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TODAY'S WEATHER-Cloudy and threate ng, with probably light rain or snow; winds TESTERDAY'S WEATHER-Maximum teme. 41; minimum temperature, 34; pre on, 6.05 inch.

PORTLAND, SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 1903

## PASSING OF "LEGAL" GAMBLING.

While the State of Washington makes it a felony to keep a gambling-house, the State of Arkansas, it is said, is permitting the development at Arkansas Hot Springs of a gambling resort of magnificent proportions and appointments, which bide fair soon to rival that of Monte Carlo. Yet it may be doubted whether the games at Arkansas Hot Springs will be permitted to have permanent existence. Though Arkansas, as compared with some others, may not yet be a state of highest moral culture taking the whole people together-yet there are in Arkansus large numbers of the best and most moral people, and they certainly will be a growing force in the affairs of the state. One of the chief drawbacks is the large negro population, whose educational and moral status, in the mass, is necessarily low.

The State of Washington, in a plich of moral enthusiasm, has gone to an extreme of severity that is perhaps unequaled. The trouble will be found in enforcement of the law. Juries in the principal towns will hesitate to bring in verdicts of guilty, when the effect will be to send the offenders to the Penitentiary. At Arkaneas Hot Springa as at Monte Carlo, the persons who play are visitors, almost wholly; yet the State of Arkansas is so great a commonwealth that its fortunes cannot depend on encouragement of the games, as in the little principality of Monaco, which No permanent gambling resort, therefore, is likely to be maintained at Ar-

kaness Hot Springs. In Europe there has been growth of entiment during many years against the public games, that once were much ore common than now. Monte Carlo indeed, remains the only "legal" public gaming resort in Europe. In Germany and Belgium the games have been completely closed. Of the German resorts, that at Baden-Baden was the most famous. Towards the end the direct rent paid for the privilege of running the Baden-Baden tables was £50,000 a year and the net annual profits ex-ceeded £100,000. Yet, of course, the profits of the tables were inmoney brought to Baden-Baden and expended there, for the number of visitors during the season reached nearly one hundred thousand. Other gambling re-sorts in Germany, as at Wiesbaden. Homburg and Nauheim, were closed be-fore that at Baden-Baden. At Ostend, in Beigium, the public gaming tables were closed on the 10th of October last; and this was an end in Europe to all rivalry

The so-called Rhine gaming resorts were a product of the long peace that followed the Napoleonic wars. Europe was then rendered safe for pleasure travel, which the birth and growth of railways came in due time to facilitate while the aristocratic and leisured classes, finding that time lay heavily on their hands, took up gambling with zest Again, the Rhine gambling-houses were the first to provide palatial mansions with good music, high-class cookery and sumptuously furnished ball and reception-rooms the cost of which was defrayed from the profits of the games In 1854 Prussia started the German movement for suppression on the Rhine tables, which was taken up by the North German Confederation later and carried finally into effect under the consolidated empire.

To close the games at Ostend the Bel gian government has been compelled to the Belgian law was enacted several years ago, its extension to Ostend was delayed-proof of the energy and infuence brought to bear in opposition to it. Ever since Ostend blossomed into a health and pleasure resort, public gam ing had been in operation there; and foundation upon which repose the color-later attempt was made through an sai structures of Ruskin. English syndicate to set up a rival to Monte Carlo. A large sum of money was paid to the municipality for the concession, and the blow to the town effected by the abolition of the tables was and is a serious one. It always has been difficult to continue the popularity of a "resort" when gambling has been already has been obliged to advance a large aum for the completion of works at Ostend which otherwise would have been supplied out of the municipality's

gambling revenue. public games in other parts of Europe-lor, following the example set by Ger-

Spain have also been suppressed.—Monte Carlo is Sourishing mightily. The great Riviera establishment was started in 1856. In 1862 the Prince of Monaco, then a poor man, was paid £13,000 a year for the "concession"; and later the lease was extended to the year 1916. This was modified, however, and in 1897 a new arrangement was made to run fifty years. The capital stock of the syndicate is a producer of revenue equal to stock in the Standard OIL Dividends

A great syndicate has made an effort to get a "concession" for a gambling establishment at San Remo, n Italy, an attractive resort not far from Monte Carlo; but, though a vast sum has been offered, the Italian government has re-fused. Even the little Republic of San Marino, on the Adriatic, has declined a very tempting offer of like kind. Monte Carlo, therefore, remains the one "legal" gambling resort. Only an irresponsible little principality-Monaco is a "state" of five square miles-remains to legalize gambling and to live upon it. Pretension of any state or municipality to importance and dignity presupposes moral conscience and sense of moral responsibility; and gambling the cannot have legal recognition within it.

