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TODAY'S WEATHER-Showers, with south-

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER-Maxim rature, 51; minimum temperature, 42; pre-

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, MARCH 26.

TRUSTS HELD IN CHECK.

In the light of the present conflict between Hill and Harriman, the absorption of all the railroads into one "com munity of interest" takes on the aspect of a ghastly joke. Here is the Union Pacific proposing by improvements in roadbed and rolling stock to reduce the time between New York and San Francisco to 31/2 days. Here is Mr. Hill, while resting from his efforts to wrest control of the Government transport business from San Francisco and transfer it to Seattle, now endeavoring by low grain rates to monopolize the foodstuff carriage from the Pacific Const to Asia.

The dimensions of this engagement are such as to put all other exhibits in competition to the blush. Harriman roposes to tunnel the Sierras and make the line from Omaha to San Francisc equal in roadbed, grade and equipment to the best trunk line between Nev York and Chicago. Hill is building nammoth steamships and buying costly railroad connections East and terminal West so as to be hooked up for a winning fight. It is a battle of giants. Never before has the railroad world known what competition really is. It rages all along the line, from the bitte ashes in Wall street to the docks of San Francisco, Portland and Seattle Never before have railroads been equipped for fighting on this cologsal and sanguinary scale. Here is a fight for your money. Competition is not

All of which may remind ue that there are many other influences in operation which will tend to modify or reverse the popular fear concerning trusts. The weil-ascertained injurious tendencies and positive acts of the trusts can neither be denied nor explained away. But the consciousness that they are to be restrained by law will very materially after the popular view of their of-fenses. One corporation is not necessarily worse than another merely because it is larger. One railroad is not neces sarily more iniquitous than another merely because it is longer. The moral quality of an action is not conditioned upon whether it is performed by an individual, a partnership or a corporation. Congress has passed a lot of anti-trust laws. They will be enforced. The courts, moreover, are establishing prece dents against monopoly every day. The effect of all these things cannot be disregarded. They can only tend to allay popular resentment against the trusts.

All that is needed, in short, to let all the gas out of the big balloon of antimocopoly and Government ownership of everything from railroads and coal mines down to street-cars is due enforcement of righteous laws in protection of the public interest. The stupendous fabric of demand for Government ownership of the anthracite properties in Pennsylvania has tumbled down as in a night before the report of the strike omission, with its demonstration that justice can be had under existing equipment of jurisprudence. Wherever City Councils are brave and honest enough exact from car lines the community's just due for the use of the public streets. nobody will seriously think of taking them over to municipal ownership. Whenever railroad mergers pursue their purposes by betterments, lower rates and higher wages, Government control as a political doctrine will inevitably languish.

Let us pay a just tribute here to the grand old man of modern philosophy, who long ago saw all these things as in a vision. The integration of social institutions was as clear to Herbert Spencer as the kingdom of God was to Jesus of Nazareth. In his books he has shown us how the merging of capital on one hand and labor on the other bears us continually on toward the socialistic regime which must strike the death knell of progress. But, he said, we can prevent liz broad sense, therefore, Education is doing its work. That is, we are learning how to guard ourselves against the socialistic danger. We are arming the Hills and Harrimane for their Titanic battles; we are framing laws and electing Roose-velts and Knoxes to enforce them, and we are widening the scope of municipal charters to meet the new and unfamiliar needs. Every offence against the general good finds society at its first perpetration without a law for it; but it will of be long till penalties are framed exactly to fit the case. Society as a whole lage a little way behind the seeps on coming with a sure and steady

A fashlon writer in an Eastern paper

shops, but many of them, look as if the old cluny window curtain was doing service again and left-over tidies had een utilized by olever designera." It is well not to be consorious in a matter of this kind. Fashion does not often err on the side of economy. Let us be ap-preciative of a fad that makes use of the odds and ends in the sarret, that are too filmsy to be added to the charity bag or used as a salve for the con science in the Thankegiving donation Few things pass under this head. Score me, therefore, for the old cluny window curtain and another for the left-over "tidies."

OFFERED WITHOUT DISCRIMINA-TION.

If the Harts plan for improvem the Columbia between the dalles and Ce-lilo Falls is impracticable in any of its parts, the sooner we know it the better. We have had enough of monkey work with boat railways and similar instruments of circumlocution and delay. Any time spent in a project that must be shandoned at last is worse than wasted Let us start, but let us start right.

We desire to acquit Captain Harts and the United States Engineer Corps generally of any deliberate purpose to block the undertaking of an open river But there is room for impatience at the exasperating delays and cross purpo upon which Congress and the War De-partment have so industriously collabrated.

