

REPORT OF FIRE DEPT.

To the Chief and Members of the Fire Department:

Gentlemen—This department has just passed one of its most useful as well as successful years since its organization. "Useful" because during the year 1897 there occurred ten fires in the limits of our city, some of them quite serious. This department responded to and extinguished eight of these conflagrations, and as no alarm was turned in for the other two, the department did not respond, not knowing anything about them. "Successful" because of its financial condition, having given two of the best dances of the year, at which quite a sum of money was realized; for instance, our last dance, at which we took in, one hundred and twenty two dollars, with only fifty-two and nineteen cents expenses, which leaves a total of sixty-nine dollars and eighty-one cents clear profit. We have lost, during the year, eight members, and have also enlisted eight new members. The members lost were, through resignation two, and dismissal six. The department now consists of twenty-six members all told.

The apparatus and equipment of this department now consists of the following named articles: two hose carts, each of which carries five hundred feet of hose, one nozzle, one axe, dragrope, ladder and hose wrenches. One hook and ladder truck with one extension ladder forty-five feet long, one twenty-four foot ladder, one twenty-two foot long, one twenty-foot one sixteen foot, also two roof ladders, one fourteen feet long and one twelve feet, six pike poles, one pull down hook with chain and rope complete, two axes, one crow bar, and two lanterns. Hose in service, one thousand feet of two and one-half inch cotton hose in good condition, on carts, three hundred feet of two and one-half inch cotton hose in good condition, in reserve, making a total of one thousand three hundred feet of hose available. The department also has twenty-five rubber cuts, twenty-five service helmets, twenty-five belts, and twenty-four pair of rubber boots; the latter were bought by the members of the department. All of the above named articles are in good condition.

During the year the department received a total of \$199.10. Total expenditures were \$133.70. Balance on hand \$65.40.

ANDREW BOCK, Chief.
JOSEPH J. FROMM, Secy.
Highland Park, Jan. 14, 1898.

LOCAL ITEMS.

Bethany Church has sold the lot east of their church to William Tillman, whose home it adjoins, for \$700.

Three children of a Mr. Whalen, of Highwood, have developed scarlet fever. Dr. Wescott has the case in hand and notified the county authorities this afternoon.

Next Sunday morning at the Baptist church Mr. Vines, the pastor, will speak on "The Light of the World." His evening subject will be "Shut In, Shut Out."

James Bowden, jr., while playing with his older brother George, last Friday, received a playful kick which broke his shoulder blade. Dr. Bergen set it, and the boy is now doing well.

The Ossoli Club meets next week Thursday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. The paper will be by Mrs. Elizabeth H. Bowen, principal of the grammar school, on "Political Equality," as we understand it, and it will be a paper worth hearing. About an hour before the Club meeting the class in Parliamentary Law will meet for its first lesson. We emphasize the importance of this class and its work, for it is intensely practical.

Filmore Evans, has been collecting taxes at Evans Bro's store for a week, and so far he has not been obliged to keep an extra policeman on the premises to maintain order in the crowds who rush in daily to pay up.

The "Day for Prayer for Colleges and Schools" was observed Thursday in the Military Academy. Col. Davidson arranged a special service for the cadets, at which Dr. Jesse W. Brooks of the Irving Park Church, Chicago, gave an address.

It has been authoritatively announced that the Evanston division of the C. M. & St. P. road will use electricity instead of steam as a motive power. The power will be furnished by the North and West side street railroad companies. The North Shore Suburban.

ALL OXEN LOOKED ALIKE TO HIM

Reason Why a Lawyer Couldn't Tell One Animal from Another.

An ambitious young lawyer paid his first visit to a country court holding its session not very far from New Orleans not long since, reports the New Orleans Times-Democrat. He went to represent a big railroad in a suit brought by a countryman to recover the value of an ox, which departed this life in a vain attempt to hold up the limited mail. The question before the court was one of identification, and the countryman had testified that he knew the ox by his color and the flesh marks. The young city lawyer rose and with dignity said: "If your honor, please, there can be no question that this witness has sworn falsely when he testified that an ox can be recognized by his color. I was a stenographer before I became a lawyer, and for two days, your honor (drawing out his notebook), I have taken a detailed description of every ox that passed the hotel, and I am prepared to swear as an expert that all oxen look alike to me."

