

THE CITIZEN

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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29, 1909.

Dr. Cook is a man after P. T. Barnum's own heart.

The scientists of Copenhagen are to be congratulated that they had the necessary courage to admit they had been fooled. We hope the members of our National Geographical Society will commence to develop their respective bumps of courage, for it is possible they will need a larger stock than they now have, sooner or later.

If Cook, with his limited Arctic experience, could fool so many people, is there any reason why Peary with his long and well-seasoned experience, could not go him one better, and with the passive aid of scientific friends, together with his superior knowledge of what is necessary, keep up the delusion regarding his reputed discovery.

Honesdale's best Christmas gift was the big illuminated clock which the Farmers' and Mechanics' Bank placed where every one can see it, whether afoot or on horseback. It is a substantial evidence of progressiveness, good judgment and thoughtfulness on the part of the Bank, which the people do and will continue to appreciate.

The days, weeks and years slip away like water in a running stream. Time's great clock never loses a moment. Relentlessly, surely the moments pass, and our eager hands are not able to detain them. We cannot keep back the flying years, but we can and should keep the blessings they bring. Hold fast to the lessons they have taught. Keep the memory of their joys. Enrich every day of life with the garnered wealth of the days behind. The years pass, but they leave their treasure with us, if our hands and heart are open to receive them, so as with one hand we shake farewell to 1909 let us stretch out the other hand to warmly greet and welcome 1910.

THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

The close of the year is always a time for serious thought and reflection. The past crowds upon us at such a time with far more than usual intensity and especially forces upon our attention our faults, failures and mistakes. Let us look them squarely in the face and profit by them. The wise man always does this, but the fool never. The latter goes on committing the same follies and making the same mistakes, never profiting by his experience, to say nothing of the experience of others. Every man makes mistakes. It may not be his fault the first time, but it is if he makes the same mistakes a second time. We believe that the secret of success with those who succeed, and the cause of failure with those who fail, will be found largely in the ability and disposition to study the causes of both success and failure, not only in one's own experience but in that of others. The farmer now has leisure to review the operations of the year, and he should do it candidly and critically. Make a complete analysis of every important operation. Find the weak places in it and trace them to their origin. Nothing will prepare one so thoroughly for the operations of the year to come as this kind of searching investigation.

And while we are about this business we should look just as carefully into our record of moral responsibility. We should be far more anxious to improve character, mind and morals than to improve our farms. Serious study of our weak points and of means to strengthen them is a very profitable business at any time, and if pursued assiduously will strengthen and develop all that is good and admirable in our natures, and make us better, stronger, nobler men and women as the years go by. And the time will come in the life of every one when such a record of honest, earnest, persistent effort to improve will afford far greater satisfaction than anything else in his account with this world. We can wish no better thing for all our readers than that they begin the new year animated by a firm resolve to turn all its experience into profit for themselves, mentally, morally, socially and materially, and then to faithfully carry out the resolution.

There is one white mark to the credit of Dr. Cook, for reporting to the Esquimaux that he had discovered the Pole. For it was this report which started Peary on his last journey towards the place, which we have faith to believe, existed mainly, that a number of rich philanthropists could be scientifically milked to support an Arctic Explorer's Club and its Poo-bah.

ENUMERATORS' TEST EASY.

Census Director Durand Sets Feb. 5th

as the Date.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 27, 1909.—Any person of good judgment, who has received an ordinary common school education, can readily and easily pass the test to be given applicants for Census Enumerators' places on Saturday, Feb. 5th, the date finally set by U. S. Census Director Durand, according to an announcement from the Census Bureau to-day. This will be a comforting assurance to the several hundred thousand who are believed to be contemplating application for the places.

It was emphatically stated at the bureau that the test will be an eminently reasonable and practical one, similar to that applied to applicants at the Twelfth Census. It will consist of filling-out a sample schedule of population from a description, in narrative form, of typical families; and, in the case of enumerators whose work will be in the rural districts, they will be called upon to fill out an additional sample schedule of agriculture, from information furnished by the Census Bureau.

All persons, whether women or men, who may desire to become census enumerators must be citizens of the United States; residents of the supervisor's district for which they wish to be appointed; must be not less than 18 nor more than 70 years of age; must be physically able to do the work; must be trustworthy, honest and of good habits; must have at least an ordinary education and must be able to write plainly and with reasonable rapidity.