The boat railway was adopted and hooped up for ten years or more before anybody in Congress or the department dared to breathe a hint of its worthlessness. Once it was thrown aside, none was so poor to do it reverence. Now the entire Engineer Corps, our Congressional delegations and our com-mercial bodies have been standing in echiese admiration of the Harte plan. none daring to breathe a whiper against its perfect availability, until a persist ent investigation by The Oregonian's Washington correspondent discloses the fact that the engineers really believe that Captain Harts' rocks of twenty or dam the Columbia at Five-Mile Rapids would float down that torrential and scupendous stream like chips on a current. It is well to know this now. It would be better to have known it two

years ago. Captain Harts may be right and his critics wrong. Or he may be wrong. It doesn't greatly matter. The point is, we ought to know. The point is that the earnest desire of the 1,000,000 producers and consumers in the Columbia Basin for an open river, and the professed willingness of Congress to open it and the reputed anxiety of the Engineer Corps to co-operate, deserve some more satisfactory issue than the discovery every time Congress adjourns that ther is some fatal defect in the legislation for opening the dalles. The wording of the law is such, and the limitations of the department are such, and the opinions of the engineers are such, that appur ently nothing can be done. The War Department will see what

can be done. The engineers will see what can be done. Senator Mitchell and Senator Fulton will see what can be done. They will stir around at a prodigious rate. The delegation will rush over to the War Department and rush back again. The Secretaries and Generals and engineers and clerks will ook wise as Socrates and send telegrams everywhere and get themselves interviewed and urge and explain and romise you to a standstill. Miles of chain will be dragged over the slippery rocks at the dalles and whole acres of excellent drafting paper will be populated with intricate and accurate calculations. Inspiring and mutually congratulatory mesoages will fly back and orth between our Senators there and our Chamber of Commerce and Board of Trade here. But the old Columbia rolls grain of sand disturbed in its place, not city school hears none but the recitations drop of water changed in its course, while the Klickitat squaw dries her fish along its banks in the primeval loneliness and wheat pays 10 cents a bushel from Wallula to Portland.

This thing may be all right, but we doubt it. It has a most disturbing reemblance to the vicissitudinous course of the Nicaragua Canal in Congress. The inspiration of the delay in that case was railroad obstruction. It is to be hoped nothing of that sort obtains in this case. It is strenuously denied. Wherever the responsibility rests, the delay is incontrovertible. We don't like it. And we don't care who knows it.

GERMANY AND HOLLAND.

It is reported that the Kalser only awaite a favorable moment to annex Holland. The independence of Holland and Beigium is guaranteed by the treaties made between the powers after Bel gium became separated from the so ereignty of the Netherlands in 1830, following the slege and capture of Antwerp by the French army. Great Britain is among the guarantors of the independence of Holland, but it is doubtful if Great Britain would fire a shot to prevent the apprexation and absorption of Holland by Germany. Nevertheless, if Great Britain did not interfere France would be compelled in self-defense to do so. It is reported that France would be placated by being allowed to annex Belgium, which is French in sentiment and largely French in language. France could not be imposed upon by any such cheap artifice, and Emperor William is too astute a man to attempt It.

France today has her frontier fairly well fortified. The only weakness is on the side of Belgium, and this is secure so long as Beigium retains its independence. If France should annex Belgium she would be obliged to rectify and fortify her frontier to meet the scheme of defense of her new-possession, and when that had been done France would be face to face with the Germanized territory of the Netherlands. There would be no advantage to France in this new situation, and it would cost her many millions in money to accomplish it. Nor is it easy to see what advantage this, and our remedy is Education. In there would be to Germany in the annexation of Holland to compensate for the cost and the enormous risk of a great war with France, backed possibly

by Great Britain. This report that Germany is about to samex and absorb Holland is an old fable and is subject to periodical resurrection at the hands of the sensational ournals of Europe. There is probably nothing in it. It would be too serious an undertaking for Emperor William to revise and readjust the map of Europe by annexing Holland. After the revolution of 1830, when Belgium became an independent kingdom, its first sover-eign, elected in 1831, was the uncle of Queen Victorial, of Great Britain; and his son, the present King, is on very cordial terms with the British government, their own time and way. How tired and the relations between Holland and sand dilapidated, even dissipated, they

course, national self-interest rather than ancient family ties predominates, but it is difficult to believe that any of the great powers of Europe would approve of the annexation of Holland by Ger many and Belgium by France. France would be sure to protest against it; so would Great Britain and Russia.

