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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, JANUARY 27.

PARASITES.

Chauncey Depew is a typical parasite All his days he has fared sumptuously on the fruit of other men's industry, but he never has done a useful act or originated a useful idea. His ability is somewhat above mediocrity, his voice and person were pleasing in their prime, and he had a way of uttering vapid platitudes which was singularly adapted to tickle the ears of rich diners whose wits were befuddled with champagne. Master of all the arts of the courtier, he exercised them with consummate skill upon the reigning millionaires in New York and became the star favorite in their carnival of corruption. As the Kings of old advanced their procurers and jesters to high station, so the millionaires made Depew a director in four-score corporations, placed him at the head of a great railroad company, and ultimately advanced him to a seat in their own pe cultar and exclusive club, the United States Senate.

This was doing well by a parasite, but rulers have ever been inclined to deal generously with those who amused them. It is in times of danger to his patrons that the parasite must beware, for they never hesitate to make a Jonah of him and throw him overboard to still the storm. No one is silly enough to believe that Depew has been exiled from his clubs, dropped by the Yale Corporation and deserted by his wife because he grafted from the Equitable Society. His graft was comparatively trifling. He was cast off, not for his sins, but because a sacrifice had to be made to appease public opinion. Yale can now complacently polish the brass on her hardy countenance and pose as a model of virtue, for she has dropped Depew, The millionaire insurance thieves are purged of all their iniquity, for they have cut Depew. The young woman who married the senile buffoon for his social position shrinks from sharing his disgrace, and leaves him to drain the cup of his misery alone. Alse, for the moor old parasite. The does bark at him in the streets. Even the New York Legislature blushes to have made him a Senator, and Town Topics will exclude his name fom its columns,

For the columns of Town Topics are exclusive. Thieves, pirates and parasites are conceded the honor of blackmailing paragraphs only so long as their social standing is unimpeached, Depew, therefore, who can no longer show his face in Mrs. Astor's drawingroom, will never again be mentioned by Judge Deuel and Colonel Mann is their weekly chronicle of scandal. What would be the use? A man who has no social standing to lose is not likely to pay blackmail to retain it There is no blood in a turnip, and blood is what this precious pair are after, first, last and all the time. If Depew is parasite of the same sort as the court jester who used to make Kings laugh, Devel and Mann belong to that other sort which made them scratch. These creatures are lice upon the none too cleanly body of society. "To suck, to Buck, to suck, the very blood to suck," is their motto, and however little they may like to see the truth about themselves Judge Deuel's action for libel against Collier's Weekly has failed. The law in reputations, though, on the other hand, it shows little disposition to in-

terfere with them. This may possibly be from that fellow in certain cases. At any rate, the legal profession itself furnishes numerous examples of parasites upon millionaire so- ing. clety, though of an order different from either Depew or Colonel Mann. In fact, were we to study parasites scientifically, we should have to arrange, them in three classes, as horticulturists do fruit tell of bugs that suck, some that larly, of human parasites there are will show a substantial gain over the some that amuse millionaires, like Depew; some that prey upon them, like Colonel Mann; and some that serve

them, like corporation tawyers. The third class is by far the most numerous, and, to the rest of mankind, the most pernicious. It includes those lawyers who exercise a perverted ingenuity to help a rich man who has more money than he can use rob his ican products is sufficiently high to preneighbor who has not enough to keep vent very many goods from this counhim in comfort; those who devise schemes to enable trusts to beat the latures, draw up bills purposely unconstitutional to thwart the wishes of the the courts with dilatory pleas, like the pression which cannot escape notice

who issue false defenses of their patrons, as Rockefeller's attorneys do constantly. All these are parasites who serve millionaires, but they do not exhaust the species. It includes also, for example, college professors who teach Dingleyism and writers who defend it; men who make pathetic pleas for a ship subsidy to fill the pockets of suffering trust magnates out of the wages of workmen and farmers; and pulpit orators who defend Rockefeller and the ethics he represents.

Pushing the matter a little farther, there are not only parasites upon millionaires, but there are also millionaires who are parasites upon the world of industry. The great organizer who mploys capital in production and keeps laborers busy certainly earns his reward; but what of a family like the Astors, whose sole occupation is to spend what others earn? A street railway owned by nonresidents is no less a parasite upon the industry of the city than are the absencee landlords upon that of Ireland. The Armour car lines suck the lifeblood from agriculture over great areas of the United States. When a farmer observes a horse or cow pining away without obvious cause, he looks for parasites, though he uses a shorter name, and generally finds them. President Roosevelt had the wisdom to search out some of the parasites upon the industry of the American people and attack them before the country had ctually begun to droop. It is unlikely that he can do a job as thoroughly as the farmer does with his stock, but the mere attempt is salutary, whether it succeeds or not.

