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BUILDING SOCIETIES.

SOME TELLING POINTS CONCERN-ING THEIR METHODS.

What an Old Accountant Has to Say About the Associations' Way of Keeping Books-Suggestions for the Improve ment of a Truly Good Institution.

A gentleman who is an expert accountant and who has had ample opportunities for studying the methods of a large number of building and loan associations said, in conversation concerning The Morning News article on the subject:

"It is a fact that very few out of the 200 building societies in this city have any method of keeping their accounts by which an inspector could get at the state of their affairs without great delay and expense, even if the books are not falsified by the secretary. I have found some societies so lacking in books that it would be almost impossible for a practical accountant to determine the state of the leans made by the institution, and even the secretary could not unravel the mystery, although he was present when every loan was made. How, then, can a proper disposition of premiums be made, or how can interest be properly adjusted! In some soci eties there is no loan book, or even a loan account, outside of the individual debit to the stockholder, and sometimes not even that

HOW DEFALCATIONS ARE COVERED.

"By a wise provision of the inventor of these societies, or by a line of providential circumstances, bookkeeping is much more perfect as a system than in any other busi ness I know of, for with a properly conducted set of building society books it would be almost impossible for any one to tamper with the accounts without detection, even were the auditors not bookkeepers, but alert and honest. As my experience goes most of the auditors are selected by the secretary, and if he is inclined to fix his accounts he seldom makes a mistake in his auditors. This is the reason so many transactions have been overlooked and such developments, as in the case of the Columbia and of the Citizens', have occurred.

"How are these defalcations covered and how are the stockholders protected? By the bonds of the officers. It is a fact known to the directors of such of these societies as have have had defalcations that a secretary's bond is like a bond of straw in many cases, and the directors have to patch up a compromise and the society carry the loss. If this is done and the present stockholders have the loss distributed among themselves it is perhaps fair and equitable; but when the loss is carried to a 'suspense account' or a 'bills receivable' account, as is done in some societies, and new stockholders come in and absorb stock with this incubus, it is little less than criminal, and is certainly dishonest on the part of the directory. In some cases it might be possible for all or nearly all of the old stockholders to have retired and the burden be thrown entirely on those not interested at the time the defalcation occurred.

"There are many questions that affect the property of building societies which might not come under the state auditor's authority and yet which could affect the society more than any defalcation likely to occur. In the division of profits, for example, there are as many ways of computing profits and dividing them among the series and shares as there are secretaries. No two secretaries figure alike. It is probable that at the winding up of many societies there will be a surplus or a shortage of profits that will entail much trouble to secretaries and treasurers, enriching lawyers and impoverishing the stockholders. As the building society interests approach the time when shares should mature it will undoubtedly produce a clamor and excitement beyond what the peaceful and self satisfied directory now anticipate.

SHOULD MAKE QUARTERLY STATEMENTS. "It is well to look these matters squarely in the face, and, as these societies certainly furnish an advantage and cheap method of getting a home, let them be supported and protected. It is a fact, that can be demonstrated by what has been done, that a man can buy a hone as cheap as he can pay rent, or, if he can pay rent, he can pay it to himself and own his own home when he has paid his rent or dues for five or eight years. In a well managed society a loan of, say, \$3,000 should not cost in interest over 3 per cent, per annum, without commission. This fact has been demo trated by actual transactions in a society in this city and is beyond question. If the state auditor could have authority to require the books in all building societies to be kept by the best known methods it would save money and time in inspection.

"My opinion is that all societies should make quarterly statements under one general system. And the result of all should be published by the auditor, with each item of installments, loans, interest, fees, fines, expenses, etc., under one headline, so that comparisons could be made at a glance, and a yearly statement be made the same way. Then it would be possible to weed out the poor societies. This system would do away with the necessity for an examination in many societies, as they would close up and liquidate as soon as the condition of the society was exhibited. Many more would be compelled to readjust their affairs, and many others would be found sound and worthy of patronage.

