

THE DEMOCRAT.

By ALONZO ALLISON.

NASHVILLE, INDIANA

This year's production of beet sugar in the United States is estimated at 122,000 tons from 144,100 acres, a four-fold increase in one year.

Chicago police announce that the murderers of Martin Meiers, who was killed there recently secured \$40,000 after getting him out of the way.

Promoters who offer a prospectus in these times for anything capitalized at less than \$10,000,000 are classed as cheap men. Even the peanut trust can beat those figures.

Sandy Hook's new 16-inch gun is a fraction over 49 feet long and throws a projectile weighing 2,400 pounds. A battleship would not care to get within five miles of such an implement in the hands of American marksmen.

Lord Rosebery claims that the rich man has an advantage over the poor man in being able to command the best medical attention. Lord Rosebery speaks from the standpoint of a rich man, and overlooks the fact that a poor man has no time to be sick.

An examination of a sample of roasted coffee berries seized in Paris showed them to be entirely artificial; chemical analysis disclosed ash, gum, dextrose, etc., and the microscope showed grains of wheat, starch, vegetable debris and animal hairs. The berries were beautifully molded.

The Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria has just directed the administrator of his private fortune to purchase a plot of ground in Budapest and erect on it a large block of flats suitable for well-to-do middle-class persons. He expressed the opinion that he could not find a better investment for his money.

By a recent decision of the Supreme Court of Arkansas all the contentions against the erection of a new capital were disposed of in favor of the State. This settles the controversy and insures the people of Arkansas a State capitol of modern build and of magnitude commensurate with the growth and advancement of the State.

In France's navy there are 45 admirals to 1,760 officers and 41,536 men. In the army there are 330 generals to 21,488 officers and 540,000 men, while the marines have 17 generals to 2,105 officers and 52,305 men. The marines complain of the inequality in the proportion of generals, they having but one to about 124 officers, while the army has one to 65.

A new method of illumination on the ocean consists of using a hollow cylinder of steel tubing, charged with calcium carbide. This shell is to be shot from a gun to a distance of two miles. When it strikes the water it generates acetylene gas and gives 1,000-candle power, which burns from the end which floats. This light can not be extinguished by water.

The Iron Age sees in the manufacture of automobiles "a promising new industry," which is destined to assume large proportions. Large contracts are being placed. Bicycle makers are adding the construction of automobile carriages to their usual output. The propelling portion of the vehicle is often made elsewhere and "assembled" at the bicycle works.

Queen Victoria has revived the extinct barony of Dorchester in the person of the elder daughter of the third baron, who died in 1875. The barony was first granted to General Sir Guy Carleton for his services against the Americans in the Revolutionary war. It became extinct two years ago by the death of his last male descendant, a cousin of the present baroness.

There are only seven ambassadors representing England abroad. The seven great powers entitled to receive them are France, Austria, Germany, Italy, Russia, the United States and Turkey. Their salaries range from \$35,000 to \$50,000, the British ambassador at Paris receiving the highest sum, and holding the most coveted post in the diplomatic service abroad.

Lord Charles Beresford, in citing illustrations of the causes which have contributed to the decadence of China, tells of a Chinese general who is supposed to have 10,000 soldiers under his command, but who keeps only eight hundred in service. On inspection day thousands of coolies are hired at 11 cents each, so that full lists may be returned to Peking and a year's pay obtained for the larger number.

The government of the United States has appropriated \$34,278,027 since the year 1879 for the improvement of the Mississippi river. In addition to this a large sum, amounting to several millions, has been expended by the States of Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas to build levees and protect the bottom lands in the valley from the annual overflows. Added to the amount expended by the government this would bring the total to \$45,000,000 or more.

This is said to be an advertisement of a Dakota magistrate:

"Lovers, Take Notice.—On and after this date I will present an elegant chromo, a parlor lamp, or a glass water set to all bridal couples married by me. All marrying done in the most artistic way, either in private or public. Runaway couples married at any hour of the day or night, and pursuers

thrown off the scent. Reduced rates to those I have married before. A red lantern hangs in front of my door on Prairie street at night. No dog kept. Night bell directly under the lantern.

MOSES DODD, J. P."

Kaiser Wilhelm's restlessness has brought about the retirement in disgrace of the chief magistrate of the Metz district. When the Kaiser visited Metz lately a program was arranged according to which he was to be entertained at lunch at a certain hour and was then to make a triumphal progress through a number of villages, where school children and societies of all kinds were to be arrayed on either side to greet him. The Kaiser insisted on getting up from the lunch an hour before the appointed time, which upset the arrangements, so that he found the streets deserted on his journey. The magistrate had to pay for the fizzles.

