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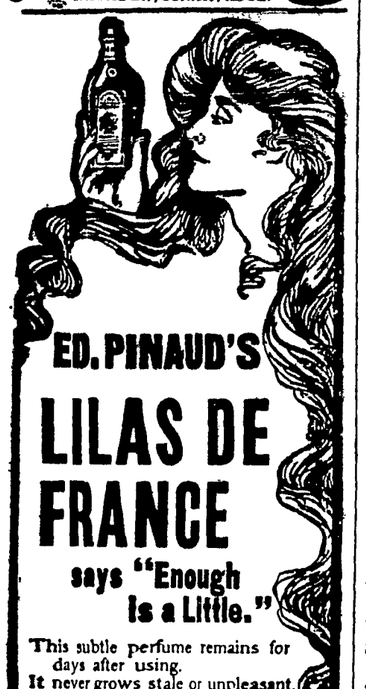

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A CHINA HEART.

"Come away! Come away, Natalie!" pleaded Hester, balancing herself on her tiny, pointed heels, and fluttering her azure draperies like a wind-blown bluejay. "I hear the stage horn. You don't want a china heart. You would break it as you do—the others," she added, with a wicked laugh.

Natalie held the little heart-shaped tray between her eyes and the light. "It is excellent china, and beautifully enameled. I never saw a better picture of the fall; but I suppose I can't have it, for the last cent of my allowance was gone long ago. It is horrid to be so wretchedly poor."

"Dear me! If you really want it, you have only to drop a hint to your numerous admirers. They will rise to the bait like hungry trout," suggested Hester, laughing mischievously as they turned away.

Natalie shrugged her shoulders, not dreaming that one of her numerous admirers had heard every word. He stood looking after her with open mouth. Was the pretty lady, his Heart's Delight, so very poor then? He had always thought her rich, she wore such beautiful clothes. But one might have plenty to eat and wear and not much money, Billy knew. That was his own case.

He tiptoed up to the counter and asked the price of the little tray.

"Two dollars," replied the smiling salesgirl.

Billy fairly staggered out of the store. No wonder the pretty lady could not buy it. Then he sat down and took account of stock.

There were three cents, and never did pennies look so small. Out of the tangle that crammed his pockets he extracted three marbles and a fishhook that seemed commercially available. Could one small boy earn the required balance in a few weeks? One small boy would certainly try.

During the long, hot days that followed the pennies accumulated slowly. Onion rows are long and time is fleeting; and the value set on a small boy's time is deplorably low. Billy worked cheerfully, but discouragement overtook him at times as it does all great souls. Then he would trot down to take another look at the china heart, and incidentally to bask in the light of the salegirl's smile.

She had a wonderfully winning smile, and Billy had long ago told her his secret. That was the reason she kept the china heart hidden in an Indian moccasin until she saw Billy coming, otherwise some one else might have bought it and broken the china heart, Billy's and all.

She did not approve of the pretty lady with her coquettish airs, but she never told Billy so, for she did most heartily approve of him.

He came into the store one night with despair in his face.

"They're beginning to go. She'll be goin' away any day. I can't make it," he said, huskily.

To him the comings and goings of the summer boarders were as aimless as the flittings of the birds and butterflies, and quite as uncertain.

"I wouldn't be discouraged," said the salesgirl, brightly. "It's getting so late in the season that we have had a markdown since you were here last."

"How much?" chirped Billy, with returning hope.

"I can let you have it for a dollar and a half now."

"Jeminee! I've got one forty-five!" cried Billy, fumbling wildly in his pockets.

"I think I could take one forty-five for it," said the salesgirl, thoughtfully.

She took it from the showcase and wrapped it daintily with narrow, white ribbon, while Billy fished pennies and nickels from his pockets. Then as he hurried from the store, holding his dearly bought treasure carefully in both hands, she took 55 cents from her own slender purse and dropped it into the cash drawer.

When Billy, bankrupt in fortune but very rich in love, came in sight of the big hotel, he awoke to the fact he was clad in garments not too whole and clean, and that his face and hands bore unmistakable signs of his wrestle with a stubborn soil.

"I ought to 'a' had my Sunday clo'es on," he murmured distressfully, "but I gotta go on now. She might go to-night."

Heart's Delight was sitting on the long veranda surrounded by her faithful courtiers. In the shadow, behind the little group, sat a young man with averted face and gloomy eyes. He had come to spend his one poor little week of vacation near Natalie, but he had scarcely had speech with her.

To-morrow he must go back, and—well, the years that lay before him seemed very dark—long, weary years of bootless toil. All his thought, all his labor had been for her; although he had never been very hopeful; and now the last shred of hope was gone.

