

FARM MAKES \$18,000 IN SEVEN YEARS

Young Frenchman Gives Astonishing Demonstration to Iowa Agriculturists

MADE \$300 TO \$400 AN ACRE

Turned Thirty-Two Acre Plot Into a Truck Farm, Making Immense Profit—Finest Garden West of the Mississippi.

Des Moines, Iowa.—The most sensational disclosure to agriculturists has just been made by Francis Bestler, of Des Moines, a young man who has made \$18,000 worth of permanent improvements on a thirty-two acre farm in the last seven years and paid for it all from the product of the soil. It is a demonstration of what application will do.

Francis Bestler is the son of a French stonecutter, who came to Des Moines in 1876 to work on the construction of the State Capitol. But stonecutting is unhealthy business, and one day he determined to quit it. He bought a farm within sight of the golden dome of the State house he had helped construct and struggled along for years, paying off the mortgage and at the same time raised a family. Seven years ago he died and his son Francis took the active management. It is he who has worked the miracle of the soil.

He has turned his farm into a truck garden, which is now said to be the finest truck farm west of the Mississippi River. The beauty of his success is that, unlike truck gardeners of the East, he does not have to spend great sums of money for fertilization. During all these years his fertilization has not cost him more than fifty cents an acre a year.

Among the permanent improvements built since 1901 and paid for from this small farm are an 18,000 gallon tank, under which is a modern cold storage, a steam pumping plant that draws water from the river a half mile away and lifts it 145 feet into a reservoir, and eight green houses.

Mr. Bestler by his management is making his farm yield a gross income of \$300 or \$400 an acre. Like every successful man, Mr. Bestler can handle some things better than others. Tomatoes seem to be his favorite crop. He introduced the method of raising tomatoes on poles and plants 4,000 vines to the acre, getting a yield of 750 bushels of perfect fruit that brings the highest price on the market. He makes as much as \$1,500 on lettuce in a year. Such a figure for a thirty-two acre farm is low as seen national, to say the least, especially when they are made to come by the use of a French stone mason, who knows nothing of agriculture and who never attended an agricultural college.

The demonstration of Mr. Bestler of the truck value of Iowa land is threatening to turn the tide of corn and hog raising, for Iowa, unlike Texas and the Western States, is close to market for all these goods. The soil here has been demonstrated to be rich in such products. Corn raisers think they have done well to get a yield of \$12 to the acre.

"MAN OF NUMBERS" DIES

Mysterious Auto Victim Unable to Tell Who Killed Him.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—The patient known as "the man with the numbers" by the surgeons and attendants at the West Haverhill Hospital, died of the injuries he received when he was struck by an automobile at Bedford avenue and Cooper street.

The chauffeur of the motor car fled and escaped arrest. When the victim was taken to the hospital all he could do in his delirium was to repeat numbers from 1 to 25. The efforts of the surgeons to get him into such condition that he might be able to give the real number of the car were futile. They could never get him to repeat any number above twenty-five. The doctors believe he was employed some place where he did a lot of figuring.

CLAM CAUGHT RAT.

Buffalo Hotel Man Has a Useful Sivalva.

Buffalo, N. Y.—Matthew Eiser, proprietor of a hotel in this city, says he has the only rat-catching clam in captivity. He discovered the clam fastened tightly to the tail of a live rat. The rat had entered a hole in the wall but could not pull the clam in with it and was captured and killed. It is believed that the clam caught the rat while the latter was seat on a bushel of clams in the restaurant of the hotel.

Inca Remains Discovered.

Lima, Peru.—Professor Hiram Shufeldt, of Yale University, who is in Southern Peru on a trip of historical research, writes that he has made discoveries of Inca remains near Abancay of the greatest importance.

90, Gets Child Bride.

Merilla, Mexico.—At the age of ninety years, Juan Laxela, a Spaniard, has married Dolores Olinia, eighteen years old.