For France to consent to the annexa

tion of Holland by Germany, provided Belgium was annexed to the French Republic, would be like a chessplayer wh ot only loses in the exchange of pieces but in the situation of the game. Hol and is worth far more to Germany than Belgium possibly could be, even if France were secure in its possess the future, which would be very doubt-ful. Belgium and Holland are about equal in home area and population; but

the Dutch colonial possessions in the East Indies are of great value and the Dutch commercial and marine resources are so great that in German hands Hol land would become a priceless posses-sion. It is absurd to credit Emperor William with entertaining so audac a project as obtaining Hoffand with the approval of Europe for Beigium rendered up to France. A fair exchange is no robbery, but this is not a fair exchange, and would be robbery.

STRENGTH OF COUNTRY SCHOOLS.

Several of the educational workers cho contributed to the symposium in last Sunday's Oregonian on the subject of the state course of study asserted that poor results are obtained in the country schools but they attributed the shortcomings to the fact that one teacher has charge of a large number of pupils in a half dozen different grades. It was said that the reason satisfactory work cannot be done in such a school is that the teacher has not time to give personal instruction to pupils. At first thought this explanation of the alleged poor resulte seems quite plausible, but many who received their education in the ungraded country schools of this or other states will find another and better explanation of any failure of the country schools to accomplish as much in the education of children as is attained by the city schools,

In the rural schools referred to one teacher conducts classes in all grades, from the primer class to the eighth grade. Perhaps the grades are blended so as to make but half a dozer grades, but in the course of a day the teacher instructs and hears recitation from pupils ranging in age from 5 to 20 years. Necessarily he or she has little time to give exclusively to one pupil, and with the exception of the little time that may be given to a whole class, the children must "dig" into their booke and learn their lessons as best they can. Now, it is not to be assumed without question that the child who is helped ver all the hard places and who there fore makes the more rapid progress, measured by pages, is receiving the bet ter education. Far from it. The probabilities are, rather, that the child who must rely upon his own resources, who must "take the same lesson over again" because he did not master it the first time, and who must think out his own solutions of difficult problems, will be the more thoroughly educated child.

Is learning your ambition?
There is no royal road;
Alike, the peer and peasant
Must climb to her abode.
Who hath a thirst for anowledge In Helicon may slake it.

If he have still the Roman will To find a way or make it

The ungraded country school has als an advantage the value of which many of us have realized. The child in such school has all the benefit of hearing the instruction given to upper-class Being so constituted that he pupils. cannot continually concentrate his attention upon his own lessons, he sits in his seat and listens to the recitations of older pupils. In this way he picks up such information as his mind is premajestically on its way-not a single pared to receive. The child in a graded of his own classmates, and associates shall not imply a change of prison suprincipally with children of his own age. The lessons assigned him may be in many instances unsuited to his stage of mental development, but he must confine his thoughts to those designated subjects or spend his idle time in seek-ing mischief. When a child in a country school has reached the fifth grade he already has a general understanding of the subjects taught in that grade, and is ready to grapple in earnest with the work before him. In the four preceding years he has, in moments of mental relaxation, imbibed much of the knowledge that is to be imparted in the studies of the fifth grade. Unconsciousfacts and principles in advance of the time when he was expected to learn them, and this without any appreciable lack of attention to those studies which

were assigned to him. Other things being equal, the ungraded country school does not rank below the city school because of any lack of time on the part of the teacher to impart personal instruction. The great difficulty with the country school is that the term covers a period of from three to six months only; and, though the term may be longer, a large proportion of the farmer boys and girls must remain away from echool during the busy season. The boy who gets up at 6 o'clock in the morning and "does the chores" and has another round of work after school in the evening may not to make as rapid progress as the city boy, but he develops greater mental power. Whatever deficiency there may be in the results of country school edu-cation should have been ascribed to the length of term, and not to the method of work.

Rose bushes in dooryards, rose bushes along the curbs, rose bushes by the acre on the Lewis and Clark Fair site! Everybody seems to be in favor of planting rose bushes wherever there is a spot that can be utilized for this pur-The idea is a pleasing one suggests possibilities of beauty and fragrance that even in imagination are delightful. There is reason to fear, however, that many roses will be planted in the belief that when this is done our giorious climate will do the rest. This s an erroneous idea. Nature is bountiful and will do her part, but each one who plants rose bushes must make up his or her mind to give them a degr of intelligent care and attention if the

desired results are to be attained. A rose bush, for example, that has been prodigal in June roses is an unsightly object a month later unless the spent blossoms are neatly clipped from the stems and the litter of withered rose leaves is disposed of. Go to a rose gar-den in July or August and note the unsightly appearance of rose bushes that have been left to shed their blossoms in mays: "Not all the lace waists in the Great Britain are also most friendly. Of look, even with the brave show of

occasional fresh rose to keep up the fic-tion of June and beauty! Compare these reglected plants with others of the same variety and in practically the same lo ation from which the old blossoms have been clipped, and note the grateful response in fresh roses and new buds And when, in addition to this, attention which any one can bestow with a very slight expenditure in time and thoughtfulness, the pruning shears are use when necessary to curb an awkward growth or to detach broken or spent branches, the effect is very noticeable.

