

THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

Letters to the Editor should be as brief and to the point as possible, avoiding anything that would open a denominational or sectarian discussion.

Are We Really Getting Warmer? Sir—In the unusual September days through which this part of the United States at least is now passing it is interesting to note that a contributor to the London Daily Mail holds that the Northern Hemisphere is getting warmer and dryer.

This contributor regrets that thermometers are of recent invention, and that weather records are still more recent, for he is certain that were records available back to the beginning of the Christian era we should find his theory—that the Northern Hemisphere is getting warmer and dryer—confirmed.

But he cites such records as are available. He notes that in Caesar's account of the Gallic wars we find frequent mention of frosts so severe that whole armies were able to cross great rivers on the ice, whereas now the River Seine, for example, does not freeze more than once or twice in a hundred years. He discovers many indications that the German winters of an early period were almost Arctic in their severity, while as late as the sixteenth century the English winter was not as like that of the northern United States.

Coming to more recent times, the London man notes that the records of the Hudson Bay Company, giving in every case the names of the frozen-up of the northern rivers and the date of the breaking up of the ice, show that in 200 years the period between has decreased by ten days.

Further, the Altesch at the date of fifty feet yearly, and the Grand Desert at the rate of nearly 100 feet yearly. And, finally, according to the records of the low fringes of the polar regions have retreated some forty miles in the comparatively brief period since man first began to visit these regions.

The difficulty of disproving such theories adds to their interest in them. Thus when it is suggested that the earth is slowly tilting toward the pole, thus changing longitude readings, or that Mars is trying to signal the earth, we all attend, not much because we are ready to accept such notions without question, but because there are always enough of possibilities in them to make us curious as to what may be said about them.

Many an old-timer in Eastern Pennsylvania has insisted that we do not know the severe winters of our day, and most persons have been dismissed to laugh at him. But along comes one of rather scientific turn of mind, with an array of indications that are hardly to be ignored, and he is left wondering whether or not there may be something in it.

From notions that have seemed fantastic a good deal of what is now set down as certain knowledge has come. Perhaps by the time we have followed out all the leads suggested by the modest contributor to the London Mail it shall be found that the climate of our hemisphere is actually changing.

W. C. TEMPLETON, Harrisburg, Pa., September 6, 1922.

Paradoxes in Nature Sir—The unusual news has transpired, reads a newspaper notation I have just finished reading, that the standard British yard, which for thirty years has been kept in a sealed box in the Commons, has grown one ten-thousandth of an inch longer than the standard kept in London, and, apparently not to be outdone, the standard British pound, made of platinum, is reported to have gained 2.56 grains in weight.

It is all of which is interesting. But what the British pound gained in weight it lost in purchasing power, and all the time the yard stick grew longer skirts grew shorter.

Calvin Philadelphia, September 6, 1922.

Movies in the Schools Sir—Your remarks as to movies in the schools seem to invite some information on the matter. The need for projection apparatus in such places was foreseen some years ago and supplied by small machines using films of acetate of cellulose instead of celluloid. These films are both narrower and shorter than the regular. They are produced from regular negatives by means of a reducer. The cost is slightly more per foot but is less per film.

Not only is the film "non-inflammable," if left on the film, they cause it to shrivel and curl, but it does not blaze. The width and perforations being different prevent the use of the professional lantern. The projector is adapted to be safe to use without booths or with eighteen-year-old licensed operators. On this account they can be moved from room to room and used where desired. This makes them well adapted for schools and small societies like churches and Sunday schools.

The big argument against them is that the libraries which supply them are few and small. This is becoming less true every day. Several sources of supply are available at very reasonable rates. It may be true that they are not so up to date as the professionals, but educative things do not get old so fast that this is an objection. As the demand grows the supply will be at hand. Since both are made from the same negative, there is no reason to prevent.

The above is the result of more than a year of use in Sunday-school work. I will gladly give more definite information on application. I have no connection with any of the firms mentioned.

CHAS. E. DURVEY Philadelphia, September 4, 1922.

Will Clothes Tame the Soviet? Sir—On the authority of Mother Goose "four and twenty tailors went to utterly when 'the best man among them durst not touch her tail."

Four times recent tailors are on their way to Russia, for they can do to the Bolsheviks in the way of creased pants and collars that set right. It is a daring venture, conceived and financed by American garment workers as a practical contribution to the peace of nations, with a little co-operative business investment on the side.

I do not possess a great amount of reliable information about the Bolsheviks, although Mrs. Egan's articles in the Saturday Evening Post have been illuminatory in many respects, and she and elsewhere I have gleaned that among their attributes is an absence of interest in the general subject of pants and collars. On a basis of sheer utility pants seem to be regarded as a luxury and possibly a sinister sign of suspected bourgeois leanings.

The beauty that lies in pants, their top line, the artful fall over the shoulder, the cuff, the youthful college balloon leg or the nifty business form-

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Deaths MURPHY—Sept. 6, 1922. ANNA E. MURPHY, wife of J. J. Murphy, died at her residence, 101 Cooper St., Westmont, N. J., at 10:30 P. M. after a long illness.

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