

One of the weekly papers recently printed an article on "The Ambition of Kings," and it showed, though apparently not consciously that it had done so, that practically the same motives inspire kings as inspire other people. Among them are desire for completeness and a desire for larger resources. Ambition is not simply the infirmity of noble minds, but it is the infirmity—if it be an infirmity—of all minds. The question, then, is not whether a man is ambitious, but whether his ambition is a noble one, and whether he chooses honorable means to achieve it. One that strives merely to be the richest man in his community must be condemned, not because he is ambitious, but because his aim is low and sordid. So it is with most of the craving for power, and practically all the strife for recognition by fashionable society. But the desire to accomplish things is to be commended. The man who longs to be honestly useful to his fellows is a good citizen. Even the desire to excel others in accomplishments, in professional skill and in general efficiency is the prerequisite to social progress. And back of it all is that desire for completeness which is said to be so powerful with kings. The man who finishes his work completely, who writes a book as though it were to be his last and the one by which he might be judged centuries hence, who does what he is told to do and a great deal more, is an ambitious man. The question is one of ideals and tendencies. One can hardly pursue a good ideal with too great fervor or intensity. To those who may say that it is hardly necessary to preach such a gospel as this to the men of this generation, it may be answered that it is always well to insist on the necessity for honest, complete and whole-hearted work. The corrective to the false ambitions that we see all about us is not to deprecate ambition altogether, but to divert it into right channels, and to make the most out of the energy that flows from the desire to conquer or excel. Power is perhaps the one thing which most successfully eludes pursuit and which is most readily gained by a too strenuous effort. This is because in most cases it is desired for its own sake or for selfish purposes. The men who want to use it for the general good do not often struggle greatly for it. The ambition of kings is simply the ambition of humanity on a larger and wider scale.

In these three words there is a timely sermon for this frightfully distressing heated term. Fagged out and irritable, everybody is prone to give and take offense on slight provocation, and there is need of mutual forbearance, says the New York Herald. Don't mind if the waiter who has been on his feet ten hours is less respectful than usual. Pass over the brusqueness of the street car conductor who has been all day climbing to and fro along the footboard like a monkey between the broiling sunshine above and the heat-radiating pavement below. Keep your temper with these and all other toilers, as well as with your family, friends and business associates. Thus you will avoid adding more miseries to the physical sufferings of those about you—and you will be the better, the cooler and the happier for it yourself.

A Kansas weather prophet named Kropff made the prediction early in the spring that the wheat crop would be practically ruined by drought. Now that the crops are in such fine shape and rain has been abundant, Mr. Kropff does not seek to excuse himself. On the contrary, he says: "If there is a good crop I shall take it as a dispensation from the Lord not to talk so much." Kropff has learned his lesson well. It is a shame that others cannot do the same.

It is reported that the offer of the American who promised to give \$25,000 to any person who would introduce his daughters into London society has been taken up. It may be expected, therefore, that within a reasonable time the engagement of two more American heiresses to titled Englishmen will be announced. A man who is able to pay \$25,000 for a mere introduction must be able also to secure a couple of husbands with titles for his daughters.

The driver of an express wagon in Denver began the practice about two years ago of placing mats under the feet of his horses when they stood. He was actuated by a feeling of kindness to the animals, but it has brought him considerable business, and there is talk of the local Expressmen's union asking all members to adopt the practice.

On a sweltering Sabbath, in a little church in the backwoods, the perspiring minister, instead of preaching a long sermon, called the attention of the congregation to the figures on the thermometer. "Just study those figures," he said. "It ain't half as hot here as you'll find it hereafter if you don't mend your ways."

A rich farmer who died recently in Erie county, Pennsylvania, provided in his will for the foundation and maintenance of a library at a crossroads, remote from any village. The building which will shelter it is designed to serve many other intellectual and social uses. It will contain a kitchen, reception-rooms and a hall that may be utilized for lectures, entertainments and religious gatherings. This action is hailed by the New York Independent as indicating the growth of a belief that wealth which has been accumulated in the country should be used for the benefit of the country. Our grandfathers felt this more strongly, perhaps, than our fathers did, or than we have. Rich farmers—and poor farmers, too—were manifold parts in establishing the older colleges. When they could not give money they gave labor, realizing, doubtless, that the first students at these colleges would be the lads from the farms. The farmer of that earlier day never dreamed that, because he was "12 miles from a lemon," he must forego intellectual stimulus and social recreation. But the movement toward the cities and toward the west affected seriously many little neighborhoods which had been centers of wholesome and vigorous life. Pending the readjustment to changed conditions in the east, and the success of the first pitched battle with nature in the west, it seemed that the farmer must needs be a man of one idea—to "hold on." The general demand for rural free delivery showed that the evil days are over for both sections. The farmer knows where he stands. He has leisure to renew relations with the world, and he means to do so. The will of the Pennsylvanian suggests the spirit in which to meet the reasonable demands of the people in the "outlying regions." If the farmer cannot go to the library, take the library to him.