All of this is merely to suggest to persone who are really in earnest in the and who are preparing to plant ross bushes in all available places about their premises, that to be successful in this venture into the realm of color and fragrance they must give the plants at least reasonable care. A successful grower of roses went so far recently in speaking upon this subject as to declare that rose bushes are sentient things to the extent that they appreciate and reciprocate affection and make grateful response to cultivation and

If any one is disposed to be cynical upon this point, let him select his rose from among the standard varieties that are carried by all good florists and try the effect of such blandishments, and he will see what he will ece. In the mean time, let everybody plant roses not forgetting that, to insure a season's return in bloom and beauty, vigilance will be necessary and affection not misplaced.

President Roosevelt must think he is the whole Government—appointing power and all.
He sends two names back to the Senate that
falled of confirmation. That body is just as
independent a part of the Government machinery as the President. Each has its limitations.
President Rossevelt may appoint but sident Roosevelt may appoint, but he does lence to that Constitution he is sween to up ild when he endeavors to force the Senate. Eugene Guard.

Possibly President Roosevelt took both the idea and the precedent from President Jackson, whom he resembles in some ways; and of whom he is in many things a follower and admirer. Presi dent Jackson in 1833 nominated William M. Gwin, later of Confederate and Sonora fame, to the office of United States Marshal for Mississippi. The Senate refused to confirm him. Then, just as soon as the Senate had adjourned, Jackson again appointed Gwin and put him in possession of the office. Again the Senate refused to confirm Gwin, and again as soon as the Senate had adjourned Jackson restored him to the po sition. Jackson won at last, for he kept his man in office most of the time for several years, and finally got him con President Jackson didn't think he was doing violence to the Constitution when he was trying to force the Senate, not only in this but in many more important matters President Roosevelt certainly has some of the Jacksonian qualities

The ideal organization of the state's prison would be a superintendent selected for professional merit-that is, upon the basis of successful experience in the management of criminals-holding his place subject only to the propriety and Integrity of his own conduct and as-sisted by a corps of subordinate officials under careful and professional discipline. There is no more reason or excuse for political organization of a penitentiary than for political organization of a hospital. The very idea of it is repugnant to common sense, since the responsibilities involved in prison administration are very largely of a moral and wholly of a non-political kind. As has already been declared in these columns, the transference of the superintendency of the prison at Salem from the Governor's office to that of the official superintendent is an excellent move, but it is only a beginning. Something better than we have had in times past may be expected from the new practice, but the thing will not be as it should be until a change of Governors perintendents. Even under the reform proposed by Governor Chamberlain there are possibilities of political infection from which the penitentiary ought

to be free. The yonug woman of Seattle who was grower of North Yakima has secured a divorce from her almond-eyed spouse on the plea that she loathed him and that his presence was disagreeable to her beyond her power to describe. In it possible that the disgusted woman married this man of allen race and habits of life without having seen him? Was there no courtship in the case, or did she be come possessed of Mr. Toy in the traditional "pig in the poke" manner? The whole matter is revolting, even to her escape from her matrimonial bargain with a snug sum of her Chinese bridegroom's money. The court could not, of course, disallow her plea for divorce, with the "dried rat" which he had tried to make her eat in evidence, but a white woman who marries a Chinaman is entitled to little sympathy, and it may be added, she receives little from people of ordinarily decent instincts, whether her matrimonial bargain palls upon her or not.