MERITS OF AMERICAN AUTHORSHIP It is now eleven years ago since a Philadelphia publishing house (Messra A. J. Holman & Co.) asked Professor Hilprecht, of the University of Pennsylvania, to prepare a historical sketch on the explorations in Bible lands, to be printed at the close of the nineteenth century. The long delay that has intervened between the order and its delivery is due to the new and important discoveries that have incersantly been made. It is a striking testimony to the assignity of American research and the conscientiousness of American scholarship. The knowledge of this fidelity, with its incidental assurance of accuracy, must, for every thoughtful reader, immeasurably heighten the value of the beautiful, fascinating and almost epochmaking volume which at length has is-sued from the Philadelphia press, and which stands alone in giving to the Roglieh-reading public a clear conception of the gradual resurrection of the principal ancient nations of Western Asia and Northern Africs-Assyria, Babylonia, Palestine, Egypt, Arabia and the widely scattered habitat of the so-called Hittites.

We shall attempt no summary of the contents of Professor Hilprecht's noble "Explorations in Bible Lands work, During the Nineteenth Century," for it would not satisfy the lovers of this wonderful lore, who will be content only with the book itself, and as for those who have never discovered the charm of these resurrections, they can only be urged to seek them in some such attractive and authoritative source as this American scholar supplies. It is our purpose merely to call the attention of the critically disposed to a field of literary effort in which this Nation needs to ask no odds on account of its youth. The basis of Hilprecht's labors, of course, lies in the generous public spirit which makes the University of Pennsylvania's explorations possible; but ma-terial support of authorship has been vouchsafed as it has been necessary, in all time. The splendor of his achieve ment, however, is all his own, for it involves not only extural gifts and steadfast devotion, but residence abroad at the scene of excavations, in German universities among old manuscripts and also in this country with books and printing presses. Money has supplied the sinews of the archaeological campaign; but the triumph is the general's

The revival of classicism has abundantly justified itself in the Elizabethan and early Victorian eras. But the vogue of its disciples, notably such thinkers skin, our late ern novelista, has served to emphasize an aspect of literature which is undeniagreat, but which does not exclude the highest greatness of other kinds. It cuited the purpose of Macaulay, brilliant critic though he was, to disparage criticism in comparison with the art, for example, of poetry. The greatness of Homer and Milton seemed to him the only greatness deserving of homage and to an extent we will all agree with him. But the faults of the poetic age, if it comes to the odium of comparison, must not be ignored if we are required to consider those of the critica age. It is in the infancy of a nation's development that its imagination soars on highest wing-Homer, Aeschylus, Shakespeare, or in a smaller way our own New England poets. The splendor of that first burst of song never returns. Traveling daily farther from the gorgeous East of youth, the radiance of morning fades into the light of common day. We become merchants and manufacturers; we write intricate stories and criticism, but no great

But poetry is not enough. Its dreams are ennobling, but they are dreams They may be wrong; and scholarship has been commendably busy learning the mistakes of its great poets-He brew, Greek and English. An error in the great man is, indeed, more grievous for hie greatness. Who can estimate the damage bequeathed to posterity by the exuberant pages of ancient poetry which myrinds have accepted as an infallible guide? Who will undertake to disparage the tollsome labors of the literary student or the archaeologist as he digs out the inflection or the inscription which has long held the world in intel-lectual bondage as blighting as the taskmasters of Xerxes or Pharach? There is no sign manual on the poet's view of truth which debars it from the operation of the scholar's view of truth. The song of the sun standing still for Joshua must come under the tests of astronomy; Cortex did not discover the use force; for though as a matter of fact | Pacific, Keats to the contrary notwithstanding, and anti-Semitic hatred is not sanctified by its reflection in the pages of Shakespeare. It becomes necessary to know how truth and error are combined in Macaulay's judgment. It requires to be seen how insecure is the sal structures of Ruskin

Any indictment of current American literary achievement lies against all the modern world; and authorship is winning laurels, here as elsewhere, in realms of the highest value and importance. In history, in criticism, in archaeology, its triumphs are great and permanent. It is doubtful if any lite suppressed; and the Belgian government | period in the history of civilization has more profoundly influenced the mind of man than did the fifty years in which Darwin and Spencer, Huxley and Tyndall, revolutionised the story of creation. Hardly less momentous than that achievement is the work embe

ook in the world, and the remodele for all time of the fabrics from which have been woven the vital forces in a civilization of 6000 years. It is a labor not to be despised or reckoned unfavorably in comparison with any that America has brought forth. Surely it is an inspiring thought that the world had to wait for the latest of the nations to tell the true story of its earliest years! Surely it is a dramatic climax to the migration of the Aryan round the globe, that the Farthest West turns back to nucover reverentially the cerements of the Farthest East.

