

TOWN RUNS TO SEED.

INHABITANTS OF MATTAMISCONTIS NUMBER ONLY 22.

Although Once Very Prosperous, Maine Village Is Now in Danger of Becoming a Plantation—People All Related.

Augusta, Me.—The story of the average backwoods town in Maine is much like the history of a star, as each begins its career in a nebulous condition, reaches a stage of heated activity and finally burns itself out.

This winter Representative Mullen, of Bangor, has introduced an act in the Maine legislature permitting the town of Mattamiscontis, 44 miles northeast from Bangor, to surrender its town organization and lapse back into a plantation so as to escape the support of its paupers and the payment of county and state taxes.

Mattamiscontis was incorporated as a town, being a slice taken from Howland, on March 8, 1833. At that time the valuation of the town was \$60,000 and its population was 32. The residents had every prospect of getting rich rapidly. The town grew and prospered.

On March 4, 1904, the entire population of Mattamiscontis was 28, of whom 11 were voters, and every one in town was either a Sawyer or a Roberts. There were one Sawyer and two Roberts on the board of assessors, two Sawyers and one Roberts were assessors of the poor, a Sawyer was collector of taxes and treasurer, three Sawyers were serving as selectmen, a Roberts was superintendent of schools, Miss Maud Sawyer and Miss Agnes Roberts taught the two schools, a Sawyer was justice of the peace, a Roberts was under contract to furnish wood for the schoolhouses and a Sawyer broke out the snowy highways and carried the children to and from school.

Everybody was related to everybody else. The entire community was no more than a family affair. There was no post office, no clergyman, no lawyer and no doctor in the whole town. The entire assets of the municipality were an appraised valuation of \$19,256 and a wood-grown cemetery, in which there had been no interment for six years.

Under the laws of Maine when a person is unable to support himself and becomes a public charge while residing on a plantation the cost of his maintenance falls upon the adjoining town which has been organized for the longest time. Mattamiscontis has four paupers who have been supported at a cost of \$750 a year. By becoming a plantation the community can compel Howland to care for them.

In addition to getting rid of this bill the plantation will have to pay no taxes, except for common schools and repairing the highways. The change from a town to a plantation form of government will be a profitable investment for the Sawyers and Roberts who dwell in Mattamiscontis.

RELIC OF THE CIVIL WAR. Gen. Grant's Battle Flag Is Now Owned by the State of Massachusetts.

Washington.—A battle-worn and faded American flag, that during the civil war flew from the staff at the headquarters of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, was hung in the senate chamber at the statehouse. The banner was presented by Gen. Grant to Col. Amos Webster, of Massachusetts, a member of the famous commander's staff, who was with the general during his campaign in the vicinity of Richmond, and who, when with the confederate general, Robert E. Lee, surrendered at Appomattox.

The flag was presented to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through Capt. John G. B. Adams, a former sergeant-at-arms of the state house. It measures 16 by 16 feet. The relic is placed on the south wall of the senate chamber, directly opposite President Dana's desk, between two firearms that were in service during the revolution.

WORLD IN INDIAN TERRITORY. Choctaw Indian Discovers Precious Metal on His Land Allotment in Mountains.

Enid, O. T.—Joe Brackney, a Choctaw Indian, claims to have discovered gold in the Jack Fork mountains, in the Cherokee nation, and has an assay which shows that the ore will run \$125 to the ton.

Brackney has taken his allotment in the mountains where the discovery was made but refuses to reveal the location of the find until he has gotten his certificate of allotment and the nine months' contest period has elapsed, preventing anyone from contesting his claim.

For a long time Indians have claimed that there was gold in these mountains. Brackney says that his grandfather once found gold there, and several valuable nuggets appeared at different times at the trading points in that section, but the place from which they came was never located. Mr. Brackney claims to have found the place. He ran across it while hunting.

An Old Offender. There's nothing new under the sun, asserts the Utica Press. The theory that mosquitoes transmit disease is not a recent development, as many suppose. At a late meeting of the Asiatic Society, in Cayton, Sir Henry A. Blake, governor of the island, announced that Chinese medical books of the sixth century described 67 varieties of mosquitoes, and 424 kinds of malarial fever caused by mosquitoes.