Those who can comply with these requirements are invited to put in their applications, as there will be at least 68,000 enumerators' places to be filled by the middle of March in preparation for the enumeration beginning April 15th.

Application forms, with full instructions for filling-in, and complete information concerning the test and the method of appointment, can be secured by writing to the supervisor of census for the supervisor's district in which the applicant lives. All applications, properly filled in must be filed with the supervisors not later than January 25th as any received after that date cannot be considered.

SUIT AGAINST PIKE COUNTY.

Suit has been brought in the United States District Court against the county of Pike to recover \$4,650 on an alleged contract for installing a safe in the County Treasurer's office, new vault doors in the Prothonotary's and County Commissioners' offices and steel files in the latter office.

A summons was served on the Commissioners on Monday by a U. S. marshal from Scranton, being returnable at Williamsport, Pa., on the second Monday of January next. Appearance will be entered for the county and the case will likely be tried in Scranton in the spring.

The suit is brought by a Mr. Spencer, who is agent for a safe company and secured the alleged contract.

Late in 1908 Messrs. Clune and Albright made a contract with Mr. Spencer for installing the safe, doors and files. Mr. Albright went out of office this year and was succeeded by Philip C. Kinkel. The new board of commissioners repudiated the contract on account of various irregularities, some of the allegations being that the contract was let after the meeting adjourned, without notice to Mr. Hatton; that the contract was signed by Messrs. Clune and Albright as individuals and not as county commissioners; that the contract is not attested by the commissioners' clerk and does not contain the seal of the county; and that the price is outrageously extravagant.

The repudiation of the contract, notice of which was served on Mr. Spencer by the Sheriff, did not deter him from fulfilling the contract, for the goods were shipped to Port Jervis and part of them brought here. Of course they were refused admittance to the court house and are now stored in the barn of Joseph G. Snyder. The large safe is still at the freight depot in Port Jervis, where it has been since last summer.

A Scranton firm of lawyers represents the plaintiff and it is understood that the Commissioners will engage eminent counsel to assist the county solicitor in looking after the interests of the county.

NO HOPE FOR SATOLI.

Doctors Say the Cardinal Cannot Live More Than Twenty-four Hours.

Rome, Dec. 28.—There is no hope for the recovery of Cardinal Satolli. His eminence had another relapse this forenoon, and the physicians in attendance say that the cardinal's death may be looked for within the next twenty-four hours.

He has a few conscious moments, but these are few and far between.

Baby's Stomach, Hands and Feet. Mothers have a tendency to over-clothe baby in summer. If its stomach and bowels are properly protected by a flannel binder, then the less it is hampered the better. So long as the baby's hands and feet are warm and dry it is all right.

REASON WHY LIVING IS HIGH.

The State Sealer of Weights and Measures of New York, recently made a statement that \$20,000,000 was stolen annually in that state by the use of short weights and measures,—and what is true in New York is true of Pennsylvania. This method of stealing is not new; Deuteronomy 25:15 reads: "But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have; that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

These words expose the lack of originality on the part of the modern "grafters" and the low-standard of civic intelligence which he is called upon to combat. The "grafters" continues to use this ancient method of cheating, and the public permits him to do it. Possibly both might read the Scriptures to advantage.

Perhaps it is unfair to say that the "honest grafters" has no inventive ability, for at last, after these many ages, he has exhibited a little cleverness. The following quotation from a circular which a manufacturing firm had the frontier some time ago to distribute among retail merchants indicates that not only has a machine been invented that literally makes the scales honest in combination with a "graft" feature, but also solves the problem of the ages, of making one of two things that are equal to each other show a surplus at the same time:

CAN YOU DO THIS ON YOUR SCALE?

Buy twenty pounds pork loins at 9 cents a pound, retail them to your trade at the same price, and get your money back?

WE CAN

on our scale, and make you THREE PER CENT. PROFIT IT BESIDES.

If your business amounts to \$10 a day sales we can earn you 30 cents in fractions you don't get now. Thirty cents a day means you buy this scale every 180 days. How long have you been in business? How many have you bought in that time? Think of it—one scale lost every six months. Let our man prove this.

This scale weighs honestly, at least as honestly as the average scale can be made to weigh. It would be sealed by a sealer of weights and measures as an honest machine. Yet it is an "honest" grafters, for while it does not violate the law it "grafts." It does what is claimed for it in the circular. It is called a computing scale. Its beautiful nickel finish gives a shop an appearance of prosperity and a desire to secure the best that money will buy in order to give the customer a "square deal." In Massachusetts the courts have condemned it, but there being no law under which it may be condemned in this state, many are still in use.