A VICIOUS PROPOSAL.

Among the various card games which have sharpened the wits, beguiled the tedium and promoted the gayety of na-tions, none holds a more honorable post than the ancient American inetitution of seven-up, or old sledge. Either the two-handed or the partner game affords an excellent trial of wit and memory and few games of chance, as all card end dice games are when fairly played, offer a larger scope for the profitable exercise of individual acumen. It is with regret, therefore, that we observe the iniquitous proposal of a member of the Oklahoma Legislature to alter an important rule of this time-honored

game by statutory enactment. The bill in question proposes to amend the rules of seven-up by providing that when the nondealer has six points and "bega," if the dealer gives him one it shall not put him out if the dealer can make enough to go out on his own "giv-ing" hand. It provides the same thing as if the dealer should count and score his hand before the "one" given to the nondealer is scored. A great many seven-up players have expressed approval of this bill. Their indersement is based on the fact that when the dealer has enough points in his hand to go out it is a great hardship for him to down his hand because he cannot "give" the nondealer out. It is indeed an exas-

It must be remembered however, that the despair of one player is perfectly counterbalanced by the elation of the other. This fact is what gives to sport its immortality. It is hard lines to lose out by a safe hit in a fourteen-inning game of baseball; or in billiards to see your opponent win out by a run of 15 or 20 and leave you in the one-hole, or go down in the twentieth round by chance blow from a groggy antagonist, But all these things confer their equivalent in joy upon the winner and make him more eager for another fray. To reduce the chances of despair in sport is to minimize the chances of joy, and that

is to kill the interest in the game. The Oklahoma proposal is to be condemned, not only on intrinsic grounds but because it is an obvious outgrowth of the modern abominations of cinch, high-five, pedro, etc., which have been grafted upon seven-up for the benefit of the weakminded, the avaricious and the pensational. The time when the nondealer begs with only one point to go is usually the psychological moment in a well-played game. It is an advantage no more than commensurate with the dealer's prerogative of "turning jack," Not only that, but once the historic inviolability of the "gift" is impaired, there is no telling what may follow the entering wedge. Thereabout hang some of the most hallowed memories of the card table, such, for example, as the exploit of the daring begger, who took his gift and thereupon proceeded to make high, low, jack, gift and game. We are credibly informed that a Portland clubman recently begged on the queen and six, and was given, and then would have caught the dealer's lone jack if he had only had sense enough to lead the queen.

If there is to be statutory reform of seven-up, let it attack, not the timetried rules of the game, but the miscreants who abuse it. The Oklahoma statesman would be better employed i he would propose to clip the wir the too dexterous dealer and forbid him to count more than one turned jack on a single deal. If the first jack is not counted unless it remains the trump, we shall remove a serious temptation to skullduggery. Some limit might well be set, also, upon the exploits of conenceless beggera. To beg on the acc or deuce might properly be punished with thirty days, and begging on both ace and deuce could without injustice

be made a penitentlary offense. Seven-up, it would appear, shares with our institutions in general the danger of corruption from modern degenerative tendencies. In the honest days of old the dealer could be trusted, but nowadays the tendency to stock the cards seems on the increase, and if anybody needs protection it is not the dealer, but the helpless elder hand. We see a further manifestation of this tendency in such games as whist, where the effort is to supersede the natural play of individual generalship by an artificial and more or less diehonest system of memorized rules and prearranged signals. It is time for a return to the Jacksonian simplicity and rugged directness of our forefathers. Enchre, poker and sevenup—the grand tripod of American paste-boardial achievement! From this pailadium of our liberties let the vandal's band be stayed!

