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TODAY'S WEATHER-Showers, with brisk creasing by afternoon. YESTERDAY'S WEATHER-Maximum temimum temperature, 54; precipitation, 0.61 inch.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, SEPT. 27.

AN UNBECOMING APPEAL.

The appeal of the Boers for financial sid appears, under all the circumstances, out of taste and out of keeping with the record they have just made in warfare. Unquestionably the Boers have suffered greatly from the war; their homes are in rules, their livestock dissipated, their wagons and implements of farming destroyed. But they have their land and they have the great sum awarded them in the settlement with the British. The people are today far better off in every material respect than were their fathers when they "trekked" into the Vaal wilderness. Under these conditions it would better become the people to rest upon their own resources, to seek to make the best of the situation as they find it, than to pass the hat about the world.

We question if money given to the Beers at this time will do them any real good. There is commonly not much advantage from that which comes without effort and through motives of charity; and the danger is that any great gift to the Boer people at this time will damage their self-respect and the manly spirit of self-reliance upon which their future welfare as a people must depend. There is in the terms of the anpeal made to the United States an unpleasant note of decadent character; for be made of the want of liberality of the English people. The Boers have, unquestionably, a hard period before them, for they must painfully rebuild and restore the terrible losses of the war. But the task is neither unprecedented

South after the Civil War; indeed, they are vastly better, since the problems before them are merely material, and being wholly free from social complications. But there was no appeal to the charity of the world in behalf of the people of the South; there was no dependence upon anything but the will and spirit of the people in combination with the resources of their rich but devastated country. The South came out of its distress quickly and completely because it took its burdens squarely upon its own shoulders and went manfully to work. The Boers would do well to call in their committees of appeal and imitate the example of our own Southerners. They may, indeed, gain something in the way of material help from the hat-passing process, but they will lose more than they will gain -nothing less, in truth, than the universal respect which their valor in arms has inspired. It is significant that British papers of discernment acquit the Boer Generals of any complicity in this unbecoming appeal, which evidently proceeds from those who have participated in the struggle only from the safe retirement of European capitals.

ADULT ILLITERACY.

While from the census tables lately printed the percentage of illiteracy in the United States seems to be abnormally high, it is gratifying to note that it is steadily and in some states rapidly. decreasing among the young. As recently noted, 99.58 per cent of the children in our own state between the ages of 10 and 14 years can read and write. This promises a decrease in Illiterates of voting age among us a few years hence that is truly gratifying.

Taken as a whole, there are now 5,885,644 men of voting age in the cities of the United States, of whom 339,223, or 6 per cent, are unable to write and most of whom cannot read. In the country districts there are 15,248,655 men old enough to vote, of whom 1,949,274, or 13 per cent, are illiterate. The statistics, however, demonstrate that the immigrants to this country, together with the negroes in the South, constitute the bulk of adult illiterates, leaving the native-born white population with a decided advance in education to its credit.

But even with this explanation the showing is one to awaken serious reflection among thoughtful citizens. A large proportion of the illiterates enumerated in the census possess the privilege of suffrage, and through its exercise wield an influence in public affairs. When this phase of the subject is considered, the tables showing adult illiteracy that seems to be increasing among the foreign population by reason of increase in immigration, become truly Looking at them in the view of a wise public policy, it is manifest that our naturalization laws should be revised and the qualifications for suffrage be more strictly prescribed and enforced. The easy, slipshod methods of today, whereby voters are created from men foreign to our own language and the spirit of our institutions, suits

cians, but there can be little doubt but they are laying up wrath against a day of wrath for the inture.

TIMELY PROTESTS.

Protests from taxpayers of this city in regard to street improvements which they are called upon to pay, while perhaps not stronger or more numerous this Fall than is usual at the close of a busy season in street work, have lately taken shape that will compel the attention of the city officials and the investigation of the Board of Public Works. Instead of utterly impotent complaints made after the payment of the sum assessed upon their property, protest has, in a number of instances, been entered prior to payment, accompanied by a declaration of purpose to resist payment until contractors are made to comply with the terms of the ordinance providing for the improvement and of the contract entered into for carrying out its carefully specified terms.

