

IN BEHALF OF BLIND BABIES

First State Law Providing For Their Care, Maintenance and Education.

During the sessions of the last Legislature no bill created more interest or enthusiasm than that known as the Blind Baby Bill, introduced in the Assembly by Assemblyman Speaker, of St. Lawrence county, and in the Senate by Senator Coats of Franklin county.

Not long ago, this paper published a short item stating that the only institution in the United States giving proper care to blind babies from the day they are blinded, was established and is maintained by the International Sunshine Society, a philanthropic newspaper association, of which Mrs. Cynthia Westover Alden, writer and publisher, is president-general. Now the Catholic Institute will care for the Catholic blind.

Several years ago, Mrs. Alden, in the rounds of her newspaper work, discovered that there was no provision for blind babies in the State of New York under the age of eight years; that is, the Commissioner of Education could not appoint a blind child under eight to any educational institution for care.

On further investigation she learned that children blinded in infancy could not live to the age of eight without special care and not become hopelessly idiotic or feeble-minded; that children of the poor blinded in early infancy were relegated to the idiot departments or public institutions, or to the poor-house in county districts, where they picked their eyes with their fingers, bumped their heads against the wall, pounded themselves with their little fists, until some injury would result in the baby dying. Or, if the child lived, it met a worse fate—mental blindness. The queer actions of the child led the general public to jump at the conclusion that it was an idiot, when it was simply a little soul trying to find itself, and no friendly hand extended in help.

Little Rachel was taken from Randall's Island when a tiny little thing, where she had been sent because of having had spinal meningitis, also measles, which left her blind. From the hospital there she was taken by the International Sunshine Society and with other dependent blind children that could be collected, all thrown away by the public as not worth saving.

Eighty-two of these little folks were given the best possible nursing under graduate nurses, the best training under graduate kindergartners, with the result that only two failed to respond mentally—one was a little boy who had bumped his head against the wall until he got it out of shape.

The next thing was to get the world to understand that it should at least give its blind babies the care that it was giving dumb animals. The Society gave a bill through the Legislature in 1908 which provided for the dependent New York City children. That was four years ago. But the blind babies outside of the city had no protection, so the Seaker-Coats bill just signed by Governor Dix gives the State Commissioner of Education power to see that blind children are educated and cared for from the day they are blinded, appointed, not committed, to an institution for care.

Little Rachel is only one of eighty or more children who have been educated in the Blind Babies' Home, demonstrating the fact that they needed only care to prove themselves bright, normal, healthy youngsters.

The story of Rachel Askenas, ten years old and blind, and how she lobbied for the Blind Babies' Bill probably has no parallel in interest and sentiment in the annals of the State Legislature. It appealed with additional force to the people of Troy for the reason that a Trojan, Seymour Van Santvoord, the Governor's legal adviser, figured conspicuously in the steps that marked the progress of the measure. In fact, the little blind girl selected by Van Santvoord as her special champion and a strong attachment sprang up between them. He has in his possession letters and photographs sent to him by Rachel from time to time that he values highly and will ever cherish as mementos of one of the happiest and most impressive incidents of his career.

THE HOBO—WHY?

Every country newspaper publisher has more or less experience with the tramp printer who comes from no one knows where and leaves just as suddenly when the roving spirit again seizes him.

Marguerite Miller, associate editor of the Rochester (Ind.) Daily Republican, philosophizes on this mysterious class of wandering mortals in a recent issue as follows:

"There is no greater mystery than that of life, and none more incomprehensible than man. Why one is born to wealth, another to poverty and another to mental greatness, no system of theology has yet explained or philosophy disclosed to the satisfaction of the devotees thereof. Why do some rise to great heights of mental, financial and perhaps spiritual progress without apparent effort, another go down in defeat fighting their destiny every inch of the way, while another drifts up and down as circumstances force or fancy dictates. Can all men be good men in spite of birth or environment? Are men bad because they must, or drift because it is their lot to drift? From time to time one of this latter class visits this print shop, asking for a job, and they of all men make one ponder on the mystery of life. Usually the hobo printer arrives dirty, unkempt, ragged and pale but never discouraged or sullen. He works quietly and every move counts. He can explain any part of the work if asked; he is a living dictionary and encyclopedia combined, and after working hours, if he can be induced to talk, you find he is versed not only in the events of the day but is also a student of history and in close touch with the world's great poets, great authors and talks with equal grace of the drama, music or art. And there he sits in his filthy rags, a genius in mind, a master in intellect, a purveyor of knowledge far superior to those who employ

him. Nameless he comes and nameless he goes, making no apology for his appearance, asking no favors, unobtrusive, yet affable and kind. No doubt but he has a besetting sin, but why has he? The Christian would say he needs conversion, the mental scientist would say he must strengthen his will while theosophy declares he is following the star of his destiny, and can rise only through rebirth. Who is right? Religion has not solved the problem or lessened crime. The greatest crimes, carefully planned, cold-blooded murders, are committed among the clergy and highly educated, therefore education will not remove penal institutions or poverty, so the only thing that remains is for the man to study himself and learn the why of his own nature and learning, his future will take care of itself."

Religious Toleration in Japan.

Very significant, as an indication of the increasing friendliness with which the ancient East now views Christianity, was the recent conference of religions held in Tokio, Japan, says the Christian Herald. It was the first occasion on which Christianity was formally and officially recognized in that country as entitled to equal rights and privileges with Buddhism and Shintoism. At the conference were fifty-six Buddhists, thirteen Shintoists and seven Christians (the latter representing Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregational, Episcopal, Catholic and Greek churches), and the imperial government was represented by four members of the cabinet and several chiefs of bureaus. It was a very dignified and exclusive assemblage and no outsiders were admitted. All the delegates united in a joint resolution favoring co-operation in politics, education and religion for the improvement of social and moral conditions and the development of civilization. "each religion, however, strictly observing its own province of operations." Harmonious relations were declared to be the nation's prosperity. "It would be difficult to over-estimate the importance of this recognition of the Christian faith in a country where it has been under a ban. It will greatly assist in removing the prejudice which has existed even among the more intelligent Japanese, for government approval goes a long way in Japan. What the emperor and his ministers sanction or permit, no loyal son of Nippon will call in question. Hence great results may flow from the conference, which should mark the beginning of a new forward movement in Christian work in that country."

THE WEATHER FOR APRIL.

Interesting Report Furnished by Theodore Day.

Weather record for April, 1912, compared with other Aprils for near fifty years. Highest temperature ranged from 28 degrees third, to 77 degrees sixth and 16th; average 53.7 degrees; last year 28 degrees second to 82 degrees 29th; an average 53.4 degrees. Highest on my April records for 49 years, varied from 61 degrees in 1874, to 88 degrees April 18, 1896. Lowest temperature ranged from 25 degrees 27, down to 19 degrees fourth; average 32.8 degrees; and lowest last year was 14 degrees second and third. My lowest record in April is seven degrees, 13th, 1874. Greatest daily range was 44 degrees fifth; at least two degrees 10th, 18th and 19th; average range 19.9 degrees; last year it was 17.3 degrees. Mean for the month, 43.7 degrees, which is .8 of a degree above April average of 42.9 degrees for 47 years; from 35 degrees in 1874, to 50.5 degrees in 1878. Last year it was 41.1 degrees.

There was rain to measure on 14 days, with traces seven other days, and traces of snow and hail six days, twenty days more or less stormy. 39 inches of snow for the whole winter to 87 inches a year ago. Total precipitation for April 4.75 inches is 2.02 inches more than April average of 2.78 inches for 43 years; from .67 inch in 189, to 5.07 inches in 1874, and five inches in 1909. Four days were clear, ten fair and sixteen cloudy; average 29 per cent. of sunshine, to 55 last year. Prevailing winds northwest.

