PANAMA GANAL

W. G. McPherson Finds Much to Commend in the Work on Isthmus.

SANITATION GOOD

One of Greatest Difficulties Which the Officials Have to Meet Is the Laziness of the Native Laborers.

Frequent reports that little is being accomplished by the Government is its ca-nal operations in Panama are altogether discredited by W. G. McPherson, a Portland business man, who recently visited the scene of operations. Mr. McPherson, at the time, was en route to New York ton business, and went by way of Panama in order to get the benefits of the sea voyage. Discussing the district visited by him and the work accomplished by the United States Government, Mr. Mo-

Pherson said: ouldn't imagine the country is one in which any one would care to live, but in which any one would care to live, but conditions there, as I noted them, have been highly colored. In March on my way to New York, and again in April on my return voyage I found the healthlest conditions prevailing at Ancon Hill, in the canal zone. It is a fact that I did not see a single mosquito. This speaks volumes for what the Government has done in ridding the country of this germpropagating pest, which used to abound in dense clouds. The Government should be given credit for improving the sanitary conditions to an enormous extent and with establishing corps of physical and with establishing corps of physicians and efficient hospital service. In the town of Panama itself the dirt and smells are fast disappearing. There is now no danger of contracting fevers in crossing the Isthmus, and, by the way, it takes only a couple of hours to cross P by rall. Before I arrived I was warned to drink water and to take all sorts of precautions, but these warnings were altogether unnecessary.

Much Is Accomplished.

For a man who is not a civil enginear to criticize the work being done there is foolhardy," continued Mr. McPherson. "It appears to me that a tremendous lot has been accomplished in the comparatively short time operations have been under way. Enorm work has been done in clearing brush, ridding the district of mosquitoes, establishing quarters for employes and perfecting sanitary and hospital arrangements. I can hardly see how so much has been done.

"Mr. Shorts is going about the task just the same as he would set about building a trans-continental railroad. He is surrounding himself with the best men available—all of them ex-perts who have had to do with the great railroads of the United States and are experts in their lines. The en-tire personnel of the canal-diggers is a railroad proposition. Shorts has full a railroad proposition. Shorts has full authority to pick his own men and he is picking the best he can get. On his staff is a former Portlander, E. S. Benson, who is auditor of the Canal Commission. Mr. Benson was formerly auditor of the O. R. & N. Railroad Company. I met Mr. Benson during my visit and found that he was homesick for Portland. About all he talked of was Portland.

One Great Difficulty.

One of the great difficulties to be labor. The natives and Jamaican negroes, who are mostly depended on for this work, are the most salifiers and laziest lot imaginable. One of them when working with a pick will raise it up slowly and let it drop. It takes six of them to carry a railroad tie—as many as can possibly get hold of it, and then they mope along so slowly you can barely see them move. Their tacties are enough to drive an American foreman insane. And if you curse or abuse one of them there is trouble in store for you. A Colonel of marines was recently thrown into jail by the native government for swearing at a lazy native.

"Opportunities for young men seem very good—that is so far as salaries are concerned. The salaries are good, but difficulty is experienced in keeping good that of the proposed in the concerned is larged as a sit is, I expect the damage to be repaired with but little inconvenience to me. The forces of my being which have the work to do are still sending in their complaint, seem to indicate

"Opportunities for young men seem very good-that is so far as salaries are concerned. The salaries are good but difficulty is experienced in keeping good men. Enjoyment is limited and social life isn't anything to be compared with conditions in the United States.

"While the probabilities seem in favor of a sea-level canal, there is a wide sentiment among engineers that a lock canal would be more practicable. It will take 15 or 20 years to complete a sea-level 20 years to complete a sea-level while the lock canal ought to be put through in 10 or 12 years. The only argument in favor of the sea-level canal seems to be that it will take longer to complete it and thus subserve the interests of a few."

Death of S. D. Brastow.