The great advantage of the computing machine is that it automatically calculates the amount of the bill as it weighs the purchase. On a busy Saturday night it is a valuable adjunct to the grocery man, or the meat man. If some one comes in and orders six ounces of coffee it would, in the process of weighing the coffee, automatically determine the sum to be paid. The way in which it "grafts" is this: Assuming that the coffee is valued at 30 cents a pound, according to commercial usage an ounce would be sold for two cents. It is on this basis that the machine works, but only the even ounces are registered. If a person ordered three ounces of the coffee, the amount would be, according to the machine, not six cents, but eight cents. In commercial usage the buyer is supposed to share evenly with the seller in a case where the exact value cannot be paid. If an article is sold at four cents a pound it is obvious that four ounces or less would be one cent and eight ounces two cents. Should the weight be less than six ounces the buyer would pay only one cent. If it is over that number of ounces, but under eight, the seller reaps the advantage and two cents is charged. According to the computing scales, if an article weighs the slightest fraction over the unit it charges up the price for two units.

When the subject of dishonest computing scales was brought up in Massachusetts the State Treasurer's department made a test of one of the computing scales charged with being an "honest grafters." The machine was set to compute on articles valued at 30 cents a pound. Three ounces of beans were placed on it. The indicator read eight cents. Then five ounces were laid on. The price chart showed that this quantity was worth 11 cents. Nine ounces were given a value of 19 cents, thirteen ounces 26 cents and one pound nine ounces 49 cents. This gave a total for the five small transactions of \$1.13. When the total weight, fifty-five ounces, was placed on the scales, the amount registered was \$1.05. The eight cents difference was the profit on "small sales" which the dealer obtained by the use of these scales. It was shown also that when seventeen ounces, or one ounce more than a pound, was placed on the scales they registered 34 cents. The apparatus was found to be perfectly honest in its capacity of weighing machine. It was therefore decided that it could not be interfered with until the law regarding just scales was changed. Like every other "honest grafters," it kept within the law. Massachusetts now has a statute, adopted in 1907, which applies to this improvement over scales of the period of Moses. It has been estimated that there are sixty thousand of these disreputable scales in use in the United States, and that through their use sixty thousand merchants

reap a profit of \$20,000,000 a year. Unfortunately, the poor, who can least afford it, are the ones who contribute this amount. The manufacturers are now producing a fairer scale, having learned their lesson in Massachusetts.

END OF THE WORLD.

The Bible in numerous places foretells the destruction of the earth by fire, but we are not told the time nor manner. Certain religious fanatics—so-called—have set the date, place and time, but so far have proved false prophets, and held up to ridicule.

However, it is the accepted theory, that if our world is destroyed by fire, it will be coming in contact with some other body moving in space, such as a comet, the sun or some planet much larger and powerful than the earth.

The coming of Halley's comet, approaching the earth at the rate of a million miles or more a day, and which science has demonstrated can do us no possible harm, as it will swing away toward the sun before it reaches within danger zone of the earth, makes the subject of comets, and the possibility of the earth striking a wanderer of the sky of interest. Some day this earth will come to an end and if there are people in other planets they will see its finish through their telescopes.

Prof. Lowell and other astronomers, on or about May 18 next will look through the refractor of the big telescope at Flagstaff, Arizona, and see Halley's comet do just what the world will do the day before it comes to an end. Halley's comet then will cross the face of the sun. According to Prof. Lowell's startling theories, the earth will cross the face of the sun, sometime, and not only will cross it, but will dive, like a baseball from a bat, right into the sun itself.

Somewhere back of the feeble little space we call our universe there are the ghosts of worlds like our own moving about as ghosts do, with no fixed time of appearance. Every once in a while one of our big planets will start suddenly from its path, tremble a little, and then start on again. During the time it trembled one of these ghost-like worlds was passing it, far out of the range of the strongest telescope. Nobody knows how fast these big worlds move and nobody knows whither they are bound. They are—black and cold—tremendous cold and dead.

Some day one of these dead worlds will wander into the light of the sun, and with an ever-increasing speed will hurl itself into the sun's mass. The earth, like Halley's comet will soon feel the attraction of this dead planet hurling through the air with such terrific speed. Slowly at first, but surely under the inflexible law of gravity, our globe will turn from its own path in the great universe, and swinging in behind the stranger, will dart straight for the sun. But unlike the case of the comet we all will be shot like a giant's cannon ball into the molten mass, and perhaps clear through it. If the latter, we will come out on the other side, black and dead, like the other ghosts of worlds that once teemed with life and now threaten us.

