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### CAUSES OF RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.

| EITHER improving nor retrograding is the questionable condition of the country in regard to railroad accidents as shown by the latest bulletin issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission and covering the reports for the first three months of this year. If we ask whether to congratulate ourselves upon thus holding our own, or to regret that the experiences and opportunities of a whole year have not resulted in our being more careful and clever in avoiding those railroad disasters which are in the United States immensely more frequent than in Great Britain, there is nothing in the bulletin of accidents that makes reply.

The totals of the tables of fatalities, injuries and destruction of property are not much different from the reports covering the same quarter of last year. The latest report shows collisions and derailments for three months were 3108, or over 1000 per month. The property damage wss \$2,449,248. There were 909 people killed and 14,397 injured. Some of the worst of these accidents are in no way the fault of the railroad management, but resulted from defects of personality in the workmen which probably could not have been foreseen by their superiors except in a calculation on general averages, which could estimate the percentage of derelictions but could not name the particular individuals who were going to fail.

The report, then, seems mainly useful as a study of personalities of workers-their habits of mind which mislead them so as to cause grievous mistakes. A little consideration of the causes of these accidents would be not only a warning to employes who are intrusted with the care of many human lives besides their own, but by analogy might assist the minds of all workers to be more securely careful at their tasks.

Most of these personal causes of disasters have been often pondered upon, such as inattention, sleepiness from overfatigue, drunkenness, etc.; but the one which may most need a comment that will tend to fix it in the memory is the peculiar trick of the mind in getting an impression, or imagining it has got an impression, when there is no real reason or excuse for this impression. In the case of one collision the surviving engineman of the disaster had "got an impression" in his mind that the meeting order specified another station five miles beyond the place where the colliding meeting took place

He had not come by this impression in any rightful way, and could not even explain it himself. It was allowed to intrude into his head in some irregular way. The result of that baseless impression was four dead, six injured and over \$15,000 damages. It is plain from this that the attention involving large responsibility requires a double mental effort of not only heeding the impressions on which we are to act but of remembering back to the authority for the impression. This may not be always possible, but, like other habits of mind, is probably susceptible to improvement by cultivation.

In many instances it might be a practical rule of thought and be christened by Miss Anna Hoch, conduct when recollection failed to distinguish clearly what was the daughter of Governor Hoch of Kansas. base or authority of the impression to seek promptly for some bet-ter reason for action than a vague impression of unrevealed par-entage.

The most gratifying feature of the report is that only one of the accidents was caused by drunkenness. As long as men will stay sober so that intelligence can reign the other defects of personality are likely to be mastered, and the country is certainly improving in the insistence that its workers must not get under the influence of prospective brother-in-law, aged 5, he spoke of our 'children's children.'" are likely to be mastered, and the country is certainly improving in liquor.

#### TWELVE CENT COTTON.

the Wall street speculators pay 12 cents for cotton or be said: "Ethel, what would you do if I THE cotton growers, well organized, have determined to make squeezed out. The season's crop is estimated at 9,000,000 bales. The foreign demand is heavy, the old crop is nearly ex- have to spank myself. hausted, and it looks as though the growers are "it," provided they can hold on long enough. While everybody will rejoice to see "Mamma," said small Elmer, "I've been a good boy to-day, haven't I?" "Yes, dear," replied his mother, "and can hold on long enough. While everybody will espected the producer get what is coming to him, it must not be forgotten that when he holds beyond the marketable stage of his crop he becomes himself a speculator in prices.

for a raise increases the energy of such cotton manufacturing coun-tries as England and Germany in developing new cotton raising developing new cotton raising developing and contract of the market is it?" Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 30 Cali-fornia street. Telephone Main 1042. From another standpoint, holding the crop out of the market is it? districts, in order to release them from dependence on American raw cotton. England has been making great exertions in Egypt and India to produce cotton, and it is possible that new fields may be found in the Congo basin and other parts of Africa. So far, it has seemed that our Southern States have almost a monopoly of the physical conditions best adapted to the production of cotton. But the cotton growers may well answer that the cotton lands may be switched to other forms of production. This is true, but it may be doubted that any other crop will be found as profitable. Formerly it was supposed that Louisiana, the first part of the South that was exploited in agriculture, could only produce indigo, and the French planters found that a very profitable crop, until some disease or insect enemy beset the indigo and its production became impossible, and Louisiana switched to sugar cane, of which she has remained the principal American producer. But, after us the deluge, and the fight between the planters and the speculators will be watched with keen interest, and the sympathy, if not the betting, will be on the side of the planters. It is not generally remembered but it is a fact that California has been proved to have as good cotton lands as those of the Gulf States. The fiber was once grown quite extensively in Kern County and the cotton mills in Oakland found it to be a fine product, with good staple and gloss, capable of being worked into as good fabric as any grown anywhere.





