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WESTMINSTER, MD. DEC. 22, 1916.

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Before furnishing your home consult us.
We are in a position to give you the very best grades of furniture at the very lowest prices.
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DOMESTICS, WHITE GOODS, NOTIONS AND HOSIERY, GENT'S FURNISHINGS

We are not having January Clearance Sales but we are having January Sales. Don't put off buying your Domestics, they will be higher. We are showing a good line of 32 inch Dress Gingham at 22c per yd. 32 inch Galatea and Davonshire Cloth 25c per yd. Best Percale, new patterns, Lt, and Dk. 22c yd. In fact you will find our line of Domestics up to standard and at the right price. Set Snug Underwear for Men and Boys. Underwear for Women and Children. Stevens Linen Crash 20 inches wide 25c per.yd.
We have just received another large order of La Resista and Flexo-Form Corsets. Can fit any figure. No advance in price. If you want Comfort and Style, wear Spirabone Corsets. They give satisfaction.
Call at Belt's Store, Inspect our Goods and give your Honest Judgment.

JOHN D. BELT.
Phone 98-j Store Open at Night

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This is to give notice that the subscriber has obtained from the Orphans' Court of Carroll county, Md., letters testamentary on the estate of

WILLIAM EDWARD BAKER,

late of Carroll county, deceased. All persons having claims against the deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof legally authenticated to the subscriber, on or before the 29th day of July, 1918, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of said estate.

Given under my hand this 26th day of December, 1917.

JOHN W. BAKER,
12-26-5t. Executor.

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I write all Insurance in STANDARD COMPANIES AT STANDARD RATES. Which are as cheap with better security than non-Standard Companies.

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Top Cash Price Paid for all Stock, Lambs bought in advance for future delivery.
Calves bought every Saturday.
Fat Hogs and stock Hogs bought and sold.
Good Fresh Cows, Springers And Fat Steers a Specialty.
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Drop me a card. tf