That street improvement in this city has long signified a go-as-you-please undertaking between contractors and the city, for which abutting property was compelled to pay by pro rata assessment, is a fact too well known to challenge or require proof. It is written in thoroughfares as full of "chuckholes" as a country road in any out-ofthe-way district of the state, and it extends literally from one end of the city to the other, taking in most of the lateral streets. All that the taxpayers usually know about the matter is that certain contractors "get the job" and perform the work practically without inspection, taking their own time to complete it; that it is formally "accepted" by the city, often in a grossly ncomplete state, whereupon notice is served upon them to pay the amount levied for the alleged "improvement" under certain penalties made and provided for delinquency.

As said in the beginning, a change in this programme has been inaugurated recently, which, it may be hoped, will to the public. The letter of Mr. L. J. Goldsmith to the Board of Public Works, published in connection with the proceedings of that body a few days ago, is in point. First quoting the ordinance for the improvement of macadam streets, Mr. Goldsmith boldly states that the work now in progress on Quimby street is not being done according to contract. After giving details in support of this statement, he declares that he will absolutely refuse to pay for the improvement of this street, for most of which he is assessed, "until it is put down according to the ordinance." This is to the purpose. It commends

itself not only to justice, but to common sense. Payment of the improvement on East Burnside street is refused by a number of the property-owners on that street for this among other rea-Payment should have been resons. fused on East Tenth street two years ago on similar grounds. The screenings for top dressing upon this street were-more than "half dirt" (one of the counts entered by Mr. Goldsmith in his indictment against the work now in progress on Quimby street), the mud being from five to six inches deep in the middle of that street on certain blocks within two months following the "acceptance" of the street by the City Superintendent. The first rain has covered portions of East Burnside street with mud, showing the same proporit is not becoming that complaint should | tion of dirt in the "top rock or screen ing course," as prescribed by ordinance, that was applied to this street but a few weeks ago.

This and similar work is not done in a corner, but openly and in the boldest manner. Truly a Street Supervisor that supervises is needed, in order The conditions of the Transvaal are that property-owners may not be used merely as catspaws to rake street contractors' chestnuts out of the fire and that the City of Portland may have creditable thoroughfares in return for the money paid out without stint by its citizens.

There is but one way to get service of this kind. That way Mr. Goldsmith has marked out, declaring his intention to take it. As long as propertyholders submit to the process they will be ground between the upper and nether milistones, as represented by contractors on the one hand, naturally anxious to make the most out of "jobs' by covering up boulders in the lower course of the so-called macadam improvement with rocks somewhat smaller in the second course, and topdressing the whole with "screened rock that is half dirt," and by careless, inattentive, incompetent or dishonest city officials on the other, who, if they do othing worse, let such work pass with their approval. These protests are at least timely. There is reason to hope that they may prove of benefit to the public that demands good streets for the transaction of its business, and to property-owners, who pay street improvements heavy enough in all conscience to secure them.

Vital statistics, elaborately compiled and published, show that the average of life in Paris is but 31 years, while in the rural and village communities of France the average is 36 years. The average in the United States, urban and rural, is somewhat above that of France. The question of the causes contributing to this difference in the average life of urban and rural communitles is one that has lately been earnestly discussed. The consensus of opinion is that crowding with its unsanitary conditions is the first great cause of the relatively short term of life in the cities. Following this, in the estimation of many, is noise, with the unrest and the nerve shock and strain which it induces. Deaths from accident, it is assumed, account for some of the difference between city and country averages, but doctors have lately been looking for other causes, as these do not rationally account for the great discrepancy. Many think that the chief cause is in the poisonous gases that pervade the air of crowded cities, imperceptibly, perhaps, but constantly. In the medical journals the chief place, as a menace to health and longevity in cities, is given to leakage of filuminating gas. The light companies admit farge losses from their mains, which, of course, they are anxious to check but seem to be powerless to do so. Since the introduction of so-called "water gas," the journals say such leakage is particularly detrimental to health, as the percentage of carbon monoxide is high. It is well known that a very small quantity of gas in a room exercises a very depressing effect upon persons inhalling it. There is a theory, very well sustained in probability, that asphalt and other impervious pavements compel leakage from gas mains to find vent through cellar walls and into sewers, while imperfect plumbing permits well the purpose of self-seeking politi- its further escape into houses. So well ing is not permitted, in the discharge out."

established is this theory that physicians attribute the symptoms of deranged nerves, weakened digestive powera, disordered circulation, etc., largely to the presence of carbon monoxide in

dwellings and offices. This statement of the case is supported by pretty good evidence, but the remedy is not at hand. No doubt some thing may be done, as doubtless also much has been done in the more progreenive cities, by greater care in laying gas mains and insisting that these shall be of better quality than formerly. Santtary plumbing is another force to which canitarians look for relief. Though wise and conclusive in theory, every one who has ordered the construction of a building of modern design and equipment knows how difficult it is, even with the help of an fronclad city ordinance, to secure plumbing that may justly come under the head of scientific or sanitary.