PORTLAND, Or., June 17.—To the Editor.)—As Mr. S. D. Brastow, who died recently at Alameda, was well known and had numerous friends both in Oregon and Washington, the following tribute will be

in the death recently of Mr. S. D. Bras-tow at his temporary home in Alameda, not only San Francisco and vicinity, but the entire Northwest, loses a forceful, highly respected and well-known figure-one of the class of sturdy pioneers who

one of the class of sturdy pioneers who are fast passing away.

Of vigorous New England stock, he came to the Coast in the early '50s and entered the service of Wells, Fargo & Co., the pioneer express company of the Coast, as pony messenger, his route lying between Jacksonville, Or., and Yreka, Cal. As it took 38 hours to complete the trip, and the country was but sparsely settled, the position, as may be imagined, settled, the position, as may be imagined. settled, the position, as may be imagined, was attended with more or less hardship, adventure and danger.

Mr. Brastow somewhat less than 40

years ago was appointed superintendent of the Western division of Wells, Fargo & Co., which position he held at the time of his death, he enjoying the distinction of being the oldest express superintendent in active service in the United

asthma. After three days, recovering his strength somewhat, he started on his return trip to Alameda, where, surrounded by friends and attended by the loving ministrations of a devoted wife and two daughters, his sole surviving family, he passed quietly away on the evening of Tuesday, June 5.

DRUGSTORES' KNELL.

Vision of Cures Christian Science Hopes to Accomplish.

ASHLAND, Or., June 15.—(To the Editor.)

--Any, one who noticed the illustration in
The Oregonian of the Christian Science tem-The Oregonian of the Christian Science tem-ple and read the account of its dedication, will have to admit there is something more than a passing fad back of Christian Science claims. The most of us know of persons who have been brought back to health and strength who were given up by regular physi-cians to die. It is due to humanity to know

very name of which is the synonym for conviviality, good fellowship and good cheer. Prominent among those remaining are Mr. Raphart Weit, proprietor of the White House, and "Uncle" George Bromley(as he is familiarly called), wit, orator, author and "all-round good fellow."

Mr. Brastow was last in Portland a little more than a week ago. During his stay he was confined closely to his room at the Hotel Portland, suffering, as he supposed, from an acute attack of anthma. After three days, recovering his strength somewhat, he started on his return trip to Alameda, where, surrounded by friends and attended by the loving uninistrations of a devoted wife and two sure—no one system of treatment can properly administer in all cases.

In my opinion there is a better day coming

In my opinion there is a better of a line for alling humanity where kind and sympathetic help from natural-born heaters will be looked to for relief. The drugstore will gradually recede into a secondary position, different to the one it occupies at the presdifferent to the one it occupies at the pre-ent time. THOMAS BUCKMAN.

SAVES HONOR OF PRINCE Countess Kokowska Kills Herself,

Leaving Startling Confession.

VIENNA, June 17.—The honor of the princely house of Karnewich has been saved by the dying confession of Countess Kokowska. The sensational episodes are matters of last Winter, but the Princess' confession has been publicly spread on fording the use of its valuable columns for

J. B. Marvin Gives Practical Suggestions.

BUILDING OF RESIDENCE

Design Should Conform to Site and Be in Harmony With Surroundings, and Should Always Be in Good Taste.

doubtedly a fact that paint not only greatly improves the appearance of a house, if it is of a good color, but it enhances its value— preserving it from decay, and making it more attractive to purchasers.

Discriminating Use of Ax. There are many beautiful places in Portland, laid out years ago, which could now be very greatly improved by discriminating use of the ax. Where two trees are growing no near together that neither one can develop symmetrically because of the proximity of the other, one of them should be removed. Besides this, in old places, trees and shrubs should be cut out to afford vistas, so that the house may be seen from the street at several points, trees and plants being left only between alternate, radiating being left only between alternate, radiating

There are many fine hedges in Portland, There are many fine hedges in Portland, but there is little variety. Most of them are of the Japan privet, which is saally grown and easily trimmed. The introduction, here and there, of a hedge of the Pirus. Japonica, or Japan quines, would afford a pleasant variety, and greatly improve the appearance of the streets. This shrub requires more pains in trimming, but during the period of its bloom it is very brilliant and striking in appearance, supplying a dash of color in the midst of the universal green.