THE United States battleship the Philadelphia Inquirer.

THE United States battleship the Philadelphia Inquirer. Although Kansas, to be launched at the she is only just past her majority she is close to her father in all of his ad-ministrative duties and it is said that he consults her almost daily. The po-litical leaders in Kansas have not been ever glided into the Delaware and will be christened by Miss Anna Hoch, daughter of Governor Hoch of Kansas, daughter's opinion, and many of them

# .: OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES .:

"will you be sorry when I marry your sister?"

Ethel's mother was very ill, and, callwill you have left?"

should die?" "Oh," answered Ethel, "I s'pose I'd

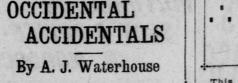
about saying my prayers to-night,

Teacher-Now, Tommy, if I give you five apples and you eat two how many

Tommy (aged 6)-Five. you would have only three left, wouldn't

Tommy-No. ma'am: I'd have fivethree outside and two inside

Townsend's California Glace Fruits, in



UMAN nature's human nature, and

it's queer, Which is easy, quite, of demon-stration here. So I'll cite a case or two,

Just to prove the fact to you, Though I will not change your habits, never fear.

He dropped a little nickel in the slot, And its rattle as it fell was what he

got, That and fun;

So he dropped some ten or twenty, Having fun, of course, in plenty, But cigars to bring content, he Hadn't one.

he thought ne'd lost a nickel (there

you are!) So he loudly yelled, "Conductor, stop the car!"

the car: (Wouldn't you?) Then he hunted on the ground, In his perspiration drowned, While a crowd assembled round---

We all do.

He gave a little dinner to a friend, And it cost him thirty ducats in the end:

Yes it did. But he didn't mind the cash,

Said he'd made a stunning mash-Were you he would conscience lash? Heaven forbid!

He meant to give a quarter to the

Lord, Which he hoped the blessed angel would record (There you are!)

But he dropped a gold piece then, Saw too late it was a ten. And he never smiled again-

Don't it jar? Human nature's human nature, so I

guess, And its kinks are far from easy to ex-

press, And if you the fact deny, Well, it's up to you, for I— Whatsoe'er the allegation—I confess.

THE FORCE OF HABIT. C HAUFFEUR DEATH had got out of his automobile and was about to carry the lately released soul to

the Highest Court of Appeals. The lately released soul stood in

the automobile for a scant moment, and then suddenly and wildly made a convulsive grasp at the empty space

above its ethereal head. "Here!" the great chauffeur cried, 'What are you doing?"

The soul looked vaguely about grasped the situation and gasped, "I-

-er-well-excuse me." The soul stood quietly for a very brief period; then a dazed expression stole over its phantom countenance, and it again madly clutched • at the

ether above it. "Say, stop that, can't you?" chauffeur cried. "You make me the nervous. What are you trying to do, anyway

"I-I-well, to state the fact, I have been in the habit of riding home from the office on a street car, and I can't get over the feeling that I ought to

grab a strap." The great chauffeur smiled pityingly, "Well, do the best you can," he said. "Nobody has to hang to straps on this side of the river."

The lately released soul sighed, but the sigh was one of ineffable content. "Drive on," it said; "drive on where you will. Wherever you take me it is evident that there will be at least one



This will be a day of brides. Three, Pearl Sabin and Captain A. W. Bjornsted Of the many early fall weddings this will be one of the most important and prob-ably brilliant, although the full details will plight their troths. At noon the nuptial vows will be

At noon the huptal tows and Al-spoken by Miss Mabel Handy and Al-bert Mau in Trinity Chapel, the Rev. Mr. Hulme reading. The ceremony will be very quiet and the bride will wear Wiss Therese Miss Therese be very quiet and the bride will wear her going-away gown. Miss Therese still sojourning at the Sabin country Thompson will be maid of honor, wearhome at Mountain View. ing a simple street suit of white, while Captain and Mrs. Robert Franklin

ing a simple street suit of white, white the groom will be attended by his brother, Arthur H. C. Mau. At 6:30 the mafriage service will be performed between Miss May Belle Greenebaum and Herbert Fleishbacker. This will be a home wedding, to which are bidden 150 guests. Miss Helen Newstat and Losenb Greenebaum are