RIVAL OF HELEN KELLER.

Ella Hopkins, of Utica, N. Y., Developing What Seems to Be Sixth Sense.

New York.—In the institution for the instruction of the deaf and dumb here there is a girl not quite 17, of whom Principal Knocch H. Currier says: "With her mentality, and allowing that she will continue to improve as she has done in the past, there is no reason to doubt that she will in time arrive at as high a state of development as Helen Keller. I mean as Helen Keller really is, not as the highly imaginative newspaper reports have represented her."

This girl is Ella M. Hopkins, of Utica, N. Y., a child in appearance, and great expressive eyes that look steadily at you that it is almost impossible to realize that the light has been forever blotted out of them.

In writing of this remarkable girl, it is difficult to keep within bounds that will not offend the principal and instructors of the institution. Sensational articles on the accomplishments of Helen Keller and other celebrated persons who are lacking in some of the senses have made them hesitate about telling things that daily come under their observation.

Wonderful as some of them must seem to the lay mind, to the men and women whose whole lives are devoted to the scientific development of lost powers or the development of a power to take the place of one that never existed the accomplishments of their pupils are merely so many steps toward a goal. They themselves have no absolute knowledge of what the limit of this development may be.

BIBLE UPHOLDS DIVORCE. Chicago University Professor Says There Is No Prohibition Contained in Scriptures.

Chicago.—There is no positive Biblical prohibition against divorce, according to Dr. Clyde W. Voigt, professor of theology at the University of Chicago. In a lecture to the divinity students recently he said that, by implication, at least, the teachings of Christ sanctioned divorce. The permanent union of man and woman in marriage is the ideal condition, but the Bible does not state that nothing but this ideal is acceptable, he argued.

"Divorce," said he, "was a subject of discussion in Jesus' day. There were two rabbinical schools—one teaching that the only permissible excuse for divorce was infidelity, while the other school taught that any of many reasons were sufficient. Christ showed in His teachings that the permissions for divorce in the Old Testament were concessions to the low moral stage of the people, and that the Divine ideal of marriage was the inseparable union of man and woman. The fact seems to be that Jesus in His teachings concerning marriage is dealing with the principle and ideal of marriage, rather than enacting a legal statute regarding it."

"How far in actual ecclesiastical and civil legislation the ideal can be practically formulated is left for the decision of those upon whom the administration of such matters devolved."

SMOKE BURNER A SUCCESS. At Last Dream of Clean Cities Is Within Reach of Immediate Realization.

London.—At a recent demonstration here it was proved conclusively that coal of the worst description can be burned in an ordinary boiler, with practically no smoke, and with a considerable saving in cost.

Damp coal dust, costing 11 shillings per ton delivered, was shoveled repeatedly into the furnace. The sole result was a light gray cloud at the top of the chimney stack, which cleared away in a few seconds.

A coke fire was burning in a pall in the factory yard. A handful of the same coal dust, placed on this fire, produced considerably more smoke than came from the stack.

The smoke abolition invention consists of a screen of tubular fire bricks, made of special material, built up in the furnace in such a position that all the products of the fire pass through the screen. The latter quickly becomes incandescent and flashes the gases as they pass through, thus preventing the formation of carbon.

The chairman of the syndicate, under whose auspices the tests were given, considers that the invention will be applicable to ordinary household fires, although experiments in this connection have not yet been perfected.

"It is my aim," he said, "to make London and all other cities absolutely smokeless, and so to banish fog."

Wedded in Overalls and Boots. A "dare" on the part of friends sent John Kogler, of West Hazleton, Pa., to his wedding clothed in felt boots, overalls, cap, corduroy coat, and blue nightrise shirt, while his bride, Miss Ida Steinhilber, wore a street dress and a shawl over her head and shoulders. The wedding took place in the Trinity Lutheran parsonage, this city. Rev. John Wagner officiating. The groom, who is a tinmith, worked all day, and when he came home late in the evening the friends "jollied" the pair, saying: "It's too cold to dress up; go in your working clothes," and they did.

Are Apt Pupils. There is an interesting story of how Bluecloud, a full-blooded Sioux chief who recently married a white woman, spends his days in the billiard rooms and clubs, leaving his bride alone in her tent. Still, remarks the Washington Post, some claim that the Indian is slow to adopt the customs of the white man.