MRS. VANDERBILT SMOKED ON

Wife of William K., Sr., Puffs Her Cigarette as the Liner Prepares to Cast Off.

New York City.—Smoking a gold tipped cigarette, which was held between two richly jeweled fingers, Mrs. William K. Vanderbilt, Sr., stood in the doorway of her suite on the Kronprinzessin Cerille and calmly surveyed the stream of passengers hurrying by her cabin through the main companionway just prior to the sailing of the big liner.

Her husband, at the moment, was hurrying to the adjacent suite of his stepdaughter, Miss Beatrice Rutherford, in an effort to escape a number of reporters who were bombarding him with questions relating to grand opera.

None of them was answered. Mrs. Vanderbilt's only response being "Nothing to say. Nothing to say."

As he disappeared into the vacant staterooms (Miss Rutherford was with her mother at the time) and vigorously slammed the door behind him the reporter turned his attention to the lady of the cigarette. Then Mrs. Vanderbilt was asked: "Would you object to stating something about your plans on the other side?"

"Oh, I don't care (puff) to talk about them" (puff).

"Will you remain abroad long?"

"Same as usual" (puff).

"Does that mean a summer?"

"Yes" (puff).

"Return in the fall?"

"Yes" (puff).

"Going to the South of France this year?"

"No" (puff). Stay in Paris" (puff).

"No" (puff). "No" (puff).

And that was all.

HEARD DYING FRIEND'S OUTCRY

W. A. Moore Unable to Account for Phenomenon at Moment of Death.

Hartford, Conn.—Though nobody ever accused William A. Moore, first vice president of the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, of being a spiritualist, or a member of any of those kindred cults nevertheless Mr. Moore's former incredulity is staggering under a remarkable psychological violation and weird conversation which he thinks he had at the moment that his friend, Richard P. Romaine, president and general manager of the Windsor Locks Paper Company, died.

Mr. Moore is vainly seeking an explanation of the marvelous phenomenon. Just before closing time, Mr. Moore having signed his mail was dosing on a couch in his private office when he was suddenly aware of a familiar voice calling appealingly, "Will, Will, Who is it?" he asked.

"It's I, Romaine," came the reply in short accents. Bewildered Mr. Moore shook himself together and searched his office, and then, bursting open the door into the main office had the telephone operator hurry a call to the Romaine home. When he asked for Mrs. Romaine he was told she could not answer just then and he inquired how Mr. Romaine was getting along.

"He died about two minutes ago," replied the maid and now Mr. Moore wants an explanation as to how his lifelong friend communicated with him at the moment of death.

WOMAN IN TROUSERS

Bifurcated Garment Proved to Be Only Make-Believe.

Paris, France.—At the races at Auteuil, a young Frenchwoman appeared in the paddock with the latest style of women's skirts which are so near trousers that the men present were inclined to resent it. The outer garment is made of velvet. At first it appeared to be a dress. On inspection it revealed that a heavy seam ran down the centre so the skirt was really a sort of Turkish trousers. The garment was so light that walking was difficult.

Men and women discussed the new fashion, but opinion seemed to be unanimous that the garment is ugly and clumsy.

BRIDE OF FOURTEEN PLAYS WITH DOLLS

Puts on Long Dresses and Asks if She Doesn't Look Cute.

Philadelphia.—"Don't I look cute in my first long skirts?" asked fourteen year-old Mrs. Walter Maloney, whose husband is only eighteen years old, as she stood in the parlor of her new home, No. 5717 Potomac street, with a doll tucked under each arm. "I can't give up my dolls," she laughed, "even if I am married."

On Feb. 16 the sweethearts were wedded in Camden. The girl went home, but was afraid to tell her mother, as Mrs. Bonner objected to her daughter marrying Maloney on account of her youth.

TORCH OF TERRIFIC HEAT.

New Invention Pierces Twelve-Inch Steel and Welds Aluminum.

