

RURAL PLUTOCRATS.

Western Farmers Have Succumbed to the Oriental Rug Fever.

The increasing importance of the western farmer as a financial factor is shown by the fact that eastern bond houses have for sometime been endeavoring to place securities in his hands.

At several points enterprising men have made up from the personal-property tax record lists of farmers who have money and sold the names to bond houses.

A year of two ago the fact that the farmer was entering the automobile market was looked upon as astonishing. This year, says The Square Deal there isn't a town of more than a thousand persons in Nebraska that does not have from one to three garages where the machines are sold.

This year, however, the farmer is reaching out for a more distinctive hallmark of fortune—he is buying oriental rugs. The rug man in one of Lincoln's department stores has sold 12 consignments of oriental rugs to actual farmers—that is, men out on the farm—not a rug or two, but enough to fit out the parlor and sitting-room.

The farmer, wife and daughter went into the store one morning and asked to look at rugs. The old gentleman explained that his daughter had been at the State university for four years and had got the idea that the old home didn't look right with carpets, and as they had the money they were inclined to accept her advice.

They didn't just know how the rugs would look on the floors. The obliging salesman dumped them into several trunks, shipped them to the nearest station, and when he came back he had disposed of \$2,400 worth.

The Civic League.

Just now, when the new officers of the league need to be encouraged in their work for the coming year by the enrollment of a great number of new members, a large attendance at each meeting and by a willingness in all to help in any work which the league may undertake, these extracts taken from an editorial in the Delimitator seem especially written for the citizens of Bamberg. Let everyone read these extracts and they will surely see their duty towards their town and be enthused to new efforts in its behalf thereby.

"Isn't there some small thing that needs doing in your community, for the good of the public in general, for the good of civilization, which you might do or get others to help you do? Because to most of us 'our country' means the community in which we live. Our influence may scarcely extend to Washington, hardly to our State capital. But there is no one of brains and character who may not have influence in her own community.

"There are hundreds of thousands of women who have maids in the kitchen, whose children are no longer small, who have leisure. They may not think so, but they have. They have leisure aside from the evening hours when all are at leisure. There are thousands of such women who could give a few hours every week to work for the public good, with no trouble to themselves. Leisure is a thing which millions can never have; a thing which driven and hurried toilers gasp for throughout their lives. Does a leisure class owe nothing to a community which has given it this rich gift?

"Isn't there something in your community that needs doing? Something which will render it more civilized? Something which will increase the general health, intelligence and well-being? Is there a library in your town? If so, has it a children's room? Are your teachers decently paid? In some parts of the country a teacher's wages are those of a kitchen girl. That surely is not suitable. Is there a public bath in your town? Cleanliness is next to godliness, you know, and it is really very hard to keep clean without a bath tub. Have you a child-labor law, and is it enforced? Or are the children being put to work before they have got their growth or the pitiful modicum of education afforded by the elementary schools? Are there any children's playgrounds in your town? Boys are arrested, you know, and sent to jail, and started on a criminal career, just because they had no place but a crowded street to play in. Are the saloon laws in your town enforced—the laws for Sunday closing, for midnight closing, against selling to minors? Such laws exist in most places. Are they enforced? Half of all the trouble comes because they are open from midnight to morning.

"Do you know anything about any of these things? They are very much more important than Shakespeare or Browning or the Pre-Raphaelites, not to speak of chenille embroidery or bridge. Do you take any interest at all in this great, straggling, boiling melting-pot of the races, this America of ours, which was to mean so much to the world? If you do, crystallize that interest into action in some way. Don't let it remain merely sentiment.

"Good citizenship, like charity, ought to begin at home. But is there any reason why it should end there?"

Merchant Shot from Ambush.

Monticello, Dec. 3.—Mr. Launey Blair was shot near his store on his way home last night by unknown parties. Mr. Blair is a member of the Blair-Frazier Company, a large firm doing business at Blair, S. C. He is a very popular gentleman, and no doubt the miscreant had robbing in view. He was taken to the Columbia hospital last night. He is thought to be seriously wounded, and was shot with a shotgun.

BIG CHECKS ISSUED.

Dispensary Commission Paid Out \$147,874 to Whiskey Houses.

Chairman Murray, of the dispensary commission, last Thursday supervised the paying out of the last of the liquor claims allowed by the commission's recent judgments. The amount paid out was \$147,874.74, the largest amount being \$65,000 to Clark Bros., \$45,000 to Fleischmann and \$18,000 to the Schlitz beer people.

