SYNOPSIS.

"Vanishing Fleets," a story of "what might have happened," opens in Washington with the United States and Japan on the verge of war. Guy Hillier, secretary of the British embassy, and Miss Norma Roberts, chief aide of Inventor Roberts, are introduced as lovers. Japan declares war and takes the Philippines. Guy Hillier starts for England. Norma Roberts with military officers also leaves Washington on mysterious expedition for the Florida coast. Hawaii is captured by the Japs. All ports are closed. Tokyo learns of missing Japanese fleet and whole world becomes convinced that United States has some powerful war agency. England decides to send a fleet to American waters as a Canadian protection against what the British suppose is a terrible submarine flotilla. Hillier is also sent to Canada to attempt to force his way through American lines with a message. British fleet departs amid misgivings of English. Fleet mysteriously disappears. Hillier makes a failure of effort to deliver message to the president. War between Great Britain and Germany is threatened. The kaiser disappears. King Edward of England is confronted by Admiral Bevins of the United States, and upon promising to present the missing British admiral, the monarch agrees to accompany Bevins on tour, which the latter says will uncover the agent of war and end all conflicts. The Dreadnaught, biggest of England's warships, is discovered at an impassable point in the Thames, much to the mystery of the kingdom. The story goes back to a time many months before the war breaks out, and Inventor Roberts visits the president and cabinet, telling of and exhibiting a metal production. This overcomes friction when electrified and is to be applied to vessels to increase speed to over 50 miles an hour. A city for the manufacture of the mysterious discovery is built up on the coast of Florida and Norma Roberts arrives on scene.

CHAPTER XV.
The Great Discovery.

From the shore came a dull moaning sound, now rising, now falling, but incessant, as if some gigantic animal, stricken and suffering, was shrieking the anguish of its death throes to the solitudes of the keys and the waste of waters round them. The frightened birds took flight to the north to escape the weird monotone, and the timid animals of the forest cowered in fear; but the men of the island looked at one another exultantly, with mutual congratulations on the rapidity of their work. The blast furnace which was to cast the plates was being blown in.

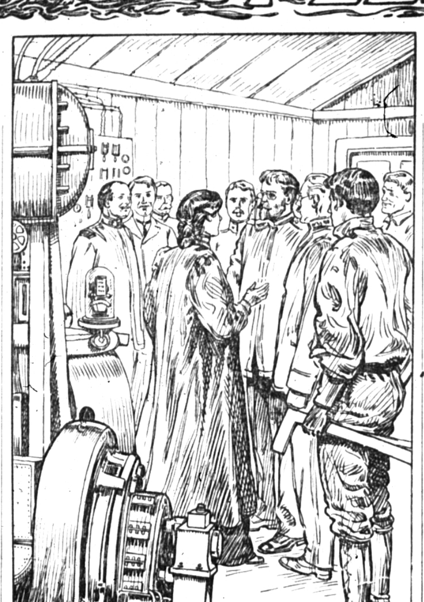
Days and nights of unremitting toil had followed that first landing; machine shops had been completely installed, power plants perfected, and buildings for the men erected; additional supplies had been received; and another gunboat, the Columbia, augmented the patrol which passed ceaselessly round the keys, guarding their secret and warning inquisitive fishermen to avoid the waters; corps of expert smelting men from the mines of the west had joined the colony—and all for this, the casting of the first plate, which was to take place this day.

In the assay rooms there had been the constant testing of crude metals and apportioning them and discarding those which were inferior. Trained hands were those that worked over the bucking boards and manipulated the delicate scales which would register the tiniest mark of a lead pencil with as great accuracy as they would a pound weight. Everywhere about the plant were men who wrought with precision and interest, bound together in the great enterprise until differences in station were forgotten and all were as a family praying for success.

"Old Bill" Roberts, assisted by his daughter, had permitted no foot but theirs to enter the room where his apparatus was installed, and no hand but theirs to touch its complicated mechanism. With the love of a creator he had spent the last hours fondling its cold, unresponsive parts and adjusting it, and then stood and watched, as a mother watches her firstborn, the initial movements of the great masterpiece which was a mystery to all the world but him and Norma.