## STORY SIMPLE-MORAL PLAIN.

Within the past week a man, clever nd indeed skilled in the great National game of "humbug," has cut a wide swath through a select circle of socalled "truth-seekers" in this city. Not only have the curious, the ignorant and the emotional been led captive by his ciever manipulation of the old game of "know-all" as extending into the misty regions of the unknowable, but so persunsive have been his accents, so illogical his logic, so guileless his manner and so seductive his presence, that some of the very elect have been "taken in

and sadly done" by him.

It is not to the discredit of human in telligence that it seeks to compass all knowledge. The spirit of inquiry that urges it on opened the realm of sci peopled it with facts and introduced its facts to the world. It is, however, to the discredit of human nature that it is so easily imposed upon by a faker who, possibly equipped with the little learning that is a dangerous thing, juggles with accepted facts and seeks to make the "new thought," so-called, a ladder by which he can climb to wealth, to social tolerance and to religious or churchly indomement,

It is not surprising that the idly curiun the insamely restless, flock to the standard of the sleek pretender who ber of native songbirds. Why this is so promises to induct them into the secret we do not know, unless it be that the piaces of mind, where the mysteries of all life are laid bare; where the source of all power is revealed, and where the individual may of his or her own will rise to the sublimest achievement, comblic games in other parts of Europe—
in this book of Professor Hilprecht; for pass all knowledge, discard all convenin this book of Professor Hilprecht; for pass all knowledge, discard all convenin this book of Professor Hilprecht; for pass all knowledge, discard all convenin this book of Professor Hilprecht; for pass all knowledge, discard all convenit is the beginning and the making of it in this book of Professor Hilprecht; for pass all knowledge, discard all convenit is the beginning and the making of it is not insectivorous; he is not insectivorous;

saught by an astute angler of this type -who are, indeed, waiting to be caught. It is surprising, however, and bumiliatling as well, when a large number of decorous matrons and modest maids in any community flock to hear a pretender of this class, who heatness not to ad-vertise himself and his purpose boildly, discourse upon sacred matters pertain-ing to marriage, to wifehood, to motherhood and to maidenhood. Perhaps the most humiliating feature of the late occurrence of this kind in this city is that It is but a new incident added to an old story. The good brethren of a church were caught off their guard, as good brethren have been caught before, and the pretender was enabled thereby to adjust the mantle of orthodoxy to his shoulders; good women were induced to listen to his babblings from an honest desire to become better, and the mantle of respectability was added. As for the rest, the curious sought him to hear what he had to say, and the immoral to discover some new excuse for their deflection from decency. The result was a crowded theater and a church given to a base use. The story is an old one. Its | The native songbirds that are with us esson is plain.

## THE THRESHOLD OF SPRING.

Some of our New England exchanges more than two weeks ago reported that "premonitors and precursors of Spring are much in evidence." New England is to be congratulated, for there are not many evidences of the near approach of Spring with us yet about Portland. As early as March 6 the wild flowers were reported in bloom at Grant's Pass, Or., but Oregon is a great state and Grant's Pass is nearly 300 miles south of us, so that we do not claim this Spring forwardness of Southern Oregon as a rule for the whole state. However, "the premonitors and precursors of Spring" named in our New England exchanges are limited to the presence of the red-headed woodpecker and the unfolding of the skunk cabbage in the low grounds. This does not mean much more for New England than the blooming of the pussy willows in February. New England will not have any unfolding of her wild blossome before the first week of April, except in a few favored warm nooks in the woods where the arbutue and the liverwort may prematurely appear. Not before the shad bush begins to whiten the woods the first week in May will New England obtain the full of her Spring resurrection of plant life. How is it with Oregon?

There are few signs of renewed floral life with us yet, for our Spring opening. as we fix it by the thickets beginning to light up with the scarlet glow of the ms of the wild current, is late this year. In March, 1898, our wild flowers began to appear by the 5th of the month; in 1899 there was no resurrec-tion before the 19th; in 1900 and 1901 the wild flowers began to be seen the 9th, and last year it was the 23d before, any blossoms were in evidence. The promise this year is for even a later opening day, but even in our most backward seasons our vegetation is at least two months in advance of that of the North Atlantic seaboard states. Even in the favored spot of Lakewood, N. J. the Spring resurrection is not farther advanced than it is in Oregon, for in some parts of the state wild violets and other early flowers are in bloom by the middle of February. Of course, no just comparison can be made between states of 8000 square miles' area, like Massa chusetts and New Jersey, and a state like Oregon, which has an area of 96,000 square miles, exceeded only by Texas, California, Montana, Nevada, Colorado and Wyoming. It is traversed by mountain ranges and has a great diversity of climate.