Cleveland, Ohio.—A torch operated by oxygen and acetylene, radiating a heat of 6,800 degrees, said to be the most terrific known to science, has been invented here. By means of this torch, it is possible, it is declared, to weld aluminum heretofore regarded as an impossibility. The torch makes a flame that will cut through two inches of solid steel in less than one minute and pierce a twelve-inch piece of the hard cut steel in less than ten minutes. It would take a saw almost twenty hours to do the work.

EAGLE ATTACKS AN AIRSHIP

New Peril Faces Aeronauts on Voyage from Jersey Homes to Business in New York.

AOLPH JAECKER IS MENACED

Chicken Stealing Mystery Is Solved When Huge Bird Swoops Down on a Private Aeroplane—Battle in the Air.

Cedar Grove, N. J.—The mystery of the chicken thieving which has perplexed this community for about two weeks was solved in a very remarkable manner last Tuesday morning.

Mr. Adolph Jaecker, the well known banker whose office is in New York but who resides in this borough, was chased an aeroplane last week to use (Cedar Grove) to New York. The machine, which is patterned after the Wright make is capable of carrying four persons and on a trial trip last Friday averaged forty miles an hour.

It was therefore with a feeling of elation that Mr. Jaecker entered his airship last Tuesday morning and directed his aircraft to steer straight for his New York office.

The machine behaved beautifully. It made a graceful rise in the air for about five hundred feet, the outstretched wing frame making it look like a huge bird of the air. The aeroplane just dived down to the level of the ground and a large eagle with its wings spread in front of him and called his attention to it. The bird held a morsel of chicken in its talons which excited the curiosity of Mr. Jaecker and he ordered his driver to give chase.

The eagle however determined to keep up to its title of king of the air and on no idea of fleeing but instead made a quick dash for the aeroplane and its occupants. The bird was so rapid in its movements that the men barely had time to observe that it was a large chicken it was carrying before it was upon them.

Dashing again and again against the car it finally broke one of the rods connecting the left forward wing with the body of the airship, compelling the occupants to make a hurried descent. The eagle in following up this advantage however met its Waterloo for in one of its mad rushes it struck the rapidly revolving propeller and received injuries so serious that it fell to the ground which by this time was only a short distance below.

On landing the men attempted to capture the fallen but still vicious bird but seeing that it was impossible to capture it alive, borrowed a gun from a nearby farmer and killed it. The bird measured seven feet three inches from tip to tip and was of the bald species. It will be sent to a taxidermist and will later adorn Mr. Jaecker's library.

There have been no chickens missing since the death of the huge bird.

MEALS ONLY 5 CENTS EACH.

And That's a Bit Extravagant; They are Usually Only 4 Cents.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Miss Charlotte Dye, superintendent of the Indiana Girls School, appearing before the Senate Finance Committee to ask for an increased maintenance fund for the school, astonished the committee by saying that last week the meals for the officers of the institution were furnished at a cost of 5 cents each. "Of course," she said, "the expense was a little more last week because I had to accompany a part of the time. Ordinarily the meals of the officers cost about 4 cents each."

The committee thought this was low enough.

CAVERN UNDER CAMPECHE.

Half a Mile in Extent—Remains of Prehistoric Ruin, Experts Say.

Campeche, Mexico.—Workmen on the outskirts of the city have dug into a walled subterranean cavern of great size. It is believed to extend for more than half a mile under the city. It is said to be part of the remains of some prehistoric ruin previously undiscovered. The authorities at Mexico City were notified and ordered the police officers to guard the cavern from vandals until it can be officially explored and its exact character learned.

TAXING LARGE BUSINESS.

French Chamber Adopts a Graded Penalty for Department Stores.

Paris, France.—The Chamber of Deputies passed an article of the income tax bill imposing an extra tax on department stores whose annual turnover exceeds \$100,000. The extra tax is 1 per cent on the turnover between \$100,000 and \$200,000, 2 per cent up to \$1,000,000 and 3 per cent when the turnover exceeds \$1,000,000.