The handsomest class gift yet received by Harvard-and the old university has received many-is a stadium presented by the class of '79. It is to cost \$175,000, and will have a seating capacity of 30,000. "Thrice and four times lucky Harvard," says the Boston Herald, "to have so many well-to-do alumni in the great classes she is graduating year after year. Their generosity and loyalty to their alma mater are only equaled by their resources." All of this is fine. With proper compassion for the plain people and their laudable thirst for knowledge, the journal above quoted further says: "A stadium, onny, was the Greek measure of length. It likewise signified 125 Roman paces, which was the length of the footrace course at Olympia. Hence it came to mean an athletic course and amphitheater. It is a fine classic term, and it will harmonize with the classic shades

It is at length stated, with official positiveness, that Mrs. Florence Maybrick will be released from her English prison upon the completion of fifteen years incarceration therein. This term will expire in April, 1904. There has from the first been a doubt in the minds of many well-informed persons of the guilt of Mrs. Maybrick. Even the most rigid stickler for justice must admit that for the folly of marrying at 18 a man of 42 and utterly uncongenial in temperament, Mrs. Maybrick has been sufficiently punished. No one is likely to grudge the woman her liberty providing she lives a quiet life and turns a deaf ear to the blandishments of the agent of the Boston Lecture

OUTSIDE AID FOR THE FAIR.

The fallure of the Colorado Legislature to take a liberal interest in the Lewis and Clark Fair is not surprising nor in the least discouraging. Colorado has no direct share in the historical associations of the coming event and no direct business or social interest with either old Ore gon or new. Leaving out the point geographical propinquity, the futerest of Colorado in our affairs is precisely that of the states beyond the Rocky Mountains; her sentiment is cordial, but not lively; she has every motive of good feel ing, but absolutely nothing to gain through co-operation with us. The situation of Colorado is very differ-

ent from that of the State of Washing ton, which through the action of its Governor has declined to make any financia provision for the fair. But here again there is no cause for discouragement. In Legislature, in the expressions by Washington press and in unnumbered other ways we have assurance of the friendliness of the Washington people toward our exposition and of their wish that their state shall be adequately and generously represented in it. And this being so, there is not the slightest doubt that ways and means will be found. If no other plan suggests itself, the cities of Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane may be depended upon to arrange for an exhibit that will be second to none. Nobody doubts that when the next Legislature meets at Olympia it will by the promptness and liberality of its action give evidence of the universal disgust felt with respect to Governor McBride's ungracious act. In one way or another-probably in many ways-Washington will be represented at the Lewis and Clark fair as be comes her greatness as a state, the energy and spirit of her people, and her character as Oregon's eldest daughter. The provision made for our exposition

by California is larger than appears upon the face of the direct appropriation (\$30,000), placed by the Legislature to our credit. We are to have intact the great exhibit which is being prepared at a cost of \$100,000 and upwards for the St. Louis exposition, it being provided by the act authorizing this exhibit that it shall be transported from St. Louis to Portland at the charge of the St. Louis appropriation. The fund appropriated for Portland is designed to pay for a building to be constructed upon the fair grounds next year in time to receive the California exhibit after the close of the St. Louis fair; and to the end that the whole sum shall be available for the actual work of creating a building the Governor of California is to serve as commissioner without special compensation. It is further understood by the Governor and oth. ers in positions of authority at Sacramento that provision will be made by the Legislature which meets in January, 1905, for reinforcing the St. Louis exhibit and for its maintenance during the exposition period; that for this work a second and liberal appropriation will be It is further suggested that in respect

of the close trade relations between Ore-

gon and California, the commercial bodies of San Francisco may unite to erect a special structure on the exposition grounds to be maintained as a social and unofficial California headquarters. Something like this was done for the Charleston Exposition of last year by the commercial bodies of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and two or three other of the larger cities of the East. The matter has been suggested at San Francisco, and while it is too early for positive action, it is not unlikely that some such complimentary representation of the special trade interests of California will be made. On the whole, there is every reason to be gratified with the recognition which the Lewis and Clark Fair has received from outside our own state. If it has not taken the form of extravagant appropriations everywhere, it has even in this respect at least equaled the expectations of gave them the right of judgment. When it is considered that the Exposition is more than two years ahead and that in nearly every state, another legislative Legislative representatives, but against a single official. And when the last word is heard from Washington there will be

Balfour on the Higher Criticism.

fair and generous part.

Minister Balfour's Speech to Bible Society. Our collection of sacred books has been subjected to an examination so minute, to a criticism so learned, to a comparison with other literatures of similar dates, that no doubt the scholar of today looks at the Bible in a somewhat different set-ting from that in which the scholar of 1804 looked at it. My critic will say, "Does not this in some respects chill your en-thusiasm; does not it diminish the ardor with which you destre to spread abroad the knowledge of the Bible?" I think the fact is to be admitted. The conclusion is to be repudiated with all the strength

which we possess.