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Granulated Sugar 8½c lb.
Hominy 9c quart
Hominy 69c peck.
Gray Fish, 3 cans for 25c
Lemons 10c dozen
Oranges 39c dozen
Mother's Oats 6c pack
100 lbs. Oyster Shell 69c bag
5-gallon Can Speedway Auto Oil $2.25, can free
5-gal. can Polarine Auto Oil $2.25, can free
5-gal can Havoline Auto Oil $2.25, can free
Vice Bench 98c each
60-egg Incubator $4.98
140-egg Incubator $7.50
240-egg Incubator $10.00
Nest Eggs 15c dozen
Elgin Watch $6.98
½-lb. can Prince Albert Tobacco 39c
1-lb. can Prince Albert Tobacco 79c
7 packs Garden Seed for 25c
56-lb. bag Coarse Salt 59c
200-lb. bag Coarse Salt $1.85
"Buff" Red Clover Seed 31c lb.
Babbitt's Lye, 3 cans for 25c
Babbitt's Soap, 4 bars for 25c
Gum Drops 15c lb.
Coffee, 2 lbs. for 25c
Clark's Cotton 4c spool
Loose Cocoa 19c lb.
Thermometers 15c each
Bat Cotton 10c bat
Ribbon 1c yard
Buff Alsike Clover 27c lb.
Buff Alfalfa 22c lb.
Rogers' Silver Tea Spoons $1.19c doz.
Rogers' Silver Table Spoons $2.39 doz.
Mixed nuts 19c lb.
Matches 1c box
Men's Red Rubber Boots $3.98
Men's White Rubber Boots $3.98
Soup Beans 25c quart
Salmon 19c can
3 lbs. Frozen Fish for 25c
4 lbs. Fine Salt 5c
Shippensburg Cord Pants $4.50
Cow Chains 29c each
Snow Shovels 25c each
Sole Leather 5c oz.
Men's Black Hose 10c pair
Women's fleece lined Union Suits 85c
Toweling 9c yard
Loose Oatmeal 7c lb.
Babbitt's Cleanser 6c box
Fels Naptha Soap 4 bars for 25c
Peas 10c can
Soap 3½c bar
Bit Coal $7.00 ton
Congoleum 39c square yard
Cross Cut Saw $2.48 each
Kelly Axes $1.25
Chocolate Drops 19c lb.
1000 sheets Butter Paper for $1.75
Men's fleece lined Union Suits $1.48
Boys' fleece lined Union Suits 85c
Small Gold Dust 5c box
Large Gold Dust 25c box
Caramels 15c lb.
Broken Candy 15c lb.
Best Syrups 90c gallon
Hemp Carpet 29c yard
Red Seal Batteries 35c each
Rag Carpet 59c yard
25 envelopes for 5c
White or Yellow Corn Meal 5c lb.
5-gallon Milk Cans $3.98
Large Flour $1.29 per bag
Skates 98c pair
Men's Snag Proof Felt Boots $2.48
Graphophone Records 9c each
7-inch double Records 25c each
Revolvers $2.98 each
8x10 Window Glass 45c doz.
Children's fleece lined Underwear 25c
Canvas Leggins 48c pair
Men's Sweaters 98c each
Prunes 12½c lb.
Seeded Raisins 13c pack
Seedless Raisins 15c pack
Loose Raisins 11c lb.
Cameo Carbide $4.95 can
Union Carbide $5.25 can
Straw Mattress $2.48 each
Boys' Suspenders 10c pair
Oiled Coats $1.39
Oiled Pants $1.39
Boys' Sleds 98c each
Good Roofing $1.48 per roll
2 papers of Pins for 5c
Spark Plugs 39c each
6-lb. can Chipped Beef for $2.19
Wash Boilers $1.48 each
Lanterns 79c each
Table Spoons 10c doz.
Shoe Laces 2c pair
50c President Suspenders for 39c
Horse Clippers 98c pair
Watches 98c each
Safety Razors 48c each
10-lb. box Sal Vet 70c box
Bushel bag Coarse Salt 59c
Half bushel bag Fine Salt 39c
Pack bags Fine Salt for 25c bag
Black Bird Harness Oil 90c gallon
25-lb. bag Calf Meal $1.13 bag
50-lb. bag Calf Meal $2.25 bag
Charcoal for Poultry $3.25 per 100 lb.
Beef Scrap for Poultry $5.65 100 lb.
Chick Starter $4.75 per 100 lbs.
Chick Feed $4.75 per 100 lbs.
Scratch Feed $4.50 per 100 lbs.
Men's Buckle Arctics 98c pair
Women's Rubbers 48c pair
Men's fleece lined Underwear 98c
Cigars $2.00 per 100
7 packs Luden Cough Drops 25c
7 packs Smith Bros. Cough Drops 25c
Boys' School Suits $2.25
Six 5c cuts tobacco for 25c
Fresh Cream Cheese 30c lb.
Muskrat traps $1.65 per dozen
Ash Sieves 39c each
Fountain Pens 48c each
Writing Paper 10c box
XXXX Powdered Sugar 11c lb.
2 cakes Fleishman Yeast for 5c
Coal Hods 48c each
Rice 8c lb.
Men's Rubber Shoes 85c pair
Gasoline 24c gallon
Ladies' Heavy Underwear 48c
Air Tight Wood Stoves $1.98
Air Tight Coal Stoves $6.98
Clothes Pins 2c dozen
Star Crackers 15c lb.
Soda Crackers 15c lb.
Ingrain Carpet 39c yard
Tooth Brushes 5c each
Sewing Machines $17.98
Baby Cradle $1.39
Ginger Snaps 13c lb.
1 cedar tub $1.39
Aluminumware free with your purchases.
Men's Shirts 48c
Men's Pants and Overalls 98c pair
Razor Blades 25c box
Fresh Cut Chip Beef 50c lb.
4 lbs. Fine Salt for 5c
Galvanized Tubs 69c
Glass Wash Boards 39c each
Large boxes Quaker Oats 25c
7 rolls Toilet Paper for 25c
Figs 14c pack
Dried Peaches 15c lb.
12c Bromo Seltzer 9c bottle
25c Victor Pills 19c bottle
50c Swamp Root 39c bottle
$1.25 Warner Safe Cure 89c bottle
25c Hess' Louse Killer 19c box

MEDFORD Bargain Store Medford, Md.

The Refractory Ore Claim

By Oliver Harper

(Copyright, 1917, Western Newspaper Union.)

"What is to be done with that precious pair of fools up there is what I can't figure out," said Jim Barker, blowing a cloud of smoke from his stubby pipe.