Engineers and officers from all parts of the plant, warned that the crucial test was at hand, gathered round the door of the innermost room, until invited in by the inventor, and then slowly entered and found standing places at a safe distance from the intricate mass, whose polished knobs, twisted bars and gleaming tubes seemed to them a tangled riddle. Norma, garbed in the stained khaki wrapper which she wore in the laboratory at home, hovered here and there round the apparatus, lightly trying an adjustment or closely inspecting a joint, her face grave, calm, and self-possessed. Her father, his thin old face drawn into a scowl of concentration, busied himself likewise, and made the final connections. So careful was he that he even inspected the duplicate apparatus which stood as a reserve at the other end of a casting mold, but which it was not his intention to use except in case of emergency. Satisfied that all was in readiness, he beckoned to two assistants, who trundled in the first composite plate and deposited it in its bed. He made the connection with the electrodes in a few minutes' deft work, and then straightened up and looked about the room, where all was still and expectant.

The wondering engineers saw him wave his daughter back a short distance as though fearing for her safety, watched him take a final look over his appliance, and then throw a switch. Brilliant streaks of purple, of unknown reds and glaring whites, raced each other in quick succession through the tubes, little indicators here and there sparked out malevolently, and the machine seemed to leap, strain and throb with a life of its own, uncanny and mysterious because of its silence. The group of men peered curiously at the plate, saw it glow a dull red, pass the cherry stage to a dull pigeon blue, and then suddenly burst into a gleaming mass of iridescent white.



"Gentlemen," She Said, "the First Experiment Is a Failure."

"Fusion!" one of the engineers whispered to a man beside him. "He has fused that plate in less time than it could be done by any means I ever heard of. That is the way he metamorphoses his metal."

The rays died out, the apparatus stopped its quivering, and the inventor with hands clasped behind him stood intently watching the now cooling metal. Within the laboratory all was silence. From the adjoining buildings came the regular sound of hammers, and from somewhere off toward the cabins a man's voice was raised in a song of soldiery. The sheet of metal lost its color and became dark. "Old Bill" Roberts pressed a button above his head, and cooling sprays began dissipating themselves over the surface, sending up brief splutterings and clouds of rapidly diminishing steam.

"It's cool enough now to handle," he said in an oddly constrained tone of voice, turning to the engineers, "and if some of you will help me carry it to the testing tank you may see me prove the first plate on which hangs the fate of our country."

In an awed hush of expectancy they all volunteered; but only three men were needed to hold it while it was attached to the great arms which were to revolve it in the water and demonstrate its resistance. The inventor threw a switch, and the sheet began to move. Before him was a dial, and beneath it a scale of friction pulls showing the resistance offered by normal metal. He fastened his eyes on the indicator with a look of strained watchfulness. Slowly the needle point swung round as the arms gained the maximum of speed, and then it came to a standstill, while a look of doubt and perplexity crept over the scientist's face.

"Norm," he called, huskily—"Norm! Was everything all right? Is everything working true?"

She took a step behind him, and with a look no less worried than his own stared at the dials indicating the speed of revolution and the scale of resistance. "Yes, father," she replied, gently, "everything is all right." She put her arm over his shoulder as if to shield him. "But something must have gone wrong somewhere else. Come away now and let us think it over."

She turned to the waiting officers behind and looked them calmly in their faces, while the inventor, dazed and uncomprehending, ran his fingers through his shock of white hair and gazed at the telltale dials as if hypnotized by two staring eyes.

"Gentlemen," she said, "the first experiment is a failure."

Those among them who had been slightly skeptical smiled at one another, while those whose belief had been more firm looked sympathetically at this slip of a girl, who faced them all in steady defiance, her trust in her father, herself and their invention unshaken and unfaltering.

"You, Mr. Jenkins," she said, addressing one of the engineers, "are yourself a scientist and an experimentalist. You of all present know how easy it is for a tiny mistake to rob delicate work of definite result." There was a note of appeal in her voice that reached them all.

As if with one accord they rushed forward, grasping her hand and surrounding her father, giving them words of encouragement.

