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FREELAND, DECEMBER 28, 1896.

How Free Bridges Can Be Had.

The agitation begun some time ago by the newspapers of the upper end of the county to abolish toll bridges in Luzerne continues unabated, and many suggestions are advanced looking to a plan which will make them free to the public. The most sensible advice yet given on this subject appears in the Wilkesbarre Record of recent date from a correspondent who signs his communication "Pittstonian." He goes to the root of the trouble in this part of the state, and if his suggestions were followed Luzerne county could have free bridges and many other necessities, and yet not tax any citizen a cent more than he is entitled to pay. The glaring discrimination in assessments pointed out by the correspondent are to be found everywhere, and, until a proper valuation is set upon the wealth which the Creator placed in the ground of this county, there can be no real equality in taxation. "Pittstonian" says:

"Free bridges are to be desired, and can be easily had if we will but observe the fundamental principle of our state constitution that taxation shall be equal. If one of our citizens puts up a fine building or starts a manufactory requiring a large plant of building and machinery he does it at his peril. It is prominent before the eye of the assessor and severe taxation follows. On the other hand, property hidden in the earth, while its existence and extent is widely known, nearly escapes taxation. Within rifle shot of where I am writing is land of a corporation which is valued for taxation at \$150 per acre. For a lot containing less than one-fifth of an acre the owner is receiving from \$750 to \$1,000, besides this the land carries by the owner's own statement twenty-eight feet of coal.

"It is well known that an acre of minable coal one foot deep yields 800 tons of prepared coal, that minable seams lease readily at 40 cents per ton. This would give \$320 per acre for each foot in depth of coal and say \$3,000 per acre for the surface. Coal cannot be mined at once or lots all sold at once, therefore let us drop all calculation and place this land at the \$1,000 per acre I have known to be offered for the surface and \$3,500 per acre which has been offered for the coal. We then have a total selling value of \$4,500 per acre, or thirty times the value placed upon it for taxation.

"The property of the average citizen is valued for taxation at one-fourth of its selling value. Why is this difference? The stockholders of this corporation are non-residents. The greater part of the real wealth of our county is owned by them. Why do we treat their property so tenderly and tax ourselves so severely?"

"If coal were valued at \$40 per acre for each foot in depth, one-eighth of its real value, the total valuation of our county would be increased to an amount that would make the taxation necessary to buy all the river bridges in the county seem light in comparison with what we now pay, and no one be oppressed by it. To purchase these bridges entirely at the cost of our little population would be an injustice local of oppression. Let us remember that the real wealth of our valley is lessening each year, and that before the child of today is a man of 60 it will be practically exhausted."

"For real, unpretentious heroism," says the Philadelphia Item, "and a cheerful willingness to sacrifice their own lives to save those of others, the Pennsylvania coal miner stands conspicuous. This was again forcibly illustrated by the late disaster near Wilkesbarre." This compliment is deserved. The grimy coal miner taking death in his hand every day he enters the mine pit is a hero of the true type. He is thoroughly unselfish, self-sacrificing and on every occasion demands shows a heroism and a courage worthy of the Roman citizen of old.—Needaler.

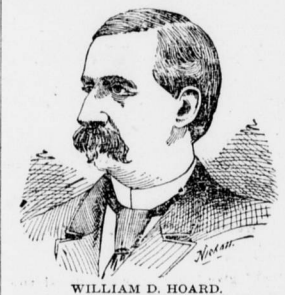
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BOOMED BY FARMERS.

They Desire to See W. D. Hoard Made Secretary of Agriculture.

William Dempster Hoard was born in Stockbridge, N. Y., in 1836. His early education was obtained in the common schools. At the age of 21 he settled in Dodge county, Wis. In 1859 he removed to Jefferson county. During the war he served a short time in a Wisconsin regiment and later in one from New York. At the close of the war he returned to Wisconsin and engaged in the nursery business at Columbus, but in 1870 he removed to Lake Mills and began the publication of the Jefferson County Union. He held several United States offices and in 1872 was elected sergeant-at-arms of the state senate. The following year he removed to Fort Atkinson. Through his efforts the Jefferson County Dairy Association was organized and also the State Dairy association, of which he was secretary, for three years. After a time, he established a dairy department in his paper and later began the publication of a distinct dairy paper, calling it Hoard's Dairyman. Mr. Hoard is one of the leading dairy lecturers of the country. In two seasons he has delivered more than 300 addresses, advocating the adoption of improved methods. He is a clean talker and debater, with a peculiar knack of putting things. In 1888 he was nominated for governor of Wisconsin and in the fall of the same year was elected. He proved an able chief executive, conscientious and thoroughly business-like. He was re-nominated in 1890, but was defeated. Since his retirement from the capital he has continued to give attention to his newspaper and to dairy interests. There are few men in the United States entitled to so large a share of the confidence and esteem of the farming population, or who would have done more to advance our dairy interests. Gov. Hoard is now mentioned for secretary of agriculture in McKinley's cabinet.



WILLIAM D. HOARD.

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NEBRASKA'S NEW JUDGE.

In His Younger Days William D. McHugh Was a Cobbler.