In such a state of magnificent dis-

tances Spring would have a different tation of Oregon with that of a small seaboard Atlantic state. The New England Winter fairly sets in by the middle of November, and does not end before the middle of April; indeed, in some sea sons the last week of April is disfigured by a snow storm severe enough to cause belated trains. The New England Spring is a sour, sullen season until about the first week in May, and then it suddenly breaks like a beautiful fairy suddenly out of the earth. This beautiful, brilliant, sudden, splendid resurrection of Nature that New England May exhibits is unknown in Oregon, which lacks the flush, bounce and affluent beauty of New England's shortlived Spring. The Oregon Spring wakes early but dies so late that we can hardly tell when Spring has melted into Summer, while the New England Spring rises late and retires early. The superiority of the Oregon climate lies in the fact that we have more days between February and November when we can live comfortably out of doors, If our Spring lacks the floral splendor of the New England May, It is never chronically ugly and forbidding, like the April mood of the Eastern Spring, but our Spring is never followed by an oppressive Summer, for in our hottest days, and our hot days are very few, the nights are so cool that you are sure to eleep well.

Our seasons melt almost imperceptibly into each other and our climate in its perennial mildness gives a far larger number of days of agreeable outdoor life than is obtainable in New England or in any other state of the Atlantic seaboard until you reach South Caro lina or Georgia. The old veterans of the Army of the Potomac among our citizens can recall the frightful weather experienced on the Virginia "peninsula" between the James and York Rivers in April, 1882; the cold rains, the mud, which did not begin to disappear before May. The weather on the Potomac in March was still more inclement. We find a deal of fault at times with our Winter and Spring wet weather, but it is ethereal mildees compared with the rights of use or of occupancy in such lizzards that sweep New England in March and the cold rains that are the rule in Virginia during March and April. We complain sometimes because we have no standard of comparison, but let a man who has lived in Oregon or Washington State five years return to the governing authorities. In the City the Atlantic seaboard and spend a single Winter and Summer and he will with its mild Winters and cool Sum-

There is one thing, however, in which the Atlantic scaboard states have the best of us-they have a far larger numwe do not know, unless it be that the Winter rains followed by the cool Summers are less favorable to insect life than the hot Summers of the East. The utterly worthless English eparrow is as numerous here as at the East, because

comparatively few in Oregon or Wash-logton; they are not entirely absent, but you are not awakened at daylight by the same loud burst of incoment melody that strikes your ear at daybreak in the Spring and Summer mornings of the

East. We have a number of recently imported European songbirds, but the na-tive American songbirds are not numerous in Oregon. The meadow lark is about the only fine mative songster that is common in our fields. The beautiful crow blackbird does not whistle from the tope of our tall trees; the Baltim oriole does not illuminate the darkness of our forests with his bright orange merry laughter in our fields. The robin is with us, but not in flocks as at the East, and he is not so cheerful a bird. do not seem to multiply as rapidly as they do at the East, and in this respect alone Oregon lacks something of the charm of the New England Spring, whose air is always vocal with the songs of our most tuneful native American birds.

THE QUESTION OF FRANCHISES. George C. Siken, secretary of the Municinal Voters' League of Chicago, contributes to the current number of the Atlantic Monthly a very interesting and instructive article on the question of franchises, which he considers the most important phase of the city government problem, since in his judgment the public-service corporations under present conditions are the most active and potent cause of municipal corruption and misgovernment. In St. Louis the agents of these corporations have recently shown to be guilty of bribery. In Philadelphia the control of these corporate interests is absolute over the executives and administrators of the city government. In every community large enough to make the control of franchise privileges of large value, the public-service corporations not only make excessive profits through their piracy of the municipal franchises, but not seldom, as in Pennsylvania, subvert the mechanism of both local and state government. That the people in large American cities have begun to recognize the cituation is shown by the referendum vote on the question of m ownership in Chicago at the April election of 1902. The vote was:

Ownership of street railways-For, 142,826; against, 27,996. Ownership of lighting plants-For, 139,999;

agninst, 21,304. The vote on these propositions had no legal or binding effect; it was merely an expression of opinion, but it revealed the great popular discontent with the evil private administration of municipal public-service industries. In the United States more than half the water works plants are already under public management. There are in this country 460 municipal electric light plants and fourteen municipal gas plants. The Federal Commissioner of Labor in his fourteenth annual report says that the cost of production under municipal management compares very favorably with the cost of production under private management; while wages are usually higher and the price to consumers almost invariably lower than under private management. The railway across the Brooklyn bridge was for many years operated by the Bridge Commissioners, and the road was remarkable for enormous traffic, efficiency of service, freedom from accidents and good treatment of employes. The New York and Boston subways are owned though not operated opening day in Eastern than in West- by the public. The only notable instance delphia gas works, but the whole mu-nicipal government of that city is a failure because it is the chained slave of the public-service corporations

The only danger that Mr. Sikes in the gradual extension of municipal activity ie that American cities may attempt to municipalize at too rapid a rate. There is danger, too, that publicservice corporations may succeed in unloading their properties at prices greatly in excess of their real value. When citles are given by the Legislature full power to deal with the whole matter of municipal franchises, to undertake public ownership and management or to decline it, as seems expedient, they become masters of the situation. They are no longer powerless in the presence of the public-service corporations to undertake to render the service them-selves. In absence of effective competition, the price of armor-plate to the Government was raised until Congress some two years ago was about to autherize the payment of \$545 a ton, but the Senate amended the appropriation bill so that the Secretary of the Navy was authorized to erect a Government armor-plate plant if he should be unable to secure plate at reasonable prices. By this action of Congress the Secretary was able to club the armor-plate cor tractors into furnishing the Government at prices more than \$100 a ton lower than the Government otherwise would have had to pay. The Government did not desire to go into the armor-plate business; neither did it wish to submit to extortion. If the cities of America generally possessed the power to nicipalize, the mere existence of that power in reserve would put the publicservice corporations on their good be

Mr. Sikes thinks that the fundam mistake has been in treating franchise grants as contracts, unalterable without the consent of both parties, like ordinary contracts concerning property. The only way for a city to retain co control over its public streets is for it not to surrender beyond recall any streets. The city is in complete control only when the grant is terminable at the will of the authorities. In Massachusetts grants do not run for any definite term, but all grants are subject to revocation at any time at the will of of Washington all grants by Congress on wish he was back again in Oregon, their terms subject to alteration, amendment or repeal at any time. Under this system Washington and Boston have developed the best street railway systems in the world. Washington was the first city to secure the underground trolley system, because Congress had the reserved power to require its adoption whenever it seemed expedient. Bos-ton has three systems—surface, elevated and underground—so correlated that a passenger may make use of all three

food is found, but he is no fly-catcher or that has produced such good results in bug-eater or worm-destroyer; he is a Washington and Massachusetts. Mr. fighter and a foul feeder, and so he is always in evidence where man makes of a Massachusetts legislative commithis habitation and scatters carrion in his tee of inquiry into the question of the streets. But of the beautiful pative proper duration of franchise grants, recomparatively few in Oregon or Wash-without fixed duration, but terminable by the public authorities at any time. The Chicago Street Railway Commis-sion in its report to the City Council in December, 1900, agreed with the conclu-sion of the Massachusetts commission in favor "of the grant without fixed duration, but subject to termination at any time upon certain conditions, one of which should be the taking of the property of the grantee at a fair valuation." The Cleveland Chamber of Commerce approved of this view that sound pollar required the retention by the public thorities of the right to terminate the grant at any time when the public interests demand It.

The ancient Greek practice of drown-

ing physically frail children was due to

the fact that in Sparta and in Athene all the work was done by slaves and every citizen was expected to be fit for a soldler, since war might strike the state at any time. To destroy the children who did not promise to become arms-bearing men was natural. our modern life to maintain that only physically fit children should be born ould have robbed the world of some of its greatest men and most illustrious benefactors. Newton was a posthumous child, an exceedingly frail child, but he lived to be over 80. D'Alembert was a very puny child; Pascal was an invalid; Gibbon was a frail youth afflicted with the worst form of double hernia, which finally caused his death. Daniel Webster was the eighth of aine children, and so frail at birth that his life was despaired of: he was educated because his father thought that he would never be strong enough for farm labor. In modern life there is room for children of frail physique if their mental powers are not impaired. William Pitt was a very precocious child, but of very frail physique; he was often ill, siways weak, and it was feared that it would be impossible to rear a stripling so tall, so siender and so feeble. He lived on port wine by order of his doctors in his boyhood, was a man of delicate constitution all his days, and died in his 47th year. These historical illustrations of famous men who were physically very feeble children might be easily multiplied. Modern life has no room for imbeciles, but has plenty of room for physically frail paid for the African nuts in the shell, children if they are mentally and morally fit.