It was the gruff voice of the old admiral which aroused them to renewed action. "Pshaw, Bill! That's nothing," he growled. "Here! We've got more plates cast. Throw another on, and give it a try-out. Wake up, man! Wake up! We've got to make it go!"

Jenkins and two others rushed to the adjoining room and brought in a second slab of metal, and the old inventor, giving himself a shake as if pulling back from the very vortex of despair, with trembling hands placed the sheet of insulation and made the new connections with the plate.

"Norm," he almost whispered, "you look it over and turn the current on this time. Somehow my eyes seem to have gone back on me."

Again they watched from a distance the steady movements of the assistant, who without a tremor threw on the current, held it in leash, and directed it as if within her hand she held the clutch of a friend. Once more they saw the metal cool, the sprays turned on, and then came a dull, grinding, rising sound, and a column of dust shot up into the air and bellowed out over the room. They saw her fall back unconscious as if from some sudden shock, and instinctively sprang to her aid.

In mortal fear that some disaster had overtaken her, some unknown injury from that apparatus whose voltage was as deadly as that which sweeps through a murderer's chair, they picked her up and carried her out into one of the draughting rooms and laid her limp form on a table.

Her father, in a burst of terrible anxiety tore open her corsage and ran his hand over her heart. "She's not dead!" he whispered, hoarsely. "She's been knocked out by a wild current or something I don't understand."

A long breath of relief encircled the room. Not until she recovered consciousness and sat weakly up was the suspense mitigated.

"Feel better, little girl?" the old admiral asked, and the others pressed forward with solicitous inquiries.

She looked at them for a moment, regained her mental control, and answered: "Yes, I'm all right now; but don't mind me. What of the plate?"

They smiled at one another as it dawned upon them that the plate had been forgotten. It was manifestly unfair that she of all others should not share with them the first knowledge of what had been accomplished; so as a guard of honor they supported her back to where the cruel agent stood, and then one and all started back with exclamations of amazement.

The plate on which they were building their hopes had disappeared! Where the insulated tank which held it had reared its squatty length was now a ragged hole in the floor, bordered by the silvered ends of twisted and shattered wood, and beneath this was a yawning hole several feet deep, broken electric wires, and the great slab of metal.

Norma, as if the excitement of the discovery had acted as a tonic, released herself from the supporting arms, walked to the shining brass structure, and leaned against it. Brockton pulled off his cap and scratched his head in a puzzled way, and Jenkins removed the glasses from his nose and began nervously polishing them. The other engineers gaped at each other, at the inventor and then back to the hole wherein to all appearances was buried the thing on which they had built all their hope. "Old Bill" Roberts stood by its edges, looking down and examining the broken wires, a picture of perplexity or despair. He came back and crowded through their midst, examining a connection and tracing out one of the strands, and then stood in listless attitude, his brows drawn into a frown and his arms hanging loose and pendulous from his shoulders. The time stretched into minutes, and Jenkins and Norma began a discussion, to which the others listened, striving to understand the phraseology of electrical science, of which many of them had little more than the layman's knowledge. Suddenly a sharp cry came from the inventor.

They looked to the other side of the room, whither he had retreated, and beheld him jumping up and down like a madman. His fists were clenched and thrust into the air, where they opened clawlike and waved a tremolo of excitement. "I've got it!" he screamed. "I've solved it!"

They drew back from him, fearing that failure had loosened his brain; but he rushed through the group, excitedly calling for men to repair the break. The admiral, unused to his periods of enthusiasm, stared at him blankly, his lower jaw unconsciously dropping until his mouth yawned in cavernous suspense. In his mind nothing but insanity could account for this outburst.

Norma, on the other hand, laid a restraining hand on his arm and said: "Father, what's the matter? What is it?"

"We've been working in the dark!" he answered vehemently, and then with the jubilation of a boy but in a calmer tone continued: "By an accident we have discovered powers in our combination of electricity and metallurgy that we have not dreamed of, and which, if we can control them, make the resistant armor we came down here to manufacture as useless as a wooden hull!"

The admiral suddenly dropped his bulk to a stool. "Good God!" he gasped, "are you mad?"