The great results come when patients are merely subjected to a simple and rational climate and regimen whose chief elements are pure air, sunlight and abundant nutrition under conditions that allow these factors to exert their influence to the greatest possible extent. With the new methods it is no longer necessary for the patient to seek a climate of the kind that has been supposed to possess some specific property against the disease, says the Review of Reviews. The benefits from mild climates are now seen to be due chiefly to the effects of the outdoor life that the climate encourages. But whatever the advantages of such a climate they are liable to be offset by the depressing influences that follow separation from home and friends, with consequent melancholy. The expense for the great majority of patients also bars the way of the change. Therefore the most desirable treatment on the whole is that which keeps the patients near home. This is the conclusion reached by the author of one of the most important works on pulmonary tuberculosis, Dr. S. A. Knopf, of New York, who expresses his thorough disbelief in the specific curative quality of any climate, and therefore would place a sanitarium where it would do the greatest good to the greatest number. Beholds that it is essential to the majority of tuberculous patients to be treated and cured in the same, or nearly the same, climate where they will have to live and work after their restoration to health.

The first steps toward the formation of the Olympic Games association, which is to conduct the big athletic world's fair in Chicago in 1904, have been taken. Part of the work of the association, it is expected, will be to hold public games on the lake front and in other ways arouse in Chicago the interest in athletics which existed in ancient Athens. Even the people of the indolent hot countries are taking an interest in the games. Mexico expects to send a team of athletes.

Of course, rich men have a right to do as they please with their money, and can select their own beneficiaries. Those who contribute to the cause of education do wisely and well. But would it not be wiser and better, suggests the Buffalo Times, if some of this vast amount of money were expended in establishing kindergartens and playgrounds for the children of the poor, instead of lavishing it all upon the "higher education" of the sons of the rich?

One of the officials of the Philadelphia mint says: "There is always a scarcity of pennies in the west and a superabundance of them in the east. Every little while the banks out there set up a hoot and cry for pennies, but our banks here are ever glad to rid themselves of their surplusage in these coins. It is difficult to see why such a state of things should be."

Judge Jenks, of the New York supreme court, told the law school of New York university the other day that "the man with furrows in his brow wins against the man with creases in his trousers every time."

A new word incorporated in the English language, especially in exposition literature, is "pergola," which is defined as "an arborescent colonnade."

SOLID EARTH ROADS.

Under Favorable Conditions They Are the Most Pleasant for Driving and Best for Horses.

Prof. Charles H. Pettie, of the New Hampshire agricultural college, says: An earth road is one surfaced with a large per cent. of earth, which may be sand, clay, hardpan, loam, or a mixture of some of these. A very common idea of an earth road is one surfaced with the natural material where the road is built. This description, though generally characteristic, does not give the true distinction between these and gravel ones and may convey an entirely wrong impression. The true distinction lies in the predominance of earth over rock or the reverse in the surfacing material. Again, it will be seen that the gravel road is intermediate between the earth and the macadam and that there is no absolute line separating the earth from the gravel or the gravel from the macadam. The latter statement will appear evident if we consider that it makes no difference whether the stone for a macadam road has been prepared by a stone crusher or broken by the processes of nature and deposited in gravel banks during the glacial epoch.

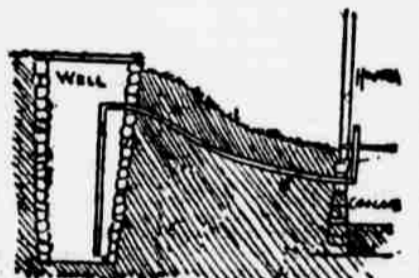
The earth road, under favorable conditions of moisture and repair, is the smoothest, most elastic, and most pleasant for pleasure driving of any in existence. It is safest for horses' feet and, where the natural soil is favorable, is by far the cheapest both as regards construction and repair. On the other hand, if it is an ideal summer road, it is reasonably sure to be muddy and rough for perhaps two months in the spring as well as during the following heavy rains at other seasons. In short, its perfection for all seasons is apparently impossible and it depends upon constant, though inexpensive, attention to minute repairs for its favorable condition during a limited season.