It is gratifying, however, to note that with all of the dangers that now menace human life, man's average length of years has risen quite perceptibly in the past half century. That which the harnessing of steam and electricity to the wants and purposes of mankind has done to promote death by accident, the study of sanitary laws and the enforcement of sanitary regulations have more than counterbalanced. It is the great difference between urban and rural conditions as shown by vital statistics that have set scientists to investigating causes that thereby the average of human life in cities may be raised. When an effect is so pronounced, the cause cannot be deeply hidden.

A LUCKY VISIONARY.

The late W. S. Stratton, of Cripple Creek, was noted for nothing in life save his eccentricity and his lucky find of a very rich mine. His will was as eccentric as his life; he left his son but \$50,000 on condition that he should not try and break the will, which devotes all of Stratton's fourteen millions of work a benefit to property-owners and dollars, save another small bequest to a nephew and niece, to the foundation of a hospital. The will be eccentric, because if the son was fit to be trusted with \$50,000 he was fit to be his father's heir to a larger extent, and the bribe of \$50,000 offered him to persuade him not to break the will is as mean in thought as a husband making his wife his heir on condition that she does not marry again. If the widow is a worthy woman, she deserves to be the husband's heir, and if her husband loved her well enough to trust her with his money he ought to trust her to seek her own happiness and not try to force her to remain single by leaving her his money on conditions that might some day force her to make a great sacrifice and hold his memory in contempt.

Stratton's youth in Jeffersonville, Ind., in reported to have been so unamiable that he left a bad name behind him when he came West in 1872. He was a good carpenter and found plenty of work at Colorado Springs, where he caught the "gold fever" and worked at his trade nineteen years before he 'struck it rich" and became Millionaire Stratton. He was known for years as "Crazy" Stratton. For ten years Stratton dropped every dollar he could earn into the bottomless pit of various mining ventures. His wife waited patiently on his pursuit of gold for several years, but finally grew disgusted with his frequent absences and her own privations and served notice on him that the next time he went away, leaving her to her own resources, and returned ragged and impecunious, she would leave him. She kent her word and obtained a divorce The wife thought the carpenter's trade good enough, and was not greatly anxious to be a rich woman, but she wanted her husband's coclety and companionship a reasonable part of the time,

There was a case in New England where man and wife separated because the husband cared more about the pursuit of field botany than he did about his wife, and she resented his long ab sences and obtained a divorce and division of the property. When Stratton's earnings were expended he sought partnership with a man who would grubstake him. He led this kind of life from 1872 to 1891, when he found the Independence mine. By 1894 he was worth \$60,900, and in 1898 he had sold controlling interest in the mine for \$10,000,000 to an English company. He has survived his rise from poverty to wealth about eight years. One use he made of it was to buy a hotel in order to discharge an employe who had offended him, the mark of a very mean narrow-minded man, and his diversion of his money from his son to charitable purposes is a mark of mental narrowness or premature senile decay. Of course, the wealth that this eccentric creature stumbled onto after nineteer years' quest implies no more capacity than if an illiterate, stupid man should buy a lottery ticket and draw the first prize. The mine he discovered and the wealth obtained from it impart no more intellectual glory to Stratton than the discovery of the silver mines of Potosi, in Peru, did to the Indian hunter who first accidentally unearthed them.

If life means anything in this world beyond superfluous wealth, Stratton's career was a miserable failure. He los the companionship of an excellent wife and his own life has been very short since he found his mine. Doubtless the life he led finding it cost him his health. His life made him so eccentric in manners and tastes that he would not wear an evening coat and join a dinn'r party. Somebody would have found hi sooner or later-the world would not have lost it, but in his nineteen years of goldhunting which preceded his rich "find" Stratton lost about all that really makes life worth living to a sane man If he had been a man of the quality of Mackay, his gold mine would have been a stepping-stone to a new and larger life, but he was evidently merely a lucky visionary, and his mental narrowness is shown in his stupid will, which is likely to be broken by compromise between the contestants if not by the courts. To throw away an excellent trade, the society of a good wife, for the chance find of a gold mine does not imply a very genial disposition. When the prize is won the visionary finds the wife gone

Stratton's will indicates that he either did not trust or love his son or that he preferred the name and fame of a philanthropist of the quality of Stephen Girard to endowing his son and his kinsmen with the major portion of his and on salary continuously all these wealth. Altogether there does not seem | years for. to be anything in the life or death of Stratton that need excite any admiration or envy. His gold did not make him healthy, genial, witty or wise; h allenated his wife and he apparently became estranged from his son.