Secretary Victor H. Metcalf was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Prather on a recent automobile run to Monte-Neustedt and Joseph Greenebaum are to be the attendants. Across the continent, wedding bells rey. will ring for Miss Ethyl Gray and Dr. David James Graham of Scotland, the ceremony to take place in the Waldorf-Miss Ada Lewis, who has been the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Wil-liams at their country place on the McCloud, left last Monday for the East

Astoria. . Mr. and Mrs. John Jacob Apple (Ella with Miss Blanche Bates. McCloskey) will be the guests of honor this evening at a dinner given by Lieutenant and Mrs. Bidwill at their Mr. and Mrs. William Denman are at home after several weeks spent at Lake Tahoe.

Sacramento street home. The Holluschuckie Club gave a dinner last evening in the clubrooms on Sutter street. Several young matrons and maids of the smart set were guests at the Are the sing composed of the lead-ing benedicts and bachelors of soclety. Mrs. Frederic Spencer Palmer was hostess at an informal bridge party a few days ago, three tables being occu-ned by very enthusiastic players, who

Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Watkins of Sausa-lito are planning to spend the winter in San Francisco and are looking for a house. Miss Mabel Watkins will be very heartily welcomed, for she has spent most of her time in travel ever since making her debut.

pled by very enthusiastic players, who spent a delightful afternoon. Miss Beatrice Kidder will be married Miss Beatrice Kidder will be married to Howard Ridgley Ward of New York City on September 20, the ceremony to take place in Grass Valley at the home of the bride's mother. Mrs. Dixwell Hewitt is a guest at the country home of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Collier at Clear Lake. Mrs. Squire Varrick Mooney is at home

October 3 will see the marriage of Miss after a summer spent at Monterey

## SOME HINTS TO NAVY DEPARTMENT Disaster Like That on Bennington Could Not Have Occurred on Any Merchant Steamer.

HE deplorable disaster on the United States warship Bennington could not have occurred on any merchant steamer; it would not have occurred

steamer, it would not have overrow had the navy system in regard to the care and operation of ships' machinery been half as good as that which obtains in any merchant service; it would not have been conceivable had a similar syshave been conceivable had a similar sys-tem in regard to engineers in charge on naval ships been in force as is maintained in every merchant line. It may be furth-er remarked that had the condition of the Bennington's boilers, as reported, been known to exist on any merchant steamer no crew could have been got to stay on board of her, says the American Syren

and Shipping. It is certainly extraordinary that a Government which imposes all sorts of stringent inspection requirements upon merchant vessels does not in its depart-ment of the navy exact similar efficiency. One not infrequently hears of a merchant institutions in order to maintain their steamer putting back to port when a day class whereas the navy is a law or so out because some flaw here here here to be the structure of the navy is a law or the structure of the or so out because some flaw has been discovered in the engines or machinery and repairs have become necessary to insure arfatty but come necessary to insure are necessary to insure arfatty but come necessary to insure are nec and repairs have become necessary to insure safety, but one never hears in this generation of a boiler explosion. It will also which are most efficiently managed are likewise most economically managed, both in regard to machinery and men; the ers that are sixteen, eighteen or tweet. 

It seems possible that through careless-ness a sudden force from other boilers was turned into this weak one, thus caus-ing the disaster, but this should not have been the case with skilled men in charge. ness sets in. It is also possible that the boilers may not have been as clean as they might be, and shortness of water might likewise have occurred. Whatever may have been the cause, however, is practically immaterial now.

McMillan have been guests for several

days at a house party given by Mrs. Silas Falmer at her summer home at

. . .

Mrs. R. P. Schwerin will spend the rest of the summer at her Burlingame home,

fust returned from a month's

Menlo Park.

having

visit to Portland.

making her debut.

Secretary Bonaparte will find that in merchant steamers engines and boilers

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he spoke of our 'children's children.' "What, dear?" asked her mother. "Dolls," answered Florence.-Phila ster?" "Dolls," answered Florence.-Phila-"Yes," answered the little fellow; delphia Record. "I'll be sorry for you."