Morning May first, 27 degrees and very white frost; parts of fields green with fruit and forest buds swelling, and nearly all brown on high lands and north slopes; season nearly a month late.

THEODORE DAY.

Dyberry, Pa., May 1, 1912.

PLANTING FOR BIRDS.

"The question is often asked as to why our native birds are becoming rare, and it is often answered by the absurd statement that it is because women are using them for millinery purposes," said Prof. H. A. Surface, state zoologist, in an interview in his office at Harrisburg recently. He continued: "The chief reasons why birds are becoming rare are that their native haunts and places of concealment are gradually being destroyed, and their natural food is disappearing. This is particularly true of many species of birds that feed upon wild fruits of various kinds. It is really unbelievable by many persons as to what a large number of wild seeds and fruits are taken as food by birds. For example, the seeds of the poison ivy would never be thought edible by mankind, yet several species of birds are known to eat them. "In the efforts to clean up thickets and fence rows the various kinds of shrubs, bushes, vines and trees that furnish food for birds at different times of the year have been destroyed, and it is but natural that these feathered creatures will not continue to live in abundance in regions where their food is scarce. About all that is necessary to restore the birds, especially of many interesting kinds, is to be sure that they are provided with natural food and adequate protection. "To provide the birds with food it is best to arrange that this be done by natural means, and we in turn must plant for them those plants which will furnish them their most desired fruits. Among these are such as the following: June

berry, shad berry or service berry, scientifically known as amalancher, the mulberries (both English and Russian), early sweet varieties of strawberries, sweet early cherries (like the Governor wood), hawthorne, viburnum, first grape, fox grape, greenbrier, juniper or cedar apple, holly, barberry, mountain ash, English ivy, Virginia creeper or five-leaved ivy and hackberry. "These are among the plants that furnish natural food for the birds during the entire year, even while the snows lay deep on the ground birds of several kinds will feast upon the grapes which they seek on the wild grape vines, and in the spring time as the robins and other birds end their wearying flight from the South, they will quickly be able to find the berries of the ivy on some old wall, or the hardened berries of the hackberry tree still clinging to the trees where they grew and ripened last summer.

"Such a list of food plants as given above is Nature's menu served in courses, giving food that will be taken by the birds of various kinds during the entire year. Among the birds that have been known to feed upon the fruits of the plants mentioned are such as the following: Cuckoos, bluebirds, flycatchers, bluejays, bobolink, brown thrasher, catbird, cedarbird, grackle or blackbird, kingbird, downy woodpecker, hairy woodpecker, and wood thrush."

How to Destroy Mosquitoes and Flies.

Prevent the mosquito and the fly from breeding and you will put an end to both. Flies breed principally in decayed flesh and manure. They like the dirty alleys where garbage and refuse are scattered about. Keep your streets and your back yards clean and you will deprive the fly of its breeding places and it will cease to multiply. The mosquito breeds in stagnant water. The rusty old cans that, half filled with water, lie on dump heaps and in back alleys are what the mosquito likes. The barrels of rain water that stand under the eaves of some houses, the stagnant pools in meadows, swamps—all of these are excellent breeding places for the mosquito.

The varieties of this insect that infest this part of the country will not, as a rule, breed in running water. Therefore drain your swamps and stagnant pools. If you can't drain them pour crude oil over them. This will kill the young of the mosquito. Clean up your towns. Don't allow cans and barrels to lie about where they can collect rain water. A clean town will be flyless and mosquitoless. Don't give either of these pests a chance to breed and you will not be troubled by them.—Karl de Schweinitz, Executive Secretary, Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

TO HIM THAT HATH.