In my view, however, whatever that view may be worth, the ever-increasing knowledge which we have of the history not only of Lerael, but of all the nations who influenced or were influenced by the Jewish people; our knowledge of the texts, our studies in the history of the Roman Empire immediately subsequent to the be-ginning of the Christian era—these things, so far from rendering the Bible less val-uable to us or less interesting to us, from a religious point of view, greatly augment in every respect the value it must have for an educated community. These re-searches make it far more of a living re-ord of the revelation of God to mankind than it ever was or ever could be to those who from the nature of the case had no adequate conception of the circumstances under which that revelation occurred, or the people to whom it was vouchsafed, and I most truly think that not only is the Bible now what it has always been to the unlearned—a source of consolation, of hope, of instruction—but it is to those who are more learned, but probably not nearer the kingdom of heaven, it is to them augmented in interest and not di-minished, a more valuable source of spirtual life than it could ever have been in the precritical days.

Costly Naval Practice.

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Preparations for killing men have killed the sardines on the French coast, so the fishers are threatened with starvation. The destruction of these valuable food fish is attributed to the submarine explo. sions during the French naval maneu-vers last September. These explosions were on an extensive scale, and it is well known that a shock comparatively slight will rupture the air bladder of fish and destroy them. In all probability the sub-marine engines will never be used to kill men. But the killing of fish has been sufficiently costly to warn all governments to have a care. If care is not observed the waters of the globe may become fishless, especially on the coasts of highly civilized nations.

PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS.

Kansas City Star.

President Roosevelt's increasing power as a party leader is shown by a comparison of the results which he secured from the session of Congress just ended with those obtained from the previous session. His first message to Congress was rather long and contained a large number of

long and contained a large number of recommendations. His second message was only about half the length of the other and a much larger proportion of its suggestions was enacted into law. His chief proposale a year ago were for a reduction in duties on imports from Cuba, publicity for trusts, Government supervision of corporations, the upouting of the merchant marine, reciprocity treaties, irrigation, the istimulan canal. treaties, irrigation, the isthmian canal. Chinese exclusion, restriction of immigration, a larger Navy, a general staff for the Army and a reorganized militin, civi government for the Philippines, an eight government for the Philippines, an eighthour day, a Pacific cable, a Department of Commerce and a Census Bureau, currency reform and free delivery extension. Of this score of recommendations about half a dozen weathered the storm in both Houses. Laws were cancied authorizing the canal, providing for a Philippine government, beginning an irrigation system, excluding the Chinese, extending rural free delivery and instituting a permanent Census Bureau.

Last December the President's recommendations were for trust regulation, for removal of the anthracite coal duties, for Cuban reciprocity, for a canal treaty, for

Cuban reciprocity, for a canal treaty, for reform in land laws, for the bettering of reform in land laws, for the bettering of the National Museum, for more scientific work in the Department of Agriculture, for additional provisions for the safety of rallway employes, for improving conditions in Alaska and for several of the proposals made in the first message, including those relating to military and naval affairs, to the Department of Commerce and to im-

Congress adopted a good percentage the suggestions. It enacted three anti-trust bills emanating from the Department of Justice, granted a rebate on all coal duties for a year, adopted the Cuban treaty—though possibly with nullifying amendments—ratified the Colombian conamendments—ratified the Colombian con-vention, gave a new building for the Mu-seum, strengthened the Department of Agriculture, provided more protection for railway employes, passed land laws for Ainska, organized a general staff, reor-ganized the militia and increased the Navy, established the Department of Com-merce and bettered somewhat the immi-tration statutes though refusing to grant gration statutes though refusing to grant the desired educational test.

In securing so close a following of his programme by Congress, President Roosevelt has shown himself the real leader of his party. His position may still be contested by some of the older members of Congress. But it is too seurely based on the confidence and as dration of the rank and file of the party to be readily assailed. Through his strength with the people the President has often been able to hold the recalci-trants in line, and through remarkable tact he has avoided a break with party chiefs who have been ready to quarrel. His success in dealing with Congress has been one of the remarkable political phenomena of recent times.

COST OF ASPHALT PAVING. The Prices Now Paid in New York

City. New York Sun, March 20. Borough President Cantor awarded 37 contracts yesterday for nearly \$250,000 worth of asphalt paving. Twenty-eight went to the Barber Company, seven to the Uvalde Company and two to the Con-tinental Company. The prices were the lowest ever made to the city. They averthental Company. The prices were the lowest ever made to the city. They average \$1.10\% a square yard where the asphalt is to be laid on the old Belgian blocks, and about \$1.96 where concrete is to form the foundation. Two of the streets to be asphalted are Twenty-third from Broadway to the East River and South William

In the last year of the Van Wyck ad-ministration when the paving of streets was in the hand of the asphalt combination the contracts made by Commissioner John P. Keating of the Department of Highways ranged from \$2.50 to \$3.06 for or-dinary thoroughfares. But for the paving of Broadway from Canal to Fourteenth street the Barber Company got \$5.9. In the Keating contracts it was provided that the asphalt should be maintained for ten years. The term is now five years.