By the time Billy reached the foot of the tall veranda he was apoplectic with embarrassment. Breathing stertorously, he began the long ascent, painfully conscious of the sudden silence above, and the amused eyes that were scanning his worn and scanty garments.

He laid the little packet in his lady's lap and would have turned and fled, but his limbs seemed to have lost the power of locomotion.

Natalie swiftly untied the string, while Billy watched her adoringly. He was not afraid of her, but of the strange people with the mocking eyes.

"Oh, my dear little china heart," she gurgled. "And I thought it was sold. It was never there. But who sent it, Billy Boy?"

"I bought it," said Billy, swelling with pride.

"Why, Billy, Billy Boy! Where in

would go over the side. We takes in sail and when the weather moderates we put a spare spar on the after side, lashing it there with chains at both ends, then wrapping a heavy hawser around mast and spar.

"But the mast was so weakened that we dared not carry sail on it, and all the rest of the voyage we made without using it. That took at least one-third off our speed, and what, with this and the head gales we got, we were 158 days coming home."

The Roanoke is of 3,347 tons net, 311 feet 2 inches long, 49 feet 2 inches beam and 29 feets 2 inches depth of hold. Her four masts are 200 feet high and three feet thick at the deck. Her lower yards are 100 feet long. Her skysail yards measure forty-seven feet. She spreads 6,000 square yards of canvas.—St. Louis Republic.

BOGUS CITIZENS' PAPERS.

Court Officers, Judges and Other High Officials Suspected.—$15 to $75.

At least 100,000 fraudulent naturalization papers have been sold to aliens by dealers in the employ of two big firms organized for the illicit traffic. In New York City alone it is estimated that fully 30,000 forged certificates of citizenship have been sold to foreigners who have been in the United States, in some instances only one day. In many instances they have received papers before they took ship on the other side. It is estimated by those who are prosecuting the frauds, that the two New York concerns have turned out in the last year at the most conservative estimate 6,000 bogus citizens. Many of these "citizens" obtained places in the street cleaning department with the aid of the fraudulent papers and many were employed in other branches of the city's civil service. The price of these fraudulent certificates ranged from $15 to $75, according to the use to be made of them and the value of the city jobs that went with them.

In Chicago thousands of aliens—no one knows how many—were made citizens while they waited. One witness testified that he with one hundred others was "naturalized" at one "swearing in" in a hall on Clark street.

From Wilmington, Del., taking in Philadelphia, as far north as Albany and Troy and as far east as Providence and Boston this wholesale system of fraud has extended. Officers of the court, even a judge of a court, and bankers and others standing high in the communities are under suspicion, and evidence sufficient to convict many others has been secured.

The order went out in the beginning that the investigation should be far-reaching in its scope. Every one connected with the prosecution was given to understand in the plainest English that politics positively must cut no figure. These instructions have been adhered to strictly. The result is that many convictions have been made. So far these convictions have been for the most part of men who occupied minor parts in the system, but they have led up to a most remarkable expose of the methods employed in the great conspiracy.

In some instances the fraudulent naturalization has been conducted for the purpose of securing votes, but in the majority of cases the crimes have been committed purely for gain. It is impossible to say what extent these frauds have extended and how long they have been in existence. It is likely, though, that they have been in operation for several years. An idea of the amount of money that has been secured may be obtained by an estimate on the number of false papers believed to have been issued in New York. Of the 30,000 bogus certificates, said to have been sold here, it is believed that an average price of $20 was received by the "firms" dealing in these articles, making $600,000 in this locality alone in the last few years. On this basis it is said that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been made in the sale of fraudulent certificates of citizenship throughout the country.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Mexican Succession.

Mexico is at last to have a vice-president.

In the experience of South and Central Americans the chief use of a vice-president has been to lead the current revolution against the president. Perhaps that is why Mexico has never had one.

But Diaz is getting old. He was president from 1877 to 1880 and the power behind Gonzales's feeble administration for the next four years. Beginning again in 1884, Diaz has been president for twenty years "straight."

In this total of twenty-seven years of power Mexico has become modern. All its railways have been built in that time, its prosperity has greatly augmented. But Diaz is old.

At his death, which may not be long delayed, Mexico wishes to avoid any possibility of trouble by having a vice-president in office. It is understood that he will succeed to the power when occasion shall be, and if satisfactory will be re-elected indefinitely.

The official "promulgation" of the constitutional amendment creating the office of vice-president will soon take place. The city council will go in open carriages and put up posters containing the amendment on the street corners. An army corps will parade the streets to prevent any disturbance. After that the election.

It is not much like the ways of the United States.