Norma, like one from whose eyes a hoodwink has been suddenly removed, and appearing almost to have read her father's mind, put her hand out to his shoulder and looked at him searchingly. A slow grin of great exultation swept over the lean old face into which she peered, drove the wrinkles into the corners of the eyes, and a mass of radiating furrows round the mouth.

"You've guessed it," he said, and then turned to the admiral. "Brockton, you don't know what that hole meant; but in an hour from now I'm going to show you. That is, Norma, my assistant, and I will."

Then in a sudden frenzy for work he asked them all to leave until he sent for them, and they, wondering and speculating on his next endeavor, obeyed. Only the workmen, who had descended into the cavity and were preparing to hoist the plate and mold, and the admiral, by special invitation, remained. The clang of hammers resounded hollowly through the room as the timbers beneath the floor were shored up by the carpenters; then came the setting of another and larger tank than the one which had been so unexpectedly driven into the earth. The smaller plates which had been intended only for experimental purposes were exhausted, and therefore they had nothing on which to operate save two immense castings weighing many tons. Wide sliding doors rolled back, and workmen from the foundry, with straining muscles and clinging toes, slowly pushed in low-wheeled cars on which rested the huge pieces of metal. A steel crane projected its ungainly arm, reached slowly down, and in a Titanic grasp picked up one piece, moved it into position over the new bed, and deposited it in a great basin whose material indicated that it would be able to withstand any heat.

The admiral in boyish exuberance would have thrown wide the door; but the inventor, remembering the other contretemps, forbade. The latter busied himself for a few minutes in his storehouse, and returned with a sheet of peculiar insulation which was of his own invention, almost indestructible by heat, and a resistant to any form of radioactivity, which he placed with great care on top of the huge plate. The second plate was lowered squarely on top of this, clamped for additional security, and the workmen dismissed. The connections were made in identically the same way as in the previous test, except that one electrical apparatus was attached to the upper plate above the insulation and the other to the one beneath. Brockton, seeing that the currents were about to be applied, backed off into the corner, until stopped by the farthermost partition.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Living Present.

He that hath so many causes of joy, and so great, is very much in love with sorrow and peevishness, who loses all these pleasures, and chooses to sit down upon his little handful of thorns. Enjoy the blessings of this day, if God sends them; and the evils of it bear patiently and sweetly; for this day only is ours, we are dead to yesterday, and we are not yet born to the morrow. But if we look abroad and bring into one day's thoughts the evil of many, certain and uncertain, what will be and what will never be, our load will be as intolerable as it is unreasonable.—Jeremy Taylor.

Good Rules.

Two striking amendments to the senate rules, both of which were prepared by Vice-President Fairbanks, were introduced in the senate by Mr. Lodge and were referred to the committee on rules.

Their effect is to prevent a senator from referring offensively to either the president of the United States, courts, or to the house of representatives, and to put an end to the reading of documents which have no bearing upon subjects under discussion, where the reading is for the sole purpose of advancing a filibuster.

The proposed rules are as follows: "When the reading of a paper is called for and objected to, or when the reading of a paper by a senator is objected to, such objection shall be determined by a vote of the senate without debate."

"No senator in debate shall refer offensively to either of the other coordinate departments of the government or to the other branch of congress."

Castro Not Deposed Yet.

That the new government of Venezuela must bring a judicial prosecution in a criminal court against Cipriano Castro, self-exiled president of that country, in order to encompass his deposition officially, was stated by Count Luigi Aldrovandi, who arrived in New York from Caracas on the steamship Zulia.

"The actual political situation in Venezuela today is a peculiar one," said Count Aldrovandi. "Castro is still the official president of that country under the terms of the Venezuelan constitution. In order to make Gomez the constitutional president, it will be necessary to impeach Castro on a criminal count, and I understood that in order to do this a judicial prosecution will be brought against him, based on his alleged action in cabling to P. M. Cardenas, then a departmental governor, an order for the killing of Gomez during the riots that followed Castro's departure from Caracas."

WIRELETS.

Federal Judge Anderson Tuesday ordered the drawing of a venire of 150 names for the retrial of the $29,000,000 Standard Oil suit, which begins in Chicago, Feb. 23.