KISSING THE BIBLE.

Justice John M. Yirney, of New York, as abolished in his court the custom of requiring a witness to kiss the Bible when he is sworn. It has never been apparent why kissing the Rible should help a witness tell the truth, and we now have Justice Yirney's statement that it has no such effect. According to him, witnesses lie with even greater eagerness and relish after osculatory contact with the Scriptures than they do when the ceremony is omitted, though in both cases their hardy disregard for truth excites his horrified wonder.

Formerly no atheist was allowed to testify in court; no man was thought trustworthy who would not say he believed there was a God, and this test for veracity was used for many years until it finally dawned upon the legal mind that it is as easy to lie about one's belief as about a matter of fact. Then it was abandoned. Witnesses are still required to call upon the deity to help them tell the truth, though if a man really wishes to stick to facts it would seem that he might do so without the aid of a miracle, and if he wishes to evade facts no miracle seems ever to interpose to hinder him.

The simple fact is that the use of the Bible and the name of God in legal eremonies is accepted by all parties, judge, jury, lawyers and witnesses, a an empty form. It has absolutely no effect upon most people's testimony, and, as Justice Yirney says, it is a desecration tending to bring into common and contemptuous use things which ought to be held sacred. The distinction between a lie and a lie un der outh, as if the latter were the more deprayed, has no foundation in logic or morals. To admit such a distinction is a piece of dangerous casuistry tending to corrupt the common mind. To make it the basis of the law of perjury is to onfirm the popular belief that legal distinctions have nothing to do with reason and justice, but are evolved from superstition and fetich worship. Contempt, not reverence, is excited in healthy minds by vain pomp and idle ceremonies.

OUR GROWING FOREIGN COMMERCE Nearly three billions is the value of

the foreign commerce of the United States for the year 1905. There was an increase in exports of \$175,000,000, and imports showed a gain of \$143,000,000 over the previous year. Exports were \$1,627,000,000 and imports \$1,179,000,000, showing that "balance of trade" of which our high-teriff men are so fond to be approximately \$500,000,000, presumably in our favor. Perhaps the best feature of this remarkably prosperous statement lies in the fact that the month of December, 1905, broke all previous records for exports by \$25,000,000, reaching a grand total of \$199,709,068 compared with \$174,819,566 for December, 1904, which was the best record up to that time. These figures do not include the business of non-contiguou territory of the United States, which for the year amounted to \$120,000,000, a gain of more than \$30,000,000 over the business of 1904. The figures for 1965 show a gain over those of 1900 of nearly \$600,000,000, or an average of \$59,000,000 per month, and over 1895 of more than \$1,200,000,000. This would seem to be a sufficiently rapid gain to refute the oftrepeated statement that our foreign trade is languishing for want of an American merchant marine. There is nothing in the statistics to indicate that we are hampered in the slightest degree in transportation facilities, and if there is any checking of the rising tide of foreign trade it will be due to other causes than lack of a merchant ma-

In this connection it is well to remem-\$200,000,000 to this foreign-trade show-In print, they cannot now avoid it, for ling, the greater part of it being on the is not only invited but urged to atwill not protect their scandalous trade | true, that the goods we imported from | are physicians eminent in their profes-Germany were bought because we needed them and because we could se-Germany than elsewhere. This disfeeling which makes us wondrous kind poses of the erroneous belief that we of victims. The medical fraternity has is must sell everything and buy nothing in order to make a healthy trade show-

We are also in a fair way to have anclose of 1905 that it now seems a cergnaw and still others that bore; simi- tainty that the current calendar year record-breaker just closed. That it will exhibit. Here the inception and prognot be as satisfactory in the case of Germany, at least, is a certainty also, that find lodgment in the tissues of the unless at the eleventh hour the "standpatters" come to their senses and perfect some kind of a reciprocal agree-

ment with Germany. The tariff which that country proposes to levy on March I against Amertry being sold in Germany, and, regardless of the extent of the increase in law; those who, as members of Legis- trade in other directions, we will suffer a loss there. This loss, together with that which we are already suffering in enlightened public; those who bedevil the trade with China, will make an im- the lurking tubercle bacillus." It is the It is getting harder every day to give lawyers of the beef trust; and those when the returns are all in, next Janu- plainly that their import cannot be mis- most good.

ary. Our foreign-trade showing for 1905 is a remarkably good one, and it is a pity that the one for 1906 cannot be proportionately as good with all

THE PACIFIC'S MARINE CEMETERY.