It isn't much use for a girl to fish for compliments with a hook nose.

Not even the most enterprising undertaker seeks to bury the Dead Sea.

HIGH LIVING EXPENSES

Prices Increasiug Very Rapidly on All Goods.

HIGHEST COST SINCE 1890

Statistics of the Government Show That Despite Great Prosperity the Privilege of Living Has Become More Expensive.—Facts Given But No Remedy Suggested.

A bulletin of the Agricultural Department just issued throws light on the question of the increased cost of living in 1903 over the preceding thirteen years.

The first table shows that the average relative prices of all commodities were higher in 1903 than at any time since and including 1890. Farm products reached the lowest average in 1896 and the highest in 1902. Cloths and clothing were lowest in 1897, to highest in 1890. Fuel and lights were lowest in 1894 and highest in 1903. Metals and implements were lowest in 1898 and highest in 1900. Lumber and building materials were lowest in 1897 and highest in 1893.

Raw commodities and manufactured commodities have been separated for further examination. In the group designated as "raw" are included all farm products, beans, coffee, eggs, milk, rice, nutmegs, pepper, tea, vegetables, raw silk, wool, coal, crude petroleum, copper ingots, pig lead, pig irons, bar silver, spelter, pig tin, brimstone and rubber—a total of fifty articles.

The average price of all these commodities during January and February, 1903, was 33 per cent. above the average price for the preceding ten years, and the average price for the year was 22.7 per cent. higher than for the same period.

Manufactured commodities advanced to a level only exceeded in the year 1890. They were higher by 21.5 per cent than in 1897, by 11 per cent. than in 1899, and about 1 per cent. higher than in 1892.

The statistics show a decrease in the price of beef from 1902, but the relative price, compared with the period since 1890, shows an increase in cattle of 4.7 per cent.

Under the head of farm products, consisting of sixteen articles, it is shown that wheat increased 5.1 per cent, steers, good to choice, 6.9 per cent, timothy hay 19.02, corn 21.1 per cent, barley 21.3 per cent, hides 24.8 per cent, oats 31.7 per cent, hogs 37 per cent, cotton 44.7 per cent, New York hops, 59.5 per cent. There was a decrease of 13 per cent in sheep, 7.5 in rice and 5.9 per cent in flaxseed.

Fifty-three articles of food are given and on thirty-five of these there is an increase over the average for the preceding thirteen years, ranging from 5 per cent on bread to 72 per cent on pepper from Singapore. A 5 per cent increase occurred on dried codfish and potatoes, 6 per cent on butter and 10 per cent on canned salmon.

New Orleans molasses increased 12.5 per cent, Western hams 17 per cent, eggs 23.2 per cent, cornmeal 23 and 25 per cent, smoked hams 34 per cent, lard 34 per cent, beans 35 per cent, bacon and salt pork 42 and 43 per cent, and herring 51 per cent. There was a decrease in sugar of from 1.2 to 5 per cent, in flour 6.4 per cent, in evaporated fruits about 28 per cent.

Of seventy articles of clothing, the prices of fifty-six for 1903 were higher than the average price for the preceding period since 1890. The increases ranged from .3 per cent for ginghams to 20.8 per cent for sheetings. Woman's dress goods were 14.3 per cent higher, overcoatings 17.3 per cent higher and blankets 17.9 per cent higher.

The table of fuel and lighting shows an astonishing increase in the cost to the consumer. The increase during 1903 over the average price, refined 150 degrees fire test, was 53.1 per cent, petroleum for exports 32.5 per cent, anthracite coal 26.2 per cent, anthracite stove coal 27.1 per cent, anthracite chestnut coal 34.2 per cent, anthracite egg coal 34.4 per cent. The only item in this class showing a decline is parlor matches, which fell off 14.4 per cent. The average increase for 1903 over the period since 1890 was 49.3 per cent.

Of the twenty-six articles considered in the lumber and building group, twenty were above and six below the average price for 1890 to 1899. White pine boards, uppers, were 71.8 per cent above the average; spirits of turpentine, 71 per cent above; poplar, 58.3 per cent above; pine doors, 58.2 per cent above. Plate glass, area three to five square feet, was 27.7 per cent below the average price for 1890 to 1899; plate glass, area five to ten square feet, 16.9 per cent below; putty, 10.8 per cent below.

The lowest price for sugar was in 1894 and the highest price in 1890. Sugar was about 8 and 10 per cent lower in 1903 than during the preceding thirteen years.

Took What He Could Get.