NEW WAY TO LOCATE OIL.

Sioux Falls, S. D., Man Claims Pains in the Stomach Tell Him When Wealth Is Near.

Barbourville, Ky.—The locating of oil and mineral substances beneath the surface of the earth through the medium of a peach tree has long been given credence by some people, and investments are still occasionally made on the strength of such "fads." A genius now comes forward with a new method for locating subterranean treasures, which has all others beaten to a frazzle.

Some weeks ago a man named Jackson arrived in the lower Kentucky oil fields from Sioux Falls, S. D., claiming to be able to locate veins of oil and minerals beneath the surface of the earth through the medium of pains in his stomach. He prospects by walking over the ground, and claims to tell by the different pains which he suffers the extent and depth of the deposits. Arriving in this section a few days ago, he succeeded in getting some local operators interested, who concluded to give him a test. He was blindfolded and placed in a wagon, and, accompanied by the operators, was driven to the Richland oil fields. Approaching a development that furnished several hundred barrel strikes last year, Jackson was taken out of the wagon, but upon touching earth immediately began to feel pains, and, taking a few steps fell down on the ground and began to roll around convulsively, giving every evidence of suffering great pain.

Other tests have been made of Jackson's magnetic powers, and he made several locations in territory outside the scope of regular development. On the strength of one of these locations a northern company has decided to drill a well, and machinery for this purpose will be installed immediately. Seventeen years ago Jackson was badly torn up in the wrecking of a steel foundry, and ever since that time has claimed the wonderful power.

KIDS OF FOUR YEARS ELOPE. Two Tots Are Leading Figures in an Attempted Matrimonial Venture.

St. Louis.—Paul Freid, three years old, and Mimma Ray, four both living here, ran away together recently, and the police believe they frustrated an elopement. The runaways were arrested by a central district policeman near the city hall, and the officer says it looked as if the little boy and girl, who were hurrying along hand in hand, were on their way to the marriage license office.

The girl had a lead pencil in her hand, which she had chewed almost up, and the boy had a small piece of leather. They refused to explain at police headquarters what their intentions were, probably because they could not talk plainly. Half an hour after their apprehension Mrs. Ella Freid, mother of the little boy, called at the Four Courts to take them home. After the police had failed to get any information from the pair they were sent to the office of the police matron, and on the way to the fourth floor of the building the smallest of the tots assaulted the officer and resisted arrest. Policeman Richard Ward, who weighs more than 200 pounds, picked the two children up together, and the boy promptly kicked him in the stomach.

IMMUNE FROM SEASICKNESS. Discovery Is Made That Deaf Mutes Are Proof Against the Salt-water Malady.

Boston.—"Strange thing, but do you know that deaf persons can never get seasick?" said an old surgeon in the employ of one of the transatlantic lines recently. "This was found out," he said, "when a whole class of deaf mutes went aboard some years ago, and despite a particularly rough passage none of them wanted to lie on the deck and beg somebody to leave them overboard."

"That's the seasick feeling, you know. A little investigation proved that the stomach nerves are mostly controlled by those of the ear, and that deaf persons are not nearly so liable to the nausea that comes from the rolling motion of a ship as are others."

"The experiment of saturating a ball of cotton with cocaine and thus dulling the hearing has been tried by ship surgeons since. It gives relief to those who dread any sort of sea voyage, but after all, the best way to do is to 'feed the fishes' and get over it."

World Becomes Lighter. A disturbed London gentleman has been writing to the press pointing out that millions of tons of coal are being taken out of the earth, and that, as the coal is burnt and only ashes, weighing much less than coal, left, it follows that the world is getting much lighter. He wants to know whether this may not in some way interfere with the working of the solar system, and he suggests that something ought to be done. The fact that he has written shows that he is in grim earnest. He suggests that there ought to be a royal commission to sit on the earth and to make further suggestions.

Workmen Turn Up Treasures. Some wood cutters in the forest near Klingnau, Germany, have turned up a treasure consisting of 825 French gold pieces of the seventeenth century. It is believed that the money was hidden after the battle of Blenheim by French soldiers in their flight. The battle took place in 1704, and the French were absolutely routed by the duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene.