William D. McHugh, of Omaha, Neb., who has been appointed United States judge for the district of Nebraska, is a native of Illinois, having been born at Galena, Jo Daviess county, September 19, 1829. He attended the common school at Galena, and when in the senior class quit school and, after clerking for six months in a store, entered upon the shoemaker's trade, serving three years as an apprentice and working for some years as a journeyman shoemaker. He then attended the Illinois state normal school at Normal, and thereafter taught school in and about Galena. He studied law at night while teaching, and in October, 1852, was admitted to the bar of the supreme court of Illinois. He began his practice at Galena, joining the firm of D. & T. J. Sheehan & McHugh. In the



JUDGE WILLIAM D. M' HUGH.

early spring of 1858 he came to Omaha and in 1859 united with Gen. Cowin in the firm of Cowin & McHugh, which relationship he has since maintained. He has been counsel for Omaha's jobbers and shippers in their controversies with the railroads and conducted on behalf of the Commercial club the litigation with respect to Texas rates, and with respect to the bridge toll charged by the roads on shipments between Omaha and Iowa points. Mr. McHugh has been a staunch "sound money" democrat and is a warm personal friend of Secretary J. Sterling Morton.

Big Inconvenience of Granite.

Much inconvenience is experienced in finding a rail route to New Orleans, having bridges high enough for the largest block of granite ever quarried in Vermont. The block is 15 feet square and 3 feet thick. It is intended for the noted Moriarty monument in that city. It was quarried in Barre, and has been moved to the dressing sheds. A special car is being built by the local roads, on which it is intended to set the block on the edge, letting the lower sides swing through the bottom, extending to within eight inches of the rail. The weight of the block exceeds 50 tons. Investigation shows that most roads have bridges too low for the block to pass through.

Danger in Bad Cheese.

Cheese causes much illness in England. Cheese poison is called tyrotoxin, and investigations have shown that the toxic agent is in the milk, owing to the improper management, the milk not being cooled until some hours after

WAR ON GYPSY MOTH.

Millions Have Been Spent to Exterminate the Pest.

The State of Massachusetts Opens Its Treasury to Try to Destroy the Insect—How It Established Itself in America.

The carelessness of a French entomologist 25 years ago in neglecting to close a window in his laboratory when leaving it for a moment has cost the treasury of Massachusetts upward of \$500,000, the farmers many millions more, and the end is not yet.

In 1869 Leopold Trouvelot, a distinguished French scientist, was living in Medford. One day a gust of wind blew outdoors the larvae of some gypsy moths with which he was experimenting. Once allowed to breed and flourish, the insects soon gave the Bay state farmers and gardeners lots of trouble. Crops were destroyed and fields laid waste. All sorts of spraying machines and liquids were tried, but with no apparent success. Selection of the different towns and finally the state legislature sought a means to exterminate them. In December, 1889, Gov. Brackett referred to the pest in a message to the legislature. As the result, a bill was passed creating a board of commissioners to make investigation as to the amount of territory affected and the extent of the moth ravages.

The report showed that the moth infested district was 50 square miles. Scientists and entomologists were employed, and wholesale war was waged on scientific methods.

The state made a liberal appropriation, which was spent for spraying machines and paris green, with which every inch of the district was carefully sprayed.

After the board had been in operation a year an improvement was perceptible. The board was accomplishing something. But the result was not as encouraging as was hoped for. The region which the board had treated did not suffer so greatly the following



HUNTING FOR GYPSY MOTHS.

year. Since that time a continual fight has been made. Each year the state has appropriated a large sum of money to be expended by the board in keeping up the work. Hundreds of acres have been gone over foot by foot; brush land has been burned over for the purpose of destroying eggs and caterpillars even the stone walls have had to be thoroughly sprayed, so that no gypsy moth should escape alive.

It has been a long, hard fight, but success is in sight. The following table is suggestive of the immensity of the undertaking:

Trees inspected: 1891, 3,501,982; 1892, 2,109,852; 1893, 4,198,494; 1894, 6,825,229; 1895, 14,374,945
Buildings inspected: 1891, 87,636; 1892, 22,102; 1893, 8,828; 1894, 27,430.
Wooden fences inspected: 1891, 53,219; 1892, 24,936; 1893, 15,902; 1894, 35,276.
Stone walls inspected: 1892, 2,213; 1893, 814; 1894, 1,620.

Among the insecticides used were combinations of ammonia, benzine, borax, bromide vapor, chlorine, carbon bisulphide, calcic chloride, corrosive sublimate, cresote oil, coal tar and powder. Those found to be most effective were the chloride and bromide vapors. These insecticides were designed for destroying eggs. For operating against the moth in the caterpillar stage it was found that arsenic of lead was the most effectual, though parigreen was largely used.

Certain of the feathered tribe have proved valuable agents in the moth destruction. Particularly the blue jay, cuckoo, catbird, chickadee, crow, robin and woodpecker. Curiously enough, the prolific English sparrow is not a great feeder on this species of moth.

Although \$500,000 have already been spent in this great undertaking, and the ravages of the gypsy moth are being restricted to a few of the interior towns of the state, the danger is far from extinction. The commissioners will ask the legislature to appropriate \$200,000 for carrying on the work for the coming year.