"You are trifling with the dignity of this court, sir," sternly said the judge, "and I will fine—"

"Hold on, judge," said the clerk; "there hasn't been but one yoke of oxen in this town in a week. Old man Henley's been a-haulin' wood, and the lawyer's been counting the same oxen over and over."

"Judgment for plaintiff," said the judge, and the city lawyer, glad to escape the wrath of his honor, took his departure, a sadder but wiser man.

LOVED HIS LITTLE MISTRESS.

The Dog Gave His Life to Protect Her from Wolves.

One day recently Ranchman Sam Dodge, who lives near Caney, Kan., in the Osage country, went to Vinita on business, and shortly after he had gone Bessie, his five-year-old daughter, wandered away from home in an attempt to follow him. Mrs. Dodge discovered her absence about two hours after her departure. She made a thorough search of the premises, and, failing to find the child, notified the neighbors of her disappearance. They turned out in force, and scoured the prairies all that day and all that night, and all the next day, searching for the little wanderer, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

At last an Indian came upon her lying fast asleep just south of Post Oak creek, in an old road known as the "Whisky trail." Across her body stood a Newfoundland dog, which had always been her companion about the ranch. The dog was torn and bleeding, and near his feet lay the dead bodies of two wolves. Although her cheeks were stained with tears and covered with dust Bessie was unharmed. She and her protector were taken back to her home, a distance of 12 miles from where they were found, where the dog died of his wounds that night. He was given a decent burial, and Sam Dodge has ordered a marble monument, which will be placed at the head of the faithful animal's grave.

The Only English Thing.

The American frigate Constitution was a beautiful ship, and wherever she went excited the most favorable comment. After the war of 1812 she was visited by an English officer of high rank, who, after making an inspection, said: "This is one of the finest frigates I ever saw, if not the finest; but I must say that her wheel is clumsy and ugly, and unworthy of the vessel." The Yankee captain replied: "Sir, that wheel is the only English thing in the ship. During her action with the Java her own wheel was knocked to pieces by a shot. After the Java was captured we took her wheel and fitted it to the Constitution, and, although we think it as ugly as you do, we have kept it as a trophy."

Injury to River Gods.

A primitive notion existed among the Romans and other races that a bridge was an offense and injury to the river god, as it saved people from being drowned while fording or swimming across, and robbed the deity of a certain number of victims which were his due.

BABY'S SHOE AS A BANK.

It Helped the Bright Newsboy to Do a Big Business.

The newsboy at the corner of Madison and State streets was doing a rushing business, and a boy from a rival stand who had been called on to help make change expressed his surprise, says the Chicago Times-Herald.

"Wot's de rush?" he asked. "Dere ain't no extras out, and no newes more dan common—wot's struck yees?"

"Dat," said the champion of the street, pointing to a baby's boot that stood upright on his stock of papers and was full of change. "I found dat in de street—see!"

"Hully gee! Wot luck!"

"Dat shoe sold all me paypers, Joe, like hot cakes. An' de blokes and de ladies offer to buy it for big money. But I ain't a-sellin' kid's shoes—I ain't."

Joe drew near and asked confidentially:

"Say, Jim, did yer swipe it?"

"Not on yer life," said Jim, indignantly. "I didn't have to. Dere it lay in de middle of de street, jest a-askin' to be picked up outen de mud, an' I bring it along an' it got filled rite up wid chink, an' as fast as it gets full I empties it. Mind dis—dat kid wot wore de shoe was in a real karridge an' had a nuss to kerry it."

"Sure pop?" asked Joe.

"Sure pop. It hed been worn, but were as fresh as a daisy. An' it's as fine as silk. Pa-p-y-r, a-l a-b-o-u-t de—"

The novelty of the baby's shoe bank attracted a crowd and the young merchant did a prosperous business for the rest of the day.