"We just can't do anything," replied Joe Timmins, sending a blue cloud over to meet and mingle with that of Jim. "We've tried to tell them that they're foolish, but you can't git anything into that woman's head, except that we are all a set of d—— scoundrels, and trying to chisel them out of a rich mine. I am plumb outdone with them, and yet we can't let them go on thisaway. To-morrow will be New Year's, and there they are up there working like heroes at something that will never pay. I wish to goodness some of them smart Alecks in the big colleges would find some way of dealing with refractory ore. Who in Halifax sent 'em up there, anyhow?"

"Oh, some one in Havilah. You see, the chap, he's a lunger. Got sick in some of them high skyscrapers in New York, and they sent him and that slip of a gal out here to rough it in the mines, hoping that he'd get well—"

"Well, he's in pretty fair health just now, as you'd know if you seen him at work. But, they've sunk every dollar they had in that d—— old Keystone. She thought the stones were so pretty! And, so they are, all green as emeralds, and full of gold, that you could cut out with a pocket knife, but which will never pan out a dollar to the hundred tons."

"I told him and her, when they took out the claim papers that it was bad ore, but they knew so much better than I did that I finally let them go ahead. Well, they have their twenty-stamp mill up and the first clean-up will be made to-morrow. They are a pair of fools, but they are such engaging fools—what will they do when they find out?" said the man who kept the saloon.

At this moment a man who worked for Ed. Ingram, the "fool," came down the trail from the Keystone mine.

"Say, is they a doctor in this here place? If they is, he is wanted up to the Keystone mighty quick. And, where's Annette? She's wanted, too."

"Who's hurt? What's the matter, anyway?" asked Jim.

"Matter? Matter enough, I should say. Here is this gal away from home, and folks. She's been workin' herself to death to help her fool husband spend money on that rotten old refractory ore mine. They clean up tomorrow after the first nine weeks' run, and she's been bakin' all day to have a New Year's festival for the boys—and by Gosh, there won't be six ounces, and now, now—well."

"Well—what?" asked the twenty men crowding around him.

"Well?" mocked he, "what'd you expect? She's a-needin' her mother just now—that's what."

"I be a mud'," said the old Indian woman who had come and the three hastened up the trail.

The men looked at each other blankly. They knew that this young couple had gone into the mountain hoping that the husband would grow strong. He did, but when Mary had discovered the lead they forgot all but that. Mary knew gold when she saw it and here it was, lying in the hard quartz, among the vivid greens of the arsenical deposit, bright and pure. She had found a rich mine! Together they traced the outcroppings, and saw that the gold-bearing ledge was virtually endless, and so placed that tunneling would not be necessary. They took some of the richest specimens of their rock and went down to Havilah, to record their claim. Just for form they went to an assay office. The assayer looked at the beautifully-colored specimens and then stammered and turned red. Mary and Ed were so young and so enthusiastic it were ruthless to destroy their joy. Mary watched him suspiciously. Why was he so agitated?

"Ah—er—have you ever heard of refractory ore?" he asked. "There are many kinds of gold-bearing quartz, but some of it cannot be worked on account of the arsenic. And, I am afraid this is that kind of rock. It looks so."

"But look at the gold," said Mary, her eyes flashing, and her cheeks red.

"I know—I know, but it would cost much more than it would bring to try to work your claim. Where is your claim?"

The two amateur miners looked at each other with quick suspicion, and neither replied. The poor assayer wanted to warn them, but they were sure he wanted to find out where the claim was to rob them. They gathered up their specimens and departed.

They met a man who had a twenty-stamp mill to sell. It had been a bad venture. He set the young folks against all the people at Havilah and Clear Creek, and finally sold them the mill. The people who would have saved them from disaster now let them alone, and waited for the catastrophe. It was bound to come with the first clean up.

The mill was bought and laboriously hauled to the mine and set up. It had cost a thousand dollars for every stamp before it was ready for work. Provisions for a year were taken up to the mine and a force of men engaged. They knew the uselessness of the work, but they were paid to work and not to give advice.

The twenty stamps were polished till they shone. The big hopper was ready filled with ore. The blankets had been laid along the incline and the trough made ready. The little stream of water that was to mix with the pulverized rock was waiting to begin its work. The turbines below were filled with water, and the quicksilver there. All was waiting for the signal, but the Ingrams had spent their last dollar. Then, the great machine began to move, the stamps to rise and fall with rhythmic regularity, the broken rock to fill the trough and the water to flow. The Keystone mill was in full operation.