Many steel mills are idle and thousands of men are deprived of work because of the congressional effort to tinker with the tariff, according to B. F. Jones, of the Jones & Laughlin Steel Co., one of the largest steel companies in the United States. He declares no contracts would be let until the tariff was settled one way or the other.

THE MARKETS.

Detroit—Cattle—Market active and 10c higher than Wednesday, 15 to 20c higher than last week. We quote extra dry-fed steers and heifers, $5.50; steers and heifers, 1,000 to 1,200, $4.75@5.25; steers and heifers, 800 to 1,000, $4.25@5; steers and heifers that are fat, 500 to 700, $4.50@4.85; choice fat cows, $4; good fat cows, $3.50@3.65; common cows, $2.50@3; canners, $1.50@2; choice heavy bulls, $4@4.10; fair to good bolognas, bulls, $3.40@3.60; light bulls, $3@3.25; milkers, large, young, medium age, $45@55; common milkers, $20@30.

Veal calves—Market steady at Wednesday's prices; strong with last week's close. Best, $7.50@8; others, $4@7; milch cows and springers, good, strong.

Sheep and lambs—Market 10@15c higher than last week. Best lambs, $7@7.10; fair to good lambs, $6.50@6.75; light to common lambs, $5@6; fair to good butcher sheep, $3.50@4.50; culls and common, $2.75@3.25.

Hogs—Market 5c higher than Wednesday and at the close last week. Range of prices: Light to good butchers, $6.30@6.50; pigs, $5.25@5.50; light yorkers, $6@6.25; stags, ⅓ off.

East Buffalo—Cattle—The quality of the cattle on the market was not as good as last week. The trade opened fairly active at about 15c decline on the medium kinds. There was but few heavy cattle on the market, and there was practically no demand for them. Best steers, $6.25@6.50; best 1,200 to 1,300-lb shipping, $5.75@6.25; best 1,000 to 1,100-lb shipping, $5.40@5.65; best fat cows, $4@4.75; fair to good cows, $3.75@4; trimmers, $2.25@2.50; best fat heifers, $5.25@5.75; butcher heifers, 800 to 900 lbs, $4@4.50; light fat heifers, $3.25@3.75; best bulls, $4.50@5; bologna bulls, $4@4.50.

Hogs—The market opened 5@10c lower than Saturday and closed steady, with a good clearance for all that got yarded in time for the market; best mixed, medium and heavy, $6.70@6.80; best yorkers, $6.65@6.75; light yorkers, $6.35@6.40; pigs, $6.25@6.35; roughs, $5.75@5.80; stags, $4.50@4.75.

Sheep—The market was active and prices the same as Saturday. Everything sold except a few loads of heavy lambs. Top lambs, $7.65@7.75; fair to good, $7@7.75; cull lambs, $6.25@7; skin culls, $4.50@5.25; yearlings, $6.25@6.75; wethers, $5.25@5.75; ewes, $4.75@5; cull sheep, $2.50@3.50. Veals Best, $9@9.25; medium to good, $7.50@9; heavy, $4@5.

Grain, Etc.

Detroit—Wheat—Cash No. 2 red, $1.10½. May opened unchanged at $1.11⅛, touched $1.12, lost ⅛c, advanced to $1.11¾ and closed at $1.11½; July opened at $1.01½, gained ½c, dropped to the opening price, advanced to $1.01¾ and dropped back to the opening. September opened at 98c, advanced to 98½c, lost ¼c, advanced to 98¼c and closed at 98c. No. 3 red, $1.07½. No. 1 white, $1.09½.

Corn—Cash No. 3, 63¼c; No. 3 yellow, 2 cars at 64¼c; No. 4 yellow, 1 car at 63c.

Oats—Cash No. 3 white, 2 cars at 54c. May, 54c.

Rye—Cash No. 2, 79c.

Beans—Cash and February, $2.28; May, $2.30 bid.

Cloverseed—Prime spot, 100 bags at $5.50; March, 200 bags at $5.55; sample, 27 bags at $5.30, 24 at $5.20, 18 at $5.10, 12 at $5; sample alsike, 6 bags at $8.25, 10 at $7.25.