GEOGRAPHY IN CHINA.

Men with Three Faces, Dwarfs, Fishermen and Men Without Necks.

Dr. Lockhart, a member of the medical academy of London, has received as a gift for the library of the association a series of volumes relating to China, sent him by an English missionary, Rev. C. C. Spaham, of Hankow.

Among these volumes, says the Chronicle Universelle, he has discovered a Chinese geography extremely curious and valuable. This book has for its title "Sha-Hai-Sing" (mountains and seas).

The author gives a strange description of the people living in other parts of the globe. He says they are divided into four distinct classes. The first includes men possessing three faces; the second consists exclusively of dwarfs; the third of hybrids, partly men, partly fish; the last division, the most curious of all, of men who have no neck. The head is placed directly on the trunk, the face turned on the upper side.

When they wish to travel they force down their mouth a stick which, without encountering any obstacle, passes entirely through them, and in this way their servants carry them on their backs, taking them from place to place like living palanquins.

VARIETIES OF MUSHROOMS.

Mycophagists Have Tested 300 Species and Found All Harmless.

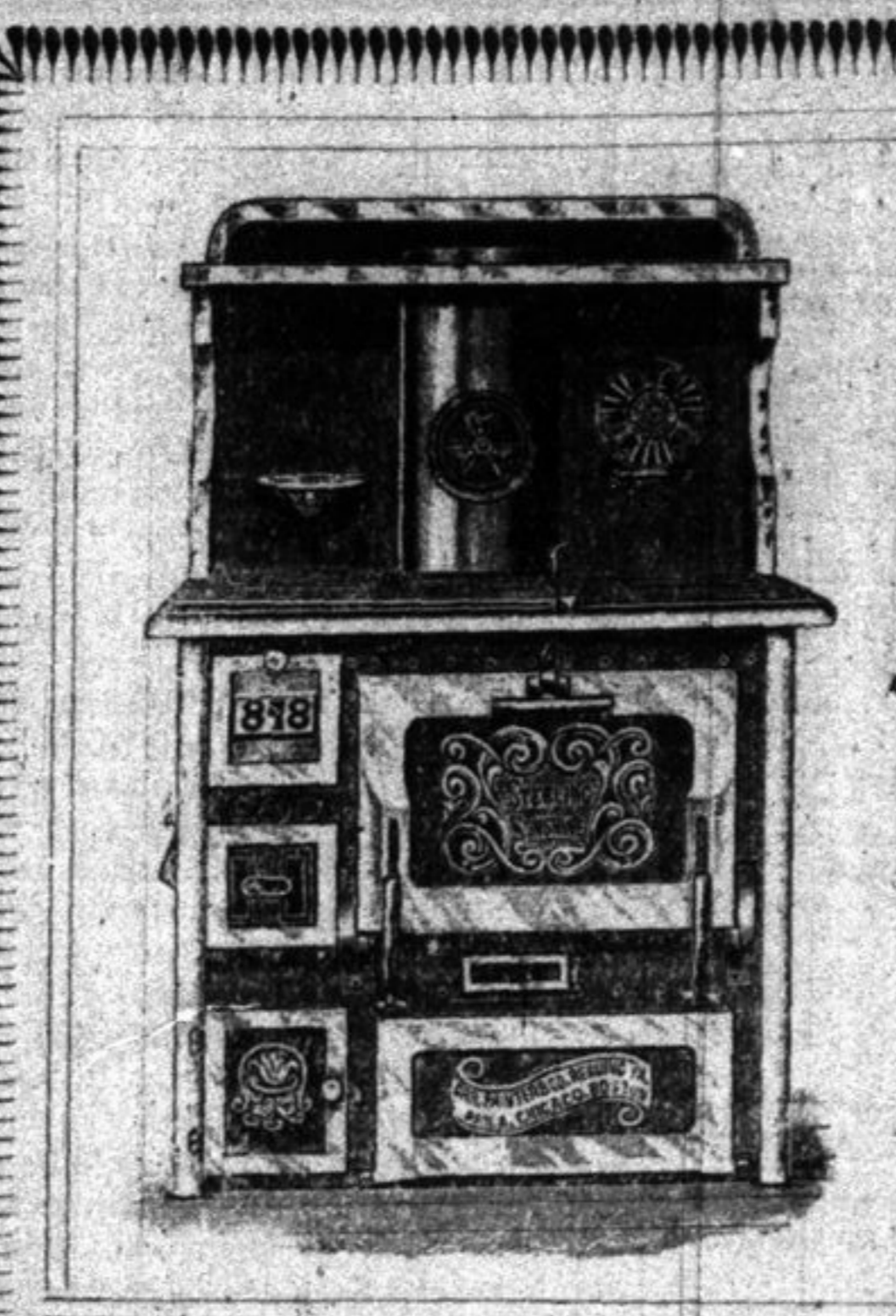
In each season when mushrooms, which are, taking each year a firmer hold on the taste of the general public, are found most abundantly, it is well for the timid lover of this article of diet to remember that there are over 300 species that have been thoroughly tested by mycophagists and found to be entirely harmless, says the New York Post. The fine books now published on this subject, with colored plates, where the growing fungi are exactly reproduced, give the most wary an opportunity to discover for themselves whether the specimens they have gathered during a country ramble are safe to use. There are several varieties of mushrooms which, while gastronomically disturbing, will not prove fatal. In fact, there is now thought to be but one variety that is sure death. And even for this—the deadly amanita—an antidote is said to lie in atropine. This is an equally deadly poison given in one-sixtieth of a grain doses in hypodermic injections.

