

WORLD'S WHEAT KING

Title This Year Belongs to A. J. Rice of Kansas.

Went West Thirty-Five Years Ago with Little Money and Has Accumulated 20,000 Acres of Land.

With 200,000 bushels of high grade wheat in his granaries, A. J. Rice, of Atchison county, Kansas, may be called the wheat king of the west— which means of the world. He is the owner of 114 quarter sections of land, scattered over three counties in western Kansas.

John Stewart, hitherto known to fame as the millionaire wheat grower of Sumner county, struck a bad year, and he falls back to second place. He has nearly twice as much land as Rice but the low yield in Sumner county leaves Rice with more wheat.

Eight thousand of the nearly 20,000 acres owned by Rice were sown to wheat last fall. The biggest of his wheat fields contains 1,600 acres. Still another field contains 800 acres. Some of this land produced as high as 40 bushels to the acre, while the average is not far from 25.

Rice came to Kansas 35 years ago with a bad case of consumption and a little money. He hailed from New York, where the eight other members of his family had died from pulmonary trouble.

He started in a modest way, accumulated some money and invested it in land. He seldom sold a farm once he became its owner.

Whenever he had a little time hanging on his hands he goes around to the real estate agents and picks out a farm. Once he gets a deed it goes out of circulation. One man, Lieut. Gov. Hanna, has sold Rice 65 farms in the past ten years.

Rice followed the wheat belt west, bought land when it was cheap, and in 30 cases at least every year's crop more than equals in value the sum represented by its cost.

His hobby is the planting of orchards. He makes it a rule to plant fruit trees on every farm he buys, and no man becomes a tenant unless he can prove his ability to take care of the orchard.

Another of his hobbies is the rearing of turkeys. He has a theory that they clean the grasshoppers off the crops. He keeps great droves of turkeys on his farm and if his new tenants has none he gives him a flock to raise on shares.

Rice is a bachelor and is estimated to be worth half a million. His income is almost a fifth of the valuation put upon his total wealth. Most of his surplus income goes into new farms, and at the rate his wealth is piling up he will be able to count 200 farms as his own before he reaches his sixtieth year.

PEPPERS IN NEW YORK CITY.

The Sale Has Dramatically Increased in Recent Years—Where the Product Comes From.

"New York uses now," said a produce commission merchant of that city, "20 times as many peppers as it did 20 years ago. The city's consumption of peppers now amounts to thousands of barrels annually. Then we get green peppers now from a much wider range of territory than formerly, and we have them practically the year around.

"We get peppers in winter from Cuba and we get a few from Porto Rico. We naturally think of the pepper as a home-grown sort of a domestic garden product, but those early peppers that we get from Cuba come in small crates as carefully packed as peaches would be, and they bring a high price. They go principally to hotels and restaurants.

"We get early peppers from Florida, too, and later some from Virginia, around Norfolk, and then, as the season advances, we begin to get peppers from New Jersey, which is really the great source of our pepper supply. There are sections of Jersey in which produce farmers make a specialty of peppers, plant them by the acre and raise great crops of them.

"The enormous increased local consumption of peppers in recent years is due in considerable measure, to increased demand from packers."

TOWN HALLS FOR DRUNKARDS.

Temperance People of Kent, Russia, Adopt New and Novel Method of Reform.

Friends of temperance at Kioff, Russia, have hit upon a novel way, comfortably equipped with three different quarters of the town for persons found intoxicated in the streets. The police have ordered to arrest such persons to these halls and not to the stations. Each hall is divided into two sections, one for men the other for women. They are under the control of a doctor, who sees that the inmates are properly attended to until they become sober when they are liberated.

These halls are open to the public at all hours. The theory being that money, by a contracted drunkard will first be lost, and then by a woman in a state of intoxication, sink in a public hall. The halls have been in use a month and have effected cures upon many persons. The average time required for becoming sober was ten hours.

Spanish War Pensions.

About \$3,000,000 has already been paid in Spanish war pensions, the average yearly value of the Spanish war pension is \$107 and the average annual value of a other pensions is \$110 and 200,000 applications for Spanish war pensions await adjudication.

PILLOWSLIP CONCEALS WEALTH

Intoxicated Tramp Who Meant to Steal It Is Found to Be Worth Thousands of Dollars.