Winter had been abnormally open and so far not a flake of snow had fallen in the mountains. Only a few light rains, and so it was that after nine weeks of blind labor the first real knowledge of the value of the mine would be known. The young people up at the mine were happy, and felt that their prospects were bright. The joy of achievement was greater than anything else. They would know tomorrow. The New Year should see the culmination of their toil and sacrifice, and its recompense.

But in her ignorance Mary had not foreseen how much she was to "need her mother" until New Year's eve.

Finally one of the men at the saloon remarked: "The whole business won't pan out an ounce. They were in a devil of a fix before, and now—well I'm sorry for them."

"So am I," said Doc Stimson, "and I'm sorry just thirty ounces."

One of the other men remarked to the ceiling that he was sorry fifty ounces. Finally all present "chipped in" and there was a gathering of nearly two hundred ounces of gold, some of it in bottons, from the retorts, some river dust, and some the dull grains from placers.

Almost without a sound the crowd started for the Keystone with the gold they had contributed. The watchman was so glad that he was not to be lynched for not having told the foolish children the truth that he was perfectly willing to enter the plot, which was to place all this gold into the turbine tub and allow Ingram to believe it gold from his mine. The main point now was to keep the fatal truth from them. Later—well they would see. So, they all sat down to wait for daylight and possibly news from the shack. They put a stone in the gear of the turbine so that the motion would not wash out the fine particles of dust, as they could not gather with the quicksilver and form amalgam on account of the nullifying effects of the arsenic.

After a long and cold wait there was a lusty wail, a sound never to be forgotten, and they listened breathlessly for news from the doctor.

"It's the finest boy in Kern county," said the doctor, just as the tardy sun came over the mountain. One man wanted to celebrate the day by lynching the man that sold the mill to the innocents, but just then the door opened again and Ed came bounding to them saying:

"Say, boys, I've got a son. Will you come in and see him? Mary is willing but she mustn't talk. And, I'm glad you've come. Oh, yes, Happy New Year."

"Yes—Happy New Year for us all, and the boy in particular!" the men shouted as they followed Ed to the shack. Ed continued:

"You'll all stay to breakfast, for we are going to have the first clean-up right away."

"Just so—just so," said Jim, and then with hushed steps they went into the little shack as though they were treading on holy ground. The beauty and grace of motherhood had fallen on Mary and her smile was ineffable. Even the mine was forgotten in her sweet joy.

TRACTOR ON A RUBBER FARM

Machine on 20,000-Acre Sumatra Plantation Does Work That Required Hundreds of Coolies.

The value of the tractor in expediting farm work has been recognized in many ways, but a striking example of its utility as applied to the cultivation of rubber has been shown by the employment of a tractor on a rubber plantation of 20,000 acres in Sumatra, controlled by one of the largest tire manufacturers in this country. In former days, says a writer, it required 250 coolies to plow three acres a day, but by utilizing a tractor 20 acres are now plowed in that time.

At the time the tractor was purchased about 2,000 acres were producing rubber, and consignments from the plantation are now coming to the American factory.

The development of the plantation was due to the recognition by the company that it was necessary to protect its rubber supply back to the tree. It was one of the lessons brought forcibly to the attention of the commercial world due to the war that without control of raw material supply back of the source, in case of a disturbance in market and transportation conditions, business would be greatly handicapped.

Slow Work.

"How long before my change will be here?" she asked, after waiting a considerable time.

"Oh, I didn't know you were in any hurry," replied the saleslady.

"Didn't know I was in any hurry? Well, I like that!"

"Why, no, your husband won't be ready to start for some time yet. He's out there trying to crank up his car."

WINTER CONCERTS IN JAPAN

Public Rehearsals Given by Music Pupils Are Great Social Events and Source of Profit to Teachers.

The winter concerts given by the foremost music teachers of Tokyo, namly, singing, koto (harp), samisen (three-stringed guitar) or dancing teachers, are great social occasions, says East and West. The pupils, all girls, are the performers. For this day in the teacher's house the screens (fusuma and shoji) are removed to turn the available rooms into a large hall and a raised platform is improvised in the studio to accommodate half a dozen or more musicians and instruments. In one corner are piled up little souvenirs—sweets, fruits, fancy napkins or fancy food—presented by the pupils and to be distributed among those present. The rest of the house is occupied by the pupils, present and past, their mothers and sisters, the teacher's friends and relatives.