The Oregonian, in recognition of its duty as a newspaper to present to its readers all the news regarding matters of current interest, has this week been printing everything obtainable about the dreadful catastrophe near Cape Beale. Among readers who depend on The Oregonian for news of the day are several thousand recent arrivals in the Pacific Northwest, who are naturally somewhat unfamiliar with the dangers which beset navigation in the vicinity of that awful marine cemetery around Cape Beale and Cape Flattery. For the information of this class, as well as for others who in such cases are eager to learn everything possible about conditions which cause such heartrending disasters as that of the Valencia, The Oregonian on Wednesday printed a list of fifty-six vessels which had been lost in that vicinity while trying to enter or leave the Straits of Fuca.

The list was compiled from official urces, and gave not only the names of the vessels, but the ports from which they sailed and for which they were nd, the location of the wrecks as nearly as could be determined when there were no survivors, the year and the month in which the disaster oc curred, and the number of lives lost.

Nothing was printed that could not be verified. In the haste of compiling the list some of the important wrecks like the Fawn, where more than twenty lives were lost, and the Janet Cowan, with seven lives lost, as well as a number of others, were omitted. Special attention was paid to mentioning the cause of the wreck, whether by foundering at sea or going on the beach. The table was regarded as sufficiently valuable from a news standpoint to warrant three of the largest newspapers in the country wiring for the complete list to supplement the partial list sent out by the Associated Press.

Now comes the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and berates The Oregonian for printing what it terms an "imaginary list." In open defiance of the plain Post-Intelligencer asserts truth, the that The Oregonian "does not pretend to give a list of the alleged fifty-six vessels wrecked, but does give what purports to be a list of some of them." asserts that "the fate of some of them was and still is a mystery." is true, but when wreckage, identified as coming from vital parts of the miss ing craft, drifts ashore in immediate vicinity of where the craft was last sighted, and survivors fall to appear within ten or fifteen years after the disaster, there is reasonable grounds for belief that the vessel was wrecked or had foundered.

"Actual wrecks on the west coast of than on any other rock-bound coast to which careful navigators give a wide orth," continues the Post-Intelligencer. And yet that same "west coast" is known the world over as the "marine graveyard of the North Pacific," and, with the exception of the vessels that 'foundered" off Flattery and Vancouver Island, nearly three-fourths of the list of disasters printed by The Oregotion occurred on the Vancouver Island side of the Straits. Unwittingly in its tirade against The Oregonian the Seattle paper discloses the reason why the entrance to the Straits is dreaded by every shipmaster that ever approached

There is an ocean current, a branch o e great Pacific equatorial current, which spinges on this coast and which sweeps ong the west coast of Vancouver Island. wreckage are often de-

Therein lies the trouble. That "ocean current," the existence of which the Post-Intelligencer so gracefully acknowledges, does not confine its operations to "derelicts and old wreckage." It has gathered in its deadly embrace many of the finest ships that ever floated, and it has "slammed" them up, or the rocks where it "impinges" with a force that left nothing but tangled and twisted wreckage to tell the tale. was that same "current" that caught the Valencia when her careless captain failed to get his bearings off Flattery. and that "current," aided by a souther ly gale, swept the Valencia along to her doom at a speed several miles per hour greater than was possible with

The reputation of the northern en trance to the Straits of Fuca is too well known, wherever ships sail, to necessitate argument tending to make it better or worse. The Oregonian printed a partial list of the victims it had claimed olely as a matter of news, and the Se attle paper only makes public acknowledgment of being touched on a sensi tive spot when it enters objection to the news.

AN UNIQUE EXHIBIT.