Carbolic acid seems to have been i favorite beverage in Chicago during the first days of March. Within two days twenty persons sought and found relief from themselves by suicide, and three times that number made unsuccessful attempts in the same line. The pre-ferred agent in the process was carbolic acid. A peculiar feature of suicide epidemics is that special methods have vogue at different times. Now hanging is the favored means, and again the pistol is brought into most frequent requisition. At another time poison rules the suicide's whim, and at another drowning is the preferred method of self-destruction. These are freaks at all times who switch off the main line, but in cases of an epidemic of suicide one route is favored and in a majority of cases taken. This, as well as the epidemic itself, is explained by the "law of suggestion," when explained at all. is a common saying that great minds run in the same channel. Epidemics of crime and of suicide would seem to in-dicate that the principle underlying this statement applies also to weak minds.

interested to learn that Massachusetts nent of th state. Senator Hoar has a weak and piping voice, which is fatal to his effect-Long also lacks the voice of an orator. There are no good stump speakers in either party; Mayor Collins, of Boston, a Democrat, is the best, but is only fairly effective. George Fred Williams has a fine voice and a handsome presence, and Lieutenant-Governor Guild is the best stump speaker of the Repub-licans. Edward Everett had a charming voice; Daniel Webster had the port and front of Jupiter Tonana, and Wendell Phillips in voice, face, figure and grace was in the first rank of great orators It is easy to say of a man that he is "voice and nothing else beside," but without the voice of an orator no brains will make a man an effective public speaker.

The Oregonian le assured that its news report of yesterday attributing to representatives of the Hillsboro railroad people the assertion that their plans have been blocked by the City & Suburban was to that extent erroneous. The editorial comment based upon the same information would also appear to have been based on a misapprehension of the facts. We were misinformed by whom we supposed entitled to credence, and the correction is cheerfully made. The disposition of these two street rallroads now seems to be to unite on a single street for their joint use in the northwestern portion of the city, and it is certainly very desirable for the public interests that some such arrangement should be carried out.

Keepers of diaries are drawing the records to prove that the weather from March 9 to 14, inclusive, of the present year was almost an exact counterpart weather conditions of the same period of last year. High winds, cold rains and flurries of snow alternated, the only difference between the two seasons being that more snow fell in March, 1902, than has thus far fallen in March, 1903. This merely goes to show that we have March weather in March, regardless of the year -a discovery not very startling, though probably new to those who depend upon their memories for facts in regard to the

The value of products shipped from Porto Rico to the United States has advanced from less than \$2,000,000 in 1897 to \$9,634,176 in 1902; while shipments m here to the island have increased from a little over \$2,006,000 to above \$12,-000,000. This great expansion to merce is due to the establishment of free trade between the two countries. Freer commerce with Cuba, with the Philippines, with Canada, with South American countries and with other na-tions would undoubtedly show equally finitering results.

M. Legouve, the dramatist and mem ber of the French Academy, who died note in the Ohio Valley, and one em yesterday, was in the 96th year of his neotily worthy of a place in Memorial Hal age, the oldest of all the world's famous

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The amazing thing about it is that anybody should have been fooled by Collinge, The manner and matter of his annou ments were enough to fix his character. But some people like that sort of thing.

We wonder if there can be any connection between the appointment of a ne Land Office Register at Oregon City and the violation of a certain written pledge under which an Oregon City man got into the Legislature of 1901.

It will be rather hard on the ambitious "newspapers" striking for the forest region of South Central Oregon if the timber land is all acripped. It is to be feared people of that isolated country will appeal in vain for these papers if there are no land notices to print,

The receipts from the sale of Missouri's surplus poultry and eggs last year were \$17,000 greater than the receipts from the state's surplus crops of corn, wheat, oats, flax, timothy seed, clover seed, millet seed, cane seed, cotton seed, castor beans, tobacco, broom corn, hay and straw.

It is painful to read in an esteemed New York contemporary that the additional trains officially declared to be running on the Manhattan Elevated "start punctually at 14 o'clock, and run at 7 per cent. intervals up to the hour of declaring extra cash dividends. They are now in full operation on the Blasted Hopes division the road."

