

THE GIRL-CHILD.

'Course we'd flured on a boy-child, same as people always does; Baby girls is just 't' useless they is or ever was...

THE FUTURE OF COAL

And the Impending Exhaustion of World's Iron Supply.

SEVERAL months ago the chief of the Swedish geological survey, in pursuance of a resolution adopted by the Swedish Parliament, prepared a report showing the extent of the known deposits of iron in the world and the rate at which such deposits are being consumed...



Speech of a Wise Man.

GOOD roads was the keynote of one of the ablest speeches made in Congress this session. It delivered in the House of Representatives by Representative Lee, of Georgia...

THE TACTLESS HOSTESS.

The meat pies made by Jarley's wife are famed throughout the town; They'd raise a mortal to the skies, Or draw an angel down...

WHEN THE LIGHT CAME

THE PASSING OF A STAINED SOUL.

BY MABEL CROOKS BROWN.

NO air of Sunday calm brooded over the little town. A scorching north wind swept the dust down the dreary streets, and sent it swirling round the corners with a gritty swish...

looked a knowledge of sin of which even he had never dreamed! He-whose name was a terror for miles about! What did they know of sin back there in the town? Here was the fountain-head of all evil...

REVEALS CHINESE DENS.

Burrows a Hundred Feet Deep Laid Bare by Fire.

"Strange is the scene where San Francisco's Chinatown stood," says W. W. Overton. "No heap of smoking ruins marks the site of the wooden warrens where the Orientals dwelt in thousands...

Nothing in It.

A certain young wife helps out her husband's somewhat slender income by doing dressmaking for her friends. Upon coming home one evening, he found her cutting up a piece of goods for a waist, and inquired:

Worse Than a Mattiee Crowd.

Charwomen at the Washington (D. C.) Theatre, where the Daughters of the American Revolution held their congress recently, have rather a poor opinion of the organization named...

Garibaldi's Will Disregarded.

Garibaldi left directions in his will for the cremation of his body, but his wishes were overruled by the Italian Government. The soldier's instructions were minute and perhaps a bit self-conscious...

Tallest Man in the Army.

William Finley, late of the Life Guards, London, England, was admitted to the Hackney Infirmary suffering from consumption. A special bed had to be made up for his accommodation, as his height is six feet and a half inches...

It is well known that the high-class ores of the lake district in America will, at the present rate of consumption, be exhausted within less than fifty years. The Mesaba deposits, with the present annual output of 12,000,000 tons or thereabouts, will not outlast twenty-five years...

As return freights, the potash minerals of Germany have been suggested, but they are limited in quantity and restricted by various conditions so that there remains but one available resource, and that is iron ores of Spain, Finland and the Scandinavian Peninsula...

A Check on Conductors.

"The car conductors in Quebec," said the travelling man, "don't have much of a show to beat the company. Every passenger deposits his fare in a box fitted with a slot arrangement. The conductor carries it by a strap in his hand, and the only money he touches is that necessary to make change...

Great Fruits of Talkers.

What are the great faults of conversation? Want of ideas, want of words, want of manners, are the principal ones. I suppose you think I don't doubt it, but I will tell you what I have found spoils more good talk than anything else: long arguments on special points between people who differ on the fundamental principles upon which these points depend...

Tickets Served Dry.

Street car conductors in New York City are required to serve their transfer tickets dry. That is, they must not moisten with their mouths the fingers which tear off a ticket from a packet, just before giving it to a passenger. It is asserted that transfer tickets thus moistened spread disease.

Have a Curled Cold.

"I've got a fresh cold," Representative John Wesley Gaines, of Tennessee, complained. "Why have a fresh one?" asked Representative Stanley, of Kentucky. "Why not have it cured?"

Continuing, Mr. Lee said: "The able Secretary of Agriculture estimates that the cost, the extra burdens imposed upon this country by bad roads, is not less than \$900,000,000 annually. These figures almost stagger credulity, but who can gainsay them? And yet, when a bill was recently introduced in this House to appropriate \$25,000,000 annually for abating this great and continuing loss, it was ridiculed in some quarters as a fake-visionary and impracticable-as if it were wild and unreasonable to stop a leak of hundreds of millions of dollars with this comparatively small appropriation...

Even our possessions in the Far East, the Philippine Islands, have been the objects of our solicitude care to the extent of expending \$5,000,000 in building roads for them. Porto Rico, though not much larger than some of our countries, has had over \$3,000,000 expended upon its roads since it came into our possession. During our brief occupation of Cuba our Government expended \$2,500,000 upon its public roads. Even those little dots in the Pacific, the Hawaiian Islands, have come in for a share and have a contemplated expenditure of \$2,500,000 upon their roads...

Free Lunch Schmeer.

An Irishman, who was notoriously impecunious, has discovered a new way to achieve some of the luxuries of life. This is how he explains it: "Whist man, don't say a word about it. I found everybody wanted to sell an 'auto' for a good price to some innocent, so I just hung around the garage at every hotel I stopped at and pretended to be as green as the Emerald Isle, and gave out that I wanted a second-hand machine, and would not go to a dealer as I did not know anything about it. I have had forty-nine rides, seven-teen luncheons, five dinners and about forty cigars, good, bad and indifferent, but divil a machine have I bought yet."

The Profession of Farming.

"Farming is a profession requiring more shrewdness than law, more technical training than medicine, more unrighteousness than theology, more brains and resourcefulness than pedology. It is its own reward. God made farmers. The other professions are parasites."—American Farming.

In January Japan's exports were

\$13,268,000 and imports \$16,038,000. Exports increased by \$1,000,000 and imports decreased by \$4,000,000, a favorable trade balance gain of \$3,000,000.