

COUNTRY NEWSPAPERS.

The one thing about country newspapers that seems to be always true is that they are never satisfactory to the people who support them. Yet there is nothing so hard to kill as a country newspaper, however unpopular it may be. A paper that really does not amount to much ordinarily may amount to a good deal if an intruder comes into its field, and gentlemen looking for locations should be careful of starting newspapers in towns for no other reason than that the people encourage them.

An ordinary business is rated a failure if it does not pay. There are plenty of country papers that have not made a dollar in twenty years, but the publishers hold on with foolish stubbornness, though they might succeed in some other calling; they seem to imagine that a little red man will wriggle up through their office floors some day, and make their "good will" as valuable as they believe it to be. I have heard many men say they were certain they could not succeed as doctor, lawyer, merchant, dentist, or what not, but I have never heard one say he could not succeed as an editor, particularly as a country editor. Really good newspaper men are scarce in the country, for a business man and a writer must be combined to insure success; but there is no lack of newspapers, and as half the people seem to be waiting to give the business a trial, I feel certain that the supply will always be considerably greater than the demand.

Although as a nation we are supposed to have unusual confidence in newspapers, I shall always believe that there is a strong undercurrent of opposition to them among our liberty-loving people. If all the papers in a town unite in favoring a measure, a large proportion of the people are sure to oppose it. The three papers of a certain small city once united in opposing a candidate for an important office, but the people elected the candidate by the largest majority ever heard of in that region. The candidate was elected to fill an unexpired term, and when he came up for the same office a year later, the papers all agreed not to mention his name, and the objectionable candidate was defeated. I have known so many editors to fail in forcing the people into a particular way of thinking, that I am inclined to believe it is safest modestly to follow the best public sentiment. One of the best newspaper men I ever knew, and who had the reputation of being always original, once confessed to me that most of his matter was gleaned from others. He cultivated the bright men in the community, and his notebook was often used in taking down opinions and suggestions than in gleaned news items. I have heard of a bright fellow who went to Dakota with a printing outfit, but being unable to find a suitable town, he took up a claim. The crops failed, and he issued a small weekly paper from an imaginary town, giving it a name, and creating men and women, and institutions. His comments were very breezy, as I can well believe, since he was responsible to no one; somehow it is so much easier to say, "It serves him right," than it is to say, "It serves you right."

He criticized imaginary plays at imaginary theaters; he criticized imaginary judges of imaginary courts; he ridiculed an imaginary society, and generally hit off popular delusions so well that his paper attracted attention, and a town was finally built on his farm. But this is a very rare case, even if it be true. The newspaper usually follows civilization, and the newspaper usually follows public opinion.

The longer a saying has been accepted and used, the greater the likelihood that it is true; therefore I have great confidence in the saying that "the voice of the people is the voice of God." It will be observed that I have used the English of this quotation, although I am perfectly familiar with the Latin of it, having seen it so much in country papers.

Country editors quarrel with one another too much; too many of them imagine that they are buzz saws, and long for opportunity to prove it. The people are not interested in these quarrels, and as a rule do not like them. A tit between editors may be occasionally interesting, but only when the parties to it are exceptionally clever. In a newspaper controversy an editor cannot defend himself; modesty will not permit it; he can only attack the other editor, so that while both are besmirched, neither is championed. There is one name that should be kept out of a newspaper, wherever published, and that is the name of the editor. A really good editor's name is seldom seen in print in the town where he lives, for he cannot print it himself, and the other papers will not, except in a caricature. In a political controversy one paper attacks a candidate, and the other defends him, so that the character of the candidate is left in the end where it was in the first place, but when editors pummel one another they simply debase themselves in the eyes of the community. Lawyers are the most sensible class of men in the matter of quarreling; the reason probably is that their business throws them together a great deal, while other men nurse their professional hatreds in private.

There are many comfortably rich men in the country, but few of them are editors. There are many luxurious

homes in the country, but few of them are occupied by editors. The fact is, there is little money in the business; for it is a curious fact that it costs more to produce the newspapers of America than the people pay for them. Running a newspaper is like rowing a boat up-stream. A man may pull his boat slowly against the current, if he works steadily, but he dare not rest, and he cannot anchor. Every time a newspaper goes to press the editor has the feeling that his sheet might have contained more news, and more advertisements, without a dollar of additional expense, and in this business more than in any other there is a constant clamor for more work, for harder pulling at the oars. The best weekly paper I know of is edited by an old man who is particularly clever as writer, publisher, and printer, and although he owns his own home and his own office building, he is compelled to work very hard every day. Younger men not half so industrious or capable have made a great deal more money. There may be an impression in cities that country editors might do very much better if they would, but the fact is many a man has failed to make money at editing in the country who has succeeded in the city.—From the Century Magazine for September.