A company has been formed in Telemarken, eastern Norway, for breeding and raising reindeer on a large scale. The company has already bought 2,400 deer for 28,000 kroner (\$7,504), and by degrees it will increase the herd to between 3,000 and 4,000 deer. When this number has been reached, the company will be enabled to kill 1,000 deer a year without diminishing the herd. When slaughtered, a deer is worth about 20 kroner (\$7.36), and there are good markets for this meat, especially in France and Belgium. The company also hopes to import England to purchase it. In order to prevent the glutting of the market during the winter season a canning plant will be attached to the farm for the purpose of preserving the meat.

A CORN BREAD PROPAGANDA.

The Richmond (Va.) Dispatch votes a general tender of congratulations to the Washington authorities on their

purpose to make "a grand exhibit of American corn and corn breads" at the Paris Exposition, and adds:

"That's all right. It shows good business sense. Our exports of corn are steadily increasing, though the demand for it is chiefly for food for stock. Corn is not making much headway as a table food. The European practice of cooking bread only once a week is against corn bread, since it is not as appetizing when cold as when warm.

"It seems to us, too, that our own people are not the great corn-bread eaters they used to be. Batter or egg bread and certain cakes are still in vogue, but the honest and homely cornpone, the corn-dodger and the hoecake are not as popular as they used to be. As for the ashcake, the cooking of it has become a lost art almost.

"We change this, in part at least, in the cut, even in the most country homes, of the modern cooking stove and range. It takes a great big open fire-place and a Southern negro, with a red bandana on her head, to make prime corn bread. Nor will any meal but water-ground meal serve the best purpose. Steam power meal is tabooed.

"Let the Washington officials see what can be done to restore corn bread to the tables of the American people."

HARDSHIPS OF THE KLONDIKE.

The return of Alaskan gold-seekers by their findings is shadowed by the stories of the misadventures of unfortunate prospectors. If statistics were obtainable it is probable that for each one who wins a fortune another one meets death. The great mass of gold-seekers fail of success, but escape calamity. There is no means of learning how many men have gone to Alaska seeking gold, but the number approximates 50,000. The output of gold since the Klondike discovery up to the opening of last spring was not over \$25,000,000. It is probable that more money has been taken to Alaska by gold-seekers than has come out of it. But against this is the fact that the discoveries that have been made will now carry themselves and yield in many cases enormous profits. The impression that hardship and danger are unavoidable concomitants of gold-seeking in Alaska is not justifiable, though life is hard and can not safely be pursued by those who lack physical fitness, courage and proper equipment. Winter journeys such as that in which a dozen persons are reported to have lost their lives are not wisely or necessarily a part of any prospector's well-ordered program. The work of prospecting is limited to summer, and consists of finding the bed of some unprospected stream. The miner thaws his way down to bedrock through twenty feet of frozen earth. If he fails to find gold he goes elsewhere, repeating the operation. If he finds gold he claims the piece of river bed, and goes to work tunneling, by thawing with fire, the frozen earth. His claim is from "rim rock to rim rock" of the river and of varying widths as the authorities permit and is called "discovery" and is the monument or base for surveying all other claims. Prospectors have not only claimed all the Klondike, but all the canals and many streams not flowing into it for hundreds of miles about Dawson. On most of these no discoveries have been made after frequent prospecting. At the time of the Klondike craze it was believed that all the tributaries of the Yukon were like the Klondike, but prospecting has proved the contrary. Men who go to Alaska now to prospect must not only find new placers, but they must find new rivers in which to seek for them.

SURE ENOUGH ROMANCE.

Mr. Will Brown, of Marion, Ia., a prosperous business man, and Miss Stella Fouts, daughter of Col. and Mrs. John C. Fouts, of New Washington, thirty miles north of New Albany, will be married soon. Their engagement is the result of correspondence conducted for months before they saw each other. In a spirit of fun, Miss Fouts answered an advertisement of Mr. Brown's for a lady correspondent, and there the romance began. The letters exchanged were mutually interesting, and photographs were sent. Arrangements were soon made for Mr. Brown to visit New Washington. He arrived two or three weeks ago, and the pleasant impressions made by the exchange of letters and photographs were deepened by the meeting. The parents of the young woman were consulted and given satisfactory evidence of the standing of the suitor for their daughter's hand. The engagement quickly followed. The letters exchanged were mutually interesting, and photographs were sent. 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