Shaves Brother After 32 Years.

Bloomfield, N. J.—Nicholas Schneider, a barber, had the unusual experience recently of shaving his brother Joseph, whom he had not seen for thirty-two years and whom he did not recognize until Joseph told his name.

TUMBLE WEED VISITATION

Thistles as Large as Half Bushel Measure Are Blown Over Prairies by Millions.

Oakley, Kan.—In the recent heavy windstorm in Western Kansas the greatest damage was done by the Russian thistle, more commonly known as the tumble weed. The weeds, which are about the size of a half bushel measure and almost round, blow over the prairies by the millions.

Near Oberlin a touring car belonging to the Miller real estate firm of Belden caught fire while trying to force its way through the Russian thistles, and it was completely destroyed, the occupants narrowly escaping being burned to death.

A fierce wind swept the prairies of Russian thistles by millions were piled before it, and orchards were packed full, yards and fences were blown down and sidewalks blocked and in instances where the houses are surrounded by trees the pests were piled up so high that only by using a pump could the occupants clear a way through them.

On the streets, where the big buildings made a shelter from the gales they were piled to the top of awnings like an immense haystack which had accumulated overnight.

Farmers leaving town were in many cases unable to get home and struggled with neighbors the fences being blown down and the wires strung across the roads by the force of the wind against the mass of thistles against the fences.

The damage to fences alone in the country reached into the thousands of dollars and what is true here is true of all the prairie of Northwest Kansas. There was no rain and the stock suffered.

Trains were delayed by the thistles blocking the cuts.

WOMAN TO HUNT BURGLARS

She Has Been Made a Regular Member of Atlanta's Detective Force.

Atlanta, Ga.—Hereafter a woman search will be one of the features of the detective department of Atlanta. The police committee made Mrs. Little Harnet a member of the detective force and she will perform her duties at once. Mrs. Barnett is a pretty widow, about 30 years old, and has been successfully doing detective work for some time. The commission was moved to choose Mrs. Barnett because it is believed that many of the robberies in Atlanta are the work of women, and it is thought a female detective might be more successful in these cases than a man.

HOW HIGH SHOULD A LADY RAISE HER SKIRTS?

Milwaukee Judge Undertakes to Decide the Delicate Question in Court.

Milwaukee, Wis.—How high can a woman hold her skirt on a damp night and still remain a lady?

It was up to Judge Neelen in District Court to decide it, and he made a ruling in which he fined Miss May Walters \$5 for getting past the "lady" stage.

Patrolman Becker was the etiquette expert and he said that when a woman's skirt was up fourteen inches in the rear and nine in front and had a waist attached which was more or less peakaboo, the limit had been reached.

The court agreed with Becker that a dress could be held too high, and he approved of the arrest of Miss Walters.

The patrolman added that he had looked sharply and had seen no fluffy ruffie stuff under the outer skirt, and that was one reason why he thought the gown was deficient.

SACRIFICES HOUSE FOR TREE.

Mrs. Russell Sage Rejoices the Folk of Sag Harbor, L. I.

Sag Harbor, L. I.—In order to save one large shade tree Mrs. Russell Sage bought the old Seaman property for \$10,000, in order to build a public library upon the site in honor of her grandparents, Col. and Mrs. John Jermain. The house was to be moved but it was discovered that it could not pass between two handsome shade trees. The Woman's Village Improvement Society called Mrs. Sage's attention to the fact that one tree would have to be cut down if the house were moved. Her response was prompt and characteristic.

"Tear down the house," said Mrs. Sage, "and move it in place."

Queer Rain in Kentucky.

Mayfield, Ky.—Sunday morning there was a rain of catfish and perch instead of rain on the track of the I. C. railroad. A little boy peeped off the ground near a church building enough to cover the bottom of a wash basin. There had been a heavy fall of rain which was blown from the south west by a hot draught of wind, indicating that they had been blown from a stream or body of water located southwest of this city.