Our dear little daughter was terribly sick. Her bowels were bloated as hard as a brick.

We feared she would die. Till we happened to try Pierce's Pellets—they cured her, remarkably quick.

Never be without Pierce's Pellets in the house. They are gentle and effective in action and give immediate relief in cases of indigestion, biliousness, and constipation. They do their work thoroughly and leave no bad effects. Smallest, cheapest, easiest to take. One a dose. Best Liver Pill made.

Not the Philadelphia Way.

Judge (severely)—"You have been found guilty of stealing the people's money, and you are sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary, and to pay a fine of five hundred thousand dollars." Great Boodler—"Yes, y'r honor." Judge—"But as you will never be able to pay the fine, the fine is remitted."

Boodler—"Thank you, Judge." Judge—"And if you conduct yourself properly the law will allow time for good behavior, and you can get out in about a year and a half."

Boodler—"Thanks' Judge." Judge—"And, by the way, if you happen to feel ill in a week or two, the court will issue an order allowing you to go home to die."

Boodler—"Thanks' Judge; but suppose I don't die?" Judge—"Don't mention it. Call the next case."

Duel Between Two Well-known Clubmen.

A MIDNIGHT COMBAT.

The police ascertained at an early hour this morning that a sensational duel took place last night in the parlors of one of the most exclusive clubs in the city. One of the principals is a wealthy young artist. His opponent is said to be the son of a railroad president. One of the combatants lies at his home attended by several physicians. The other has escaped. It is rumored that a very beautiful young girl is the cause of the trouble. Full particulars can be found in "Estella's Husband," by May Agnes Fleming, issued to-day. Price 25 cents. Ask your newsman to show you a copy.

I Am an Old Man.

Shall be 75 years of age next June, and for the last six years have suffered from general debility and old age. At times I could not get out of bed without help. I commenced to take Sulphur Bitters. In a week I felt stronger and got a mighty fine appetite. I still continued their use, and to-day I walked over three miles without feeling tired, something I haven't done in five years before. Sulphur Bitters is a right smart medicine.—George Brown, Keokuk, Iowa. 9-18-21.

A Skillful Platterer.

Bob Van Slyck called on a Madison avenue family, in which there were two old maiden sisters of about fifty years of age. Van Slyck is an old friend of the family, and one of them being in a bantering mood said: "Mr. Van Slyck, which of us do you think is the oldest?" Van was in a dilemma. He did not like to hurt the feelings of either. He looked from one to the other and asked: "You want me to say which of you two girls is the oldest?" "Yes." "Neither of you looks older than the other. Each one of you girls looks younger than the other."—Teas Siftings.

A Close Observance.

Little Girl—Tomorrow will be Sunday, won't it? Lady—Yes. How do you expect to spend your time? Little Girl—Wishing it was Monday.—Good News.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

LIKE JOHNSTOWN'S FATE

First Details of the Great Spanish Floods.

DEATH, DESOLATION AND DESPAIR.

Several Towns Were Swept Away by the Raging Waters, People Were Drowned in Their Beds and the Total Number of Victims Is at Least Two Thousand.

MADRID, Sept. 16.—The floods which have caused so much damage, and which are already known to have resulted in the loss of thousands of lives, have been general in the south of Spain. The damage done is simply terrible in its extent.

In the province of Toledo the rush of water from the Consuegra river was so sudden and unexpected that hundreds of people were drowned in their beds. The aspect of the town is positively frightful. Four hundred bodies have already been recovered, and at least a hundred corpses can be seen floating in the swollen rivers. A national relief fund has been opened.

Thousands Are Homeless. The wine and grain crops, naturally, have been destroyed throughout the flooded sections of the country. The towns of Urdia, thirty-two miles from Toledo; Villafraña, twenty miles from St. Sebastian; Camanas, Yelencos, twenty-one miles from Toledo, and Vera have suffered heavily. Thousands of families are homeless and starving. Relief trains are being sent to the scenes of the disaster.