Timothy seed—Prime spot, 125 bags at $1.70.

Barley—Best samples, $1.25@1.30 per cwt.

Feed—In 100-lb sacks, jobbing lots: Bran, $26; coarse middlings, $27; fine middlings, $30; cracked corn and coarse cornmeal, $27 per ton.

Flour—Michigan patent, best, $5.75; ordinary patent, $5.25; straight, $5.15; clear, $5 per bbl in wood.

Propped up in bed by pillows, Arthur C. Monroe, of Lansing, ill of lung fever, married Miss Emma L. Loot in the home the two had prepared.

Waldo Johnson, husky Battle Creek fireman, can stand the hardships of his job, but when it comes to having his tonsils taken out, he loses his nerve. Walking into Dr. R. D. Sleight's office for this job, Johnson put up such a bold front that the doctor did the tonsil-removing on the spot. When he finished Johnson didn't move; he had fainted from fright. The scared fireman had to be removed to a hospital for resuscitation.

That Canada should be prepared to resist an Oriental invasion of the Pacific coast which might occur at any time now that Japan and China have "wakened up," was the assertion made in an address in Toronto university by Gen. Lake, inspector-general of Canadian militia.

"Western ideas and western civilization must be imposed on the Orient," said the general, "and if we can't put it up to them by mere argument we must be prepared to fight if necessary. The time of trial may not come soon, but it will come, and who can say that the neighbors to the south of us may not show uncertain traits?"

ON COUNTRY LIFE

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM WHITE HOUSE TO CONGRESS.

President Suggests Social and Business Improvements for the Benefits of the Dweller in Agricultural Communities.

Washington.—Accompanying the report of the country life commission the president sent a special message to congress, substantially as follows:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: I transmit herewith the report of the commission on country life. At the outset I desire to point out that not a dollar of the public money has been paid to any commissioner for his work on the commission.

The report shows the general condition of farming life in the open country, and points out its larger problems; it indicates ways in which the government, national and state, may show the people how to solve some of these problems; and it suggests a continuance of the work which the commission began.

Those engaged in all other industrial and commercial callings have found it necessary, under modern economic conditions, to organize themselves for mutual advantage and for the protection of their own particular interests in relation to other interests.

Now, whatever the state may do toward improving the practice of agriculture, it is not within the sphere of any government to reorganize the farmers' business or reconstruct the social life of farming communities. It is, however, quite within its power to use its influence and the machinery of publicity which it can control for calling public attention to the needs of the facts. For example, it is the obvious duty of the government to call the attention of farmers to the growing monopolization of water power. The farmers, above all, should have that power, on reasonable terms, for cheap transportation, for lighting their homes, and for innumerable uses in the daily tasks of the farm.

Necessity for Co-Operation.

The co-operative plan is the best plan of organization wherever men have the right spirit to carry it out. Under this plan any business undertaking is managed by a committee; every man has one vote, and only one vote; and every one gets profits according to what he sells or buys or supplies. It develops individual responsibility and has a moral as well as a financial value over any other plan.

I desire only to take counsel with the farmers as fellow-citizens. It is not the problem of the farmers alone that I am discussing with them, but a problem which affects every city as well as every farm in the country.

From all that has been done and learned three great general and immediate needs of country life stand out:

First, effective co-operation among farmers, to put them on a level with the organized interests with which they do business.

Second, a new kind of schools in the country, which shall teach the children as much outdoors as indoors and perhaps more, so that they will prepare for country life, and not as at present, mainly for life in town.

Third, better means of communication, including good roads and a parcels post, which the country people are everywhere, and rightly, unanimous in demanding.

To these may well be added better sanitation; for easily preventable diseases hold several million country people in the slavery of continuous ill health.

To Develop Country Community.

