Shake Hands with" So and So.

When strangers are present, a hostess's first duty is to put them at ease, to make them feel they are not outsiders, but old members of a charmed inner circle gathered in her home. Introductions, of course, are a stumbling block over which many a woman, socially inclined, has fallen. Yet the introduction is a very simple ceremony and when done well is a very charming one. The great difficulty is that most people do not take time to do it well. Unfamiliar with the proper form, they hurry over the opening sentence, feeling frantically for the names and mumbling a few useless banalities. Every one is embarrassed and disconcerted.

The purpose of an introduction is to bring together two people who are strangers and to give each the name of the other. The first thing to be remembered, therefore, is to pronounce both names quite clearly, saying, "Miss Jones, may I present Mr. Brown?"—the gentleman should always be presented to the lady—or "Miss Jones, Mr. Brown." There is no set phrase to use, simply express gracious consideration toward all the people concerned.

But there are, however, several forms of introduction to be avoided. Some of these are provincial, even rude.

If the hostess should forget the names of the persons she is introducing, it is no disgrace to say quietly, "Forgive me, but I can not recall your name," or "I am sorry, but your name has escaped me." Then, having received the desired information, she can proceed untroubled.

Deer are Not Increasing in Numbers.

The belief that deer are more plentiful than they ever have been, is denied by a prominent farmer living between Salladasburg and Brookside, who contends that because deer are seen more in the open fields is no indication that they are on the increase.

He says that the deer are driven to the fields because of the scarcity of food in the forests. "The second growth timber has reached such a height and spread that the underbrush has no chance to grow," he said. "Deer are unable to find food in the forests and they come out into the open, grazing in the fields. The fact that numbers are seen at one time means nothing. You might see a herd in a field but there might not be one left in the nearby forests. Folks are apt to think that the ones in the fields are the overflow, you might say, from the forests, but this is not the case."

Lacking Cleanness.

Doctor—It's a boy, professor. Absent Minded Professor—What is it? —If it's readable, it is here.

The Law's Delay

There are certain things that cannot be done in a hurry, and this applies to almost all legal business. Hence we have the saying: "The law's delay."

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