Importation of Arms Into China. Baltimore Sun. The Russian Ambassador at Washington

has requested the United States to co-operate with other powers in preventing the importation of arms When the allied powers dictated Empire. When the allied powers dictated terms of peace to China after the Boxer uprising they inserted in the protocol a clause forbidding the Chinese to bring into session intervenes between now and the date fixed for its opening, the response appears on the whole to have been both general and liberal. The only failure where much was expected has been in the state of Washington, and that is to be charged not against the people or their legislative representatives but against the people or their legislative representatives but against the poople of their legislative representatives but against the people or their legislative representatives but against the bowers were negotiating terms with the powers were negotiating terms with China that they were not justified in de-priving the Chinese of the right to import arms. That was the contention of the arms. That was the contention of the Chinese Government, but its objection was overruled. The enterprising manufacturers of this country and Europe ap-parently have no intention of abandoning a profitable trade with China merely beause that trade is prohibited in the reaty. They are perfectly willing, it seems, to sell the Chinese all the rifles for which they can pay, regardless of the use to which these weapons may be de-voted in the future. It was the idea of the European diplomats who framed the treaty that if China could not buy arms ahroad there would be no more Boxer up-rising; that peace would prevail for an in-definite period, and foreigners would not be molested in the Celestial Kingdom. Acbe molested in the Celestial Kingdom. According to the statements of the Russian Ambassador, the anti-foreign feeling in China is as strong as ever, and there may be an outbreak at any time. The imperial government is not strong enough to control the millions of Chinese who resent European interference in the affairs of China, and are determined, apparently, to rise at the first opportunity and free themselves from foreign domination. It is intimated that Congress may enact legislation prohibiting the exportation of arms from the United States to China. It is doubtful whether such a law would according to the state of the congress doubtful whether such a law would actempt Americans to take risks.

Sloux City Journal.

The South got excited because Booker Washington was invited to dine at the White House, and now Utah is mussing up its hair because Senator Smoot didn't get a bid. There seems to be urgent need of a new work on "The Diplomacy of Dinner-Giving."

What Maw Says. Sam S. Stinson, in Leslie's Monthly for March, Maw says I'll never 'mount to much,

Maw says I'll never mount to much,
An' gen'raily mam's right.
I never seem to git in touch
With things, jest like I might.
Maw says to me the other day:
- (Mam's sixty—in her prime)
'What makes you fool your time away
A-fishin' all the time?"

Maw says to me: "How old be you?" Maw says to me: 'How old de you'
I sorter hung my head.
You know I'm nearly forty-two,
An' Maw knows, too. She's fed
An' clothed me now for quite a spell.
I never carned a dime.
A feller can't do nothin' well,
A-dahin' all the time.

Some day I'm goin' to go to work, Some day i'm goin to go to wors,
An' make a lot o' money.
Well, say, you needn't smile an' smirk;
It ain't so gol derned funny.
Worse folks than me has made their pile,
An' loafin' ain't no crime.
An' while I'm rich I'll rest awhile.
An' fish the whole derned time.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The press will not be muzzled nor stilled though walls do crumble.

Wise choice of companions profiteth a man more than a rich father far distant. The investigation of Kansas City's police department makes it plain that St. Louis

is not the only blotch on the map of Mis-

souri.

now.

It is now plain why the calamity howlers used to think our freedom worse than the despotism of Russia. There are 100 holidays to the year in the Czar's coun-

The United Mineworkers are already feeling their oats. An advance in the ini tiation fee from \$2 to \$10 is rather larger than the advance in pay of miners recom mended by the commission. But those

that are in are running the union just

Thirty-three pages of the Congressional Record sufficed for the proceedings of the Senate up to the time Morgan embarked upon the Panama treaty "discussion." Then it took 100 pages, mostly of extra fine print, to contain the remarks of the wordy Alabaman.

In Pasadena is sold a decoction called "harmless beer." One John Bendowsky imbibed considerable of it, went home and brutally beat his wife. It took three men to get him to jail. If "harmless beer" has that effect in Pasadena, the Sacram Bee wants to know what whisky would do in that climate.

The latest estimate places the total number of apple trees of bearing age in the United States at something over 200,-000,000. This is nearly three trees to every person. These trees yield more than 175 .-000,600 bushels. Not all of these apples are consumed at home, for in years of full crop more than 3,000,000 go abroad. Yet the apples kept at home are more than two bushels to every adult and child.