The only claim allowed remaining unpaid is that to the Big Springs Distilling company, which is suspended pending appeal. This was the only concern allowed anything which has appealed. The commission has left about \$450,000, which includes about \$50,000 "conscience money," half of which goes to the lawyers. Chairman Murray said that after all attorneys' fees are paid and all other expenses met, the commission would turn in to the State about \$320,000.

Most of the firms paid off were represented by the Hon. A. J. Carroll, formerly speaker of the Kentucky house of representatives, whose fees will be large and juicy. Mr. Carroll gave the commission much valuable assistance in the way of evidence.

List of Payments.

Other claims paid recently amount to \$71,633.69, bringing the total paid out up to \$219,508.16.

Table listing various companies and their payment amounts, such as Fleischmann Co. \$45,645.30, Schlitz Co. \$29.05, etc.

Fat Fees for Counsel.

The firms represented by Mr. Carroll alone were: Schlitz, Rosenack, Moyle Bros., Clark Bros., Green River Distilling company, Richards & Co. Messrs. Graham and Carroll represented Fleischmann, Mr. Dunbar represented Saunders & Sons company, the Hendersons, of Aiken, represented S. S. Pearce & Co., and Mitchell & Smith, of Charleston, represented Dickle & Co. None of the others were represented.

On the \$219,508.16 Mr. Felder's law firm in Atlanta gets 10 per cent., which, with commissions on claims previously paid out, will bring the firm's straight commissions up to about \$37,000. In addition to this the firm gets half of the conscience money and half of whatever can be recovered on the overjudgments amounting to over \$200,000. Attorney General Lyon, who has pursued the grafters, several times at the peril of his own life, since the appointment of the first investigating commission created under the resolution offered by Cole L. Bleasie, now a candidate for governor, gets his salary of \$1,900 a year and boards himself.

Has Fasted Nearly a Month.

Rome, Ga., Dec. 4.—Vowing that he will not allow food to pass his lips until Almighty God speaks to him and commands him to eat, William Tippen, a confectioner, and interested in several enterprises here, has fasted for 28 days. He has suffered from tuberculosis for several years, but believes that through faith and fasting he will be cured. His theory is that food simply furnishes fuel for the disease. Although his wife and friends beg him to eat he declares he will not do so until the voices of God commands him. He says he is not hungry and has no desire to eat for food and will await such time as God sees fit to restore his appetite. Tippen is very weak and unable to leave his bed and his death is daily expected.

Shoots White Partridge.

Aiken, Dec. 1.—What is believed to be the only white partridge ever seen anywhere hereabouts was killed this week by Louis Mills, near Montmorenci. No one here has ever heard of a white partridge anywhere, but that this is a genuine specimen there is no doubt whatever. The peculiar bird was killed from a covey of some 20 ordinary partridges.

It has but one feather that resembles partridge feathers—this is one wing. Otherwise, excepting two or three black feathers, it is snow white. The white partridge had been seen several times by hunters around Montmorenci, but none could get a shot at it. One day this week Mr. Mills saw the white one in the large covey of partridges, and chancing to have his gun, he kept his eye on the white one. Mr. Mills got a shot and killed it.

Reg Courtney now owns the bird, and he states that he intends having it mounted by a taxidermist.

The white partridge is perhaps a hybrid, although in every respect, except color, it is just like an ordinary partridge.

Shot While Duck Hunting.

Georgetown, Dec. 1.—A very deplorable accident occurred near this afternoon about 4 o'clock, resulting in a dangerous wound to Arthur F. Ward, son of Col. S. M. Ward.

Mr. Ward, in company with several other young men, was on the Santee river duck shooting. It appears from the statements of those who were with him that he was trying to draw a small canoe across the marshes. In some way the gun in the boat was discharged, the load penetrating the side of the boat, striking Mr. Ward in his leg just a few inches below the hip joint. Mr. Ward was brought back immediately by his companions and he is now resting very well at his home. Nothing can be learned tonight as to the condition of the wound, as the physicians have made no statements yet. It is thought, however, that the wound is very serious.

MOTLEY BACK HOME.

Defaulting Bank Cashier of Lake City Bank Returns.

