

# BLIND FARMER WINS

## Excels as Handler and Shrewd Trader of Horses.

### In Spite of Total Loss of Sight He Is Able to Do as Many Things as Average Man, and Do Them Well.

Denver, Col.—Stephen Mellinger is a young farmer who lives near this town and who sees things by a new light. More people stop and talk with him than with any other person who comes to town. He is 23 years old, and is totally blind; yet he sees, or at least his other senses have been so strengthened, that he gets along about as well as do men with full vision.

Mellinger lost his sight when he was three years old, while playing with a hatchet, which rebounded, the edge cutting into one of his eyes. The sight was soon gone in this eye, and after a year of suffering the other eye was so affected that its vision vanished also.

Stricken thus in childhood, the little boy hardly realized what it was to be blind, and to-day he says he does not mind the loss of his sight at all. "By years of practice," he says, "I have adjusted my life to blindness. I am doing about everything my brother and sister can do. My neighbors can tell you how well I do it, too."

"Yes; I walk to Denver, half a mile distant, practically every day. I go half the distance on the railroad tracks. My hearing tells me just where I am. Every step I take has a different sound to me. When I tread upon this tie I know how far away from home I am. When I get to the place where I turn upon the public road, leading to the center of the town, somehow I can't explain just how and why—but I am able to tell by the sound my shoes make that I have to stop and turn in another direction."

"When I get to town I can tell where the stores are, who are the owners and what is sold there. My sense of smell tells me at once when I get in front of the hotel or when I enter a cigar store or the corner grocery. My brother is a butcher, and occasionally I help him in much of the work, and the surroundings are so impressed upon my mind that I can not fool me when I get in front of a butcher shop, no matter where it is."

Suddenly Mellinger said: "There comes one of our horses around the corner, and he is hitched to our ice wagon."

"How do you know that, Stephen?" asks a man who was watching him closely.

"Why, I can tell the horse's footsteps as well as you can some people's. I have five horses on my farm, and I can tell you which when I hear them walk or trot."

"Do you drive, too?"

"Sure. Ask the landlord here. He will tell you that I come to town every day, and on Saturdays I drive over every bit of street there is in town, and I can tell you every street corner and doorstep, for I sell ice cream to most all of the residents. People can't understand how I get along, but somehow, if my feet could talk and my ears explain, and my nose corroborate, I might be able to tell you in exact words how I distinguish between John's and Samuel's horses, on the other side of the street."

Mr. Mellinger is probably the most wonderful farmer in the state. He takes care of a large herd of oxen every winter, which he fattens; he milks six or eight cows, grows five horses, keeps their stables in tippet shape, greases the harness and does a hundred other odd things about the barn.

As a machinist his neighbors, with all their good sight, can hardly excel the blind man. He has a large gasoline engine and steam thrashing machine on his farm, and when he and his father go to a neighbor's farm to thresh grain Stephen either handles the sheaves, putting them upon the platform ready for the feeder, or attends to the grain bags.

On one occasion some accident happened and the engine would not work. The father looked at every valve and bolt, but it was no use. Then they called Stephen. He crawled under the engine, and with his fingers began to feel and with a hammer he kept on tapping on the various parts. Suddenly his fingers felt something and his ears told him by the sound that he had the part that was defective. Five minutes later the engine was operating the thrashing machine and Stephen was carrying away grain bags again.

**Wealthy Shun Ministry.**

Pasadena, Cal.—Scoring the rich and the sons of the rich in a sermon on the decline of the ministry, Rev. Joseph William Cochran, president of the Presbyterian Board of Education of Boston, Mass., preached to the wealthy and exclusive congregation of the Pasadena Presbyterian church.

"There are very few rich parents who will allow their sons to enter the ministry," said Mr. Cochran. "It is not like it used to be in the good old days when the ministry was one of the channels into which all aspiring mothers turned the minds of their sons."