Locomotive engineers evidently believe that to him that hath the highest wages should be given the greatest increase. But few people realize how well these men are paid in comparison with other workers possessing similar skill and training. The Interstate Commerce Commission reports show that in 1910 the average daily pay of the engineers was 4.55, as compared with \$3.83 in 1902; and the Bureau of Railway Economics shows that their compensation made a further advance of 5.2% in 1911, thus raising it to \$4.78. Just how many days per year the men work it is impossible to say, but we have here shown their yearly compensation figured at 100 days in comparison with the average annual pay of other male laborers in the United States. This average of other laborers is based upon the wage payments of the Steel Corporation, together with statistics published by the Labor Department and the Census Bureau: Engineers Other Engineers 300 Days Laborers men's Excess

Table with 5 columns: Year, Engineers, Other Engineers, Laborers men's, Excess. Rows for years 1911, 1910, 1909, 1908, 1907, 1906, 1905, 1904, 1903, 1902.

NOTE—The engineers' pay has increased 24.5%, while that of other workmen has increased 20.9%.

Chief Stone has been quoted as saying that it is time to teach the public the lesson that freight rates should be advanced in order to permit the payment of higher wages. The public, however, by which is meant the great mass of our working population, is very poorly paid as compared with engineers, and is in no position to make further contributions to the latter through the payment of higher freight rates.

Moreover, the engineers are employees and not partners, and what they should be paid has nothing to do with either freight rates or net earnings, and is purely a question of what they are worth. Indeed, were they to base their argument upon net earnings, they would apply for a reduction of pay, since the railroads are now earning only about 4.58% on their capitalization, as compared with 5.54 in 1907 and 5.38% in 1902.

Unless both railroads and the public wish to be exploited by him that hath, they should now present a united front of opposition to the demands of the engineers.—Wall Street Journal of April 25, 1912.

MOTHER FORGETS BABIES.

Wilkes-Barre.—Mrs. Mary Auvic is the champion absent minded woman of the state. She was enroute from New York to Mauch Chunk last Thursday with her two babies, one two and a half years old and the other eight months. When the train reached Mauch Chunk Mrs. Auvic calmly gathered her bundles together and alighted, leaving the babies behind.

Before she remembered about the children they were on their way to this city, and when the flyer reached here Conductor W. S. Campbell received a message asking that the youngsters be shipped back. So frantic was the forgetful mother that a special train was made up and the kiddies taken back to Mauch Chunk in style.

THIS AND THAT.

Love may drive a man crazy, but it seldom drives him to work. How to cure a cold is a piece of fiction that rivals any of the six best sellers. The man who gets in with the automobile crowd frequently gets out with his landlord. Graft frequently leads to a bank account and thence to the room of the investigating committee.

Many people who are able to work aren't willing, and those who are willing often turn out to be unable. Men may pass a law permitting women to vote, but just let the egotistical creatures try compelling women to vote! There are people who pay taxes cheerfully and others who think they would be willing to do so if they had any property to be taxed. Spring marriage ties dissolve easily and noiselessly, while others explode and re-echo from one end of the country to the other.

One who tries to make you discontented is not your friend. Envy makes it easy to believe that wealth must be acquired dishonestly. After looking the men over carefully, the surprising thing to us is that women are ever jealous. Is there a man with nose so red who has never to himself said, "guess I'll cut it out?"

Abbe Martin truthfully remarks that "the more a man loves his wife the more it costs him." Only a very pretty girl can afford to look cross, and then she does not want to work at it steadily. When a fellow gets so he can eat with a fork he thinks he ought to have orchestra music at feeding time.

This old world will begin to get better about the time the reformers begin work on themselves. Every girl thinks that she is better to look upon than her photo, notwithstanding the fact that every photo is supposed to flatter. Along the narrow way, like around the baseball diamond, you must touch all the bases. The hardest thing for a girl to do is to fall in love with a fellow who no other girl wants.

Taking into consideration the fact that most women are greatly humored, it stands to reason that they should all have a sense of humor. Time waits for no man, although it has been known to loaf around a year or two for a woman. Even a man with a wart on his cheek can be tickled to death with it for not being on his nose. Always believe in your friends. It will help them to help themselves to your possessions more easily. Remember that, though each is the architect of his own life, yet he has not the ordering of the material.

