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NEW AND CURIOUS.

It is reported that Dr. Nansen will enter the lists as an Antarctic explorer, and that he hopes to have an expedition ready to start in 1902.

Members of the scientific expedition to the fossil fields of Wyoming have discovered bones of a brontosaurus, or great lizard. It is thought that this is one of the companions of the one discovered in Wyoming and restored in 1891 by Prof. Marsh.

The Austrian ministry of commerce is reported to be contemplating the introduction of motor cars for the conveyance of mail bags to and from the railway stations as well as for the delivery of parcel-post packages and the collection of mail from the boxes.

It is officially stated through the department of state of this country that the Russian government has decided to abandon the Julian calendar and adopt the Gregorian, now in use all over the world except in Russia and Greece. The Russian calendar is now twelve days behind that in general use. The change is to take place in the year 1901.

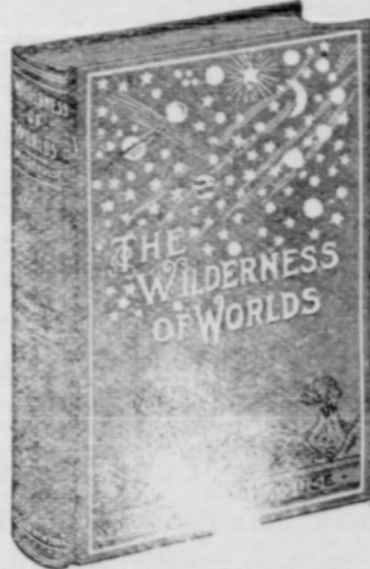
United States Commissioner W. A. Jones makes the interesting statement that "a full-blooded Indian lunatic never lived". He says the occupants of the Indian insane asylum soon to be opened in the Indian Territory will all be mixed breeds, as there never was a case of insanity in any tribe until the malady was introduced by mixing with the whites.

A serious pest has appeared within the last few years in the cotton fields of the South, says the Scientific American. It is spreading with great rapidity and threatens to ruin the industry if it cannot be successfully combated. The disease is a fungus which attacks the roots, causing the plant to wither and die. The department of agriculture has appointed a botanical expert to investigate the matter, and it is hoped that a practical way of eradicating the pest will be devised.

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