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Special Offer to Our Readers

Recognizing the great demand for Collier's at the new price, we have made arrangements to offer it and our own publication each one year for the price of Collier's alone. This is a limited offer and must be taken advantage of promptly.

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RECEIVES COMMENDATION FROM ELBERT HUBBARD

While the satisfaction of literary expression is in itself its own reward, it is also highly pleasing to receive the commendation of a writer who stands high in the literary world as a master of good, terse, vigorous English and a distinct style of literary expression. Such has been the good fortune of one of our local business men, whose artistic sense and individuality express themselves in his everyday work as well as in his literary writings.

For a number of years Mr. S. L. Ivers, of the S. L. Ivers Electrical Company, has been dashing off stories of travel and adventure gleaned from personal experience, which have been accepted and published by leading magazines. Recently he has also indulged, for his own personal satisfaction, with no purpose of publication, in essays dealing with the more intimate phases of life and its philosophy. A short skit of this nature, entitled "Fireside Philosophy on Life," was recently submitted to Fr. Elbertus for his opinion and same received the following kindly appreciation:

From Elbert Hubbard, East Aurora, N. Y., which is in Erie County, New York, January 10, 1914.

Mr. Sydney L. Ivers, Torrance, California.

Dear Mr. Ivers: Your kind letter of the 2nd inst. received with the manuscript enclosed. I have read this with pleasure and profit. It surely shows an insight into the heart of things that is very charming.

Any man who can write as well as you should keep right at it, for we row by doing, and life is expression.

I herewith return the good manuscript and must thank you for the opportunity of reading it.

With all kind wishes,
Your sincere,
(Signed) ELBERT HUBBARD.

HIGH COURT RULES NATURALIZATION FEES BELONG TO COUNTY

County Clerk Harry Lelande will lose about \$5000 in naturalization fees as the result of a ruling by the United States Supreme Court that the fees belong to the county and are not a perquisite of the office. This question had long been in dispute.

Former County Clerk Keyes deposited all naturalization fees in escrow pending the decision. This money, about \$3000, will revert to the county with \$3000 more that has accumulated.

LOCAL POEM

One of the guests at the Brighton has handed us a poem.

DEWDROPS.

Oh the woods are fresh with beauty,
Dewdrops sparkling everywhere,
Sparkling in the morning sunlight,
Sparkling, sparkling everywhere.

And the roses droop in blushes,
Drooping with their weight of dew,
And the shafts of sunlight quiver
Every sparkling dewdrop through.

Diamonds, diamonds, diamonds, diamonds,
Glistening in the morning sun,
On the fields and o'er the meadows
Scintillating every one.

And the countless, countless colors,
Shifting, changing, flashing sheen,
Painted by the elves and fairies
With Diana as their queen.

Moonbeams from Diana's scepter
Falling as she rose a queen,
Queen of night and queen of beauty
In her majestic supremacy.

Gave the light for elves and fairies
In their revels of the night,
Mystic light for fairy labors
Wrought by pale Diana's light.

But Apollo's steeds approaching,
Soon o'erruled her feeble reign,
As his whirling, fiery chariot
Swept across the east aflame.

From before him elves and fairies,
Sprites and goblins all withdrew,
All in chaos and confusion,
Leaving labor and the dew.

But the trellised rainbow colors,
Wrought by fairies in the night,
Show more lovely in their beauty
Pierced by morning shafts of light.

And the sun in all its splendor,
Rising o'er the fields anew,
Dazzling, dazzling the beholder
As the sunlight drinks the dew.

California Oil Sent to Ends of The Earth

An epoch in the exportation of oil from Southern California, which undoubtedly will grow to great proportions, was marked by the arrival of the new British tank steamer De Sabla at Los Angeles harbor on her maiden voyage from Newcastle-on-Tyne. The De Sabla is the first of a fleet of four great tank steamers to arrive on the Pacific Coast and which will make this harbor their home port.

The four tankers will carry California oil to the four corners of the earth for the General Petroleum Company. All are named after directors of the company. The Barreton has just been completed and the Sloss and Colgate are now being built. All the tankers are designed on the same lines. The De Sabla is 460 feet in length and has a capacity of 60,000 barrels of oil. She will discharge a surplus of bunker oil here and load oil, either here or at Port San Luis, for South American ports. About four days will first be required to install oil burners under her boilers.