Blind in one eye, ragged, hungry and apparently distressed, a man of about 55 years hobbled into Raywick, Ky., one day recently and applied for a lodging place. E. A. Edelen, a distiller, took him in. After giving the tramp a luncheon he took him to a vacant room in a building a short distance from his residence, where a comfortable bed was provided.

Under his arm the tramp carried a bundle, which to all appearances was a greasy pillowslip filled with necessities. Just before retiring the man threw his bundle on a chair. Hiding the tramp good night, Mr. Edelen extinguished the light, but suspecting his guest might be a "professional tramp," he yielded to the impulse to investigate the contents of the bundle. "Carrying the bag downstairs he made an examination and to his surprise found that the "tramp" was possibly worth thousands of dollars.

Besides rolls of paper money and a bag of gold, there were receipts for recording deeds, bearing the signature of the clerk of Tyler county, Virginia, showing that J. H. Shinn owned hundreds of acres in that section. There were also papers showing that he held many shares of stock in oil wells, clippings from newspapers commenting on the wealth of J. H. Shinn, and a day book in which was kept the record of each day's business. From this record it was shown that the man collected daily from 65 cents to seven dollars. A diary showed that he toured Kentucky and Tennessee at stated periods, and had been following the business for almost 15 years. His home, it appeared, was Central Station, Doddridge county, Va.

The tramp told Mr. Edelen the next morning that his name was Shinn.

A CASTLE'S STRANGE SECRET.

Lord Strathmore's Scottish Home Is Said to Be Hiding Place of Monster Called "Human Toad."

Lord and Lady Strathmore's golden wedding festivities held at Glamis castle, at Glamis, Scotland, the other day, had a shadow cast upon them by the strange "secret" which for so many years has hung like a pall over this historic pile. What this secret is only three people in the world know; these being the lord of Glamis himself, his heir and the steward of the estate. For this secret in real life, like those in the old tales, is revealed by every earl of Strathmore to his eldest son when the latter comes of age, and he, in turn, passes it down.

Toward the solution of the mystery—which is famous throughout Scotland—an uncommon number of theories have been advanced. It is known that the "secret" is connected with one of the rooms in Glamis castle, and so most people believe that in this chamber, into which coming earls of Strathmore are taken solemnly on their twenty-first birthday, conceals some monster. The most fantastic and gruesome of the legends told throughout the countryside has it that at one time a "human toad" was born to the house of Strathmore, and moreover, that this monstrosity still lives.

LONDON SOCIETY WOMEN.

English Authoress Declares Great Majority of Her Sex Wear Wigs to Theaters.

"Nowadays 50 women out of 100 wear wigs," this startling statement, which rests on the authority of Mrs. Stannard, better known as John Strange Winter, author of "Bootsie Baby," is the outcome of a discussion raised by George Alexander on the subject of dress at evening theatrical performances in London. Mrs. Stannard writes:

"When George Alexander touches upon the great question of feminine headgear he is trenching upon ground which is difficult to tread without disaster. He evidently does not realize the truth, which is this, that nowadays 50 women out of 100 wear wigs, and the woman who wears a wig is the slave of that article of adornment. If she is a rich woman she has one wig for the afternoon, to wear with her hat, and she has another wig for evening to wear without her hat. In nine cases out of ten she cannot take her hat off, because she would not be sure of the disclosure it would make."

AUTOMOBILE LANDS IN A TREE.

French Tourists Go Over 300-Foot Precipice and Have Marvellous Escape from Death.

A remarkable adventure befell Mme. Du Chaval and Dr. and Mme. Lachon near St. Maurice, France, the other day. When their automobile was descending at high speed the Peugeot fell in the evening the machine suddenly struck a parapet that crown a 300-foot precipice.

Before the automobileists knew what had happened the vehicle cleared the barrier and sailed through space. Inevitably it fell, and the machine fell 300 feet and landed in a field of corn.

The passengers escaped to the ground without injury and at daybreak the machine was rescued. Material loss was a few escaped serious damage.

Aged Twins.

Undoubtedly the oldest twin sisters in the United States, if not in the world, are Mrs. Evelyn Tilton and Miss Emeline Perrin, of New Hampton, Ia., who celebrated their ninety-second birthday this year. These two women were born in Vernon, Conn. May 22, 1811, and were of a family of five children, two others of whom are twins.