**Mexico Bars Sombroso.**

Guadalajara, Mexico.—The authorities of the city of Tepic, have issued a prohibitive order against the wearing of sombrosos, because so dear

# MOSES FIRST GREAT EDITOR

## Dean of Missouri University Says That Biblical Scribe Went in for News of Crime.

Kansas City, Mo.—Addressing the Ministers' alliance of Kansas City on the "Faith of a Journalist," Walter Williams, dean of the School of Journalism at Missouri university, spoke of the similarity of the Bible to the modern newspapers.

"The best journalist with whose work I am acquainted," said Mr. Williams, "was Moses. He was the first great editor. You plead for the publication of the good only and the beautiful in your favorite daily journal. It was an earlier people, not a wiser one, who cried, 'prophecy unto us smooth things.'"

"In a single slight book of the five which Moses edited, a book, the contents of which would not occupy a half page in to-day's newspaper, Moses, the first great editor, gave more criminal news and that more graphically than to-day's newspapers would dare report—the disobedience of Adam; the drunkenness of Noah; the falsehoods of Abraham; the iniquity of the whole city of Sodom; the wickedness of Schechem, the son of Hamor; the wickedness of Judah, with Tamar, the woman in black, who sat by the roadside."

"The best reporter with whose work I am acquainted was Luke. His story has the characteristics of the best reporting—clearness, vividness, truthfulness, facts in due proportion, human interest. His Christmas story has just now been read the world around."

"The whole Bible is indeed a model of good journalism. It interprets the facts of everyday life. How full it is of the details of biography, the personal gossip, if you please. I confess to a fascination for the details of biography, the news about people."

**BID ON SHADOWS, GET GIRL.**

Nice Lunch "Thrown In" at Unique New Jersey Church Entertainment—Much Cash Netted.

New Egypt, N. J.—How would you like to bid on a shadow and get a girl, with a delicious lunch "thrown in"? That is what happened at a unique entertainment in the Presbyterian church the other night, and not a single complaint has been heard of any of the bidders falling to get their money's worth, either in girl or lunch.

The entertainment was arranged by the church and School Improvement association and announcement of its features had aroused keen interest and a lot of guessing. At the church the shadows of the girls were thrown upon a screen and the fellow who bid the highest got the girl for the rest of the evening.

Of course, there were some bidders who fancied that they were fully aware of what they were bidding on since they had evidently become familiar with certain shadows in dimly lit parlors; but there were some lively surprises for all that and the fun was at high tension. A large sum was netted for the church and the Improvement association.

**ANOTHER FARM PEST IN WEST**

Large Hairy Worm in Enormous Numbers is Destroying Pasturage Over Large Areas.

Washington.—Larger and more hairy than the army worm and appearing in enormous numbers, entirely destroying the pastures over large areas in the west, a new caterpillar pest is being fought by the government. Chief Entomologist Howard says the new insect, which has been known before simply to collectors, but never as a crop pest or forage pest, that it has appeared for two years in succession and that while there is a chance that it will go away, "we have discovered no parasites and no disease so far." Its chosen territory is northwestern New Mexico, southeastern Colorado, extreme western Oklahoma, northwestern Texas, and probably southwestern Kansas.

The department of agriculture is urging an appropriation for investigating another forage pest, a weevil, that has come up within the past year, apparently imported from Europe, no one knows how, it is said, which destroys the alfalfa crops in Utah.

**END OF HISTORICAL GARDEN**

Madison Square, Designed by Late Stanford White at Cost of \$3,000,000, Doomed.

New York.—Madison Square garden, designed by the late Stanford White, and erected at a cost of \$3,000,000, has been sold to a real estate syndicate and will be torn down and replaced by a modern office building, according to a report in realty circles. The property has been on the market for some time at \$3,000,000.

Demolition of the garden will mean a serious loss to the national horse show, where the event is held annually. It is owned by the Madison Square Garden Company, of which Frank K. Sturgis is president and J. P. Morgan a member. As an investment the garden has not proved profitable.

**Weeds Are Costly.**

New York.—For failing to cut the weeds, brush and grass along the right of way in Smithtown, L. I., a jury has given a verdict of \$32,200 against the Long Island railroad. The damages asked totaled \$73,000, covering two years. The suit was the first brought under the forest, fish, and game laws enacted in 1900.