There was held in Horticultural Hall Boston, during the first week of the current month, an unique exhibit. Its name sufficiently indicated its purpose. Similar exhibits will be held in turn in Providence. Newark, Chicago and other ber that Germany contributed about large centers. Admission will be free to all of these exhibits, and the public export side of our ledger. It is quite tend. It is called the "Tuberculosis natural to suppose, and is of course Exhibit," and its caretakers and guides sion in the cities wherein it is held. "A communicable disease largely preventcure them to better advantage from able and often curable," tuberculosis numbers each passing year thousands done yeoman service in bringing a knowledge of its cause, progress and possible cure to public attention, and in advancing means to check its rayother pet theory of our protectionists ages. Academically, the ground has shattered when the foreign-trade re- been gone over thoroughly, but there is turns for 1906 are compiled. Our for- a multitude of people who do not reeign trade is in such a healthy condi- spond to academic appeals. Material bugs. The much-pestered producers of tion and was growing so rapidly at the demonstrations, plain object-lessons are necessary to arouse and instruct them

This is the purpose of the tuberculosis ress of the disease through the germs human body and work its disintegration and decay are shown in the various stages of their development. Here, says "Charities," "is the full-sized model of the dark interior of the tuberculosis-breeding bedroom-one of the 360,000 of New York City alone—as a legend over its door states-and its contrasting neighbor, fitted up by the visiting nurses of Bellevue Hospital, structurally altered by the tenementhouse department so as to let in the light and air, the deadly enemies of direct appeal to facts, illustrated so away anything where it will do the

taken by the ordinary observer, that makes this exhibit valuable. This indeed is all there is of it, and from it results are expected that will be instrumental in saving thousands of human lives. The main purpose is to enlist the public in the work of checking the ravages of the disease. The fundamental condition of such co-operation with the medical authorities as will secure this end is an understanding of the causes and the conditions under which it acquires new lodgment. All remedial measures are subordinate to this first requirement in checking the ravages of the malady. It having been demonstrated, however, that it is often curable, attention is given to that phase of the question and instruction mparted in regard to its possibilities That public must be indeed dull and unconcerned in a matter of truly vital nterest to itself that neglects to acquire and profit by the instruction given by charts of the battleground on which a pale host is waging deadly warfare, not only in every city of the land, but literally along its highways and byways.

The young English Princess Ena of Battenberg, who is to become Queen of Spain, is a namesake of the Empress Eugenie. This statement recalls the romance between Princess Beatrice of England, now Princess Henry of Battenberg, the mother of Princess Ena. nd the Prince Imperial, son of Eugente and Napoleon III, that would have terminated in marriage but for the tragical death of the Prince in Zufuland It is recalled, too, that the ex-Empress s of Spanish birth and breeding, and the going of this young daughter of Beatrice to Spain is a concidence in family history. The heart of humanity. taking note of the stern realities of life rather than its romances, can only view with pity the sacrifice of this fair, slender English girt, as contemplated n her marriage to the weak and dissoute young King of Spain. The chance of happiness in such a marriage is small. Position is held, however, to be nore than its equivalent, and policygrim, stern Old-World policy-rules.

The statehood bill, in spite of considerable opposition, seems to have had a good, safe majority in the House. Its passage will, of necessity, force a large and hungry horde of office-seekers in the four territories involved to seek some other line of endeavor than politics. Many of them may have to go to work. As the sale of liquor to the Indians in the new states is prohibited by law, they may find in "bootlegging" a remunerative pastime not infrequently engaged in by men who try to break into politics because they are too laxy to work. With the elimination of indian Territory and New Mexico through absorption by Arizona and Oklahoma, will pass many romantic traditions of the frontier, but the two common wealths into which they have been joined will immediately show an increased prestige that will be advantageous to every one except the disappointed politicians who preferred four sets of offices to the two that are now to be filled.

The grewsome search for life on the wreckage of the Valencia goes on with hourly decreasing prospect of success. A pitiful feature of the wreck is recorded to the words "Not a woman or child on board escaped death." In a contest in which the strength of man is taxed to the utinost and succumbs, it is futile to hope for the survival of women and children. Moreover, when it comes to a risis and panic rules, the doctrine "Every man for himself" prevails and the weaker are left to perish. "Man is Yet sometimes "the not quite the thing discreet a tough beast," says William Allen White, "and it takes a good dead to kill him: but God is kinds they sooner reach the end." compensation for weakness that is rendered all along the battle line of life and is only more notable at the fiercer points of conflict, where quick results follow sudden stress, as in the calami ties of shipwreck, fire and flood.

medium has widened considerably. A case in court in this city has disclosed the fact that Sir Francis Drake (probably a reincarnation of the pirate we used to read about) for a 50 per cent commission remuneration would go into trance and advise his patrons to purchase at \$5 per share stock that was worthless at 15 cents per share. The ew aid to finance are great. Think, for example, of the advantage to the gas company if it could induce the patrons to go to a medium who had been fixed and learn from such a reliable source that the oil and water now forced through its pipes is worth more than the price that is charged for it. Still, this might not be a fair case, for there are limitations even to the credulity of the human being.