"State inspection should begin with their last annual statement, say Jan. 1, 1889, and continue from that. This would prevent 'fixing' the societies' accounts if there are any that are not in good shape. Unless something is done soon to give confidence to the building society interest there will probably be a few more of these defalcations and then a crisis which will wreck many good societics and destroy confidence in all of these 'poor men's savings banks.' "-Chicago News.

-Fell Ninety-two Feet.

Brady Hanson, a miner, working near Helena, had a miraculous escape from death. He started to descend the shaft of the mine, but his boots were covered with snow, and at the second step slipped and was hurled to the bottom of the shaft, ninety-two feet. The shaft runs down vertically fifty feet and then pitches to an incline, at an angle of 83 degs., down forty-two feet. After striking at the beginning of the incline he slid the balance of the way, striking a bucket at the bottom. The only apparent injury he received was a split on the bridge of his nose. - Helena (M. T.) Cor. Dt. Louis Republic.

CURIOUS CRADLES.

Brief Descriptions of Some of the Beds in Which Babes Repose.

The Chinese have a queer institution waich they call the winter cradle; It is shaped like an hour glass, and stands on end. There is an opening above and below, and the waist, which is contracted, serves to keep the celestial baby on his feet. Day after day little almond shaped eyes peep over the top of this cradle, and little hands play with miniature dragons and other toys till the nurse puts in an appearance. Some of these winter cradles are made of wickerwork and are beautifully painted by Chinese women artists. It is almost impossible for one to be upset; but now and then, when two are placed together and the occupants declare war and measure arms, two cradles roll over the floor to noises that "bring down the house."

The Lapp baby very often has a snow cradle, for when the indulgent mother attends church she makes a hole in the snow outside and deposits the Laplander therein. It is no uncommon sight to see a circle of these snow cradles in front of a Lapp chapel, and now and then a lot of fierce looking dogs are on guard to keep off the wolves that might meditate a raid on the baby con-

The Lapp cradle in material differs essentially from that used by the Bushman baby, whose mother digs a hole in the ho sand and chucks him therein in the shadow of some lonely bush. Sometimes the cradle is at hand in the shape of an ostrich nest, and now and then some of the feathers left by the mighty bird help to soften the nest of the future Bushman warrior.

There is a tribe in the palm region of the Amazon that cradles the young in palm leaves. A single leaf turned up around the edges by some native process makes an excellent cradle, and now and then it is made to do service as a bath tub. Strong cords are formed from the sinews of another species of palm, and by these this natural cradle is swung alongside a tree, and the wind rocks the little tot to sleep. Long ago the Amazonian mother discovered that it was not wise to leave a baby and cradle under a cocoa palm, for the mischievous monkeys delighted to drop the nuts downward with unerring precision. An older child is stationed near by to watch the baby during his sleep, and the chatter of the monkeys overhead is enough to cause a speedy migration.

Patagonian babies are kept in cradles made of flat pieces of board. Two pieces of guanaco skin are so arranged across the table that the child is firmly fastened in ide, and can be carried thus suspended from a saddle bow without danger. In the rude buts of this people these cradles are hung hammock wise to the rafters, and, amid the smoke that darkens everything, including his very nature, as it seems, the Patagonian ir fant passes the first stage of babyhood. When the village migrates, the cradle is swung from the saddle; and in swimming a stream it floats like a canoe on the surface, while the horse is almost entirely submerged. Sir Francis Head, who saw a good deal of Patagonian life years ago, leaves on record the statement that the Patagonian baby in its queer cradle is one of the best natured representatives of the infant world.

One would hardly go to Kathrland for a fantastic cradle, and one almost as queer as it is fantastic. Yet he would find such a one there. The Kaffir baby, when he comes into the world, is put into a cradle or bag made of antelope skin, with the hair on. This baby castle, narrow toward the bottom, widens to within a few inches of the opening, when it again suddenly contracts. The skin is turned inward, giving the young Kaffir as soft a bed as some found in the cradles of royalty. Four long strips of antelope skin are attached to the cradle, and enable the mother to swing it on her back after a peculiar fashion.—Hall's Journal of Health.