Sheriff George J. Graham, of Williamsburg, passed through the city Thursday morning, having in charge young Daniel E. Motley, the Lake City bank defaulter, who was arrested in Camden, N. J., a few days ago.

The prisoner expressed his desire not to get off the train here, so he was not disturbed. The sheriff carried him on through to Kingstree, where he will be placed in jail to await further proceedings. Motley was arrested by a detective by the name of Smith who saw his picture in some of the detective magazines, and as soon as he was placed in custody in Camden, the Williamsburg authorities were notified.

It is stated that if young Motley had not run off and tried to keep out of the way of the authorities, probably some of his friends and relatives would have tried to fix up his shortage and keep him from having to suffer the consequences, but he did not seem to realize this when he jumped the game. It is said that there was not a young man in Lake City that bore the confidence and esteem of all the people of that town any more than he did. He was a bright, industrious young fellow, good-natured and kind, and as clever a fellow as you ever met. He was very popular in social circles and was connected with nearly all of the secret orders in the community. He is about 25 years old and unmarried.—Florence Times.

An Unusual Case.

McAlester, Okla., Nov. 27.—A case that is believed to be absolutely without parallel in medical or legal annals in this country has arisen here involving rival physicians in a little town in this county. The child of one of the physicians was dangerously ill of diphtheria, when the father telephoned to a physician in this city to rush a supply of antitoxin to him. The McAlester physician engaged a boy at a livery barn to drive the twenty-five miles with it. He reached the town about 1 o'clock in the morning and inquired at the physician's home to set up the remainder of the night and would take the medicine. The boy gave the man the antitoxin and returned home. The doctor's child died in a few hours. Later the father advised the physician who had sent the antitoxin that it never reached him. Coming to McAlester to investigate he found the boy, heard his story and took him home with him to point out the house where he gave the man the antitoxin. The boy led him to the house of the rival physician who was treating a case of diphtheria at the same time the other physician's child was dying of the disease. He saved his case. The physician who lost his child is preparing to bring a suit for damages against his rival. Learning of this the accused physician obtained warrants for the messenger boy, charging him with criminal carelessness and perjury.

Murray Case More Tangled.

Governor Ansel almost daily gets in more of a curious predicament about the petition for pardon of George W. Murray, the Sumter negro ex-congressman and former extensive landowner of that county. Petitions and counter petitions have come in from Sumter, both numerous signed, following complaint from that section that the governor hesitated about issuing requisition for Murray, who is and has been for several years in Chicago.

The petition sets forth that Murray was wrongfully convicted and then asks that he be pardoned on condition that he remain away from Sumter and the State.

Attorney Mason, of Chicago, the son of former United States Senator Mason, of Illinois, who represents Murray and who came here some time ago and settled up Murray's estate, opposes requisition, regardless of the showing that Murray was wrongfully convicted, and asks that the requisition be revoked or that Murray be pardoned either without conditions or with the condition that he remain away from the State, claiming that Murray does not wish to come back to South Carolina.

And now comes also Attorney Moise, of Sumter, who represented Murray at Sumter, asking that the governor revoke the requisition. A number of Sumter people who have visited Columbia recently, when asked about the Murray case, all agreed that it would not be desirable for Murray to come back to Sumter, that he is a disturbing element among the negroes. And on top of all this, his bondsmen refuse to stand for the expense of bringing Murray back to the State. They have paid the forfeit to the State, but it is understood that they were reimbursed out of Murray's estate and are satisfied. Whether he can force the county against the will to meet this expense is another side problem the governor has to consider in the case.

Contests in Congress.

Washington, Dec. 4.—A half dozen election districts in five States figure in the contests which will be treshed out early in the next session of the house of representatives. These contests notices of which have been received by the clerk of the house, will be laid before the committee, of which there are three in charge of such matters, probably Wednesday. Among those in the South that is the First district of Louisiana, where H. O. Warmoth is contesting the seat of Albert Estopinal.

Two South Carolina members are having their elections contested, George S. Legare in the First district and Asbury F. Lever in the Seventh. Mr. Legare's contestant is A. P. Prioleau, and Mr. Lever is being fought by R. H. Richardson. All three of these contests are based largely on legal technicalities. Claiming that the shifting of a county from the Fifth district of Virginia into another district was illegal and deprived him of sufficient ballots to change the result, J. M. Parsons is fighting for the seat of Congressman F. W. Sanders.

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