# ICE FISHING BEGINS

## Season Opened on January 1st and Continues to June.

### Law Off on Trout and Salmon in New Hampshire and Lake Winnipiseogee Welcomes Many Visitors.

Laconia, N. H.—The season for ice fishing on Lake Winnipiseogee and the smaller lakes and ponds in this vicinity, is now on. The open season on both trout and salmon began on January 1 and will continue until next June. To many fishermen the greater amount of sport in the taking of these fish comes with the opening of the ice fishing season.

During the past ten years there has been a large increase in the number of fishermen that come to the Winnipiseogee region for this kind of sport. From the time the big lake first freezes over until the troling season opens in the spring, the ice fisherman is decidedly in evidence. He is decidedly welcome, for during two or three months he scatters many dollars in paying for guides, hotel quarters, camps and the like.

While the greater portion of the ice fishermen come singly, large parties are sometimes organized, and the more commodious camps are engaged for two or three weeks at a time. It is then that there is plenty of activity at the fishing grounds, wherever they may locate. In past years some enormous catches have been taken to the cities at the end of one of these mid-winter visits. In a measure, however, the last session of the legislature put a stop to the wholesale slaughter, by passing a law that specified the number and weight of fish that can be taken in any one day. The law also provides that no trout or salmon taken through the ice shall be offered for sale. This is pretty well lived up to by the native fishermen, but there have been instances where an ambitious fisherman who has had poor luck has been forced to enter into some quiet negotiations and as a result has carried home a well filled basket to exhibit to his friends.

For this ice fishing sport, the majority prefer the early season, when the ice has just formed, and the work of cutting the fish holes with the heavy ice chisel is easy. For the early comers, the conditions at the present time are ideal. The big lake closed in late this winter, in fact nothing but the smaller coves in Lake Winnipiseogee were frozen over previous to Christmas day.

The fishing grounds are not confined to any one section of the big lake. For convenience in the way of railroad and hotel accommodations, and perhaps this city, The Weirs, and Meredith, receive the larger number of visitors during the season. A large number also put up at Alton Bay, Wolfeboro, and other towns on the eastern side of the lake. On the ice at Wolfeboro, and also on the frozen surface of Lake Winnepesaukee at this city, large settlements of fishing camps and "bob houses" make their appearance as soon as the ice gets thick enough. These remain until the ice goes out in the spring. Last winter either one of these "winter villages" numbered over fifty houses.

These houses are fitted up in a most comfortable manner, with stoves, bunks and the like. With the little trap door in the center of each house open, and the lines passing down through the hole cut in the ice, the winter fisherman takes things easy, smokes his pipe or samples the bait, and waits for the bite that is pretty sure to come. Farther out on the lake, where some of the natives will tell you that the best fishing is, these comfortable "bob houses" are out of question to a certain extent. Here the house gives way to a wind break made of a pine or spruce bush, or a piece of old sail cloth or a blanket. With these slight protections against a wind sometimes sweeping down the lake at a 60-mile an hour clip, the enthusiastic ice fisherman will try to convince you that he is getting lots of fun even if he is not getting lots of fish.

**Boy Lectures to Sages.**

Cambridge, Mass.—"And a little child shall lead them," was never better exemplified than when William J. Sidis, the ten-year-old mathematical wonder, the youngest student ever matriculated at Harvard university stepped on the platform in Conant hall to address the Harvard Mathematical society. The boy watched his father, Prof. Boris Sidis, who was in the front row. The subject was "The Fourth Dimension," and young Sidis went over the matter that has puzzled philosophers and mathematicians for centuries, leaving only small defects in his armor. Gray-haired professors applauded the boy's thesis. At the conclusion of the lecture an avalanche of questions was thrown at him, which he answered unhesitatingly.

**Emigrant Record Broken.**

New York.—More immigrants arrived in America in 1909 than in any previous year, according to W. C. Moore, landing agent at Ellis Island. About 775,000 steerage passengers are reported to have entered New York last year.

This number was exceeded in 1907 but Mr. Moore says that many of the passengers two years ago were naturalized citizens returning. Italians led in numbers last year. An unusual feature was a largely increased immigration from Brazil.