CRIME DISCOVERERS.

Wonderful Gift of a Certain Tribe of Abyssinia.

Boys Are Put Into a Hypnotic Trance and in This State Detect Criminals—Test Made Before Emperor Menelik.

M. Hg, the well known Swiss engineer and confidant of the Emperor Menelik, in a recent interview gave an interesting account of the weird "Lobasha," or "crime discoverers."

These are boys, not more than 12 years of age, who are put into a hypnotic trance, and in this state discover the unknown perpetrators of crimes.

M. Hg tells of almost incredible cases of discoveries of criminals of which he had personal knowledge.

In a case of incendiarism in Adis Abeba the "Lobasha" was called to the spot and given a cup full of milk, into which a green powder had been put, and then was made to smoke a pipe of tobacco mixed with a black powder. The boy was then hypnotized. After a few minutes he jumped up and began running to Harrar. For fully 16 hours he ran, and so swift was his pace that professional runners were not able to keep up with him. Near Harrar the "Lobasha" suddenly left the road, ran into a field, and touched a Galla working there with his hand. The man confessed.

Another case which the Emperor Menelik and M. Hg investigated was that of a murder and robbery near Adis Abeba. The "Lobasha" was taken to the site of the murder and put into his peculiar psychic state. For awhile he ran around the place, then back to Adis Abeba to a church, which he kissed, then to another church, which he also kissed.

Coming to some water—water breaks the spell—the boy woke from his trance.

He was again hypnotized and off he went, round some huts and at the door of one of them lay down and fell asleep. The owner of the hut, who was not in, was on his return arrested. He stoutly denied his guilt, but some of the goods belonging to his victim were found in his hut, and he was convicted.

The murderer was brought before Menelik, who asked him to tell his story after the commission of the crime. These were found to correspond with the movements of the "Lobasha." He said that, overcome with remorse, he ran to two churches and kissed them.

Menelik wanted to have another proof of the "Lobasha's" gifts. He himself took some jewelry belonging to the emperor. A "Lobasha" was sent for. He ran about in the emperor's rooms, then into Menelik's own rooms—went through other rooms, and finally fell down on Menelik's bed.

M. Hg can give no explanation of this wonderful gift, which seems to be confined to a certain tribe, or perhaps a racial confederation, the members of which are distributed all over Abyssinia.

It is also worth remembering that a very similar method of discovering crimes was ascribed to the old Egyptians 4,000 years ago.

MICKEY A GOOD FARM HAND

Nebraska's Governor Pitches Bundles and Keeps Two Thrashing Machines Fedders Busy.

For half an hour one morning recently Gov. Mickey of Nebraska stood on a stack of wheat at the state insane asylum farm and pitched bundles for a thrashing machine so fast as to keep two feeders busy. The farm was being exhibited to the governor.

When he arrived at the place where a steam thrasher was in operation he pulled off his coat, commanded one of the pitchers to give him his fork, and went to work. Many persons were present, and the governor had to endure a good deal of chaffing.

Even bits were offered that he could not keep the table full, but he did keep it full, and the thrashers all testified when he left the stack that a better "hand" they had never worked with.

When he was young, Gov. Mickey worked on a farm and helped with the thrashing, and he laughingly remarked when he climbed the stack that morning that he wanted to "show the boys how to do it."

SEES DOOM OF THE RAZOR.

New York Scientist Proposes to Remove Beards with a Chemical Preparation.

The new hospital formulary of the department of public charities at Bellevue and allied hospitals of New York city has just been completed by Dr. W. E. Dreyfus, in charge of the drug department. The shaving paste is one of the odd formulas in the compilation and is one of Dr. Dreyfus's compounds.

"I can vouch for its efficiency," said Dr. Dreyfus the other day, "but it was not given to the public with any idea of bankrupting barbers, but more for its usefulness to surgeons. After making the formula the doctor says: 'Make one teaspoonful of the powder into a paste with three teaspoonfuls of water and apply with an ordinary shaving brush in a moderate way, the beard even away. After four to five minutes the paste applied should be moistened with a sponge. Five minutes later it can be washed off and presto a clean shave.'"