It is not impossible that we may yet see a large cotton production in the San Joaquin Valley and profitable hemp or ramie farm-ing in the Sacramento Valley. The tendency here is to increase the variety of our crops, to carry all our eggs in one basket less than we have been doing, and clothing and rope fiber is every year in greater demand.

#### THE PRESS OF THE NATION.

Rev. Harvey Wood tells Ocean Grove that drunkenness among the women of America has increased 50 per cent within a few years. When Mr. Wood is less busy with unprovable assertions he should study the direful growth of intemperance in utterance among agitators of a certain class .--New York World.

In Baltimore a negro was fined \$50 for beating a mule, while a white man who beat his wife was set free. Now you can figure on whether this is race antipathy. Southern chivalry or a native love for the great American mule .-- Cleveland Leader.

Attorney General Moody says the beef trust magnates are to be presumed innocent until proved guilty, so we will have to keep on paying porterhouse prices for chuck steak .-- Washington Star.

The shipping trust lost \$3,000,000 last year, which is one of the best reasons it can find for getting a subsidy from the national treasury .- Rochester Herald.

Any fortune-teller ,properly approached will warn M. de Witte to beware of a little dark man who is looking for a bundle .-- Washington Post.

Major MacBride avers that Maud Gonne is insane. He might submit the fact that she married him as corroborative evidence .-- Chicago News.

Theodore Roosevelt never stood higher than when he stooped to let a crippled child touch his face .-- Chicago Post.



#### REDINGOTE COSTUME IN TOILE BRODEE.

HE redingote is built somewhat upon the bolero order for the top, the vest embroidered to match, and a little creat threaded through the collar. The fit of the body portion is close and the belt of linen is drawn through a handsome pearl buckle at the waist. The skirts are shirred closely to the band, falling in full folds almost to the ankle, where the single flounce that trims the skirt appears en suite with the coat. The sleeve is a single puff, with a double ruffie of embroidery ex-tending below the other. tending below the elbow

ergy and skill are directed, does it not?

#### WORST OF TROUBLES.

HAVE had my share of troubles As I've marched adown the line, And I've worried much about them, For I couldn't help repine. The troubles great, the troubles small, The ones of medium size-Whene'er I thought about them all, I wiped my weeping eyes. But the trouble of all troubles Of the dreary host I've met here, Was the cruel, cruel trouble-The one that didn't get here.

Most other folks are much like me, Or so I dare opine; Their troubles and their worries Meet them in a dreary line; They take their troubles to their beds, And woo and pet them there, While they're frequently remarking "They are very hard to bear!" But still with them, as 'tis with me, One trouble brings regrets here Beyond all others that we meet-The one that never gets here.

"Is the fellow poor?" "Poor! That is no name for it! Why, 

"Does James Jambs drink to excess?" "Well, I shouldn't want to say that exactly. Binks told the fellows up at the club that he had seen him sober several times recently."

"Oh, well, probably Jambs is all right." "Y-e-es; but Binks was expelled from the club for willfully maligning his repu-

Anxious Inquirer-Do you think it possible, Mr. Lawson, that any good could come out of Frenzled Finance? Mr. Lawson of Boston-Well-er-mod-esty, you know-but I-ah-I sort of came out of it myself

#### WE all know various people THE LISTENER.

Whom we like, or more or less, For divers pleasant attributes, Say, grace, or helpfulness; But the one we like the best of all To meet or have about Is he who listens to our "blow" And doesn't breathe a doubt.

M ANY a man is in the penitentiary today. my boy, who-well, probably he deserves to be there, but it is

impossible to avoid a lurking feeling that his parents ought to be in his place. When people permit their children to grow up about as they will, with the street corners for their principal school and vice as their educator, the law may not recognize their grim responsibility for whatever may result, but it is theirs, nevertheless. The gallows trap has swung for many a man whose father or mother, or both, should have stood by his side.

OH, WHAT A DIFFERENCE! ITTLE drops of water, Bigger drops of rye, Little crowd of fellows To help the moments fly; Little nights of pleasure, Little songs you bawl; But, oh, your head next morning! It isn't near so small. the Bennington to practical marine engi-neers and official inspectors in this city that they at first refused to believe it, imagining that a magazine of ammuni-tion had more likely exploded. An ex-planation that the safety valve might have stuck seems almost incredible in these days, though results a magazine of any auxiliary force carried for fighting purposes. Until we cannot be said to possess a satis-factory and reliable new these days, though possible a generation factory and reliable navy.

