

# THE POLK COUNTY POST

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W. J. Clark was here from Portland visiting his family last week end.

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### POWERFUL MACHINE

A gigantic machine, with jaws which open to take in timber or assembled wood structures 30 feet in height and which can crush them like egg shells when the jaws close together again, has recently been erected at the forest products laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture at Madison, Wis.

This machine is to be used for testing very large wooden columns. It is possible to exert a force of a million pounds with it, and it is built to crush a wooden post a foot square. Its great range of testing speeds enables it to apply its tremendous load with the fatiguing slowness of a building settling on its foundation timbers or with the speed of a train dashing onto a wooden trestle. Architects and engineers have very little data of the kind which this machine will supply to the scientists at the laboratory.

### NEW PENOLOGICAL IDEA.

The officials of a penitentiary are trying a new experiment by repainting the four cell-blocks and allowing each prisoner to select the color he likes for his own cell, for the psychological effect it has upon the malefactor. The corridors of the cellhouses are being painted a light brown. The cells are being painted in attractive tints of yellow, blue, brown, buff, etc. None of the cells, the warden explained, is to have somber settings, but are all to be bright and cheerful. The penologist is always an optimist.

### CHINESE MAIDS SHOW ANKLES

Cut Several Inches Off Pantaloons to Display Silk Hosiery, Like American Girls.

San Francisco.—Only a decade ago the most flirtatious Chinese maid whose smiles ever started a tong war would not think of letting Caucasian eyes rest upon her trim Oriental ankle, any more than would her suitor go awooing without wearing a queue.

The Chinese revolution cut off the queues. And now Dame Fashion has clipped a full eight inches off the pretty pantaloons of the celestial maidens, revealing for the first time on the streets of San Francisco's Chinatown pretty ankles and a bit more, encased in as entrancing bits of silk as any American girl can wear.

"Sure, we like 'em, all same American girl," was what Rose Gee had to say about her new silk stockings and tiny pumps which showed beneath her lavender silk pantaloons, embroidered in white.

"See, they pretty," she added, coyly, looking downward.

### WORMS RUIN COAST WHARVES

Chemists Seek Ways to End Wood Borers' Damage of Millions of Dollars.

Madison, Wis.—Wharves in San Francisco harbor have been damaged to the extent of \$15,000,000 in the last two years by wood borers.

The amount of loss from the cause on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts is very large, and to check these depredations the forest products laboratory here has started a survey this year.

The log used for a pile is strong and sound when it is first driven, and the wood-borer is very weak and quite insignificant in appearance, but the life and usefulness of the former is short when the small enemy attacks it.

The supposedly solid wooden piles upon which the wharf is built are bored out by the teredo, a worm with a hard-shell auger for a head, and when the ship tugs at her buoys the piles snap off like pipestems.

### Sunspots in 1920.

The last maximum of sunspots was in 1917. During 1920 spottedness continued to decline, the mean daily spot-area for the year being about 700 millionths of the sun's visible hemisphere, or half of that of 1917. On a few occasions, especially during August, the solar disk was practically free from spots, while on some days in January and March the total spotted area was more than 2,500 millionths.—Scientific American.

### Queer Freak of Nature.

Near Bakewell, Derbyshire, England, a tree known as the "Duck" tree, has been cut down. On being cut into boards it was found to have the marking of a duck, the heart, liver and other organs showing a much darker shade. It is said that several years ago a duck was shot on the wing and that it fell into the tree and was never found. The boards are on exhibition in the local museum.

### Nature Lavish to Him.

A Vermont youngster was born with six toes on each foot, and when his teeth appeared he had two rows on his lower jaw.

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