If the janitor of a public school build-

of his duty, to eject an impudent, obstreperous boy from the premises under his charge, when the lad will not go peaceably, the public echool property is likely to suffer more or less damage at the hands of a most mischievous class. This is the view of the matter as expressed by the School Board of this district in a petition to Governor Geer asking him to remit the fine imposed upon the janitor of the Park School for forcibly putting a boy off the grounds. It should be granted. Any action the tendency of which is to encourage reckless, resentful, ungoverned boys in the idea that they can do as they please regardless of duly constituted authority, is wise. The misdemeanors and crimes that have been committed by boys in this city during the past year have been frequent enough and grave enough to bespeak indorsement of any legitimate effort to restrain and properly punish them.

Prudence is a good thing at all times

and especially when it takes an inven-tory of resources for entertainment before inviting a large number of guests to partake of the hospitality of home or city. While for reasons of patriotism and good comradeship it would be a very fine thing to receive and entertain the Grand Army of the Republic in annual encampment, it is certainly wise to consider, before urging a large body of veterans to come here, whether or not we can properly provide for their comfort. To feed and lodge 100,000 people or half that number, for one week, and provide hall room for the meetings of the several organizations that come under the head of the Grand Army encampment, is a task that chould not be undertaken unadvisedly. It is not only that the expense will be large, but that our reputation for hospitality and for facilities to entertain and accommodate our guests would suffer from our sheer inability to provide for them. The members of the Grand Army are old men, who have had their share in roughing it. In order that they may enjoy the annual reunion of the organization it is necessary to provide them with comfortable quarters, good food and adequate means of getting about. Portland can no doubt do all of this the year following the Lewis and Clark fair, but prudent men who understand the situation think it would not be wise to attempt it earlier. We will have learned a lesson in handling crowde by 1906. We will also have expanded our means for taking care of them. No doubt our citizens generally will apthe view of Precident F. Beach, of the Portland Board of Trade, in this matter, for the reasons stated.

The general farmers' balance sheet of the United States for the year 1902 is an account of big figures. According to Bradstreet, the corn crop of the country is 2,800,000,000 bushels as compared with 1,500,000,000 bushels last year and an average of 2,000,000,000. The largest crop previous to that of the present year was in 1896, when the record was 2,284,000,000 bushels. The wheat crop of the country is estimated by experts at 700,000,000 bushels as against 750,000,000 bushels last year, 522,000,000 for 1900, and 547,000,000 for 1899. Only three times in the history of the country has the record equaled that of the pres-The cotton output for the season, after reckening some backsets, is expected to be 12,000,000 bales, as against an average of 10,500,000 bales during the past four years. Other general crops are in line with this record. The oat crop, according to the figures of Mr. William R. Draper, the wellknown expert, is the largest we have ever had, and may amount to from \$50 .-000,000 to 900,000,000 bushels, and we shall, doubtless, within two or three years, be producing an average of .000,000,000 hushels of oats per The barley crop is estimated at about 120,000,000 bushels, as against an average for some years past of perhaps 70,-

The many conventions and less formal meetings of orchardists, stockmen and other producers this Fall bear witness to the ambition for varied production and to the disposition to "mix brains with labor" which has seized the country. These meetings are among the newer manifestations in the industrial life of the country. There was nothing of the kind in the earlier days of our agriculture, nothing in fact until within the past few years, since farming took on new purpose and new skill. It is a most commendable practice, for It not merely aids the special forms of production whose interests are specially discussed, but it widens the general horizon of the producing classes and contributes to the general social ad-

Nothing attests more truly and pleas antly the prosperity and the good-will incident thereto of an agricultural section than the local fair or festival at the close of an abundant harvest season. The McMinnville fair, of this week, with its display of handiwork and agricultural products, and the social features that distinguished it as a festival, was one of the most successful of its class. The attendance was large, and neighborly good-will was manifested on hand. Such an occasion fitly closes the Summer's work and as fitly inaugurates the season of galety that makes Winter the festal time of the

An institution well based alike in po litical economy and humanity is the state school for the blind at Salem. The enrollment this year shows no increase over that of last-a fact that is gratifying if it shows also that there is really no increase from year to year in the number of unfortunates of this class in the state. It may be hoped that this is true, and that there is no blind child or uneducated blind person in the state who is allowed to neglect the opportunity thus offered to fit himself or herself for an independent if restricted life of industry.