This, in brief, is Prof. Lowell's theory on the end of life. He is not a "yellow" astronomer, and he has science to back him in this new and startling view. We cannot tell the time of our planet's end, he declares, but we have an idea of what will happen just before the earth hurtles into the sun. It will come, as the Bible foretells, "in a moment; in the twinkling of an eye." But if our planet-ghost, which finally entices us to our death is as large as the ghosts make other planets tremble, men like Lowell will be able to see it 27 years away!

Twenty-seven years of terror will ensue between its discovery and the end of time. Children will be born into the maddened world who will grow men and women with the day of their fate sealed to the hour, the minute, and almost to the second! Divine promise will be mankind's only consolation. This end may not come in this cycle, or in 100,000 years from now, but it's coming some time. Prof. Lowell and many other star students are sure of this. Death will be painless, though there will be a sight in the sky like that of a hundred suns at midnight. The moon will fade away, and this great light, the treacherous, burning ghost-planet, will lead the earth on, by means of gravity, into the sun with it.

So far there is no direct disturbance in the realm of space to cause end is coming soon, but the knowledge of how it is going to come will prove an unusual and picturesque revelation.

BEWARE OF OINTMENTS FOR CATARRH THAT CONTAIN MERCURY,

as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely damage the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free.

Sold by Druggists. Price 75c per bottle.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

ARE RETAILER'S PROFITS EXORBITANT AND WHY?

Secretary James Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, has caused an investigation to be made in the matter of retail prices of meats all over the country, with intent of determining to what extent the high prices are due to the exorbitant charges of retailers. The information collected has been collated into a bulletin. By this it appears that in the North Atlantic States the retail prices of beef is 31.4 per cent. higher than the wholesale price, and the percentage is usually lower in the larger cities than in the smaller ones. The dealers in Allentown, Pa., seem to be selling the dearest meat, as they receive a gross profit of 50 per cent. over the wholesale price.

There is a remarkable discrepancy in this profit in places near together, as while the profit is 47 per cent. at Holyoke, Mass., and Harrisburg, Pa., it is only 23 per cent. at Olean, N. Y., and 19 per cent. at Springfield, Mass., which is most remarkable, as Holyoke and Springfield are close neighbors. The average profit in New York City is 20 per cent., 20 per cent. in Philadelphia, 28 per cent. in Buffalo, and 36 per cent. in Boston.

As a rule the cheaper the grade of beef the higher the profit.

In the South Atlantic States, Baltimore stood at the foot, with her retailers demanding only 17 per cent. profit, while at Washington the dealers exact 42 per cent. The highest was at Augusta, Ga., of 61 per cent. In the North Central States, Chicago, in spite of being a meat center, gets 46 per cent. profit, mainly on the cheaper qualities of beef, while the retail profit in Cincinnati is only 25 per cent. and 28 per cent. in Omaha. There is a singular discrepancy in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The dealers in Minneapolis make 27 per cent., while those in St. Paul receive 33 per cent. with 40 per cent. for Detroit and Milwaukee. In the smaller cities the profits are higher, with 52 per cent. for Alton, Ill., and 53 per cent. for Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

In the South the profit seemed to be enormous and unexpected. For example, at Fort Smith, Ark., which is center of the cattle industry, the profit is 57 per cent.; with Mobile, Ala., 64 per cent.; Nashville 63 per cent.; Shreveport, La., 68 per cent. and Louisville 52 per cent.

In the Western States the highest rate is 62 per cent. at Lewiston, Idaho, and 58 per cent. for Spokane, while people in San Francisco get their meat at a profit of 39 per cent. and only 24 in Seattle.

The chief reason for the increase in the price of all groceries is that the customers desire costly accommodations. They want delivery of goods, perhaps by special trip, which requires at least one man, horse and wagon. They also want the market man to send some one to their dwelling to take orders. The multiplication of shops is also given as a cause. When 20 or more small shops divide the retail business that could be served by one large shop, there must be much needless expense for labor, house rent and other things. Lastly, there is a demand for meat having "respectable" names, so that one-fifth of the carcass is bought at the highest prices as porterhouse and sirloin steaks and rib roasts.

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