Uncle Sam is worse off than we thought. Why couldn't that million acres of desert in Southern Call'ornia have been saudled on the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad? suppose, however, that there will be the usual rush to enter this land, even if the settlers have to use camels. nothing so attractive to the mass of citizens as a large tract of Government land just "opened" somewhere,

The excavations which have been going on in Rome under the direction of Professor Airoli seem to prove beyond peradventure that an ancient Etruscan city occu pled a part of the site of the present city long before the fabulous founding of Rome by Romulus. One of the interesting things which the excavations have revealed is the certainty that there was an artificial lake in the Forum in front of the Rostra. The lake still holds water, now that the place has been cleared.

The demand for American peanuts in France is practically unlimited if the American exporters can meet the prices ranging from \$3.95 to \$4.73 per 230 pounds During the past year about 10,000 bags of American peanuts were received at Marsettles, and the Consul-General says that the oil into which they were manufactured was of good quality, although the quantity was rather less than that derived from the same amount of African nuts.

It is said that the pope is almost a vegetarian. 'His early breakfast consists of a cup of chocolate or coffee, the latter but rarely. Two o'clock is the dinner hour. when he partakes of a bouillon and a cou ple of eggs cooked in Bordeaux wine. The pope rarely takes meat, but is very fond of salad-a dish which does not agree with him, but in which he indulges now and then notwithstanding medical orders. Supper is served at 10, after which his holiness retires to his study, where he often works until the early hours in the morning.

In 1900 the Government deeded away 12,500,000 acres of land; in 1901 these disposals reached 16,000,000 acres, and in 1903 nearly 20,000,000 acres, while at the rate at which the present year has opened, its record will be at least 25,000,000 acres, or as much as was disposed of at any time during the great emigration rush to the West. Yet the population does not cor-The young orators of Oregon may be respondingly increase in the states where the lands are taken. This indicates today has no conspicuous orator in the greater activity on the part of the speculators and timber-grabbers than on th part of the settlers and homeseekers.

> The Boston Transcript publishes free of charge on its editorial page this luminous

advertisement: volving large compensation, easy hours, oppor-tunities to make on the side, experience un-necessary, intelligence a superfluity, etc., are requested to communicate with President Theodore Roceevelt at the Executive Mansion, Washington, as Mr. Roosevelt has on his list a large number of ex-Congressmen for whem he would gladly provide jobs outside the public service. This is an excellent opportunity for firms that advertise copying at home or Etruscan art work at home to secure the services of serveral persons of high sectial standing and questioned integrity. No canvassing positions will be considered, as ex-Congressmen have here found to be sour on the convexing proposes. ce Rocewelt at the Executive Man

Barring the dreadful stampede which good judgment could avoid, and the occadonal charge of an enraged bull to escape his termenters, or some fretted cow t protect her calf, the killing of buffaloe was a sport without peril, and a business void of hazardous incident, carried on with such ruthless, wasteful and unneces sary destruction that the memory of I excites the pity, indignation and disgus of the present generation. In Kansas alone, between 1868 and 1881, \$25,000,000 was paid out for bones gathered on the prairles and sold to be utilized in various car bon works. It took 100 carcasses to make one ton of bones, the price of which was \$5. So this vast sum represents 31,000,00 buffalo, or more than one-half of the total number of all the cattle in the whole Unit-ed States in 1902. On the Santa Fe trail. and miles away, too, from the usual course of travel, as Major Inman relates, in some places one could walk all day lonon the dead bodies of buffalo withou touching foot to the ground.

The Indianapolis Sentinel is in a dreadful state of mind because the State Legislature voted to place a statue of George Rogers Clark in Memorial Hall at Wash ington. "The sole purpose of this idiotic performance is to insult the memory of Thomas A. Hendricks," shricks our Democratic contemporary. And then it scold "the Democratic turncoats" who sat by and heard Hendricks "accused of treason and never resented it." Both Republi cans and Democrats of Indiana, excepthe Sentinel, seem to think the Hendrick partisans would best let well enoug alone. If there was doubt of the propriet of having General R. E. Lee's statue i that National collection, there should no doubt whatever about keeping Her dricks' statue out. Lee went wrong, it true; but the manner of it and the charac ter of his service stamped him as an he est man and a man of the highest mora quality. Hendricks, without the incen-tive that was so strong to move Lesfought his country from ambush. It impossible to imagine Lee in Hendrick place taking the course of the Indiania There may be a question as to wheth Clark was a representative citizen of I diana, but he was a character of histor-note in the Ohio Valley, and one em-And almost anybody would be preferable