The latest picture of General William Booth, of the Salvation Army, is that of an aged man, the tenure of whose life has nearly expired. It is looked upon at once with veneration and regret-veneration for what the life of the old man stands in its endeavor for humanity, regret that its limit is so close at hand. General Booth is a man who cannot be spared from the great work that he inaugurated and which he has carried forward so many years, He is the best friend that the unem ployed of England have ever found, since he has devised a practical scheme whereby they can be helped to help themselves, through coming back to the cultivation of the soil. May General Booth live yet many years, since there still much to do that he alone can do well.

The hold-up man got \$5 out of a Jew ish rabbi and 50 cents out of a Christian minister. The preacher talked so feelingly about it that the highwayman gave him back the half-dollar. But the rabbi said never a word, which leaves open the question as to whether it is possible to put up a \$5 talk on such oc-

Prosecuting Attorney Jerome very ably represented the cause of Justice Deuel by showing the jury that Editor Hapgood had told the truth. The next time Justice Deuel brings a libel suit it will be in his own court.

always safe to sue a newspaper for libel when it hasn't told the truth. The truth about Justice Deuel wouldn't be fit for any paper to print.

copy of the \$1500 "Fade and Fancies."

THE SILVER LINING.

Grover Cleveland said that "Fads and Fancies" was a creditable book. President Roosevelt says he doesn't want it in the house. Several other people seem to have said something about this obscure volume. Send us one and let us look it over. We'll fix its proper status in short order. Who's a liar, anyway?"

District Attorney Jerome, in summing up his side of the case, said: "I will not attempt to disguise to you the utter loathing and contempt I feel for some of the witnesses whom I myself have introduced." This is about the limit in unsatisfactory witnesses. It is easy to see that Jerome won the case for the other side.

W. R. Hearst is now in Mexico, and will soon again be in Washington, taking his seat in Congress. However things may look to the casual observer, Mf. Hearst is a man who always knows precisely what he wants, and has a very direct way of setting to work to get what he wants. This concentration characterizes all his efforts, and the projects he undertakes are influenced most by this trait.

The disability of sandstone in particular in the matter of wearing out children's shoes in the East Side High School is not apparent. But school directors may know just why sandstone is less harmful to leather than other kinds of rock.

The Rev. Albert E. Bentley, of Long Island, is an uncommonly indiscreet man. Among the many exclusive religious bodies in the towns and imposing landed estates of high and nighty Long Island since the Twentfeth Century renaissance, many a with some errand. They used to do shop laughable squabble has occurred. Mr. Bentley has given another lilt to the prevailing hilarity by discovering that his fees were running low because the people were getting married at a more popular neighbor's house of worship. He forthwith went out and tackled the first blue-blood old maid he came across and said: "Now, miss, if you would only get busy you would give me something to do." She was a haughty dame and she flounced out of the room in high dudgeon. From that moment the Bentley doom was sealed. He has resigned, and tongues are wiggling at the rate of 160,000 vibrations per minute

Mr. Ayer wants a high bridge. 'That's right. Why not? A little while ago we would have been content with the mere joy of dreaming that it was among the remote possibilities of the future to have the ratiroads in question build any bridge at all for the specified purposes, let the bridge be as low as the others that have been built and used, or as high as Gilderoy's kite. Now, 60 feet high, says Mr. Aver, and he has figured out the situation carefully. Sixty feet high let's have it.

The land-fraud cases are to be taken up again and vigorously prosecuted. As they hear these ominous words, several interested ones say solemnly to themselves, "Is that fellow Heney coming around again?" and they feel like retiring to some vast wilderness of unending obscurity and Parisian aloofness from home.

A Word of Warning.

Puck. proper names.—A college president to his freshman class.) Tis good advice. To call a spade a No mortal ever should be much afraid. And yet I fear much trouble it would make If you should always call a rake a rake— Especially if he's a noctal rake.

No trouble e'er should come to him to be too frank and call a beet a bect— Especially a muscular dead beat.

But when it comes to cats more careful be, Especially the "cat" that sews and sups; And look out when you're calling pupples There's lots of fight in some two-legged pups.

The fraught with peril alight to call a rat A rat, but easy go when doing that. I've known the times—they number by th

When they were better called just pompa Soft, golden-yellow, fluffy pompadours.