The "antiseptic mixture" is one of a dozen remedies for delirium tremens incorporated in the formulary.

A Family of Giants.

In the Gregory family, Webster county, Virginia, there are 13 sons all over six feet tall and eight weighing more than 180 pounds.

GROWN COLLEGE MEN.

Gray Heads Not Uncommon Among Freshmen These Days.

Some with Families Enter with the Determination of Getting a Full College Education—A Paradoxical Instance.

"It is remarkable," said a man going back to college as a senior, according to the New York Sun, "how many full-grown men there are in the colleges today."

"I have compared notes with fellows from other colleges, and find that it is quite common to see a freshman with gray hair, who will never see his thirty-fifth and possibly his forty-third birthday again. They are chaps for the most part who wish to take a special course or two, or if they start out with the idea of getting a degree they usually give it up and either disappear or devote themselves to one or two branches."

"In the technical schools you will find full-grown men hounding upon one or two lines, men who are doing well in their business, but feel the lack of college training and have the idea that they can do much better after a year or so of study. Of course hundreds of men feel this way, but only a small percentage of them have the grit to go to college among men so much younger and sit aside by the wayside in their classrooms. Then again, it is not every man who can afford to leave his business for such a purpose."

"It is very strange to see these men at work to note their struggles to master the day's lessons. It has surprised me many times to see men who have done well in their business struggling over a lesson which came as easy as pie to us youngsters. It is one of the best illustrations of the wonderful difference between youth and even early middle life that I expect ever to have presented to me."

"I know one man who entered college when over 30 and brought with him his wife and two small children. He had so much money to spend and he was determined to get a full college education, classical. His wife was a plucky little woman and she was right there at his elbow at every stage of the game."

"This was in a New York college. The man's wife opened an eating club and the man looked after the business end of it. How that woman looked after the two babies and ran that club I don't know, but she did. She was a wonderful cook, and soon the club had a reputation all through the town, and the other eating club folks began to say unkind things of this man and his wife. But they lived it all down."

"The man had a force of time of it kept in the class for the first year. Half a dozen professors advised him to quit, but he hung on and won out. By the end of sophomore year he hadn't a condition, and he graduated with his class. He wasn't at the bottom of the list either. He got his college education and supported his wife and two children while he was doing it."

"When I was a freshman a certain man came to college with his son. The boy took full academic and the father was a special. The father was a bustling business man and I have often wondered how they ever let him come even as a special."

"He would make the funniest of branks in recitation. Forgetting for the boy, he and his father were in different classes. The father was a good fellow, though, and when he realized what the boy was that he had made he would laugh as loud as anyone."

"He had a great amount of books, but was as simple and as unaffected as a child over it. He seemed to enjoy nothing so much as being in a room full of thoroughly good fellows, and he never lost his dignity, and he never went anywhere near the carding game. He only stayed a year, and within a year after that he died. When they opened his will they found he left two or three hundred dollars to the college."

London Tailors and Credit.

A few people have any idea of the amount of money a west and London tailor has on his books, remarks the Tailor and Cutter, an English organ of the trade. "Gentlemen will run up a bill of \$1,000 or \$2,000 and pay off perhaps \$250 and increase their indebtedness by a like amount; while, in addition to these, there are the positive losses by intentional swindlers, who manage, somehow, to get introduced, run up a heavy bill, and will not pay. Take a case in point. A foreigner called on a well-known firm with a letter of introduction from one of the firm's customers. He ordered some goods and paid for them. He then ordered some more, and introduced ten other gentlemen. The firm in question has not received a penny for any of the goods supplied on the second order, or for those supplied to the ten others."

At His Own Estimate.

His beard was a little over two feet. He was spending proportion. But he was proud. O. S. proud! He stood erect and with folded arms, near the rail of the steamer, and gazed upon the lake in stony, majestic silence.

Presently the captain approached him and touched his arm.

"What is my good fellow?" he said, turning his head slowly and eying him from head to foot.

"Would you mind stopping over this was a little?" asked the captain, touching his hat.

"What for, my good fellow?"

"To trim the ship. You are giving it a decided list to port." Chicago Tribune.

Afraid of Englishmen.

The Moscow Gazette writes its government against allowing Englishmen to settle in the oil district of the Caucasus, as the situation may become the same as that in the Transcaucasus for the war.