To improve our system of agriculture seems to me the most urgent of the tasks which lie before us. But it cannot, in my judgment, be effected by measures which touch only the material and technical side of the subject; the whole business and life of the farmer must also be taken into account. Such considerations led me to appoint the commission on country life. Our object should be to help develop in the country community the great ideals of the community life as well as of personal character. One of the most important adjuncts to this end must be the country church, and I invite your attention to what the commission says of the country church and of the need of an extension of such work as that of the Young Men's Christian association in country communities. Let me lay special emphasis upon what the commission says at the very end of its report on personal ideas and local leadership. Everything resolves itself in the end into the question of personality. Neither society nor government can do much for country life unless there is voluntary response in the personal ideals of the men and women who live in the country. In the development of character, the home should be more important than the school, or than society at large. When once the basic material needs have been met, high ideals may be quite independent of income; but they cannot be realized without sufficient income to provide adequate foundation; and where the community at large is not financially prosperous it is impossible to develop a high average personal and community ideal. In short, the fundamental facts of human nature apply to men and women who live in the country just as they apply to men and women who live in the towns. Given a sufficient foundation of material well being, the influence of the farmers' wives on their children becomes the factor of first importance in determining the attitude of the next generation toward farm life. The farmer should realize that the person who most needs consideration on the farm is his wife. I do not in the least mean that she should purchase ease at the expense of duty. Neither man nor woman is really happy or really useful save on condition of doing his or her duty. If the woman shirks her duty as housewife, as home keeper, as the mother whose prime function is to bear and rear a sufficient number of healthy children, then she is not entitled to our regard. But if she does her duty she is more entitled to our regard even than the man who does his duty; and the man should show special consideration for her needs.

Welfare of Nation at Stake.

I warn my countrymen that the great recent progress made in city life is not a full measure of our civilization; for our civilization rests on the wholesomeness, the attractiveness, and the completeness, as well as the prosperity, of life in the country. The men and women on the farms stand for what is fundamentally best and most needed in our American life.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.
The White House, February 9, 1909.

An Elixir of Life.

"An annuity is the best elixir of life I know of," said the examining physician of an insurance company. "It sometimes seems as if annuitants never die. We have lots on our books who top 80, 90 and even 95 years.

"I have passed many a sickly and decrepit old fellow as a good annuity risk—the sicklier they are, you know, the better risk they make—and the next year he has turned up to collect his annuity rejuvenated, rosy, spry as a boy.

"The secret? The secret is that financial worry, fear of the poorhouse, ages and kills off more people than all the deadly diseases combined. Release an old man, by means of an annuity, from all this worry, and he throws off his years and walks erect and happy and fearlessly young."

A Possible Reason.

"I wonder why all the cold waves seem to lose their intensity as soon as they strike the east?"

"I guess it is because they come in contact with some of the hot air from Washington."—Baltimore American.

SAVED FROM AN OPERATION

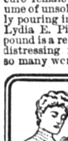
By Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Louisville, Ky.—"Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has certainly done me a world of good and I cannot praise it enough. I suffered from irregularities, dizziness, nervousness, and a severe female trouble. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has restored me to perfect health and kept me from the operating table. I will never be without this medicine in the house."—Mrs. Sam'l Lee, 3523 Fourth St., Louisville, Ky.

Another Operation Avoided.

Adrian, Ga.—"I suffered untold misery from female troubles, and my doctor said an operation was my only chance, and I dreaded it almost as much as death. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound completely cured me without an operation."—Lena V. Henry, R. F. D. 3.

Thirty years of unparalleled success confirms the power of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to cure female diseases. The great volume of unsolicited testimony constantly pouring in proves conclusively that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is a remarkable remedy for those distressing feminine ills from which so many women suffer.



Headache, Backache, Sideache, A Worn-out Feeling.

These are especially women's afflictions.

They are caused by irregular working of some of the functions of the body.

It is of the utmost importance to every woman to know that there is no medicine so valuable for her, so helpful, so strengthening, as

Lane's Family Medicine

(called also Lane's Tea)

This tonic-laxative is a great blood medicine and is the favorite regulating medicine of old and young.

All druggists sell it in 50c. and 25c. packages.

SICK HEADACHE

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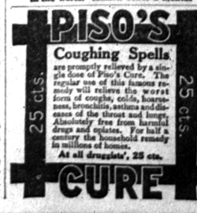
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