It thus appears that, if we aim at durability, nothing less than a body of rock will keep us up out of the mud in the spring; that this will render the surface too dry for comfort and durability during the summer, and that the more expensive and more perfect the surface constructed upon this foundation, the more expensive and more difficult the matter of repair. In the city sprinkling has given greater durability and comfort to the macadam surface, and the heavy expense for construction and maintenance can often be easily borne. In the country these favorable conditions are usually absent. Some have attempted to find in the gravel road the safe middle course between the earth and the macadam. They do not, however, appear to have wholly succeeded. Smoothness, elasticity, freedom from dust, low cost and cheapness of maintenance seem to be thus far more or less incompatible with durability and constancy throughout the year.

SYPHON FROM WELL.

Saves Lots of Work in the Farm House Where There is Very Little Strength to Spare.

Most farm houses could have a pipe from the well to the kitchen sink, saving an enormous amount of work. If the well is on higher ground than the house, the water



will siphon into the cellar, requiring almost no effort to pump it up the few remaining feet.

It is a shame to carry water year after year from the well to the house when the water will run itself. It is more important to save labor in housework than elsewhere on the farm, for there is less of strength indoors.—N. Y. Tribune.

WHEN THE BEES STING.

Simple Household Remedies That Are Helpful to Reduce Swelling and Relieve Pain.

As the sting of a bee is considered to be acid, an alkali should be employed to relieve it. Ammonia or soft soap would therefore be a good application.

In an emergency any of the following might be helpful to reduce swelling or to relieve pain: Vinegar, olive oil, raw onion, paste made of clay and water, or flour and water, or salt and water, tobacco juice, tincture of arnica, honey or laudanum. If a person be not exceedingly nervous and excitable, cold water applied constantly to the wound will be a good remedy.

Bees stings are exceedingly dangerous to some people. A well known gentleman was stung by a bee near the base of the brain, and the poison killed him in a few minutes in spite of heroic remedies.

A bee sting about the face is liable to produce large swellings, and they have been known to fester and threaten blood poisoning in a few hours.

Little children are apt to wander about in the weeds where bee gums are located. It is well to keep in mind these and other household remedies in such instances of bee stings.—N. Y. Farmer.

A recent decision by the supreme court of the United States concerning

Queer Bank preferences in bankruptcy is causing something like consternation among merchants.

The bankruptcy act forbids preferences to creditors, requiring any creditor who has been preferred to surrender what he has received if he proposes to prove any claims or receive any dividends. By the recent decision it is established that the receipt of money by a creditor within four months of the time when a petition in bankruptcy is filed by or against the person making the payment, constitutes a preference. Thus, if A sells to B a bill of goods amounting to \$2,000, and is paid in cash, and thereupon sells him another bill of goods for \$4,000 on 90 days' credit, within which time B goes into bankruptcy, A becomes a preferred creditor. If he proposes to claim his \$4,000, he must give up his \$2,000. If he wants to keep his \$2,000, he must give up his \$4,000. The fact that he had no intention of obtaining a preference, or that his debtor had no intention of giving him one, is immaterial; the law presumes the intention from the mere fact of payment. It is suggested that business men should bestir themselves to have congress amend the law so as to lessen, if not completely do away with, the severity of this provision.

Working girls in cities, who have to swelter through the summer in one stuffy room, would be fortunate indeed if rich women generally adopted a plan which a Boston woman is preparing to put into practice for the second time. She has a beautiful home, and when she went to her country house last year she offered five girls the use of the city place, together with board and the services of her cooks, for four dollars a week each. Imagine the delight, says Youth's Companion, with which they exchanged hall bedrooms and cheap restaurants for a large, airy house and a perfectly appointed table! "I think," said one of the girls at the end of three months, "that this is the very first summer in my whole life that I have fully enjoyed myself." These were girls who would have resented any kind of help that savored of "charity," but the gracious deed that so carefully guarded their independence and their self-respect will be a happy, helpful memory all their lives long. Country folk would say that such an action was "neighborly." Perhaps at a higher stage of civilization people will see the truth more clearly, and call it simply Christian.

What do you think of the nerves of a young woman who for three days could drive a team through a solitude of the mountains, carrying the dead body of her husband and camping out with it alone every night? asks the Kansas City Journal. That was the terrible ordeal which Mrs. Clara Davis, a bride of a year, and late of Iola, had to undergo in Oregon recently. She and her husband were on a pleasure trip through the coast range. In taking a rifle from the wagon Mr. Davis was accidentally shot and killed. It was three days' travel to the nearest habitation, and Mrs. Davis put her husband's body in the wagon and took it there. Mrs. Davis is returning to her former home in Kansas.