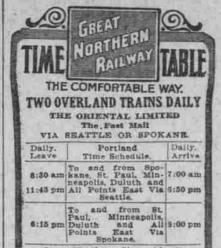
Many valuable suggestions as to the beautifying of the city have recently been made in the columns of The Oregonian, but they have related mainly to duties devolying upon the city government, such as the preservation of cleanliness in the streets. In the few hints I have ventured to offer here, I have had in view more particularly the consequents for heautifying the city. the opportunities for beautifying the city

succeeded in squaring the circle, or dissucceeded in squaring the circle, of dis-covered the secret of perpetual motion. In any event, the optimism which professes to find uplift in such catastrophes is, as Schopenhauer said, "a bitter mockery of the woes of mankind." After all, an earthquake with its sudden destruction of life and property presents no more dif-ficult a moral and religious problem than the poverty, distress and death which are with us every day.

Robin's Nest Caboose Fashion.

Cincinnati Enquirer. That robins sometimes depart from the old custom of building nests in trees and bushes is shown in the selection of one bird family, which has built a nest in the drawbar of a caboose in the Big Four rallway yards at Bellefontaine, O. The caboose is an extra one and hasn't been in use for a number of days, and the trainmen are hoping that it will not be presented for three presty blue eggs. be needed, for three pretty blue eggs in the nest are claiming the undivided at-tention of the mother robin. The coupling of the caboose would mean destruction to the robin home.

TRAVELERS' GUIDE,



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VIEWS OF THE DISABLED JANE L. STANFORD AS SHE APPEARED IN ASTORIA HARBOR.

contended with in the active building of a canal is the securing of common labor. The natives and Jamaican ne
sophical basis does it rest. It certainly must the papers, just filed, in connection with suggestions as to the beautifying of Portlabor. The natives and Jamaican ne
sophical basis does it rest. It certainly must the papers, just filed, in connection with land, that I venture to solicit space for fact, the ones upon whom the fame of the persons involved belong to Moscow.

sending in their complaint, seem to indicate that the intellectual part was remiss in duly, and they are trying to make me aware that the intellectual part should be more careful and not allow extra jobs of this kind

to be thrown on them, as they have enough to do to keep up the general repair. Perfect health is the result of the proper relation being maintained between the spirtual and the physical. The spiritual faculties are the residents, while the physical is but the the residents, while the physical is but the house in which they reside. The spiritual being is divided into a number of different faculties, and to one division is given the work of looking after the physical. When that division falls in its work death is the result. It may get greatly behind in keeping up repairs, and sickness follows as a natural consequence. That division in a great many ways may be overtaxed, overloaded and become discouraged as we do in our affairs. One thing gets in the way of another so that it seems impossible to over got matters.

One thing gets in the way of another so that it seeps impossible to over got matters straightened out. Often a person is thrown flat on his back and has to hy and wait for that part to get up with its work.

As I understand this Christian Science healing, it is nothing more than the ability of one person to send his involuntary forces to the assistance of the beleaguered forces of another person by coming into the proper rapport. That department of the sick person is forces might be like a person stuck

some is given the gift of healing; that is, they are so constituted that they can put themselves in rapport with that part or di-vision of the sick person's being. Is a genuin acuse they can give a lift to help sions in the work of repairing what damage or derangement that may have occurred to the stok person's physical being, and in a figurative sense give a feeling of encouragement that causes those faculties to feel there is a

intendent in active service in the United States.

