

# The Democrat

DECATUR, IND.

M. BLACKBURN, PUBLISHER.

In ordinary life the workman is known by his tools, but in politics it's his tools that make the boss.

WHEN an organ-grinder takes off his hat after playing a tune it's no sign of his reverence for good music.

AFTER friendship and love come benevolence and that compassion which unites the soul to the unfortunate.

LET the memory of those overights by which we have suffered instruct us; for, though past moments cannot be recalled, past errors may be repeated.

AS WELL might a planet revolving round a sun, expect to have perpetual daylight in both hemispheres as a man to expect in this life to enjoy happiness throughout unmixed with sorrow or pain.

AN Idaho man proposes to set up a bank on a steamboat and do business with several small lake towns which are not large enough to sustain banks of their own. He will carry a floating capital, of course.

MINISTER LINCOLN says that it cost him \$70,000 more than his salary to live in London as the representative of this Government. But the United States is not responsible for his tribute paid to London society.

TWO MEXICANS fought with knives for the hand of beauty. They fought quite energetically. After the hand of beauty has strewn a few blossoms over a pair of graves it will doubtless be bestowed upon somebody who had sense enough to keep out of the row.

A good deal of time and energy is expended in the public schools in teaching children to hold their pens and pencils in a position that is scientific, of course, but which, with the natural depravity of human kind, they are pretty sure to abandon as soon as they get outside the schools.

A GENIUS of Posey county, Ind., thus computes the expense of a day at the Chicago Fair grounds: Streetcar fare, 10 cents; admission, 50 cents; milk at milk exhibit, free; fresh rolls at yeast exhibit, free; buttered crackers at butter exhibit, free; total, 60 cents. This is the ingenuity of economy.—N. Y. Press.

A SON of the Czar of Russia has fallen in love with a girl who has nothing to command her but beauty of person and character. Her blood, far from having a royal taint, is not even blue. But for once the Czar is helpless, and the prospect of having a nice girl for a daughter-in-law appalls him more than a nihilist bomb.

OPPORTUNITIES for doing greatly seldom occur, for life is made up of infinitesimals. If you compute the happiness in any given day, you will find that it was composed of small attentions, kind looks which made the heart swell and stirred into health that rancid film of misanthropy which is apt to coagulate on the stream of our inward life.

IT seems pretty well settled that the much-talked of leather trust has actually been formed. One hundred firms are said to have pooled their issues in the scheme, and the capital of the organization is placed at \$120,000,000, represented by stock, all of which, it is said, has been distributed. The trust has not such a complete monopoly of its field as have many, if not most, of the other trusts, and it will be interesting to see what will be its history.

THE recent defeat of the Arabs in the Congo region of Central Africa is good news, for it means another blow at the infamous slave trade, of which in modern times these degenerate Arabs have been the worst foemen. This time it is to be hoped the blow is final. The present leader of the Arabs is a Belgian, 31 years old, who served several years in the Congo Free State forces. He joined the rebel cause last year, and took part in the battles last November and January. His defeat must convince him that he has sold himself very cheap—which, indeed, must always be the case when any man sells himself.

CLEVELAND LEADER: Georgia's Commissioner of Agriculture proposes to call a meeting of the agricultural commissioners of several Southern States to "devise plans to elevate the standard of farming in the South." They will have an immense field to work in. If there is one thing in the whole industrial world of America which needs reforming more than any other it is the tillage of the soil in some of the Southern States. There millions of acres of grain yield hardly enough for seed, year after year.

THE very strongest argument was made by the American representatives before the conference to decide the seal question in Behring Sea. The argument dismisses entirely any claim that Behring Sea is a closed sea to the vessels of other nations. They may rightfully pass through it in the course of trade. But the seals in Behring Sea are on a different basis. They belong to the United States, because they are bred on islands belonging to this country and engaged in conversation with him.

purchased from Russia with the understanding that this control of their breeding places gave us prior claims on all seals bred on our territory.

FRIENDS of Cuba announce that the great uprising that is to turn the island upside down and shake off Spanish shackles has been set for June. Their thoughtfulness is equal to that of a burglar who would send word to the police that he intended at a certain hour to break into a bank. There is reason to fear that the filibuster of the period carries his weapon poorly concealed between his teeth.

FROM present indications the whisky trust will soon be a thing of the past. Somebody made a great deal of money out of the concern, but somebody lost a great deal, too. In their endeavors to defraud the government they have defrauded themselves. A few months ago it was generally believed that Congress would increase the whisky tax. The distilleries commenced to run double time, on the theory that all the spirits manufactured before the taking effect of the new law would be exempt from the increased duty, and the whisky trust would make the difference. But the duty was not raised and the trust is in the "soup."

FARM improvements often pay when the value of the land they reclaim is not worth the cost of putting in the improvement. We have in mind cases where wet sloughs in the center of an otherwise dry field were underdrained at a cost greater than the value of the land owned. But it enabled the owner of the land to get to work on it one or two weeks earlier than would otherwise be possible. In that way the whole field was made more productive and the improvement paid. In another case an open ditch that ran diagonally through a fine field was made into an under-drain. Then the whole field could be and was worked at greatly lessened expense.

