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Make all money orders, checks, etc., payable to the Tribune Printing Company, Limited.

Frank Willard, who has written a number of magazine articles on tramp life, asserts that fully 5000 boys are associated with professional tramps in the hobo life.

A Chicago poultry dealer figures that 3,350,000,000 chickens and 13,000,000 eggs were produced in the United States last year, the value of which he places at \$290,000,000.

The Clyde yachtmen anticipate victory for the Irish America's cup challenger. That, of course, is the right spirit for them to display.

Major-general Hutton, commanding the militia forces of Canada, can give her Majesty's standing army points on military discipline and etiquette.

The future happiness and prosperity of the great republic is based upon the scientific education of the people touching agriculture, philosophy, the St. Louis Star.

The mint bureau of the treasury declares that the world's production of gold for the year 1898 was about \$275,000,000.

USELESS INFORMATION.

A single bee collects only about a tablespoonful of honey during a season. A blind bat avoids wires and obstructions as easily as if it could see perfectly.

TRAMP BOYS. Remarkable Phases of Life in Hoboland--Seven Thousand Lads "Snared" and Forced to Lead a Migratory Existence.

BY JOSIAH FLYNT.



EXPERTS declare that there are about seven thousand boys in the United States who live, from one end of the year to the other, exclusively in tramp life. It is impossible to take an exact census of all--they are too migratory--but I base my estimate on over ten years' acquaintance with American tramp life, and on travels with tramps which have taken me into thirty States.

They are in tramp life, to use a homely expression, because the tramp "needs them in his business." The tramp, as a class, or the hobos (hantes-beaux), as I prefer to call them, came upon the scene not long after the Civil War, and many of them soon discovered that it was much easier for a boy to excite sympathy than for a man, and they began to entice youngsters into the life.

In New York City it is the boy of the slums that the hobo is most likely to reach. While in the city he spends most of his time in the congested districts, they are the best places for him to find charity, as well as to "hide his vagabondage, and he naturally sees a great deal of the local boys.

In the country the favorite gathering place for boys likely to be attracted by tramp life as well as for the hobos is the railway watering tank. For over twenty years the hobos have used the railroads as thoroughfares, beating their way on trains and sleeping at night in box-cars.

a part of their boyhood in reformatories, but they went on tramp life again when released. It is exceedingly hard to reform a boy who has once been in tramp life, and I fear that the most of those who are now "prushuns" are destined to develop into full fledged tramps.

On provincial towns it is well known to the boys that there is generally a collection of interesting wanderers to be found at the watering tank, and during the long summer months, when time often drags heavily on their hands, they like to join the hobos and listen to their tales of adventure.

Once "on the road," the life of these boys is only belittled to that of slaves. Their duty is to do exactly what their "jockers," the men who have enticed them on to "the road," command, and they are expected, if necessary, to find their "jockers" meals, clothes and even lodging house money.

For a piece of stone which for a century and a half has been credited with marvellous properties in healing the bites, scratches and stings of animals nearly \$700 was paid at an auction held in Loudoun County, Virginia.

The estate of the Fred family went into court last fall for final settlement, and there was considerable litigation over this stone, which old Fred had especially stipulated in his will should be kept in the family and its use given free.

When an advertiser drops out of the papers for three or four months he must renew acquaintance with readers who lost sight of and interest in him.

It is far better to occupy small space and keep it filled with oft-changed matter (the oftener the better) than it is to come out at long intervals with big display advertisements.

A writer in Printers' Ink deprecates the fact that advertisers are seldom able to get their ads. displayed properly because of the unwillingness or inability of proprietors of printing offices to purchase an adequate supply of type faces.

Uncle James Slightham and wife, a good old-fashioned couple living over in Liberty Township, Mo., have done their cooking for the past fifty-five years in the old brick fireplace, the same method that was employed by the pioneers in the early part of the century.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN.

The Popular Use of the Ruche.

A detailed description of the varied uses of tiny ruches which flourish as a dress decoration would more than fill this column. Yards and yards of this pretty and popular garniture adorn the fashionable toilets and costumes of both French and American fashion.

The Summer Hats.

Hats for the summer season are truly "fearfully and wonderfully made," and many of the early importations are built of so many different materials that they look as if they had been constructed from the odds and ends of the family piece box.