ARIEL. (Special to The Citizen.) Ariel, May 4. Mrs. Margaret McGlanghan, of Avoca, spent a few days of last week visiting Mrs. M. Lane. Mr. and Mrs. James Collins, of Scranton, spent Saturday and Sunday with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Marshall. There was a Measuring social held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Becker on Tuesday evening of last week. The proceeds were used for the benefit of the church. James Surplus, of Scranton, is visiting his sister, Mrs. Robert Marshall. Milton Marshall, who had his leg amputated in the Hahnemann hospital in Scranton, is home. He is getting along nicely. Send six cents to The Citizen, Honesdale, Pa., and receive the first thirty lessons of the spelling contest words. The booklet contains twelve pages. It receives the hearty endorsement of Superintendent J. J. Koehler.

NEWFOUNDLAND. (Special to The Citizen.) Newfoundland, May 7. Dr. Fred Gilpin and sister, Mrs. Dorie Harvey Westfield, were called home by the serious illness of their mother, Mrs. Gilpin. Mrs. Frank Nickolson, Salem, Mrs. Amanda Gilpin, LaAnna, visited their sister, Mrs. Gilpin. J. B. Crooks was a Newfoundland caller Tuesday. Evan Hause and William Heberling are improving. J. R. Hause's place by putting up a new wood shed. Julia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Sieg, was taken to the Presbyterian hospital, Philadelphia, to be treated for an abscess. Send six cents to The Citizen for one of those little booklets containing the first thirty lessons of the spelling contest.

IF PHILADELPHIA, WHY NOT HONESDALE? Mrs. Owen Wister, chairman of the state civics committee, urges all the clubs to have their annual municipal cleaning-up during the first week in May. Mrs. Blankenburg, wife of the Mayor of Philadelphia, is one of the foremost advocates of the Municipal House-Cleaning plan. It is expected that Philadelphia will receive such a cleaning as it has not had in years. In a pamphlet on this subject, published by Mrs. Blankenburg, for distribution to club workers, it is suggested that public interest be aroused by educational methods through the press and pulpit, and that the women devote some time to the study of municipal expenses so that they may know whether the appropriations for cleanliness and sanitation are adequate, and what rights they have under the local laws to call upon the authorities to assist in the work.

He Might. "Dinkie wouldn't take a dollar that didn't belong to him, no matter how hard up he was." "Suppose he had a chance to take a million dollars?" "Ahem! Well, Dinkie is a man of spirit."

Backing Up. "The rain was coming down in sheets." "I noticed it was bad in the bed of the street."

BOY SCOUTS ONE OF THEM

Vincent Carroll, although not a Scout, assisted the members of the local troupe at the Reif fire last January. A report of the fire was sent to Scout headquarters and it was published in the weekly bulletin, issued by Boy Scouts of America, New York. In the write-up, among the names of other boys, appeared Vincent Carroll's. These bulletins are sent out all over the country to Scout Masters to be used by editors of different papers for publication. The account, "Boy Scouts as Fire Fighters," appeared in an Oklahoma paper and reached the eye of Vincent H. Carroll, of Hunter, Okla. He wrote to Vincent Carroll here. Referring to the clipping in his home paper, the western Mr. Carroll said that Vincent's name attracted his attention, as it happened to be his name also. He wanted to know who Vincent's parents are and where they came from. He stated that his father, J. H. Carroll, formerly lived on Long Island, New York, and had a brother, whose name was J. Vincent Carroll.

The manner in which boys of the United States are taking up scouting is shown by the fact that in the last nine weeks, 22,500 boys have received badges from the headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America. Jas. E. West, Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, who made this announcement points out that in other words the average has been about 2,500 badges a week. Of the total number 17,000 boys won Tenderfoot badges, 4,500 won Second Class Scout badges and 1,000, First Class badges.