POSED NINE YEARS AS YOUNG MAN

Arrested and Fined as Vagrant, Her Voice Excited Suspicion of the Police

SHE SCREAMED WHEN DETECTED

Lost Parents in Galveston Flood and Went Out into the World to Live as a Man—Young Woman Glad to Be Found Out.

St. Louis, Mo.—Lillian Winters, 24 years old, of Galveston was arrested here as a man and fined \$100 on a charge of vagrancy. The woman was dressed as a man and she told the police that for nine years she had worn masculine attire and passed as a man. She also said she had worked as a bill poster, a painter, a messenger boy and as the driver of a truck for an iron foundry.

The young woman ran away from her home in Galveston nine years ago. She disguised herself in her brother's suit and traveled to this city by train. She never wrote to her family but returned to her home to find that her parents had been drowned in the Galveston flood. At that time she had received no return to her parents as a girl, but finding them dead she altered her mind and went out into the world again to work and live as a man.

The young woman was arrested and was taken at once to the police court. Not only was her sex suspected, she spoke in deep tones and when the fine was imposed caused surprise by saying she would take an appeal. She requested a police court lawyer to handle her case. He refused and she was unable to give bail, she was taken back to a cell in the court building. There she was questioned by a detective and so far forgot herself as to talk in a high treble voice. The detective became suspicious and called the matron. The prisoner then became so excited she screamed hysterically and the deception was revealed.

"Yes, I'm a woman," cried "W. Harn Winters when the matron went to the cell. I'm a woman and I want to go back to women's clothes. I'm tired of acting man. I've been acting it for nine years, and I want to be myself now."

The matron provided the young woman with garments and the transformation was surprising. Miss Winters was revealed as a propositioning young woman, and she said with a show of vanity that if she had imagined she could look so well she would have discarded men's attire long ago.

Miss Winters said she left her home on August 2, 1900. She was anxious to see the world and believed that her only chance of liberty was to masquerade as a man. She said that not once was she suspected. She had planned her flight for several months and during that time she had imitated the deep voice of her father. She decided to flee when she had made experiments and succeeded in deceiving persons into thinking her father was talking.

I worked as a billposter in Quincy, Ill," she said. "I became an expert and continued at the work for two years. I came to St. Louis in 1902 and had worked here since I have held many different positions. The one I liked best was driving a foundry truck. It gave me plenty of fresh air and healthy exercise, and I think I became one of the most expert drivers of a team of horses in the city. I earned \$12 a week for that work. A few weeks ago I was laid off and since then have been unable to find employment."

Miss Winters said that many girls had expressed admiration for her as a handsome young man. These advances, however, she said, always made her nervous and she afterwards told a demeanor that they never were repeated. Following her confinement she was taken a second time before the Magistrate, who released her. She was provided with money and said she would go to relatives in Galveston.

NUBIAN CITY UNEARTHED.

Expedition Finds Evidence of a High Grade of Civilization.

Philadelphia.—A report has been received at the University of Pennsylvania from Dr. David R. Meibner, commanding the Eckley H. Coxe, Jr., expedition, stating that the ruins of the ancient city of Behen, in Nubia, had been unearthed by the expedition. Indications of a high grade of civilization from 1200 to 800 B. C. were discovered.

A TWENTY-SEVENTH BABY.

Altoona Billposter's Large Family Are All Doing Well.

Altoona, Pa.—Morris Connor, city bill poster, thinks he should have a medal from the Anti-Race Suicide Society.

The stork has visited his home again bringing the twenty-seventh baby. The entire family enjoy good health.