His death was the result of heart fallure, superinduced, there can he little doubt, by the shock of the earthquake and the hardship, strain and anxiety of the days immediately following.

When, on the second day of the conflagration, he saw that his house, too, was destined to burn, he bartered with an expressman as to the cost of removing one load at least of his most valuable belongings. The price demanded was \$100 cash down, and, as Mr. Brastow had but little available money at the moment, he, with of course hundreds of others, underwent the trying ordeal of seeing his cherished and valuable possessions—the result of the accumulation of a lifetime—go up ha smoke.

Mr. Brastow was one of a small and now rapidly diminishing coterie who were specially prominent in the well-known Bohemian Club of San Francisco, the

The Prince had a large house party at his castle near Moscow. Among them was the beautiful Mademoiselle Czyka. Captain Czinsky, of the Imperial Guards, renowned for his many amours, made passionate love to her. He was, however, re-buffed and plotted revenge.

Discovering that she favored the Prince, the captain managed to get the young woman and the Prince on a toboggan next day, with himself as steersman. ter going half a mile down the mountain chute and gaining terrific speed, the cap tain deliberately steered the toboggan toward a precipice and then alld it off into the snow. The Prince was scarcely in time to realize what had happened. He seized his lady love by the waist and threw her off, following himself just as the sledge fell over the side of the precipice. The Prince's arm was broken and both he and the young woman were oth-erwise injured. The Prince challenged the captain and a duel was arranged for the next morning. But Moscow was horrised to hear that only the captain was on the

to hear that only the captain was on the field of honor.

The Prince was found dead in his bed with his throat cut and a razor in his hand. He was dubbed a coward, who feared the duel and had preferred suicide. His name was taken off the rolls of the family off the regiments and cube and family, off the regiments and clubs and societies to which he belonged, and even the peasants of his own estate cursed his

Four Track News. A history as pervaded by romance as redolent of fragrance! Such is the story dowy street seem to pass the forms of long ago-redcoat and "long kulfe" (as the aborigines called the American ofthe aborigines called the American officer because of his sword), courier de
bois and painted savage; a French
chevalier of reyal name, a habitant
carrying a brace of muskrats, hat
were a delicacy of the region during
the hunger of war time; an Indian maiden with braided hair; a coquettish
young Canadienne in shimmering satin
and daintily slippered feet, going down
to a ball at the old Navarre House, and
attended by a negro slave. The traditions of Monroe, with the poetry of
their festivity and the pathos of their
tragedy, form a fascinating page in
the annals of the Middle West.

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ment of vacant lots in the residence portion of the city; as to the building of new homes, and as to the improvement of homes already

vacant lots in Portland is, undoubtedly, the greatest derogallon to the beauty of the city. If owners of lots would grade, and sod, and improve their lots with ornamental trees and shrubbery, they would not only beautify the city, but they would snhance the value of their property, and, if they intend to build on their lots, they would save time by ornamenting their grounds in advance of the building of their houses.

Adaptability to Surroundings. The owner of a lot, when ready to build a house thereon, should not insist upon having the architect plan his house according to some preconceived, inartistic idea. A lawyer or a merchant, with his mind filled with his own special work, should consult his architect as he would his physician.

his architect as he would his physician, only reserving the privilege of selecting from plans submitted, without assuming to direct what the plans shall be. Above all, do not build a house which is a box. Every house should have bay windows or wings, or both, so that the occupants may enjoy the surroundings from the windows. If the house is located on a hillside, it should be Gothic in the surrounding from the windows. in style, with turrets or spires, in harmony with the fir trees and hillitope in its rear. A square, fist-roofed house, on a hillside, is not in keeping with its environment, and

the peasants of his own estate cursed his name. Some time afterward Countess Kokowska was found dead in her boudoir in Moscow. She had killed herself with morphine. It now transpires that the Countess left a letter of confession. It appears that she was madly in love with the Prince, and, being a member of the house party, had seen his tender solicitude of Mademoiselle Cxyka, and on the day of Captain Cainsky's treachery learned that they loved each other. At dead of night she made her way to the Prince's room and murdered him by cutting his throat. She then placed the razer in his hand to ward off suspicion.