While the General Petroleum Company has shipped a few cargos of oil off shore in vessels chartered from

the Union Oil Company, and done considerable coastwise business, the service of its own steamers and the advent of the company as a factor in the world's distribution of oil will be marked by the arrival of the De Sabla.

Andrew Weir, the London shipowner, and R. Tilden Smith, who represent the English group of capitalists who are financing the General Petroleum Company expected to inspect the steamer but were delayed by the washouts along the S. P. coast line. They will return to Los Angeles from San Francisco, where the general Petroleum Company was reorganized.

While Weir and Smith were unsuccessful in negotiating a new option upon the control of the Union Oil company, after several weeks' negotiations, several deals were negotiated that have an important bearing upon the production of oil in Southern California. One is a contract with the Union for 500,000 to 600,000 barrels of oil to be delivered through the pipe line to San Pedro.

It is believed that this oil is for the use of some foreign navy.

Excursion Rates From East in Effect Daily This Summer

Every day will be excursion day to California this summer.

Tens of thousands of visitors from Chicago, St. Louis and many other places in the central and western states, are expected to avail themselves of the reduced round-trip rates to the Pacific coast in order to enjoy the cool sea breezes and escape the hot weather of the interior, according to A. T. Lewis, chief clerk general passenger department of the Salt Lake railroad, who has returned to Los Angeles after attending the rate meeting of the Transcontinental Passenger association in Chicago, where the excursion rates were fixed.

From June 1 until September 30,

the low rates will be in effect daily with a return limit of October 31, thus giving the visitors ample time to see the State. All trunk lines will make the reductions. The present round-trip from Chicago to Los Angeles is \$109.50 but the summer excursion rates will be \$72.50; Missouri river points, \$60 instead of \$90; St. Louis, \$70 instead of \$102. Special rates will also be made from Nevada and nearby states.

An active campaign of advertising has been commenced to swell the number of summer visitors this year. Every hotel and ticket office in America is expected to post attractive notices of the daily excursions.

Marriage Gain Shown in Los Angeles County

The marriages in Los Angeles county reported to the State Bureau of Vital Statistics total 7584 for 1912, 1490 for 1913, 6263 for 1911, 5452 for 1910, 4948 for 1909, 4451 for 1908, 4847 for 1907, and 4506 for 1906.

The marriage rate per 1000 population was 12.4 for 1913 as compared with 12.9 for 1912, 11.5 for 1911, and 10.7 for 1910.

The small gain of only 94 for 1913 over 1912 seems due largely to a sharp falling off of marriages in the last two months, the first ten months of 1913 exceeding the same months of 1912 by 273 in marriages, while November and December in 1913 fell behind corresponding totals in 1912

by no less than 179 together, the decrease being 85 for November and 94 for December.

Corresponding totals for Orange county, where many Los Angeles couples go to wed, are as follows: 1913, 1359; 1912, 1290; 1911, 1069; 1910, 951, and 1909, 871. The marriage rate per 1000 resident inhabitants was as great as 34.6 for Orange county in 1913 against 34.2 in 1912, 29.5 in 1911, and 27.4 in 1910.

The aggregate of 8943 marriages for Los Angeles and Orange counties together in 1913 represents a marriage rate of 13.7 per 1000 population as compared with corresponding combined rates of 14.2 for 1912; 12.6 for 1911, and 11.7 for 1910.

Sees Big Year For Los Angeles During 1914

"To come out of snow and blizzards and to drop into a land of warm sunshine and see the green grass growing and yellow oranges on the trees—it's mighty good," said C. A. Cairns of Chicago, general passenger and ticket agent of the Chicago, Northwestern railway.

It is this contrast in climates, he said, that is going to bring a record number of Eastern people to Southern California before the end of the winter season.

"The year 1914 is going to show

a big increase in traffic to this State," he said. "Many Easterners are coming this year to stay for the expositions. Reports from our agents seem to indicate that the entire East is coming to California.

"Los Angeles is going to get the most benefit. Nobody will think of coming to California without seeing Los Angeles. The result is sure to be that many will become permanent residents and invest their money here."