Washington County, having had organized existence between forty and fifty years, finds itself hampered in securing rural free delivery of the mails in some of its more populous sections because the Government postal agent is unable to find a map showing the locktion of its roads. And now the taxpayers are asking themselves what they have kept County Surveyors in office

Mutual Regret. Baltimore News.
"My dear man," said the clerical looking individual, "I regret exceedingly to see you coming out of that seloon." Dat's de ticket, Guy," replied the in-prigible. "I stayed de limit o' me cash,

an' den de bloke behind de bar trun me

SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS NEED OF A TARIFF COMMISSION Here's the True Spirit.

Eugene Register. Oregon people, as a class, are money makers, and while the larger idea of reaching out for business through such channels as that of the 1905 Fair is new to the state, the business interests as well as the agricultural and all other interests will not be slow to grasp the importance of giving proper aid to an undertaking that is bound to advertise the resources of the state all over the cour try and add to the population and wealth of Oregon sufficiently to bring back to us. with interest, every dollar of outlay neces sary to give proper assistance to the big fair. It may be necessary for the state necessary for the ste to give \$500,000 to insure success of what is considered the country over as proper celebration of the most important even in the history of the country, and if Ore-gon does the right thing it will inspire every other state in the Union to lend liberal financial aid to the undertaking with the result that the fair will be grand success in every respect, and this state will reap the greatest possible bene-fits therefrom. If \$500,000 is required half the sum could be raised on next years taxes and the balance the year follow so that the burden would fell more lightly upon the taxpayers. The people of the state must face this question and they must do it wisely and well. Let us go to the limit of what we can safely stand, then willingly and freely give to the limit. That is the spirit that will make us and that will never break us.

Nearly Up. but Not Quite.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer. According to the Postoffice Departmen business of the Presidential fices in Washington increased at a great rate during the fiscal year ending June For that year the receipts of nine Presidential offices in Washington were \$729,295, as against \$668,872 in the previous year, an increase of \$121,623. The receipts of the different offices for the two years were as follows:

rth Yakima

20,290 For the same period the receipts of six Oregon Presidential offices totaled \$462. 104, as against \$404,340 in the previous year, an increase of \$57,764. Portland postoffice receipts in 1901 were \$223,584. In 1902 they had grown to \$258,465, an increase of \$34,881. It will be noted that the in-crease in the Scattle office was \$1.729 more than the Portland office, enough to show that Seattle is well in the lead of the Oregon metropolis.

Two Presidential postoffices in Wash ington, Republic and Cosmopolis, and one in Oregon, Arlington, fail to show an in-

Bull Sentiment on Hops.

Salem Statesman. No matter what the bulls and the bears in the hop market do or say, the market is going to be a strong one. The consumers of hops the world over will need more good hops then there are in the world at the present time, and more than there will be before another har-There will naturally be a scramble sooner or later for the good cannot be avoided. No sort of juggling or loud or small talk can prevent it. The growers of Oregon have a lot of good ops to sell. The growers of Oregon, for the most part, are sensible men. They are not Spring chickens in the business They have had their eye teeth cut. They are not going to let go their good without receiving good money for them. So the man who gets in the way of the band wagon and attempts to keep the price down around or below 20 cents a nd, is likely to be run over and jumped on. The price will not stay there. no use for any grower to get excited and want unreasonable things. The con-gumers may stay out of the market and get along with the least possible supply if there is such a disposition on the part of the growers. But neither should any grower dispose of his hops at the prices the bears would like to get them for.

Conditions Rather Than Forms.

The newspapers of Southeastern Alaska are devoting considerable space to the agitation for a territorial form of govrnment for Alaska and indulging in a against, as the various scribblers are personally interested in the scheme. Terri-torial government may be a good thing for that section of Alaska, but we along the Yukon respectfully dissent; it looks to us as a case of the cart before the Let Congress provide sufficient funds to survey the country and thus induce settlers to take up the land, thereby giving a permanent population. When this has been done it is time enough to agitate for territorial government, even statehood. The prosperity of the coast is dependent on that of the interior, and just as long as the interior is neglected, just so long will our population be floating and migratory. The shoulder of the coast people will never be able to bear the burden of taxation necessary to properly support a territorial governent without substantial assistance of a fairly well-settled country back of them.