BLESSING THE WATERS.

When the Czar of Russia and His People Hold an Impressive Meeting.

Midwinter in St. Petersburg each year sees a unique and solemn ceremony, called "the blessing of the waters." It was in the closing act of the ceremony that the recent attempt was made to assassinate the czar. A chapel of ice, richly decorated with ornaments from the palaces and churches and dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is erected on the frozen surface of the river Neva. The river is then called the Jordan and religious services are conducted in the temple by the metropolitan or high priest of the national church, attended by the emperor and all his court. The ceremony is in memory of the baptism of Christ, and is supposed to be a safeguard against dangers from floods, as well as to benefit those who make their living on the sea.

A hole is cut in the ice in the center of the floor of the chapel. From this the people are baptized by sprinkling by the priests, and the faithful members of the Greek church go in vast crowds to get their share, while religious devotees often plunge into the ice-cold flood through the hole. If they catch cold and die, as they often do, heaven is secured for them. On the evening before the ceremony, devout churchmen make crosses on their thresholds to prevent the evil spirits that are driven from the water from taking refuge in their houses.

Both a blessing and a curse to St. Petersburg is the river Neva. Upon its banks the most magnificent palaces are erected. The numerous islands are parks or pleasure grounds of the people and are filled with resorts that are thronged during both the winter and summer months. There is only one permanent bridge, the remainder being so constructed that they can be removed when the stream freezes over, as it usually does in November, when the teams and pedestrians pass over on the ice till April. The Jockey club holds its race meetings on the ice.

But when the spring thaws comes or when a strong northwesterly wind blows the water in from the sea several days in succession, there is great danger of flood, for the city is not more than four feet above the mean level of the river. When a flood is coming the inhabitants are warned by the firing of guns. Ice jams are removed by dynamite and the army is ordered out with axes. There is no way to prevent the floods that come with the winds.

SOME UNWORKED FIELDS. Treasures Undeveloped in Various Occupations for Inventor and Workman.

In spite of the enormous hoards made on this earth's great store of wealth, diamonds, all gas, coal, iron and other materials, recent investigations have brought to light the interesting fact that treasure fields containing fabulous wealth still remain intact, says the London Chronicle.

Investigations have proved, for instance, that huge areas of the floor of the Pacific are strewn thick with immense deposits of nodules of pure manganese. Invent a practical method of recovering it and the individual who does so will at once become rich beyond the dreams of avarice.

The most crying need to-day is a substitute for Para rubber. It is certain to be discovered sooner or later. Celluloid and oxidized linseed oil are useful for some purposes for which rubber is used, but for cycle and automobile tires real rubber is the only material with the necessary elasticity. The inventor of a substitute would soon become a multimillionaire.

Malleable glass was manufactured and used by the Romans nearly 2,000 years ago. But the secret has been lost. It seems odd that no one in this age of mechanical progress has been able to discover the method of manufacturing a tough and unbreakable glass. Whoever succeeds in doing so and making the discovery economically useful will reap a great reward.

Real photography in colors is still an open field and offers boundless opportunities for the inventor. In smaller matters, too, the list of wants unsupplied is endless. Jewelers, for instance, are still quite without any safe method of fixing pearls on jewelry, such as rings, where the gems are mounted without a surrounding setting.

Colors and Animals. Red will annoy a turkey cock as much as a bull, but a sparrow will not let it disturb his mind. But if one flirts a blue rag in front of a caged sparrow's eyes he will go frantic with disgust. Sparrows and linnets, too, will refuse food offered them on a piece of blue paper and dislike the appearance of anyone wearing a blue dress. Medium light blue affects them most and blue serge they scarcely mind at all. Thrushes and blackbirds object to yellow, but will use red or blue dried grasses left about their haunts to build the outer layers of their nests. Yellow grasses they will not use.—Nature.

Strengthening the Nerves. Self-control or nerve force is the great lesson of health, and, therefore, of life itself. To understand how to relax is to understand how to strengthen nerves. Laughter is a source of relaxation, as are also all high thoughts as those of hope, beauty, trust or love. Relaxation is found in diversion. An occasional outing or holiday is necessary.—Health Culture.