Electric Mule.

One of the most important factors in the mining of coal to-day is the electric mule. After the electric drill has done its work and the coal is shoveled into cars they are gathered together with the aid of a mule or electric locomotive and arranged in long trains which are hauled to the mouth of the mine by powerful electric locomotives. These are made of narrow gauge, of small dimensions, so as to be capable of use in galleries and runs where mules cannot be used without extra cutting. They are controlled by means of a series of parallel controllers now so universally known in connection with the trolley. An electric headlight is provided, which draws its current from the same wires and is powerful enough to enable the motorman to see any obstruction on the track a long distance ahead. These locomotives are made in sizes from 50 horse power up to 100.

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- Charles H. Baker
- W. W. Livingston
- Dr. Ingalls
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- A. Blackler
- G. L. Sites
- M. Dugan
- A. S. Campbell
- J. G. Cow
- Mrs. Duffy
- William Smith
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VOL III

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

A few weeks ago at the Ossoli which was a discussion, and among were some criticisms of public schools, which were leveled at our city were meant, we learn in general. We had, in any musical training public schools, only as a teacher gave some occasions. Learning this is a regular feature of we spent most of Monday in seven of the grade from room to room by the superintendent.

First of all, let us appropriate no money. In Waukegan a towns, money is appropriated dollars a year. Bowen came, she det in music through the out any extra cost, so about three grades or was no small undertaking; reasons: first, Mrs. B claim to be a musical she understands the several classes had to do, without anything. But there is the for vocal music, it is most cases practically and a rest with the overworked Mrs. Bowen is entitled credit for putting it. It the success she has seen what has been an appreciation of instruction can deny.

For results we find orderly and scientific ing on the system of school of music held academy every in Boston idea, and in every respect. by note, and not by in the first grade, with those little tots, in worked in three ideas of notes, it seemed to us phene and advanced. The evidences of good, in the second grade, plained to us several what intricate and up, through to the save the seventh, see, as the day we lingered too to be decorated with. We found, as we expect, a difference ability of the tea also in the several taking one grade there is more music or aptness to learn music than in another and that class will advantage now, through the school.

Some teachers, gested, have "knack" or gift this as in other others have. We are made in heavy say, though even not, for heaven's sake or bungling and preachers, in ports, are nearly futile for teach music or