In at one ear and out quickly on tongue of scandal is the rule today. God bless the knocker. Every knock is

a boost.

"Look before you sleep," is a maxim to be remembered when on the road. Often possibilities for an extension of this there are other things to be found beside the robust Western flea.

Poultney Bigelow came, saw and

jumped—at conclusions. One of the pension bills passed last week at Washington in the House of Representatives increased from \$12 to \$24 a month the pension of Ann Betts, of South Orange, N. J., 102 years of age, and a widow of a soldler of the war of 1812. Now, how old is Ann?

Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow

Never has the American luscious sex been paid a higher compliment than the following rhapsody of the eloquent Hon, Ezekiel S. Candler, Jr., representative from Mississippi and citizen of the world:

I will tell you what I believe. I believe there is nothing better in all the world than patriotic, brave and chivalrous American man bood except the loveliness, the purity and the beauty of American womanhood. Some one has said that when God made the American girl he sent his angel messengers throughout all the star-strewn realms of space to gather all there was of beauty and brightness, of enchantment, of glamour. When those angels returned from their harvesting of beauty and returned from their harvesting of beauty and threw down their glittering burden at his feet, he began in their wondering presence the fashioning of the American girl. He wrought with the gold and the gleam of the stars, shifting glories of the rainbow hues and the pallid silver of the moon. He wrought with the crimson which swooned in the rose's rubied heart, with the pure sweet snow which gleams from the llip's petals, and the fires and the flames which flash and leap from jewels' depth. Then glancing deep into his own eis' depth. Then glancing deep into his own bosom, he took of the love which gleamed there like some rare pearl beneath the wind-klessed waves of a Summer sea, thrilled into the form he was fashioning, and all heaven and earth rejoiced, for, lo! he had wrought Let there be long and continued ap

Country Life.

Joseph Cone.

The woods, the wold, the hill and plain,
The valley and the les.
The meadow green, the brook between
Is joy enough for me.
I ask no painted countryside,
No artificial skies;
The picture planned by God's good hand
My longing satisfies.

The birds, the fowls, the horse and cow,
The cats and dogs at play,
The lowing kine, the grunting swine
Is all I want today.
I ask no thronged metropolis
Drunk with its gayety;
The rest and charm of God's great farm
Brings everything to me.

RURAL PARCEL POST NEXT.

William E. Curtis, in the Chicago Record-

Herald.

It is the ambition of Postmaster-General Cortelyou and Assistant Postmaster-Gen eral De Graw, who has immediate juris-diction over the subject, to extend the usefulness of the rural delivery mail servce to include the delivery of parcels, and now this may be accomplished is now how this may be accomplished is now the subject of inquiry and reflection. Chairman Overstreet, of the House committee on postoffices, is taking a deep interest in the subject. There are, of course, differences of opinion, but all are agreed that the rural delivery carrier may be made more useful than he is and that the reserved. more useful than he is, and that the peo ple living in rural districts may get great deal more for the \$35,000,000 that being spent for their benefit than they are realizing at present. The proposition receiving the greatest

amount of attention at present relates to

the delivery of merchandise; to assisting

the farming population to purchase sup-piles and have them delivered at their doorsteps. The Government delivers in-formation and intelligence, but not merchandise in any quantity, as the tax, which amounts to 16 cents per pound in postage, is prohibitive. It is very much larger than is charged for the same service in European countries. Originally ru-ral delivery carriers were allowed to carry passengers, baggage, parcels, etc., in their conveyances, and to do shopping for the farmers' families along their routes. It was a great accommodation to the people. A farmer's wife could send to town any day for a spool of thread or a pound of coffee or sugar, or his daughter could persuade the carrier to buy her a box of confectionery or a piece of ribbon. It was not compulsory on the part of the carrier. and he was allowed to charge fees for his services, so that his own compensation was increased, while the public convenience was promoted. About every day almost every carrier in the country was intrusted ping, send telegrams and take subscriptions for the newspapers; but, two years ago, a paragraph was inserted in the appropriation bill for 1904 prohibiting all The explanation was that the riers were delayed and demoralized in the performance of their duties, and that this private express business was a temptation for them to make money for themselves and discriminate in favor of certain citi-zens and neglect others. Jealous and spiteful merchants who were not patronized complained to members of Cong and they made trouble about it and quently filed charges, so that the department was very much annoyed. In order to satisfy these grumblers, the entire 30,000 carriers were put under the ban.