Fighting Octopus. An octopus, measuring 1 1/2 feet from tip to tip of its tentacles, attacked a diver in Cape Town harbor recently. Knives and hatchets had to be used to cut the tentacles of the monster away from the diver.

ILLINOIS MILEAGE GREATEST.

State Leads in Length of Railroads, Commission Reports—Year's Receipts \$133,092,165.

Springfield, Ill.—The railroad and warehouse commissioners sent their report to Gov. Deussen. It shows Illinois leads all other states in the total mileage of main tracks of steam railroads and that for the first time in many years there is not a steam railroad in Illinois in the hands of a receiver.

The total mileage of single main track in Illinois is 11,520, an increase of 300 miles in the last year. The total of main tracks, sidings, etc., is 19,021 miles, a gain of 510 miles over 1903.

Gross receipts for steam roads in Illinois in 1904 were \$133,092,165, an increase of \$8,652,447 over 1903. Operating expenses were \$92,163,681 in 1904, an increase of \$3,404,702 over 1903. The total number of passengers carried in 1904 was 53,148,198.

The number of persons employed by railroads in Illinois, including officers, was 105,790, an increase of 2,405 over 1903. A total of \$70,810,600 was paid them, an increase of \$7,135,795 over 1903.

Twenty-five passengers were killed in Illinois, and 462 were injured, employees killed, 326; injured, 2,300; others killed, 513; injured, 462. The commission believe an extension of the block signal system will reduce casualties among passengers, and a more rigid enforcement of laws regarding automatic couplers and other safety appliances will reduce accidents to employees. The total mileage of electric roads in Illinois is 586, an increase of 221 over 1903.

A KISS WITH EVERY MEAL. Paris Restaurant Adopts Unique Method of Drawing Patrons—Has Pretty Cashier.

London.—In many of the European cafes of the cheaper order it is the invariable custom to print the daily menu on the napkin provided for the guest, so that when the latter desires to study the bill of fare he has to raise his serviette from his knee in order to do so.

But perhaps the most extraordinary custom in connection with restaurant life is that which obtains in a certain little cafe in the suburbs of Paris, where every customer whose bill amounts to one shilling or over is entitled to receive a kiss from the very attractive young lady who acts as cashier to the establishment.

So used has the dame become to the osculatory routine that she goes through it without the slightest reluctance, looking upon it purely as a matter of business, and it is reported that the proprietor of the restaurant is more than satisfied with the result of his curious device for attracting patrons.

Another enterprising restaurateur has instituted the practice of making a present of a box of Havana cigars every New Year's day to those patrons who have been pretty regular in their attendance at his establishment during the preceding year.

OLD WOMAN IS "FLAGMAN." Widow of 67 Takes Place of Husband at Railroad Crossing in Adrian, Mich.

Adrian, Mich.—The young woman who lingers in the lap of luxury should come to Adrian and witness the work of the energetic Mrs. M. L. Karnes, who is "flagman" for the Detroit Southern railway in the heart of this city, where the tracks cross Maumee street. She is a perfect picture of the old-style mother; equal to all emergencies, and never lets trifles bother her.

Her husband died December 14 last, and for a year before that was sick, so the care of the household, besides the work of attending to the crossing, fell upon her. She never shirked, and so carefully was her work done that after his death the company gave the husband's position to the widow. There were about a dozen men who applied for the position, but the company preferred the woman.

She lives over the station, keeps track of the crossing, is handy about the office, and does the checking in and out of baggage. It keeps her pretty busy, but she has time to keep up her reading of the daily papers and can converse on almost any up-to-date subject from an intelligent standpoint. Although 67 years of age, she can read without glasses, but has to use them by lamp-light.

ASKS GOOD BOAR AND SOW. Request from Man Who Hears Uncle Sam Is Giving Away Hogs for a Couple.

Washington.—"I understand the department of agriculture is giving away Berkshire hogs," writes a constituent to Senator Berry, of Arkansas. "I wish you would step over there and pick out a good boar and sow and send them to me."