Demonstrated Its Usefulness.

Albany Herald. The management of the Oregon State Fair is to be congratulated on making that institution a success financially as well as in the matter of exhibitions of livestock and agriculture. The large deficits of a few years ago were a great detriment to its success, as people were of the opinion it was a losing game and would not attend. The paper of the fair was at a discount, and exhibitors could not get the premiums they won. races were in a similar condition. That day and those conditions now seem past. The fair is a state institution and has demonstrated its usefulness in the spirit of friendly emulation which it has engendered for the betterment of stock and the improvement in agriculture and horti-

Vancouver Sentiment on Drydock. Vancouver Independent.

Business men of Vancouver consider the attempt of Portland to throttle the enterprise that has started in our city an unfriencly and unjustified act, and if they succeed in their endeavor, it will result in unfriendly relations that will work to Portland's detriment. From a business standpoint, Vancouver is nothing more than a suburb of Portland, and any attempt on the part of Portland to Vancouver's development will react with added force on Portland. Vancouver is now connected by rail with the outside world, and is in no manner dependent on Portland for supplies. A boycott of Port-land wholesale houses might be the result of the removal of the drydock enterprise

Bread Upon the Waters.

Harrisburg Bulletin. The effort put forth by Portland people to provide relief for the destitute suf-ferers of the districts where the late for-est fires raged with such dire destruction are commendable beyond utterance and will be treasured in the hearts of these needy recipients to remain perpetually. This act of generosity on the part of Portland will be like bread cast upon the waters; its effect will be seen after

Raw Material for Beer. Aurora Borealis.

The joke is on Woodburn. A grand union temperance meeting was to have been held there on the 7th, but on ac-count of so many of the temperance people being engaged in picking hops meeting was postponed. the

St. Paul Pioneer Press. The Democratic campaign text-book, one of whose slogans is that the tariff is the mother of trusts, curiously contains : list of industrial combinations which seems to belie their catchword. The list includes 287 corporations, but of these only 168 produce articles covered by the Dingley tariff law, though 38 others, it is claimed, enjoy the benefits of indirect pro tection. How the remaining 81 are to be cured by a repeal of the tariff is not made manifest. The fact is that very few of these so-called trusts are monopolies in the sense of being able to control the markets or to dictate the prices of their prod- In these wondrous, far-away and curious ucts. Very few of them are without vig orous competitors. Even the steel trust is obliged to compete with several independent companies. Nor has the steel trust entered into any combination to rais prices. On the contrary, the demand for its products is so much greater than its ability to supply them that it might easily have greatly advanced prices. Instead of that, it has kept them down to a reason able and moderate level and maintained them at that level. Whether it could be forced to sell its goods at lower prices if the duties on steel products were abol-ished, and it was exposed to the full force of foreign competition, is doubtful; for the same extraordinary demand in excess of the supply which marks the American market obtains in Great Britain and to a less extent elsewhere. There seems to be little doubt that steel fabrics are now produced in this country at as low costs, notwithstanding the higher wages American labor, as in England, if not in Germany. But these are facts which can only be determined by experts after a full investigation of the facts, and the general lack of exact knowledge on the subject illustrates the need of a commission of experts to make a thorough investigation of the facts and conditions in the case of every protected industry. The mere fact that the articles protect-

ed are produced by a so-called trust meaning a big corporation formed by the consolidation of competing companies. would not justify the abolition or reduc-tion of the duties, if it thereby drove the industry to the wall or forced down the scale of wages of American labor in order to enable it to compete with the foreigner. These are questions which cannot be determined off-hand by party conventions, or even by party majorites in Congress. They can only be got at in-telligently by a thorough investigation of all the circumstances and conditions by a commission of experts. As there is question about the growing strength the popular demand for a revision of the tariff, and it would be as utterly impos-sible as it would be inexpedient for Congress to undertake such revision in the oming short session, the wise thing he Republican majorities in b branches of that body to do during that session is to pass a bill empowering the President to appoint a commission of experts to subject the entire Dingley tariff to a searching examination, so prepared to submit its report to Congress at its next session.