FROM WIFE TO HOUSEKEEPER.

Stranger Transformation in Domestic Affairs of William Latchford, of Marion, Mo.

At a recent term of the Marion (Mo.) circuit court, William J. Latchford, a railroad man, obtained a divorce from his wife, Lena, on the ground of her "cruel and barbarous treatment" of him. He was awarded the custody of the two children, Grace Lata, three years old, and Roma Edward, five years old.

Latchford had to be away from home a great deal of the time, and the children were a serious worry to him. He was unable to obtain a satisfactory government anywhere. Finally a friend recommended to him a lady living some ways into the country. Latchford went to see her. It was his former wife. He told her he was looking for some one to take care of the children. She asked if he didn't think she was qualified for the position. Indeed, he did, he said, and so earnest was he about it that he was willing to remarry her, but she wouldn't consent to this. He had signed a harsh paper against her, and told the court things she couldn't forgive, but if he wanted a governess for the children, and would pay her as much as he would anybody else, she would accept the position.

The other day the former Mrs. Latchford reentered her old home in Marion and took possession. Latchford bought new furniture and replenished the larder. But, according to the board, he is only to be a formal visitor at stated intervals. She gives a report of her conduct and her needs through a third party, who is to transmit her salary to her at the end of each month.

The "barbarous treatment," as set up in his petition, occurred in the early part of last September. He came home from work one Saturday night, and Mrs. Latchford told him as he was tired, she would go down town and do the marketing. She never returned.

A BOY ASTRONOMER.

Discovers New Group of Spots on the Sun—Inherits Special Talent from Ancestors.

A 15-year-old boy in Denver, named Herbert S. Howe, is reported to have used a six-inch telescope to the advantage recently.

The group of sun spots discovered two weeks before by the astronomers of the Washington observatory stimulated his zeal to make observations on his own account. His work with one of the instruments in the observatory at University park, Denver, has met with great success. He has revealed near the upper edge of the sun's disk a group of spots as large as those discovered by the Washington observers.

This seems to be another illustration of special talent, descending in this case from grandfather to grandson. Thirty-five years ago one of the most honored members of the faculty of Chicago university was Prof. Alvan G. Howe. He was noted for his mathematical gift and for his remarkable faculty of composition.

His students used to think that Prof. Howe could clear up a knotty problem with fewer words and simpler explanations than any other man. His powers of analysis were highly developed, and he always went from one problem to another in mathematical calculation with logical precision.

The son, Herbert Alvan Howe, inherited his father's mental equipment and has been professor of astronomy at Denver university since 1893. He has made a name in astronomical research and has written books and many papers in his special field. Some of his recent writings include several new methods for solving Kepler's Problem.

His 15-year-old son, who has discovered the sun spots, seems to be following in the steps of his father and grandfather.

SUES FOR QUARTER OF A CENT.

Fraction of a Penny Overcharge in Land Sale Brings Case Into Supreme Court of Arkansas.

In the case of Ada Crowling vs. J. E. Mudrow, decided in the supreme court of Arkansas at Little Rock recently, a controversy involving one-quarter of a cent was decided. The case involved the title to a piece of land which had been sold for taxes, and the title was attacked because of the alleged illegal sale. The case was tried on an agreed statement of facts, which showed that the legal amount for which it could be sold was \$12.84, while the sale was made by the collector for \$4.29, thus exceeding the legal amount by one-quarter of a cent. In the opinion Justice Hughes said:

"The only question in this case is, does a sale of land for one-quarter of a cent more than is due upon it render the sale void? It is true that a sale of land for taxes for an amount substantially in excess of the amount due upon it will render the sale void. But in this case the overcharge was not substantial, being for only one-quarter of a cent, an amount less than the least coin issued by the government. To hold this sale invalid would seem to be absurd. There would be no way of making the exact change, and it seems trivial and more reasonable that the party whose duty it was to pay the tax should pay one-quarter of a cent too much than that the government should lose three-quarters of a cent. The excess in this case was trifling and did not invalidate the sale."

Largest Photograph in the World.

The largest photograph in the world, 33 feet by four feet ten inches, was recently on view at Berlin. It represented a panorama of the Bay of Naples, and was on six plates, but was printed so clearly that the sharpest eye could not detect the joinings.