HIGH PRICE FOR A MADSTONE.

Warm Competition Over an Heelstone Credited With Remarkable Cures.

For a piece of stone which for a century and a half has been credited with marvellous properties in healing the bites, scratches and stings of animals nearly \$700 was paid at an auction held in Loudoun County, Virginia.

The stone is known as the Loudoun madstone, and its apparently wonderful cures are numbered by the thousands. The stone was obtained from the Indians by Ferdinand Fred, a German, who settled in Loudoun County at the foot of Catoctin Mountain, not far from where the battle of Ball's Bluff was fought in the Civil War.

The estate of the Fred family went into court last fall for final settlement, and there was considerable litigation over this stone, which old Fred had especially stipulated in his will should be kept in the family and its use given free.

Judge Nicol finally decided that the stone should be sold, and it was bought in by an heir for \$450. It was auctioned off again and was bought by Dr. Turner, of Snickersville, for \$682.50.

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FARM TOPICS

Rape For Sheep.

We have always had some doubt about the profitability of growing rape seed for sheep to feed off during the summer. The rape is a branch of the mustard family, with small seeds and needs to be put in soil that is made very mellow by cultivation.

Sorghum as Green Feed.

Select a good piece of land, not too rich, as it will lodge badly on a very fertile soil. Break as early as possible, preferably sod, and as soon as all danger of frost is over. Prepare thoroughly by harrowing and dragging or rolling, but never rebreak. Then have the seed perfectly clean.

Gossip.

An English woman says that the young Queen of Holland has only recently had her ears pierced.

Queen Margherita of Italy speaks German fluently, and generally uses that language when she meets German artists.

By the will of Elizabeth L. Devine, of Philadelphia, an estate valued at \$500,000 is divided among sixteen charitable institutions.

The German Empress commands the famous Pasewak Cuiraissiers, and she is not infrequently seen riding at their head as Colonel and saluting the Emperor.

A woman's club at Grand Rapids, Mich., has provided \$500 in order that the poor mothers of the city might receive greatly needed instruction in cooking.

Mrs. Archibald Little, an English woman, who lived in Western China for eleven years, says that there is a growing sentiment against the practice of crippling the native women's feet.

Miss Marion E. Garmory, of Rockford, Ill., was recently examined for admission to the bar at Ottawa, Ill., with eight young men, and carried off the first honors. Four of the young men failed to pass.

Mrs. Annie Besant greatly values a bloodstone ring which was given to her by the late Mme. Blavatsky. It is always upon her finger, and it is said that she means to take it with her to the grave when she dies.

Mrs. Jane B. Creighton, the founder and President of the White Cross Association, is one of the leading women of Portland, Oregon. Her purpose in organizing the White Cross was to send nurses to the Philippines on the same plan as that used by the Red Cross.

Miss Lucille Faure, daughter of the late President of the French Republic, intended to take the veil after her father's death, it is said, but friends dissuaded her, and now she proposes to continue her work as a lay sister of charitable institutions and in addition will do some literary work.

Fashion Notes.

Narrow silk fringes with network headings are used for trimming gowns and silk blouses as well.

Some of the newest tames and French barges are barred with satin and delicately figured, with Louis XIV. designs in natural colorings.

Fawn and dull-colored laces generally are one of the desirable dress trimmings. Fawn-colored lace on a silk waist worn with a fawn cloth suit is the smart thing.

Silk, light wool fabrics, and handsome silk and wool mixed materials, crinkled, waved, chevroned, barred, chenille dotted and creponed, in wholly novel markings, are now to be seen.

For special occasions this summer there will be worn handsome coats, shorter jackets, and waists of lace in Venetian, Honiton, Spanish guipure, real Flemish and Luxeuil patterns.

It is asserted by the importers that the new taffeta soyeaux weaves, manufactured with little or no dressing, will wear better than any class of silks put upon the market in many seasons.

An idea in making up organdies is the use of one color over another; black organdie over pink, or white over heliotrope, and prettier still is the use of a deeper shade of the same color for the organdie lining.

The postilion back, short, narrow coat-tails are to be seen on the new suits, the coats out very short at the sides and lengthening again in front in a deep, round scallop or in a short square front. Some have belts and no basque below the waist. Most of the jackets are short and round up over above the hip.

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