Remorse at the dishonor she had brought on the man she loved caused her to take her own life.

Out of the Misty Past,

Four Track News.

In stranging for the ornamentation of grounds do not instruct a nurseryman to plant such trees and shrubbery and flower-ling plants &s he may choose. Employ a landscape gardener, and direct him to select the most beautiful rees and shrubber and flowers that can be obtained, as the difference in the cost of the poorest and the best but slight. A stiff cedar or an arborvitae is not as beautiful as an American hemicok, or a cedrus deodara, which, with its graceful, feathery branches, is a joy forever. Be sure that you get the best. You cannot make a mistake if you plant the carried that the purple-leaved beech, the holly. Chinese honeyamckie, the pirus-japonica, or the forsythia—all of which flourish in this climate; and you cannot have too many roses, but they should be properly located. is in bad taste.

Care of a Lawn. Above all, provide for a grass plot or the lotus beds of its marshes and the lawn. Nothing is more attractive than a wild grapevines of its sunny banks are well-kept lawn, and there may be a grass redolent of fragrance! Such is the story of Monroe, Mich., which stands like a sentinel beside the River Ralsin near that it takes a hundred years to make a the Ohio border. When the world is gentieman, and two hundred years to make green or decked with gold and crimson, a lawn. The principal things in making a sa one letters under the arching branches of the trees, down the shadow street seem to pass the forms of long ago—redcoat and "long knife" (as drought, scatter fine, fertile earth over your drought, scatter fine, fertile earth over your lawn from time to time until the roots of the grass or clover are deep in the ground, then the sun cannot reach and burn the roots. If you use a sprinkler on your lawn the crab-grass is sure to appear, and this will ruin it.

As to homes already built and ground already ornamented, it is to be said that many houses would be much more beautiful if painted an artistic color, and that many grounds haid out years ago may now be

One very great detraction to the beauty of Portland, as well as to the comfort and safety of its people, is in the condition of the sidewalks in front of vacant lots. Many the sidewalks in front of vacant lots. Many of these are full of holes, and are damagrous, and yet the city government—so the honorable Mayor informs me—has no authority to repair these walks, charging the cost to the owners of the lots, the question as to its authority to do this being pending before the Supreme Court of the state. I appeal to the owners of vacant lots to Improve their lots and to been the sidewalks about their lots and to keep the sidewalks about

them in good conditi JOSEPH B. MARVIN. The Ancient Problem.

New York Evening Post.

Inevitably, many preachers Sunday drew lessons' from the San Francisco earthquake. Some of them were at pains to "justify the ways of God to man." After the catastrophe at Lisbon, certain 18th-century philosophers and divines did a great deal of such moralizing. Kant, while discussing the scientific aspects of the disaster, thought that it was intended to show man "that this battlefield of his passions was not the goal of his pur-poses." Voltaire in his "Poeme sur le Desastre de Lisbonne," attacked the optimism of Leibnitz and of Pope. This provoked from Rousseau that strange re-joinder in which he condemned Voltaire's pessimism, and defended his own familiar thesis, that all is perfect as it comes from the hand of the Creator, but is corrupted and spolled by man. Nature, he said, had not crowded together at Lisbon 20,000 tall houses to fall and crush their tenants. If the population had been content to live in a natural state, and had been suffi-ciently scattered, the loss of life would have been inconsiderable. Nor was the sudden death of so many a great evil.

Their sufferings were less than if they had lived to be vexed on their deathbeds by lawyers, physicians and priests. Those who attempt a satisfactory explanation of the evil in the world are, indeed, likely to did themselves shoulder to shoulder. ly to find themselves shoulder to shoulder with that eccentric minority which has

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