# IS CHAMPION FLAPJACK EATER

## Vladmore Larsen, Oregon Ranch Hand, Is Ready to Enter Contest with All Comers.

Portland, Ore.—Comes now the champion flapjack eater of the world, or one who lays claim to the title, and he has a backer who issues a deft to any one on earth to outdo him.

Vladmore Larsen, a ranch hand near Antelope, eastern Oregon, is the man with the seemingly insatiable appetite for the steaming hot cake. One night after supper recently conversation among the men at the Brogan ranch, where Larsen is employed, turned to what they would like for breakfast. Larsen declared for hot cakes and lots of them.

Mrs. Brogan asked him how many he would like and he thought 20 would be about right for a light breakfast. Now Mrs. Brogan's hot cakes are full man's size, and Tom Kenny knew that 20 of them would be as big as a large saddle-blanket, so he offered to bet five dollars that Larsen couldn't do the stunt. Larsen covered the money.

Next morning Larsen ate 22 and remarked that he could easily eat more if he wanted to show off, but he did not care for a heavy breakfast that morning.

Kenny observed the ease with which the victor absorbed the hot cakes and stated later he believed Larsen could eat 75 or 100 flapjacks any time they were in sight. He stands ready to back Larsen as the champion flapjack eater of the world.

**FARMER DECEIVES HIS COW**

Disguises Himself at Milking Time While His Wife is Visiting Friends in Illinois.

Columbus, O.—William Baker, a farmer who lives in Clay township, Bartholomew county, has superseded his wife in the affections of the family cow, but the cow does not know it. Baker is playing a joke on the cow, and she will, doubtless be angry when she learns of the deception. Mrs. Baker always milks the cow, but this week she decided to go to Newman, Ill., on a visit. When evening came and the cow returned from the pasture Baker took the milking pail and the little stool and started to milk.

The gentle bovine turned her head and started in mild surprise to see a man at her side. Then she became genuinely aroused and started trouble. She kicked the bucket and the bucket holder and tore up things generally. Baker was in a quandary. The cow had to be milked and his wife was on her way to Illinois. Then he had an idea and he put it to work.

He went to the house, donned a dress belonging to his wife and pulled a sunbonnet over his face. Returning to the barnyard he approached the cow, and she seemed glad to see him. He milked without any trouble, and now he has to wear his wife's clothes whenever milking time comes.

**AMERICANS TO KNOW MUSIC**

Education Would Be Materially Improved by Addition of Musical Studies in Colleges.

Chicago.—"The American people are musical barbarians and the function of the American musician is to civilize the people."

This declaration by President Abram W. Harris of Northwestern university was the keynote of the thirty-first annual convention of the Music Teachers' National association, which met here the other day. Two hundred delegates were present.

"It is a regrettable fact that music plays such a little part in the education of the people," said President Harris, "and it is a shame that college graduates know so little of the sublime works of music. A young man who goes into the world without any idea and appreciation of music is poorly equipped for his life work, for he is forever barred from the uplifting qualities to be derived from great musical compositions. Education is too cold, and it would be materially improved by the addition of musical studies in connection with other college courses."

**GERMANY TO CUT LITIGATION**

Government to Make Annual Appropriation for Support of Bureaus Giving Free Advice.

Berlin.—Considerable reduction of the volume of litigation in the courts may be expected from the government's decision to adopt the policy of giving financial support to organizations maintaining public bureaus for the dissemination of free legal advice. It is estimated that there are about 1,000 of these in various parts of the empire. In view of the rapidly increasing patronage of such establishments the government has brought in a proposition to make an annual contribution to aid in defraying their running expenses. The measure is approved by German sociologists as another important step in the progress the government is making in social legislation.

**Believes in Women Workers.**

London.—The postmaster general has had many letters asking why he employs so many women in the post offices, and whether he is not increasing the number of unemployed men by so doing. He has written a statement that he does not believe the situation would be relieved by putting a stop to women's labor in the post offices, but thinks it is undesirable that the staff should contain an undue proportion of women.