THE DOG ATE THE GOAT

And the Other Dog Laughed to See Sport of Culprit Being Washed for the Dead.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—This is a true animal story from Long Island City, and not the raving of a nature faker. James Kelley keeps a smithy in Fourth street, near Jackson avenue. Kelley had three pets until yesterday—an Angora goat, a brindle bull pup and a white bull terrier. The goat is dead and the brindle pup is being punished because he chewed the life out of the goat some time before daylight in a jealous rage. The white bull terrier looked on at the chastisement of the brindle pup and laughed with his tail in approval. Then the terrier squatted down beside the carcass of the goat and growled arrogantly when any one came near.

Kelley brought the goat, Mike, to the shop three weeks ago, and it became a great pet with the Kelley children. They had showered their attentions upon Browie, the brindle, up to the time the Angora Billy came into their lives. Jack, the white bull, took to the goat and shared his bed with him.

Things became so equally that Browie was kept tied to a post, far away from the goat. Jack is the irresponsible member of the collection of pets, and he wanders out at night. He was away from home on last Tuesday night and the brindle took advantage of his absence to carry out his evil purpose. Early yesterday he gnawed at the rope that kept him away from the goat. Freeing himself he flew at the Billy. What happened was told by the carcass of the whiskered pet. Browie made no denial and took his walloping. Jack bravely made some home and looked for the goat. Finding only the body he made himself guardian until dragged away by Kelley when the dead animal wagon came.

ADVICE TO "STREET CAF HOGS"

Miss Cabot Gives Outline of Their Mental Processes.

Chicago.—A course in ethics for the street car hog was recommended at the meeting of the Department of Superintendence of the National Education Association by Miss Ella Lyman Cabot of the Massachusetts Board of Education. When the selfish man who has fixed himself comfortably in a car, with his barricade of bundles around him sees other persons get on and look around for seats, he undergoes a peculiar mental process," said Miss Cabot. "He begins to figure out how he can pretend he is doing the right thing. He thinks to himself: 'There are other seats further down the aisle.'

"I can't help it if there are not seats enough for all of us."

"It is just as easy for them to stand up as it is for me to hold my bundles on my lap."

"I got here first anyway. If they had got here first I wouldn't have complained at having to stand up."

"These answers all illustrate the tendency of the selfish person to try to deceive himself. He should take up the study of ethics."

SHRIEK, BUT IS CREMATED.

Speaker Against Premature Burial Tells Horrifying Tale.

London.—At the annual meeting of the National Association for the Prevention of Premature Burials held in London, Mr. A. F. Jenkins, of Baltimore Md. stated that a day or two before he left America he learned of a case in which a loud shriek was heard from a coffin that had been placed in a trolley to be carried into a crematorium. Nothing could be done as the trolley already had been started and its progress into the flames could not be arrested.

Another speaker declared he had come across 151 cases of persons who according to medical testimony had been interred alive, and more than two hundred cases of persons saved from that fate on the very brink of the grave. A resolution was carried urging the government to remedy the present unsatisfactory and dangerous State burial laws.

Taft's Attorney General.

G. H. Wickersham of New York Regarded Highly as a Lawyer.

New York, George W. Wickersham, attorney general in the Taft cabinet, is a lawyer of this city and a member of the firm of Strong & Cadwalader. In Martindale's American Law Directory he is given the highest rating which it is possible to obtain in that work. Mr. Wickersham is what is known as an "office lawyer," who works out the big problems in litigation while his colleagues carry out the programme in court. Ever since work began on the New York subway, eight years ago, he had charge of the legal questions involved. From this post he resigned some months ago. He was also attorney for the receiver of the Knickerbocker Trust Company. Mr. Wickersham graduated from Princeton university in 1880.

Woman Swims for Seven Hours.

Long Beach, Cal.—Miss Marie R. Pike, of Madison, S. D. breaks Miss Lillian Williams' record for continuous swimming without a rest by staying in the plunge here seven hours. She entered the water at 9:50 a. m., and left it at 4:50 p. m. Miss Pike came here a year ago, practically invalid.

ROCKEFELLER