COSTLY LOCO WEED.

Poisonous Weed Causes Great Loss to Stock in Montana.

Small Prairie Plant of the Mountain Range Originally Introduced by the Hudson's Bay Company to Kill It.

How great a loss is caused to stock raisers by the loco weed and other poisonous plants in this state is depicted in a bulletin issued by the Montana agricultural experiment station. The writer, J. W. Blankenship, estimates the annual loss from stock eating these plants at \$100,000 and points out that with the increase of the herds, and flocks the loss is bound to increase unless action is taken to exterminate the plant, says a Bozeman report. In part he says:

"The chief poison zones of the state are nearly all confined to the foothills of the mountain ranges of the continental divide and to the high bench lands of the plains eastward. There has been little complaint from the extreme eastern or western parts of the state. These poison zones are characterized by the abundance of the larkspur, lupines, dead camas and wild parsnip, which are far less frequent or entirely absent further east or west. The loco zone is a well-defined section near the central part of the state, while the water hemlock is frequent along streams from the foothills westward, being rare or entirely absent in the eastern plains."

"The white loco weed is a small prairie plant, six inches to a foot high, with conspicuous white or cream colored flowers from a thick woody persistent root. It is distributed over nearly the whole plains region of the United States from Alberta and Assinibola south into Mexico, and from Minnesota and Kansas westward to the Rockies. Extensive losses of stock, attributed to this species, are reported in New Mexico, Colorado and Montana and to a less extent in most of the other states in the region mentioned. In Montana the white loco is found throughout all the eastern plains, and is not infrequently to the mountain meadows up to 8,000 feet altitude. It is very unevenly distributed in the state, being found in sufficient numbers to be dangerous to stock in the district from Livingston to Billings and from the mountains on the south northward to the Musselshell and around the Little Belt and Highwood mountains."

"In some parts of the loco zone the losses sometimes average as high as 50 percent of the lambs produced and in several localities the sheepmen have been compelled to dispose of their sheep and stock up with cattle. The loco is found mainly along dry rocky ridges or gravel plains, but exhibits great capacity for growing in nearly every kind of soil. It is a relatively recent introduction into the state and is spreading from the infested centers. There is considerable evidence to show that the buffalo were the original agents of its introduction, either through having eaten the mature seeds and then scattered them or from their habit of wallowing."

As to exterminating the two plant the bulletin states that experiments in digging it out at certain seasons of the year have been more effective and this seems to be the only remedy.

MARRIAGES VIOLATE CANONS.

Church of England Forbids Certain Alliances That Other Religions Indulge Tolerate.

On the last page of the book of canonical prayer of the Church of England is a list of the marriages that are forbidden by the ecclesiastical authorities on the ground of too close relationship, which beginning with an infant's mother, a man may not marry his grandmother, nor a woman her grandfather, have often excited hilarity. While it is perfectly well known that any union contracted in defiance of these disabilities is not merely voidable, but actually void—men who have married the sisters of their dead wives, finding that these unions are not recognized by law, by church and by society in England, and that any children born thereof are illegitimate—it is not generally known that marriages within the prohibited degree of relationship are actually punishable by imprisonment, as well as by actual public penance and excommunication decreed by the ecclesiastical courts.

It is perfectly true, says the Chicago Chronicle, that while the ecclesiastical courts possess the power to inflict these penalties, they have not so far as I can recall ever made use of them, realizing probably that it would be contrary to popular sentiment, and that imprisonment for offenses passed upon by the ecclesiastical courts is out of keeping with modern ideas and times.

I may add in conclusion that not alone marriages with the dead wives of men and dead husbands of women are forbidden by the ecclesiastical authorities on the ground of too close relationship, but a man may not marry his grandmother, nor a woman her grandfather, have often excited hilarity. While it is perfectly well known that any union contracted in defiance of these disabilities is not merely voidable, but actually void—men who have married the sisters of their dead wives, finding that these unions are not recognized by law, by church and by society in England, and that any children born thereof are illegitimate—it is not generally known that marriages within the prohibited degree of relationship are actually punishable by imprisonment, as well as by actual public penance and excommunication decreed by the ecclesiastical courts.

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