Two Thousand Dead.

An estimate, classed as a moderate one, and which is within rather than over the actual number, places the total of the death list at 2,000. Large numbers of corpses still rest where they were found. Unless they are soon interred an epidemic of fever is feared.

So far as possible the bodies of the drowned are being gathered from the streams, mud banks and ruins and are being buried in trenches dug for their reception. Many of the bodies found are entirely nude, showing that they must have been washed from their beds or else in the hurry to escape the drowned people must have jumped in night gress from the windows of their habitations only to meet death in the swollen waters surging around them.

Heartrending Scenes.

Along the river banks, near the scenes of the most severely visited districts, heart-rending scenes are witnessed hourly as the survivors of almost exterminated families recognize their dead and try to save them from consignment to the common death trench. Unhappily, the worst is not yet known and months of terrible privations and extreme suffering are before the utterly impoverished survivors. The crops are gone, the cattle swept away, houses and household furniture ruined, and all that would enable them to earn bread has vanished beneath the torrents of water which have rolled over town and village, field and farm.

Harrowing Tales of Survivors.

The extreme distress prevailing in many sections has another and if possible blacker side. The gripings of hunger, the wailing of starving women and children, have, in several instances, driven the men to desperation, and they have been goaded to pillage their more wealthy compatriots. Bands of desperate men, determined to obtain bread at any cost for their destitute, hunger-tortured families have been driven to making raids upon and pillaging buildings where they expected to find food.

Survivors give harrowing accounts of the onset of the flood. Many mothers were seen struggling in the water to hold up children and finally succumbing to the rush of the torrent. Others were confined in rooms with no hope of escape. One man who was caught on a wooden bridge saw hundreds of persons float past crying piteously for help, which he was unable to give. The bodies of sixty persons were found in a public hall where they had been overtaken by the flood in the midst of a wedding feast.

The queen has subscribed \$20,000 more to start a national relief fund.

A BIG PITTSBURGH CRASH.

The Moorhead-McLean Company Ask an Extension of Their Creditors.

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 15.—The Moorhead-McLean company, one of the oldest iron and steel manufacturing establishments in Pittsburgh, has asked for an extension of time on paper amounting to about \$800,000. The assets of the company are estimated at \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000. The extension is asked from the principal creditors, banks of this city. The members of the firm say there is every probability that the extension will be granted.

New York Heads the Hop List.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—The census office has in press a bulletin showing the production of hops in the United States. Hops are grown for commercial purposes in seventeen states. In the year 1899 50,292 acres of land were cultivated in hops, producing 38,163,370 pounds. New York leads the list with 35,670 acres, yielding 20,003,029 pounds.

Italy's Warlike Preparations.

ROME, Sept. 15.—In view of the gravity of the European situation the government proposes to increase taxation to the amount of 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 lire. The government is privately urging the speedy completion of men of war. All merchantmen classed as cruisers have been ordered to given points to ship guns and munitions of war.

Moorhead & McLean's Statement.

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 15.—Moorhead & McLean, of the Solo Iron and Steel works, have issued a detailed statement of the financial condition of their firm. The statement is reassuring, and shows a balance in favor of the assets of \$1,371,454.32. It is now almost certain that the creditors of the firm will grant an extension.

Secretary Tracy and China Troubles.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Secretary Tracy says, respecting the policy of the navy department in strengthening the United States naval force in China waters, that six vessels are now on the China station, which is about the usual number which has constituted the Asiatic fleet for the last eleven years.

Drowned at Stamford.

NEW HAVEN, Sept. 16.—Russell M. Todd, aged nine, whose parents reside in New York, was accidentally drowned at Stamford, Conn. The body has been recovered.

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A complete wreck of domestic happiness has often resulted from badly washed dishes, from an unclean kitchen, or from trifles which seemed light as air. But by those things a man often judges of his wife's devotion to her family, and charges her with general neglect when he finds her careless in these particulars. Many a home owes a large part of its thrifty neatness and its consequent happiness to SAPOLIO.

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Spring days are at hand and premonitions of warm weather bring with them a desire for cooling dishes. We shall keep Ice Cream of many flavors from now on, and will serve it in our parlors day or night. Families and parties supplied. Get our prices.

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