At present carriers are allowed to han dle merchandise that is not mailable— that is, they can get a prescription filled at a drug store to oblige any farmer on their route, because the law forbids the sending of liquids through the mail, but they cannot buy a sheet of paper or a spool of thread or a yard of cotton cloth now, because those are mailable.

Today a groceryman or a general store-keeper in any village in the United States can send a package of merchandise, excepting explosives and liquids, to Cal-cutta or Zansibar or Ladysmith, South Africa, or Potosi, Bolivia, for less than one-half the postage he would be required to pay if he sent the same thing to a farmer living two miles from his store. The average revenue received by the Government from the rural free delivery carriers is 41 cents per day. The average

cost per carrier of maintaining the service is \$2 per day. The average amount of mail handled is 20 pounds per carrier per day, and the bulk is less than one bushe The service would cost no more If the weight of mail were 200 pounds or 569 pounds. The average carrier could easily handle that amount in an ordinary vehicle, while the receipts of the Government would be increased several hun dred per cent, and the convenience of the patrons of the service would be served nuch better than they are today, if he were allowed to do so.

Mr. De Graw, the Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General, says: "Congress should fix a rate of 2 cents per pound, or any fractional part thereof, on packages of books or merchandize not exceeding five pounds mailed at the distributing postoffice of any rural free delivery route for delivery to a patron of said route. This rate should apply only to packages deposited at the local postoffice for delivery to boxes of patrons on route ema-nating from that office, and not to mal transmitted from one office to another The rate of 3 cents per pound would be ample remuneration for the department because there is no expense for rallway transportation, and the system by which these packages are to be delivered is already established, and such delivery would entall no additional expense upon the de-partment. My personal recommendation That Congress fix a rate of 3 cents per pound, or any fractional part thereof on packages not exceeding five pounds mailed at the distributing postoffice of any rural free delivery route for delivery to a patron of said route. This rate should apply only to packages deposited at the local postoffice for delivery to boxes of patrons on routes emanating from one office to another."

It Sounded Familiar.

Exchange. George Y. Wallace, president of the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Com-pany, tells this as the latest telephone story:

In a certain Western central office one "hello" girl was always late in arriving in the morning. Time and again the manager had pleaded with her to be more prompt. Her tardiness continued until he was moved to desperate methods.

"Now, Miss Jones," he said one morning, as he came to her exchange with a package in his hand, "I have a little schame which I hope will enable you.

scheme which I hope will enable you to arrive at the office on time. Here is a fine alarm clock for you. Promise me that you will use it."

The young woman promised, and accordingly set the alarm for the proper hour when she retired that night.

hour when she retired that night. At 7 o'clock there was a tremendo whirring from the alarm clock. The sleepy "hello" girl rolled over it bed and said sweetly and still asleep; "Line busy; call again."

Beau's Calling Night. Exchange

When a young man stays too late in making his evening call, this argument begins up stairs: The father contends that he never stayed that late when he was a young man, and the mother con tends that he stayed longer.

The Auto and the Idiot.

The Auto and the Idjot

"O glory," cried the Idiot.
"We're forging right ahead.
If I had wheels upon my feet,
I'd also run," he said.
The Auto moaned, "It is a shame
Your wheels are in your head."

The Auto and the Idlot Ran bang into a fence.
"To steering." said the Idiot.
I'm giving thought intense."
And that was odd, because, you know

Adown a pleasant country lane
They journeyed fast and far,
Until they spied a gentleman
A-smoking his cigar.
"Fil hit him hard," the Auto cried,
"And minimize the jar."

Across the quiet gentleman Right merrily they sped.
"Pedestrians should look alive,"
The busy Auto said—
And this remark was odd, because
The gentleman was dead.

SOME THINGS IN THE OREGONIAN

TOMORROW First and best, the most comprehensive telegraphic news service by the Associated Press and special correspondents, of any Pacific Coast newspaper; then the customary de-partments, and the best features that can be bought.

LINCOLN STEFFENS ON THE UNITED STATES SENAT?

Master of terse, crisp English, incoln Steffens has burned some of his telling phrases into the pub-lic mind. Readers will instantly re-call "the shame of the cities," "enemies of the Republic" and other biting expressions. Those who love satire may expect a treat when they read tomorrow his special correspondence on "The Senate as It Sees Itself."