The small boy's imagination seems to have been excited by the reports of the magnificence of the Pan-American exposition. Youngsters are running away all over the country, and the police in many cities have been kept busy looking for juvenile tourists who are needed at home. It would probably be a good thing for most of these boys to carry out their plans. They would receive a great many hard knocks and endure some privations, and the experience would in many cases operate as a permanent cure for the runaway fever. But it would be difficult to convince the parents of this.

That was a smart Michigan woman who, when her husband filed suit for divorce against her, went to her ma's and had a notice of her own death inserted in the newspapers. The husband's affections revived, and instead of attending the funeral of his wife, he found her—and his mother-in-law—in the flesh, awaiting him with open arms. The telegrams add that the delighted husband hugged his wife fondly, omitting all reference to his mother-in-law, who was, beyond doubt, the suggester of the little game.

One of the American consuls in Italy has discovered that the finest kind of macaroni produced in that country is made from American wheat, which excels for this particular purpose the wheat of every other country. The importance of the macaroni industry is hardly appreciated in the United States, but it really amounts to a great deal and means a new and big market for our wheat.

Once there was much made of the idea that a subtreasury should be established at every crossroads. It came to nothing, but a Wisconsin congressman proposes to start steam laundries at points convenient to farmers' wives. Power, it is said, could easily be supplied in connection with the numerous creameries and cheese factories.

A Delicate Hint.

"My dear, I was just reading a very interesting article on 'How to Enjoy an Outing Without Impediments.'"

"Well?"

"Well, I was wondering, my love, if it wouldn't be a good idea for me to take my outing alone this time?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Just like a strawberry.

Mr. Crimsonbeak—Please remember, dear, that a woman is a good deal like a strawberry.

Mrs. Crimsonbeak—How so, John?

"Why, she is all the sweeter from having plenty of sunshine in her life."—Yonkers Statesman.

Oh on the Name.

"I don't like your heart action," the doctor said, applying the stethoscope again. "You have had some trouble with angina pectoris."

"You're partly right, doctor," sheepishly answered the young man, "only that ain't her name."—Tit-Bits.

Emergency Ability.

"Women have no originality—no inventive genius."

"Nonsense; I've seen my stenographer make a memorandum with a tnatpin on a cake of soap when she had no paper handy."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Encouraging Him.

"If I thought that any girl would accept me," casually remarked the bashful Mr. Dolyers, "I'd propose to-morrow."

"Why not this evening?" asked Miss Fosdick, coyly.

The affair will take place in about a month.—Detroit Free Press.

Fashion's Decree.

Mrs. Throop—The idea of your wanting to go to cooking school! Why, you know how to cook!

Miss Throop—Yes, I know; but it is not so fashionable to know how to cook already as it is to go to cooking school and learn how to cook.—Brooklyn Eagle.

One to Admire.

"Somehow," she said, "I never can see you without thinking of truth."

"Is that so?" he asked, being a fellow who was always doing something original.

"Yes, truth crushed to earth will rise again, you know."

"But what has that to do with me?"

"Well, you've been thrown down by nearly every girl in this town, but I see that you continue to come up smiling."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Bound to Make a Sale.

Book Agent—Here, sir, is a brand new edition of a dictionary which is being—

Victim—I don't want any dictionary.

Book Agent—But your children, sir, they surely should have one.

Victim—Have no children—only a cat.

Then and Now.

"This is indeed a lonely world," said the widow, with a sigh; but now she has caught an again, and she winks her other eye.—Chicago Daily News.

FILIAL DEVOTION.

"Coward!"

"Coward nuffin! Yer don't t'ink I'd lift me hand agin me mudder, do yer?"—Chicago American.

Horse Sense.

There's a small grain of wisdom which runneth thus way: Men who have horse-sense know how to say "neigh."—Philadelphia Record.

Saviors of the Truth.

Little Willie—Say, pa, what's the difference between a genius and a lunatic?

Pa—If there is any difference at all, my son, the odds are in favor of the lunatic. He, at least, is sure of his board and clothes.—Chicago Daily News.

Chip of the Old Block.

"What a fine head your boy has," said an admiring friend.

"Yes," replied the fond father, "he's a chip of the old block—ain't you, my boy?"

"Yes, father; teacher said yesterday that I was a young blockhead."—Tit-Bits.

Town Improvement.

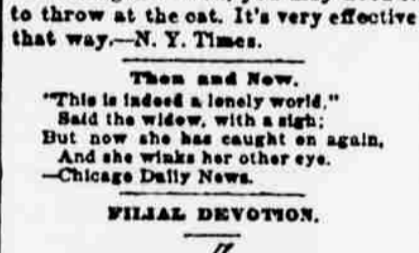
"We have had three cases of appendicitis in the last three days," says a rural exchange. "That shows how the town is improving. All we could boast a few years ago was ordinary measles."—Atlanta Constitution.