This is in line with the proposition bodied in a recent paper by S. N. D. North, Chief Statistician of the Depart-ment of Manufactures in the Census Office. He advocates the establishment of a permanent tariff commission-a purel ousiness body, which would inquire the actual effects of every rate of duty upon every item of imports, its effects upon revenue, domestic prices, importa tions, home production, consumption and wages, and would analyze the constantly shifting conditions of industry at home and abroad. "Upon the information thus obtained Congress would be in a position to correct irregularities in the tariff and remove incongruities without pulling up the whole revenue structure by the roots." "A nation," Mr. North says, "can adjust its business to any kind of a tariff nation can stand the killing necessity readjusting its industries to radical changes in the tariff at frequent inter-It is only five years ago since the Dingley tariff was enacted. It is too is 5 West Fifty-first street, New York, early to plunge the industries of the country into the doubt and apprehensions which would result from any sweeping revision of the tariff. But it can be m fied in some of its details from year to year without causing any injury to indus-tries or any panic, provided it is done in-telligently and judiciously. And hence the prime necessity of a commission perts to examine closely the facts in each case. That work should be committed to a body of business men appointed by the President, and not to a political body like the committee of ways and means, which is subjected to too many extraneous influ-ences to be entirely trustworthy in dealing with the details of the tariff.

AUTHORITY FOR EXPANSION. Charming Reminiscence of President John Quincy Adams.

Harper's Weekly, PASADENA, Cal.—(To the Editor of Harper's Weekly.)-In your issue of August 2 mention is made of John Quincy Adams' "well-known part" in the genesis of the Monroe Doctrine. It would seem that though he was the first to assert its claims, he really attributed its pater-nity to the Deity, whose agent he con-sidered himself to be. Witness his speech in the famous debate on the Oregon question. February 9, 1846, as printed in the National Intelligencer of the next day: "So much had been said and with much ability on the question of title, that he believed it would be almost a waste of time in him to say anything more about it; unless the chairman had on the table before him a little book that the Speaker sometimes employed in administering the solemnity of an oath to members-elect

before they were admitted to seats in that hall. If that book was there, he could thank the clerk to read from it what he considered as the foundation of our title to Oregon. If he would turn to the 28th, 27th and 28th verses of the first chapter of Genesis, the committee would see what Mr. A. considered the foundation of the title of the United States to the Oregon territory. The clerk read as follows:

"26. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

"27. So God created man in his image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them,
"28. And God blessed them, and God said unto them. Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the

"That," said Mr. Adams, "in my judgment, is the foundation of our title to Oregon, and of all the title we have to any of the territory we possess. It is the foundation of the title by which you, sir, occupy that chair, and by which we are now called upon to occupy Oregon. "HOWARD PAYSON ARNOLD."

(Bung at the completion of the battle monument, April 19, 1836.) Ralph Waldo Emers By the rude bridge that arched the flood, Their flag to April's breeze unfuried, Here once the embattled farmers stood. And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept; Alike the conqueror silent sleeps; And Time the rained bridge has swept Down the dark stream which seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream, We set today a votive stone. That memory may their deed redeem, When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

Spirit, that made those heroes dure To die, and leave their children free, Bid Time and Naturegently spare The shaft we raise to them and thee.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Benefits of Travel. If your nerves are threatened with com-

plete prostration, And you cannot sleep at nights or do your work, Here's a mileage book that's good on

every railroad, And a funny yarn for every hotel Go hike yourself aboard a first-class

Here's a ticket for car "A" and And while we're waiting here just let me tell you The funny things I've seen and you will

The streets are lined on either side with stores; ople surge along upon the side-

walks. And in going in and out they use the They take their meals while seated at a table. They take their liquor standing at a bar;

The street-cars run upon the tracks pr vided. A motorman is hired to drive the car. There are elevators in those distant places

That carry human beings up and down; The people use the voice in conversation, And every woman's covered with a gown. They make brick buildings there of brick and mortar: If they want things white they always

use white paint. And many other stories I could tell you About the cities and their customs quaint. Their streets are dry and dusty in a dry

And everything is soaking after rain; le often eat when they are hungry-They hunt the station when they want

a train The papers carry ads and reading matter, The children seem much younger than adults:

heard of lawyers speaking in the courtroom And doctors feeling of their patient's pulse. In places you'll see rivers spanned by

bridges, And hose carts rattling noisily to fires; The churches have been mostly built for worship: A man is always dead when he expires, But go and for yourself see all these

And get the culture of a foreign shore. m proud and thankful for my long vacation-I know so much I never knew before.