In their labors the commissioners have solicited the advice and inspection of the leading entomologists of the country. The work has attracted much interest in the scientific world, and many European savants have sent communications to the agricultural board regarding the results of the experiments.

Origin of the Yule Log.

The yule log in England is a relic of Druidism; its name is believed to be a corruption of the wheel log, a wheel in Druidical symbolism typifying the march of the sun. The lighting of the yule fire is reminiscent of the sacred fires kindled by the Druids at midwinter in the round towers which yet remain in many parts of Great Britain, Ireland, France and Spain.

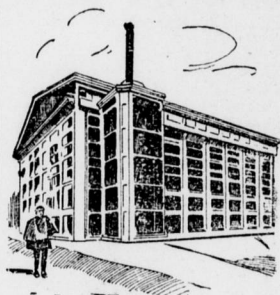
Salt Makes Thick Leaves.

Plants growing near the sea have thicker leaves than those growing inland. Apparently the sea salt is the cause of this phenomenon, as plants cultivated in artificially-salted soil yield thicker leaves.

A UNIQUE DOMICILE.

It is Built of Glass and a Complete Germicide on a Large Scale.

One of the oddest domiciles on earth is that recently erected at Yokohama by Dr. W. Van der Heyden, the noted bacteriologist of Utrecht and Japan. The doctor's house is a dust-proof, air-proof, microbe-proof building of glass. It stands on the open unshaded grounds of the general hospital of Yokohama. The house is 44 feet long, 23 feet wide and 17 feet high. Large panes of glass, one-half inch thick and about four inches apart, are set in iron frames so as to form the sides of a cellular building block. On these blocks the walls are constructed. There are no window sashes, the air escape being



AIR-PROOF GLASS HOUSE.

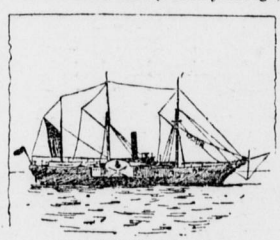
through several small openings around the upper part of the second story, but through which no air from the outside is admitted. The air supply is obtained from a considerable distance, forced through a pipe and carefully filtered through cotton wool to cleanse it of bacteria. To insure further sterility the air is driven against a zinc inc-coated plate of glass, which captures all the microbes the wool spares. The few microbes brought into the house in the clothes of visitors so die in the warm sunlight with which the house is flooded. The space between the glasses of the building blocks is filled with a solution of salts, which absorbs the heat of the sun, so that the rooms of this house are much cooler than those protected by the thickest shades. In the evening the interior is heated by salts radiating the heat they have absorbed during the day. So effective is the system of regulating the temperature that a few hours of sunlight, even in freezing weather, will render the house habitable. It is only when several cloudy days follow in succession that artificial heat is needed. Then it is supplied by pumping in hot air. Dr. Van der Heyden thinks he has solved the problem of a complete germicide on a big scale.

THE WARSHIP MICHIGAN.

Popularly Known as the "Old Ironsides of the Great Lakes."

The oldest steam warship in the United States navy is the Michigan. Her quaint shape, glistening in continually-renewed coats of white paint, is a familiar sight to the thousands of summer tourists upon the great lakes, where she reigns, the sole naval guardian of Uncle Sam's vast interests.

Away back in 1843, says the Illustrated American, when the Michigan was laid down, it was a departure of no small note that the government should order her built of iron, and when the size of the merchant ships of the lakes at the time is considered, there is little wonder that her launch the following year at Erie, Pa., was the occasion of a tremendous celebration, and that the Marine band (even 52 years ago,



U. S. S. MICHIGAN.

journeyed from Washington overland by stage-coach to assist in the ceremonies. The iron plates for the hull were rolled at Pittsburgh, and likewise hauled across to the lake shipyard. The Michigan has a length of 163 feet. Her draft of only nine feet permits of entrance to almost any channel in the chain of inland seas where she is likely to go, but her speed of only 11 knots, and the armament carried, does not cut much of a fighting figure when one thinks of modern warships.

At the same time, the Michigan, antiquated as she is, makes a sturdy show in her own waters at carrying the flag and can land as smart a party of sea men as many a salty cruiser. In offering training facilities for the naval militia of the lake states, she does an excellent duty every year. She is armed with four 30-pound B. L. rifles in the main battery, three three-inch Hotchkiss rapid-fire guns in the secondary battery, and two Gatlings.

The Michigan is in command of Lieut. Commander E. H. C. Leutze. She carries about 100 officers and seamen, with a marine guard of 15.

Eggs Forty Years Old.
Dr. C. D. McCoy, of Kenton, O., is exhibiting an egg which he says is 40 years of age. It was 281 grains, while a sound one weighed 1,100 grains. It was brought to his office by Mrs. Norman Wall, of Silvercreek, who tells the following story: "Forty years ago her husband built his house. He began it in the fall and finished it in the spring. The other week a large piece of plastering fell from the wall, and Mr. Norman, upon going to repair the damage, discovered a nest full of eggs, which had lain securely hidden and protected for the last 40 years."

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