Gave Her the Base.

"Do yes know Reeves, who has the box office at Niblo's theatre in New York?" asked the agent. "Well, he's a peculiar fellow-a typical New York boy with a wholesome contempt for 'jays' of any description. One day a woman came up to the box office to purchase a matinee seat. Now if there is anything Reeves hates it is to sell a seat to a woman-that is, he likes to sell the seat well enough, but he doesn't like to help her pick it out. This woman finally picked out a seat and then asked if she could go into the theatre and try it before she closed the sale, Reeves said she could not, as the theatre was locked and he had lost the key, but he could assure her the goods were just as he represented them. 'I m rather particular,' said the woman, fingering her money uncertainly, because the last time I had a seat here there was a pole in front of me and I couldn't see the stage.' Reeves had heard of pillar and post and prop, but that was the first time he had heard it called pole. He looked at her a moment and then said in his own peculiar way: 'Go en! go on! take your Lase!'"-Chicago Herald.

A Curiosity in Figures.

A very curious number is 142,857, which multiplied by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6, gives the same figures in the same order, beginning at a different point; but if multiplied by 7 gives all nines: Multiplied by 1 it equals 142,857, multiplied by 2 equals 285,711, multiplied by 3 equals 428,571, multiplied by 4 equals 571,438, multiplied by 5 equals 714,285, multiplied by 6 equals 857,142, multiplied by 7 equals 990, 999. Multiply 142,857 by 8 and you have 1,142,856. Then add the first figure to the last and you have the original number, the figures exactly the same as at the start.

The Human Beart.

A curious calculation has been made by Dr. Richardson, giving the working of the heart in mileage. Presuming that the blood was thrown out of the heart at each pulsation in the proportion of 69 strokes per minute, and at the assumed force of 9 feet, the mileage of the blood through the body might be taken at 207 yards per minute, 7 miles per hour, 168 miles per day, 61,320 miles per year, or 5,150,-880 miles in a lifetime of 84 years. The number of beats of the heart in the same long life would reach the grand total of 2,869,776,-000.—Medical World.

Tongue Trippers.

The following short sentences rival Peter Piper's celebrated peck of pickled peppers in their power to trip the ordinary tongue: Gaze on the gay gray brigade.

The sea ceaseth and sufficeth us. Say, should such a shapeiy sash shabby switches show?

Give Grimes Jim's gilt gig whip. Sarah in a shawl shoveled soft snow softly. She sells sea shells.

A cup of coffee in a copper coffee pot.

Smith's spirit flask split Philip's sixth sister's fifth squirrel's skull.

An Exceptional Case.

A woman in Chicago, while dressing a chicken, found a ten-dollar gold piece in its crop. Poultry raisers tell us that there is seldom so much money as this in chickens, however.-Pittsburg Chronicle.

What causes corns? Ill fitting shoes mostly. Shoes may be large enough and still ill fitting. One of the best preventives of corns is frequent bathing of the feet.

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Cabin—\$50, \$65 and \$75, according to accommodation. Intermediate \$30. Steerage \$20. Return tickets from Liverpool to Portland or Halifax—Cabin \$100, \$125 and \$150, according to position of stateroom. Intermediate \$60. Steer-Steerage passengers are booked to and from Queenstown, Derry, Belfast, London and Glas-

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steamer leaving Portland leaves Kingston every Wednesday at 1:40 p.m., and to Halifax every Thursday at 1:40 p.m. All information regarding the selection of berths can be obtained from

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No. 7 Express leaves Kingston at 11:45 p.m., connecting with C.P.R. Night Express Train at Sharbot Lake for all points ast and west. Arrives Ottawa, 5:25 a.m.; Montreal, 8:00

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