ENGLAND'S QUEEN MOST DEMOCRATIC OF ALL

A charming letter from London, showing the home life, the womanly, sympathetic side of Alexandra, who prefers the laughter of chil-dren to the flattery of courtiers. enjoys skating, taking photographs the cultivation of old-fashi flowers, companionship with music, and the simple life,

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LASSOED A BAND OF ELK

THE SAME AS CATTLE There was a most remarkable round-up of elk recently at the bead of the San Joaquin Valley, California, in which a band of 50 cowboys succeeded in capturing, tying and crating 32 elk, which were sent to the Yosemite National Park under the auspices of the Govern-ment. This achievement is without a parallel among the many things done on horseback with the bariat.

NATIONAL AWAKENING

OF THE CHINESE The eyes of every civilized na-tion are now turned on China, among whose masses an extraordinary change has taken place in the past ten years. An observant writer contributes an article setting forth the industrial as well as the political awakening, which inter-ests the Pacific Coast probably in greater degree than any other part of the world,

RECOLLECTIONS OF GEORGE H. WILLIAMS

The most important among the amendments to the Constitution is the 15th, which gave to the negro full civil rights. Judge Williams helped to frame it and tells of the deliberations and legislation leading up to it.

UNCLE SAM ADDING TO OUR FOOD SUPPLY

To vegetables now grown for sal-ad, the Agricultural Department has imported for culture in the United States the "chayote" and the "udo," both wholesome and delicious. A Washington special correspondent tells how Uncle Sam is scouring the earth to its furthest corners for new things to eat that will grow in this country.

MAKING THE FOOTWEAR

OF THE UNITED STATES First of a series of illustrated articles telling how the simple things that enter into our daily life are manufactured. The initial contribution describes how muchines turn leather into \$350,000,000 worth of shoes every year.

THE BAKING OF **OUR DAILY BREAD**

Thousands of housekeepers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho have cut from The Sunday Oregonian and pasted in special scrap-books Miss Tingle's instructions in "The Making of an Ordinary Cook." Tomorrow this practical Cook." Tomorrow this practical teacher finishes her lesson on bak-ing bread, describing clearly the slow-raising and the quick-raising methods. Perhaps experienced and successful cooks will here learn why bread occasionally does not

ABSURD RELIGIOUS

PRACTICES IN INDIA Frederic J. Haskin writes of charlatans and sorcerers who impose on ignorant worshipers, and tells of the many tricks which Brahmin priests resort to in order to excite fervor among the populace. He paints a picture of ancient barbarisms at once fascinating and re-

THE ROOSEVELT BEARS

WORK AS FARM HANDS In tomorrow's installment of the "Roosevelt Bear" stories they hire out to a farmer, and "something is doing" all the time.

PORTLAND TO HAVE GRAND OPERA SEASON

Mention grand opera and there is first called up a picture of silks and satins, flashing jewels and all the other gauds of modern society. Then comes another of brillian artists, men and women who have devoted their lives to music worship. Portland is to have a grandopera season soon, and a forecast of the artists and the operas is printed on the music page.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FIGHTING GAME IN CALIFORNIA

Outlawed in every state except California, pugilists have been forced to turn their attention to the West. What the outlook is for the coming season in San Fran-cisco, the prizefighters' Mecca, is described in a special article con-tributed by Fred J. Hewitt, a wellknown sporting writer.

BOOKS, SOCIETY, MUSIC AND DRAMA

The Sunday Oregonian devotes one section to reviews of books, so ciety, music and drama. These de-partments are all illustrated, and cover all the current news from weddings to engagements, an-nouncements of coming attractions and concerts to stories of the stage

IN THE MIDST OF NEW YORK'S DRAMATIC WHIRL

Emilie Frances Bauer, in her weekly letter, describes events in New York music and dramatic cir-cles. Richard Mansfield's latest freak, the death of Anton Seidl, and the new musical comedy, "The Vanderbilt Cup," are some of her

ALICE ROOSEVELT'S

WEDDING GOWNS Two pages of pictures of Alice Hoosevelt's trousseau will be print-ed tomorrow. The gowns are eight in number, and the illustrations show the designs accurately, while the materials and style of the dainty garments are described in the text.

"Echo of the Baby Show."

There appeared in this paper on Tuesday. January 16, 1906, an article, headed "Echo of the Baby Show," and signed Mrs. E. O. Blakeley. The Oregonian has investigated the matter, and finds that there is not such a person in Portland as Mrs. E. O. Blakeley, and that the article was written with malicious intent by Mrs. Anna DeLude, who resides at 265 Belmont street, in this city. The Oregonian regrets the publication of the item, and feels that an injustice has been done Mr. and Mrs. Branch and their child,