Merely an Incident.

"I clutched that child and saved her from falling off the street car going at frightful speed."

"That was fortunate."

"Not for me; the child's mother berated me for tearing its frock."—Chicago Record-Herald.



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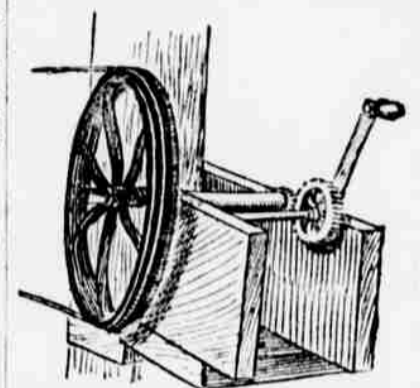
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ROAD & FARM IMPROVEMENT.

TRAVELING MAIL BOX.

Simple Device by Which an Ohio Farmer Has His Letters Carried Across a River.

We recently received from the rural delivery bureau at Washington a photograph of a traveling mail box designed and used by Mr. James Taggart, Delaware county, O., to convey his mail from his box on the rural carrier's route to his house across a river. Without this device he would be obliged to go some distance to the bridge to cross the river for his mail. As something like this would be very convenient for others simi-



MOTOR GEAR OF TRAVELING MAIL BOX.

larly situated or at a distance from the road, we wrote to Mr. Taggart for particulars and he has replied as follows:

"This mail carrier is designed to transport the mail across the Olenyango river, which at this point is 225 feet wide. It is supported by a No. 8 galvanized wire (A) which is maintained at the proper tension by means of a fence ratchet shown at B. The box is supported on the wires by two grooved sash pulleys, (D D). The strap iron connecting with the box and pulleys, (D D), extends on both sides of the wire, making it impossible to get off in transit. The post (E) on opposite side of river has an iron at the top end bent into the form shown at F. This iron is 1/2 inch

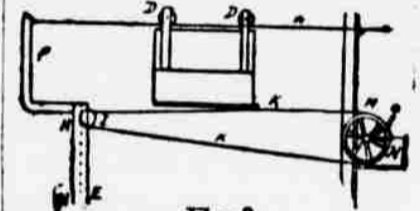


DIAGRAM OF TRAVELING MAIL BOX.

inches and extends down the center of the post and is held in place by bolts (H H). A sash pulley (I) is fastened to the post, around which the cord (K) passes. This belt of cord, known in the market as No. 60 medium laid seine twine, is made fast to the mail box at the point L. It then passes around the pulley (I) thence around the groove of driving wheel (m) and fastens again at the point L.

"By revolving the wheel (m) the box is pulled along the wire; then by reversing the wheel the box is moved in the opposite direction. In order to increase the speed the cogged gear-wheel (n) is added, to the shaft of which the crank (O) is attached. One turn of the crank moves the box ten feet. The iron (F) is used to enable the mail carrier to drive his vehicle wheel under the box for convenience in delivering mail. The cord (K) varies in length considerably in wet and dry weather, but not so much as to interfere with its working.

"The matter of cost is a little hard to get at accurately, because much of the material, including all the wheels in the driving mechanism, were drawn from the farm junk heap at no cost whatever, yet would have a considerable value were they required to be especially made. The cash outlay for this outfit was not over \$2, but it must be noted that all the work, both wood and iron, was done on the farm and would perhaps amount to, three times the above figure."—James E. Taggart, in Ohio Farmer.

Bacon Curing in England.

Take the whole side, after the ham and shoulder have been removed, and rub it with the following mixture: For each 100 pounds of meat, seven pounds of salt, one pound of brown sugar and four ounces of saltpeter, finely powdered and mixed together. Spread this compound on the flesh side of the meat only and rub it in well. Lay another piece of the first one, treat it in the same manner, and so proceed until all the meat is salted. Let it remain in this compound for three weeks; it will then be ready to hang up to dry or to smoke, when it should be wiped off.

Rape Not Good for Horses.

Rape is essentially a sheep feed. Prof. Shaw, of Minnesota, who introduced rape into this country, says that it is an ideal succulent crop for sheep, but does not recommend it for horses and milch cows. "If horses will eat it they should not be permitted to pasture on it only for a short time each day. We doubt if they will eat it if they can get grass or hay. If you have some sheep they will make good gains on rape and will eat it with avidity."—Farmers' Voice.

The bat is a harmless animal, and should be protected because it kills flies and bugs.