The north pole, we suppose, is still there. Well, \$500,000 is only about \$1 a head for

Oregon.

Half a million dollars will hardly be missed by the half million loyal Oregonians. The grand Ambassadorial merry-go-

round appears to have been started for the exclusive benefit of the "ins." The strange rumor comes from Salem that Governor Geer is pilling his own

Winter's wood and saying nothing. Probably District Attorney Chamberlain would be willing to invoke any old week-day closing rule against Reformer

McKay's mouth. If Mr. Stratton, Jr., doesn't want that \$50,000 he can find other struggling young gentlemen who are willing to be disinherited on the same terms.

Lieutenant Peary says he can reach the north pole if he had a good ship and \$200,000. Andrew Carnegle's address

Balzac and Dumas once met at a party. Not a word was exchanged till Balzac on departing said, as he passed Dumas; "When I can do nothing else, I shall take to writing plays." "Begin at once, then," was the prompt reply.

A new process for the manufacture of artificial marble has been patented in Berthe lin. Ashestos, dyeing materials, shellar and ashes are pounded into a stiff mass and then subjected to high pressure. The product is surprisingly firm and tough, not brittle, is very easily worked by means of tools, can be given a fine polish, and in appearance cannot be distinguished from genuine marble.

Numberless are the stories which go to show that an Englishman finds it almost impossible to see an American joke. George H. Daniels, general passenger agent of the New York Central, is responsible for a late specimen. It is of an American who told an Englishman that he dreamed he was dead, but the heat woke him up. "Aw, by jove," said John Bull, "you must have tremendously hot weather in your country if it wakes a fellah out of his sleep.

"An epigram with every drink" is a luxury New Yorkers enjoy without extra charge. A German who runs a rathskeller in Broadway has modernized the familiar mottoes, such as "In Vino Veritas," to bring them within reach of the uncultured understanding. When you tilt a stein to the proper angle the eye may rest on any one of these bits of wisdom:

While beer brings gladness, don't forget that water only makes you wel.

He who drinks and tuns away.

Will live to drink another day.

Contentment may be better than money, but most men are willing to take chances with the

Be merry while you can today; There may be no tomorrow. There may be no tomorrow. No man is so bad that he cannot find in beer

a balm for serrow.

Drink beer and forget your serrow;

As the thoughts come back

Drink more tomorrow.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Marie-I think there's a flaw in this diam Mary-Well, never mind, dear. Maybe it isn't real, anyway.—Detroit Free Press. "He sims to be an intellectual actor." "Well,

I should judge a thinking part would just suit him."-Philadelphia Evening Bulletin. him."-Philadelphia Evening Suiletin.

Judge-I see that Wille Swellton has giver
up automobiling. Fudge-When will the funeral take place?-Baltimore Morning Heraid,
"I declare," said Mrs. Lapsling, "to hear
Mr. Raspus talk you'd think he hadn't a bit of
faith in human nature. He's a regular clinic."

-Chicago Tribune.

Non-Existent.—Cholly-P'm shuah I'm not ovahly uppish, y'know, but I simply cawn't hubmob with my inferiors. Miss Pepprey-No. Indeed, how could you?—Philadelphia Press.

"I see they are trying to fish a lot of con' out of the Merrimac River where a coal barge was sunk 10 years ago." "That's the kind of placer mining that pays nowadays." Clevelant Plain Dealer.

Mrs. Nomun-The Plunk-Smiths, next deer, are having a ten of coal delivered. Tomorrow morning I must go down and scatter on our sidewalk some jet trimmings from that black dress of mine. We can't be left out of it this way.—Chicago Daily News.

"Yes, my dear," said grandma, "when I was a girl it was a matter of pride with us to know how to cook. But you girls of today seem to have lost interest in such domestic arts," "Oh, no, grandma," replied Ernestine, proudly, "not altogether, I am sure. Why, I can make three different kinds of fudge!"—Cincinnati Commercial, Tellers.

cial-Tribune.

Mrs. Higgley-Wonder what's the matter with the Belchers. I met Mrs. Belcher this afternoon, and she wouldn't look at me. Mrs. Weston-Why, hayen't you heard? They have had 10 tons of coal put into their cellars this week. Mrs. Higgley-Oh, that accounts for it. I knew something had lifted them up mightily.—Boston Transcript.