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PORTLAND, APRIL 1, 1905. NATURE'S PRODIGALITY ABUSED. The prodigality of Nature is one of the most wonderful features of the great mystery of life.

The generation now here has witnessed the extinction of the sturgeon in our rivers and the buffalo on our plains. It has seen the vast forests of the Middle West and Northwest disappear and the generation now coming on will see the forests of the Pacific Northwest disappear.

The initiative is another weapon in reserve in the people's armory. Let us hope it will be used to good effect. It is now a matter of popular conviction, and was so long before the last Legislative Assembly met.

The development of the hatchery work in a slight measure stayed the work of extermination, but much of the advantage gained by this aid from the hatcheries was offset by reckless disregard for the law.

The Alaska fisheries are still making good returns, although there was a decrease of nearly \$2,500,000 in the value of the output for 1904 as compared with that for 1903.

The industrial feature of the Government's Indian policy has met with many discouragements and reverses. In theory, for many years past, it has been to teach the Indians to work on their lands by men hired by the Government for that purpose.

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force as soon as the Governor can issue his proclamation as to the result of the election, and by so long in advance of the meeting of the next Legislature. The objections are, first, that the voters must swallow the law whole or reject it all, and without debate.

MEETING ONE'S NEIGHBORS. BETWEEN the part of the city wherein the saloons are clustered and the parts wherein saloons are not to be found there is but little intercourse.

THE INITIATIVE. The reserved power of the people is now proposed to be brought into action in several measures through what is called "the initiative," or "the referendum."

WORK FOR INDIANS. The industrial feature of the Government's Indian policy has met with many discouragements and reverses. In theory, for many years past, it has been to teach the Indians to work on their lands by men hired by the Government for that purpose.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND. The Russian government has been driven to concede two points in Finland's contention for the restoration of her ancient rights. One of these represents the rarest of all of the grievances of the Finnish people against the Russian empire.

Japan's merchant fleet has been increased during the period of the war, according to official tables now issued. Six steamers were sunk by the Russians, six were lost at sea, and seven others were sunk in the various efforts to block the entrance to Port Arthur.

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