# WEATHER RECORD ON WINDOW

## Real Estate Man of Kansas Has Kept It on Glass Pane for Over Twenty-Two Years.

Leavenworth, Kan.—Scratched with a diamond on a window pane in the office of Harry Rose, secretary of the Retail Merchants' association in the Masonic building at Leavenworth, is a record of weather conditions in that city from 1876 to 1898. The record was kept by Maj. John M. Laing, a pioneer real estate agent, who years ago held the office now occupied by Harry Rose.

Every winter Maj. Laing cut one or two observations on the window pane with his diamond. It is evident from the records that he usually chose for his memorandum the extreme temperature of every winter, and in some instances abnormal winters were gradually lessening in their severity from 1876 to 1898. On November 20, 1898, Maj. Laing cut on his window the words "snowstorm for three days." For the last few years only light snows have fallen in November. This indicates that winters are milder now than when Maj. Laing scratched his last record on his office window.

When the Masonic building, formerly known as the Laing building, was remodeled several years ago workmen were warned not to break the window. It is guarded as jealously as a treasure.

**WOULD BE BETTER IN 2110**

Thomas A. Edison Prophesies Wonderful Things for the Poor Man in Two Centuries.

New York.—Thomas A. Edison has taken a peep into the future and prophesies that the world will be a much better one, particularly for the poor man, 200 years from now. In an interview published here to-day he says:

"In 2110, by the cheapening of commodities, the ordinary laborer will live as well as a man does now with \$200,000 annual income. Automatic machinery and scientific agriculture will bring about this result. There will be no manual labor in the factories of the future. The men employed will all be superintendents watching the machinery to see that it works right."

"The work day will be eight hours or less. It will be work with the brain done in wholesome, pleasant surroundings. Less and less man will be used as an engine or as a horse."

"The clothes of the future, by the way, will be so cheap that every young woman will be able to follow the fashions promptly, and there will be plenty of fashions."

**MEDALS FOR HEROES OF '60**

Government at Last to Recognize Bravery of Students in Lady Elgin Disaster.

Washington.—Secretary of the Treasury MacVeagh has taken action which will result in the presenting of medals for heroism to Bishop Joseph C. Hartzell, to the family of Bishop Charles H. Fowler of the Methodist Episcopal church, and to Edmund Spencer.

The three men named, when students at Northwestern university, displayed conspicuous personal gallantry in saving lives on the occasion of the burning of the steamer Lady Elgin in Lake Michigan on September 8, 1860. Bishop Hartzell also showed great gallantry in the saving of life when the steamship Storm was wrecked in the lake in the year 1864.

The law which gave the department authority to grant medals was passed in 1874 and was not retroactive. A change has been effected, however, and the medals will soon be granted.

**SILVER DOLLAR IS VALUABLE**

Kansas City Street Car Conductor Gets Rare Coin in Payment for Fare—Dated 1798.

Kansas City, Mo.—Cautiously asking Conductor E. W. Ellis, on the independence division, if a dollar he was tendering was "good," an old man the other day paid his car fare with a silver dollar dated 1798. On the date side is a Liberty head with thirteen stars about it. On the other side the spread eagle, with shield in front of the body, thirteen small stars between the tips of the wings and below the level of the head, the whole surmounted by five little billowy clouds.

On this side are the words "United States of America."

On the rim, in place of the milling, is, "One dollar, or unit, 100 cents."

The conductor gave the man 95 cents change and put the coin where he would not be likely to pass it out again in making change.

**\$34.83 Per Capita.**

Washington.—Every man, woman and child in the United States ought to have \$34.83. If the \$3,122,164,533 which is in circulation were equally divided among them.

That is the statement made by the treasury department on the basis of an estimated population of 89,644,000. The total amount of money in circulation is about \$30,000,000 more than a year ago.

Of the total amount of national bank notes outstanding, viz: \$710,354,253, that secured by notes amounts to \$683,401,523, the remainder being secured by lawful money. The total amount of national bank notes outstanding is about \$33,000,000 more than a year ago.