William Jennings Bryan is serving on the jury at Lincoln. The first case called was one in which a widow opposed a corporation. The defendant attorney turned to Mr. Bryan and asked him, if in the case of a woman against a big corporation he could act fairly and impartially, according to the evidence, and Mr. Bryan answered: "I think I can." There was a disposition to challenge him, but the former Presidential candidate was sworn

According to a story in the Chicago Inter Ocean, John Gridley, of Gridley, Colo., raises hogs and wheat. His wheat has suffered greatly from wild geese, and neither scarecrow nor shotguns helped him out. So he stuck a lot of stakes in his fields and on each stake he fastened a fishline and fish hook, the latter buited with a pancake. The first morning he had 27 geese. That afternoon he got 14, and the next day he got 62. He fed the geese to his hogs, which seemed to like the unusual food.

An odd story comes from Texas to the effect that a negro preacher of the name of Stokes was making speeches in Gregg County against prohibition when he was seized by a mob of white men, who carried him across the Sabine River and were preparing to lynch him. At this juncture Stokes says he gave the Masonic sign of distress, whereupon the leader of the mob stepped to his side and told his followers that the man's life must be spared. It it were spared, the leader guaranteed that Stokes were never enter Gregg County again. The mob acquiesced and Stokes left the county.

Paul Kruger is regarded by interviewers as an exceedingly "tough proposition. The New York Times says that Poultney Bigelow on one occasion attempted to get the old man to talk, but could get only monosyllables in reply to questions. He employed every art of the interviewer, but to no avail. Finally, desairing of getpowers in preventing ting any information of use to him by diplomatic and approach Mr. Kruger from his family side. So he said, very nonchalantly: "Is your wife entertaining this season?" Short and sharp came the gruff answer: "Not very." Bigelow exploded with laughter and gave up the task. Oom Paul smiled grimly as he said: "Good-

> A Berlin correspondent calls attention to the antiquated and cumbersome method of forwarding remittances in Germany. A check system such as has been developed and perfected as an instrument of commerce in Britain or the United States is practically unused there, payments being usually effected by means of money orders, bought at the local postoffice. The English bank exercises the double function of adjusting accounts and guarding wealth, whereas the German bank, under favorable circumstances, scarcely does more than the latter. For the German merchant the postoffice is, in a sense, what the clearing-house of the English and American banking systems is for the British and American business man; it is an active partner in the settlement of differences between debtor and creditor.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS Patient-Can you tell how bad a man

his tongue, doctor? Doctor-Yes, profane man.-Yonkers Statesman.

"The clopers have returned to ask your bless-ing." "Blessing ch? How do they want it? In the form of an allowance, or a cash de-Hurleigh-How did you ever happen to pick out such a suit of clothes? Burleigh-Oh, I just went it blind. Hurleigh-And deaf?-

Beryl-Such table manners! Why, I hear that Jin eats the pie that his wife bakes with a knife. Sibyl-If you saw the pies you'd im-agine he'd have to eat them with a saw, a chisel and a stone crusher.—Baltimore Herald.

Gussie-Choily says he met you and aw—that you wemarked he was a puzzle to you. Miss Peppray—Yes; he reminded me of the average puzzle the moment he was introduced to me, "So simple when you know it."—Philadalphia

Mr. Pansy-Just think, I was told today of a man who buried a wife and two children in the afternoon, and then went to theater in the evening! Mrs. Pansy-And yet, he wasn't le-considerate; he was only an undertaker.—Town and Country.

Mrs. Ferguson-George, when you smoke so much in the house I have to get the curtains washed every month. Think how expensive that is. Mr. Ferguson-Yes, but I'm celling my cigars at half price nowadays. Think how much money we're saving that way.—Chicago

Jilson-Do you think Mercer knows anything about parliamentary law? Brown-Oh, he's all right. He's the model presiding officer. I saw him in the chair at a meeting once, and instead of rapping on the table for order he hit the man who was making the disturbance over the head with the gavel.—Boston Transcript. the head with the gave!—Boaton Transcript.

Holding Him to It.—Absent-Minded Toung Professor (after discoursing hearness), but vaguely, for 15 minutes)—I beg your pardon. Miss de Mulr, but I seem to have wandered from the subject I had in mind when I came here, and find myself unable to pick up the thread, as it were, of my—Blushing Maidon—I think, professor, you were asking me to marry you. Absent-Minded Young Professor—To be sure. (Wanders again.)—Chicago Tribune.