In the same mail the senator received a letter from a sweet singer of Arkansas who has just written two songs, one of them entitled: "Why, Oh Why?" and the other "Peace, Oh Peace." "Why, Oh Why?" was presented to the senator as a gift. "Submit Peace, Oh Peace," to the president," said the senator's correspondent. "If he approves it I will have it published and you can make ten per cent of the profits."

Grand Larceny. Some stolen hens recently created a sensation by laying in a courtroom. These were indeed hens worth stealing.

HOW THEY LOST HOMES.

Writer in Success Magazine Gives a List of Fallings That Make Men Poor.

Through the gambling instinct. They let their insurance run out. They bought things they did not need because they were cheap. They did not use good judgment or right proportion in their expenditures. They subscribed for everything they could pay for on the installment plan. Money enough went down in drink and up in smoke to have saved the home.

The father always intended to get his life insured, but died without doing so. They did not realize how easy it is to get into debt and how hard it is to get out.

They tried to do what others expected of them rather than what they, they could afford. They thought it small to insist on having an agreement or understanding put in writing. They could not say "No," and could not afford to tell their friends, "I cannot afford it."

Their sons thought they must "show their wild oats" as well as other "fellows of their set." The daughters thought it beneath them to work for a living, but were bound to dress well.

They drew their money out of the savings bank to put it into some "wild-cat" scheme, and lost it. They did not do business in a business way because they were dealing with relatives or friends. The doctrine, "Each man for himself and the devil take the hindmost," was, in effect, the family creed.

They never formed the habit of putting in the savings bank money which they did not immediately need. They did not know that giving full power of attorney to an agent or lawyer put their property at his mercy. They put off payments on everything possible because it would be so much easier to pay to-morrow than to-day.

They signed important papers without reading them or knowing their contents, just because they were asked to do so. The extravagance of children who had not been trained to economize or to take care of their pennies, swamped the home.

Through lack of honest ambition and a disposition to interpret too literally the text, "Take no thought for the morrow." The mania to make an appearance beyond their means caused them to mortgage their property and ended in bankruptcy.

They feared that the people with whom they had dealings would think them suspicious if they asked them for a receipt for money. When the shoe began to pinch, they "really did not see where they could retreat." Habit had made luxuries seem necessities.

They ran accounts at the stores instead of paying cash, did not realize how rapidly bills were running up and never knew how they stood. They entertained too expensively and a great deal more than they could afford because they wanted people to think they were in good circumstances.

The father thought that to go on a "spree" now and then was his prerogative as head of the family. After awhile he swilled himself of his "pre-rogative" once too often. They let money enough slip through their fingers to pay the mortgage several times over, but because the date of payment was so far away they thought there was no danger of losing their home.

Their efforts to force their daughters into the society of those above them, in the hope that they might make "brilliant matches," involved them hopelessly in debt. Infallible Stock Tipster. Then, indeed, the stock market with its frequent fluctuations was no thing of anxiety to bulls and bears. The rise and fall of shares had long been lifted out of the realm of hypothesis, goosebone prophecies and frenzied financiers. Speculators, properly equipped, could buy and sell with perfect confidence.

"How do we manage it?" said a Utopian broker smilingly. "Ah, it's exceedingly simple. Our firm employs an ex-weather observer to guess the stocks that will rise. Noting his selections, we turn around and buy all the stocks that he does not select. Simple, isn't it? The weather man is never right, and we transform his unreliability into good commercial wisdom."—N. Y. Sun.

Rich Dinner Service. What was probably the most elaborate and most expensive dinner party ever given in this country took place at the St. Regis hotel, in New York, the other night. It was given by a millionaire shoe man, in honor of his wife. About 50 guests were seated at a table arranged in the shape of a horseshoe. The service for the entire dinner was of solid gold and gold plate. Not a fork or a spoon, not a platter in use but was fashioned of the precious metal. Even the water goblets were of gold, and the wine and champagne glasses on solid gold stems and bases and were rimmed with the glittering metal. It was reported that the banquet cost \$50,000.

Air Killed the Song. Parke—What do you think of Springle's new song? Rowe—Oh, the words aren't so bad, but he must have found the air in the subway.—Judge.

Soup in Sacks. Travelers in eastern Siberia often carry soups in sacks. The soups are frozen solid, and keep for an indefinite time. Milk also is frozen, and sold by the pound.