# LIVE ON COAL BOAT

## Father of Twelve Tells of Joys on Coal Barge.

### With No Rent to Pay and Other Perquisites, Mariner Thinks That His Fate Is to Be Envid.

New York.—And now there's another little Vedders to add in the swelling of Uncle Sam's humble but important mercantile force, and Mr. and Mrs. George W. Vedders, commandants of the good ship Edith—rated coal barge—are receiving congratulations of the harbor fleet because of the arrival of a baby boy, their twelfth child.

The youngster was born on the Edith. This is not an unusual happening in the Vedders family. Capt. Vedders himself was born on a tow-boat 52 years ago at Roundout, N. Y., and so were his father and mother. Likewise Mrs. Vedders, who first saw the light of day on one of the old grain-carrying, shallow-draft Erie canal boats at Lockport, N. Y.

The Edith, on which Mr. and Mrs. Vedders and the youngest of five children, including the baby, now reside, is one of the newest and finest coal scows in the local cruising fleet. It is only a year and one-half old, 90 feet long, and the property of Patterson & Browns of 1 Broadway. Just at present the Edith is moored at Ellis island.

When seen on his boat Capt. Vedders was seated on the back "porch." Surrounding him were a dozen or more captains of other barges moored nearby, as well as several of the directors of the power house of the immigration bureau.

"Yes," said Capt. Vedders. "I'm the man. They're doing fine. It's a boy and we're going to name him Frederick Ellis Vedders. Just to show how much we think of this island."

"Why, of course, I'm not at all bashful. I've had 12 of 'em, all born on either coal or ice boats, and barring two who died when they were babies, they never saw the inside of a drug store or had a doctor at their tongues."

"My youngsters have been the best lot you ever saw. The best girls married barge captains, and the two oldest boys got their own boats now. Thing, too, we're all working same firm."

"Say, pa," interjected James, aged 12. "Frank got sick and Ma had to give him some cin."

"Yes, kid," replied his father, "that was because your mother had a safe canal boat and on one of those risky merry-go-rounds in Central park. I don't go a-cept when I've got to. You'd be killed every minute."

"I tell you what," said the captain. "there are too many folks shore sweltering to death in stuffy tenements and giving half what they earn to the landlord, and then spending the rest on car fare, ice, coal and grocery bills. These are the kind of people who are always pitying us. 'You poor man! What an awful life you must lead on that boat,' they'll say. But they don't know what're talking about."

"I never paid a cent for rent in my life, neither did my father, neither did any of my children, and my four grandchildren are too young to think of such matters as yet. When we want coal we help ourselves to some of the cargo, and there's always an iceboat or two in the summer time, and their captains are never stingy."

The Vedders family besides Capt. and Mrs. Vedders and the baby, are Frank, 14; James, 12; Lida, 5; and Florence, 3, all of whom live on the Edith. The other children, who are boatmen or the wives of boatmen in charge of barges, are: Mrs. Hattie Larsen of the barge Cora, Mrs. Pearl McKivie of the Elizabeth, Mrs. Annie Lane of the Emma, William Vedders of the Priscilla and George Vedders of the Frederick R. Zerpis.

**VIGILANCE ONLY FOR RODENTS**

New Jersey Patrolman Carefully Guarded Basket Filled with Twenty Dead Rats.

Burlington, N. J.—For two hours Patrolman Fitzpatrick watched a well-filled basket on an East Road street doorstep, expecting a thief to return for the plunder the officer had an idea the basket contained.

Tiring of his long vigil, the officer finally carried the basket to the office of a nearby factory, asking the watchman to guard it until morning.

Shortly after the officer left the watchman decided to have a look at the loot. Lifting the paper covering he saw, not silverware, but 20 dead rats, which a resident had trapped and placed outside his home, intending to dispose of them in the morning.

**Nine Mayors from One Shop.**

Berke, England.—In responding for the visitors at a banquet given by the mayor of Newbury, Mr. Camp. Mr. Bull, who was three times mayor of Reading, stated that he had been on the most friendly terms with the mayor of Newbury from the time they were working together in a drapery establishment at Southampton. From this shop no fewer than nine men had gone forth into the world and had been elected to the office of mayor in the towns in which they had settled.