Such a public rehearsal begins in the morning; luncheon is furnished by the teacher or hostess and the professional friends who accompany the pupils stay to dinner after the rehearsal is over. A girl who sings or plays once during the day pays at least one yen for the honor of showing her attainment, but her grownup relatives as audience do likewise to contribute to the teacher's expenses. The latter's colleagues who accompany the girl on koto, samisen or kokyu receive gratuities from the pupil in question which range between one yen and fifty yen, according to the importance of the parts they take. Supposing there are twenty girls to play during the day, those music teachers being skilled in two or three instruments, their parts are so arranged that the day's proceeds are about equal. Mothers, sisters, aunts, friends and all enjoy the occasion highly.

HUMMING BIRD'S NEST SMALL

When Completed It Is Scarcely Larger Than a Walnut Shell but It withstands the Elements.

The most dainty structure built in this country by the bill and feet of birds is the nest made by the ruby-throated humming bird, writes T. Gilbert Pearson. When completed it is scarcely larger than an English walnut, and is saddled on a small horizontal limb of a tree, often many feet from the ground. It is composed almost entirely of soft plant fibers, fragments of spiders' webs sometimes being used to hold them in shape. The outer sides are thickly studded with bits of lichen, and practiced, indeed, is the eye of man or woman that can distinguish it from a knot on a limb.

Although the humming bird's nest is exceedingly frail, there is nothing on record to show that any great number of them come to grief during the summer rains. It is, however, not called upon for a long term of occupation. Within a month after two white eggs are laid the young depart on their tiny pinions. Young birds that require a longer period for growth before leaving the nest are furnished usually with more enduring abiding places. In the case of the bald eagle, the young of which do not fly until they are many weeks old, a most substantial structure is provided.

Origin of the Silhouette.

A man there was in France, in the last of the eighteenth century, who became minister of finance, and was so economical and bade the French people to be equally so that all manner of fun was made of him, and the cheapest articles were named for him. One day a painter said: "To be economical we must stop using paints and colors. "Here," he said to a lady sitting in the sun, "let me draw you in black and save colors," and he drew her profile as it cast a shadow against his panel. "There," he said. "There is a likeness of you without expense of paints. Let us name it for our worthy minister of finance." And they did. The minister's name was Etienne de Silhouette. And that's how the silhouette came to be—as a joke.—Ladies' Home Journal.

The Three White Lines.

It is said that the three white lines which appear on the collars of sailors' blouses in the United Kingdom, the lines being straight for men of the regular navy and wavy for men of the naval volunteer force, represent the three naval victories of Nelson—the battles of the Nile, Copenhagen and Trafalgar. No one can say who originated the idea of these lines, or when they were first used, but there is a story that their significance is as explained above.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Jap Marriage Rites Valid.

The United States government now recognizes the Japanese form of marriage, and it is no longer necessary for the "picture bride" from Japan to follow the American custom, according to a statement made in San Francisco, by Commissioner Edward White of the department of labor. It is not necessary for the man to be present at the ceremony according to the Japanese rites. The signature of the woman to the family record of the man constitutes a full Japanese marriage ceremony.

Special Delivery.

"Well, if that ain't the limit," mused the postman, as he came down the steps of a private residence.

"What's the trouble?" queried the mere citizen who had overheard the postman's noisy thought.

"Why," explained the man in gray, "the woman in that house says if I don't come earlier she'll get her letters from some other carrier."

Gen. Funston's "Artillery."

In all his campaigns the late General Funston carried a 45-caliber pistol that extended from his waist to his knee—not a long way, at that. When he came ashore at Vera Cruz to take command of the city, Admirals Fletcher and Badger, with their staffs, were drawn up in line to greet him. They were in white, with shining swords and accoutrements. The general was in his olive drab uniform without a blouse, and had his enormous pistol strapped to his waist.

The British consul was there with his staff, too, and, failing to see any resplendent officer with gold and lace, he asked: "Where is the general? Is he the little Chinaman at the head of the column, or is that just an American artillery regiment?" General Funston often told the story himself.

Digestibility of Cheese.

In investigating the digestibility of cheese it has been shown that much depends on the special physical characteristics of the food. All fat cheeses are said to be dissolved and digested with great rapidity, because of the molecules of the casein—the nitrogenous part of the cheese—are separated only by the fat, and so the gastric juice can attack a large surface of the cheese at one time. Whether the cheese be hard or soft does not appear to influence digestion, and there is no connection between the digestibility and the percentage of water present in the cheese.

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