In the province of Baden a motorist recently killed a goose. The owner was indignant and demanded 3 shillings damages. The motorist offered him 2 shillings damages, plus the goose, which he did not want to carry off. Not being able to come to terms, the parties went to the mayor, who delivered the following judgment: "Mr. Sepp, give me your goose, inasmuch as you do not want it. Mr. Motorist, give me the 2 shillings you are willing to pay as damages. I give Mr. Sepp 1 shilling for his goose, which I keep!" And thus it was setled.

BOY WORTH TWO GIRLS

New Jersey Judge's Novel Decison.

BOY $6000; GIRL $3000.

Future Prospects the Basis.—Claim Made That Woman May Become a Bread Winner, But a Man Must.—No Motion Made for a New Trial.

Judge Frederick Adams, in the Essex County Circuit Court at Newark, N. J., handed down a decision that according to well-versed lawyers is novel in New Jersey. The decisfon is that the life of a healthy boy is worth twice as much as that of a girl in equal health and of the same age.

Judge Adams's decision was on motions made by Richard V. Lindabury, counsel for the North Jersey Street Railway Company, to upset one verdict for $6,000 given by a jury in favor of Evan H. Eastwood, and another for $5,000 rendered in favor of Henry Werpupp.

The suits grew out of the Clifton avenue grade-crossing disaster of Feb. 19, 1903, when in a collision between a trolley car and a Lackawanna Railroad train, nine Newark High School pupils lost their lives.

Eastwood is the father of Evan F. J. Eastwood, the only boy killed in the accident, while Werpupp is the father of Ella Werpupp, one of the girl victims. The application to upset or reduce the verdicts was made some time ago, on the ground that the damages awarded in each case were excessive.

Judge Adams announced that the Eastwood verdict would stand, but that the Werpupp verdict was excessive that the plaintiff must accept $3,000, with the alternative of undergoing another trial. The Court said:

"The verdict of $6,000 in the Eastwood case has never seemed to me to be excessive and I still maintain it. Let us look at the matter.

"Young Eastwood was in good health, a creditable scholar, of excellent character and in all ways admirable as a young man of high promise. The evidence shows that he had a peculiar aptitude for mechancial construction and to some extent employed his ingenuity to help advance his father's business.

"The father is a healthy man, and the jury may have considered the point that both men would probably have lived for twenty five years more. The son might have been expected to learn the trade of his father, and so his services would ultimately have been very useful to the firm. I am basing this conclusion upon hopeful, rather than a pessimistic view of the future.

"The jury, I infer, probably concluded that substantial benefits of this kind should be expressible in thousands instead of hundreds of dollars, and I am inclined to agree with the verdict as rendered.

"As to the death of Miss Werpupp she was a very promising young woman, healthy and inspired with ambition to some day earn her living as a school teacher, with, of course, the possibility of her marrying.

"Now, a woman may become a bread-winner; a man must be one. If Miss Werpupp devoted herself to the career of a teacher as she probably would have done had she lived, she could, after a few years, earn, if greatly successful, at the most about $110 a month.

"Therefore, taking the most optimistic view of her financial value, I think Eastwood's expectations were at least twice as valuable as those of Miss Werpupp. I decide that if the plaintiff in her case shall elect to take $3,000 in place of the $5,000 awarded, judgment may stand in that amount.

Boiling Water in the Clouds.

An article upon the route of the Thibet mission, published in a London paper contains an interesting record of temperatures and conditions of life at high altitudes. The mission has necessitated the continued exposure of a very large number of untried men to life at altitudes ranging between 10,000 feet and 15,700 feet, and the general results are of considerable value. The lowest temperature yet reached on the route has been 26 degrees F. at Chuggia on the Tangia, which was, however, only an encampment. Of actual nightly exposure to cold of men and animals Tuna probably holds the record with 17 degrees F. But Phari has repeatedly reached 15 degrees F., and Kamparab, nine miles distant from Phari, might, if continual registration had been possible there, show a lower figure than either. The normal night minimum during January and February is probably 10 degrees F. for 15,000 feet, warming to 7 degrees F. for 10,000 feet. Mountain sickness has been closely observed by the medical men accompanying the mission. Indigestion has been common on account of the eating of imperfectly cooked food. At 15,000 feet water boils at a temperature about 30 degrees F. lower than at sea-level, and the normal amount of cooking is therefore quite inadequate. At 15,000 feet it is almost impossible to boil rice properly. The Dal, the common red lentil of India, affords a curious example of the difficulty of cooking at high elevations. Out of five different kinds of dal supplied to the troops only one is capable of being cooked at all at heights above 10,000 feet. It is difficult to make the native understand these aberrations of gastrology, and a great deal of insufficient cooking has been the natural result.—Phila. Record.

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