THE foreign governments which took part in the naval review of Hampton Roads and in New York harbor lost, it is said, 300 seamen by desertion. It is the natural desire of residents of all European countries to become citizens of the United States, and it was certain from the first that if European governments sent ships here a considerable proportion of the men when they arrived in United States waters would improve the opportunity to desert. It is a loss which all foreign vessels expect when they visit the harbors of the United States, and as the deserters come in without paying any head tax, they have some advantages over those immigrating in the usual way.

AN accidental discovery and seizure of counterfeit money, recently made at Bridgeport, Conn., furnishes some startling information in regard to the extent of the "green goods" business. The seizure embraced the complete outfit, books, accounts and memoranda of a firm which has been carrying on its business in New York for several years. Among other things there were 240,000 circulars, three in each envelope, addressed to 30,000 persons, all over the country. The circulars were ready to be mailed, and gave fictitious addresses in New York for replies. Among the papers seized was a list containing the names of 110 "customers" since April 1, 1893, with the amounts obtained from them. The sums vary from \$200 to \$600, the total amount obtained from 110 victims being \$40,185. The list as published contains names from nearly every Western and Southern State.

THE rapid depreciation of values in what are called the industrial stocks, which caused the monetary tightness, has worked no real harm to the country. All these stocks are controlled by trusts, and fortunately it is only the fictitious value put upon the property by the trust officials that has been wiped out. That is a positive good in more ways than one. Each individual corporation is now working away as vigorously as ever, paying its money over to the receiver, instead of to the President and Treasurer. What the country now needs is a more vigorous enforcement of the laws, both State and national, against trusts. In that event the public will save all that the useless trust must have charged as profit to itself. Hence the country looks on complacently, while the inflated values of the stock market are scaled down. All the property these stocks represent is intact. That is the main thing to be considered.

ORIGINAL METHOD OF THEFT. An ingenious method of theft is thus described as taking place on the coasts of South America. It is needless to say that the perpetrators are, of course, "professionals." "One sailor is sitting, half asleep, on his sea-chest; a gauchito quietly comes up and taps him on the back. 'Bueno, Johnny; bueno, Johnny; bueno; till to-morrow; and off skulks the gauchito to his horse, which he mounts. With a sardonic smile he takes off his hat to Jack, bids him farewell, and digging his spurs into the flanks of his wiry little horse, leans over his neck, and is off at full gallop over the short grass of the sandy plains. At the first stride of the horse, to Jack's intense surprise, his box is wrenched violently from under him. He jumps up, rubs his eyes, and before he can recover his senses, he sees his property rolling and bumping away over the sandhills, at the heels of the gauchito's steed; for this clever gentleman had managed to make one end of his lasso fast to the handle of Jack's box while engaged in conversation with him."

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## BITS OF CHICAGO LIFE.

### POINTS OF INTEREST TO THE WORLD'S FAIR VISITOR.

Strangers Can Spend Several Days Sightseeing in the Center of the City—The Board of Trade, Water System, Police and Fire Departments, Etc.

Few Historic Points.

Chicago correspondence: If the visitor starts out to see the town and all its sights, he will find in the immediate center of Chicago sufficient to occupy his time and interest for several days. The skyscraping office structures, the retail stores of State street, the produce quarter, the lumber market—all these may be taken in at a cursory glance; but the great grain elevators, the safety-deposit banks, the new Art Institute on the lake front, the lookout tower of the Masonic Temple, the press-rooms of the great dailies,

City Waterworks.

A visit to the city waterworks is well worth a mile ride or walk over into the North Division. The system of which it is the foundation has grown to a remarkable magnitude. The main works are located at Chicago avenue and Pine street, and comprise a series of structures embracing a tower, free to visitors, affording a fine view of the city.

CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING.

turning out over 50,000 papers an hour, are novelty of more detailed attention.

Of commemorative points there are comparatively few, Chicago being too young as yet to boast of many statues, but the site of old Fort Dearborn, near

and a castellated gothic stone building, from which a tunnel three miles long extends beneath the lake, ending in the great supply-well known as "the crib," which is visited daily by excursion boats. The new engine at the works has a capacity of 2,750 gallons at one stroke of the cylinders. The West Division of the city has also a water works at Ashland and Blue Island avenues, with a tunnel six miles long running to the supply well. Its engines have a capacity of 70,000,000 gallons daily. The combined daily capacity of all the city plants is 250,000,000 gallons distributed through nearly 1,500 miles of pipes and through 13,111 fire hydrants. The cost of the entire system was \$17,000,000.

No person visiting Chicago for the first time should neglect at least a casual inspection of the fire and police departments. The former has now some thirteen battalions, embracing 930 men, 72 steam fire engines, 22 chemical engines, three fire tugs and general apparatus for reaching lofty buildings and rescuing people, such as life-saving guns and nets, ladders, and the like. Callers are generally welcome at any of the fire-engine stations scattered about the city, at the central alarm office at the city hall, and at the fire insurance patrol houses, where

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