The number of Tenderfoot badges awarded to the boys shows that in the last nine weeks the boys throughout the country have been qualifying as Tenderfoots, which is the first state of scouting, at the rate of about 2,000 a week. Of course, the boys who got Second Class and First Class Scout badges have been engaging in scouting activities for several months, and already have obtained their Tenderfoot badges. In the last nine weeks scoutmasters of the men who have charge of the troops of boy scouts have been joining the scout movement at the rate of about 90 a week. There are about 24 boys in a patrol so that it is clear that the applications for commissions as scoutmasters and the orders of the boys for badges are in about the same ratio. Reports coming into National Headquarters confirm in other ways the continued growth of the scout movement. In Philadelphia, Leo T. Tierney, Executive Secretary, and J. W. Patton, Field Secretary, are working on a basis of organizing one troop of boy scouts every day.

SOUTH STERLING. South Sterling, May 7. Mrs. D. J. Menton, of Richmond Hill, Long Island, has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. E. Field. Mrs. Edward Field and sons, of South Sterling, are spending a few weeks with her mother, Mrs. D. J. Menton of Richmond Hill. Send six cents to The Citizen for one of those little booklets containing the first thirty lessons of the spelling contest.

In All Forms. "Money's been her one object ever since she was a girl." "Yes, pin money, matrimony and alimony."—Boston Evening Transcript.

To Patrons Along the Scranton Branch of the Erie Railroad. The afternoon train leaving Scranton as per schedule following, runs daily directly to Honesdale, giving people time to transact their business at the county seat and return home the same evening. ARRIVE. LEAVE. 8:20.....Scranton.....1:30 8:13.....Dunmore.....1:27 8:02.....Nay Aug.....1:46 7:54.....Elmhurst.....1:55 7:43.....Wimmers.....2:07 7:40.....Saco.....2:10 7:34.....Maplewood.....2:16 7:20.....Lake Ariel.....2:34 7:09.....Gravity.....2:41 6:59.....Cleom.....2:51 6:53.....Roadleys.....2:56 6:37.....West Hawley.....3:27 6:12.....White Mills.....3:38 6:03.....East Honesdale.....3:47 6:00.....Honesdale.....3:50 LEAVE. ARRIVE. Published by the Greater Honesdale Board of Trade, Honesdale, Pa.

WHEN THERE IS ILLNESS in your family you of course call a reliable physician. Don't stop at that; have his prescriptions put up at a reliable pharmacy, even if it is a little farther from your home than some other store. You can find no more reliable store than ours. It would be impossible for more care to be taken in the selection of drugs, etc., or in the compounding. Prescriptions brought here, either night or day, will be promptly and accurately compounded by a competent registered pharmacist and the prices will be most reasonable. O. T. CHAMBERS, PHARMACIST, Opp. D. & H. Station, HONESDALE, PA.

Roll of HONOR

Attention is called to the STRENGTH of the

Wayne County Savings Bank

The FINANCIER of New York City has published a ROLL OF HONOR of the 11,470 State Banks and Trust Companies of United States. In this list the WAYNE COUNTY SAVINGS BANK

Stands 38th in the United States Stands 10th in Pennsylvania. Stands FIRST in Wayne County.

Capital, Surplus, \$550,000.00 Total ASSETS, \$3,000,000.00

Honesdale, Pa., March 25, 1911.

The Most Important Matter



The Most Important Matter now-a-days is how to dress stylishly and becomingly within the amount that we can afford to spend on this important subject.

Therefore we say—if you have not as yet worn a suit or overcoat of the

Clothes Beautiful designed and made by Strouse Bros. & Co. the celebrated Master Tailors of Baltimore, New York and Boston

Do So Now It will undoubtedly be the smartest thing you can do—you will instantly recognize the wisdom of this suggestion as the results will be immediately apparent.

The "Strouse" clothes appeal to Men and Young Men who desire to be smartly dressed; also to those of limited means who necessarily must get the greatest results from the amount expended. FURNISHINGS—The latest Novelties in Shirts, Hosiery, Ties, Underwear and all the fixings essential for style and comfort.

Call To See Us We will appreciate a visit whether you purchase or not. Full line of Children's Suits, Knox Hats, Trunks and Bags.

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