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PORTLAND, THUBSDAY, JAN. 14, 1909.

NOW IN ILLINOIS.

In lilinois there is a first-class po-

litical row. It comes about chiefly through the primary law. law factional spirit has been engendered in the Republican party, to an extraordinary degree. Charles S. Deneen is Governor. He obtained four years ago 296,000 majority—a majority almost equal to that for Roosevelt. He was not a pliant exocutive. He did his duty. The local bossess couldn't "run" him. So, at the end of four years, they conspired and combined to beat him. They tried it in the primary. But his opponents couldn't beat him in the primary. He got a plurality nomination. Then they tried to beat him in the election. They supported Stevenson, the Democratic candidate, and cut down Deneen's plurality to 23,162-though the plurulity for Taft in the state was 179 Now they carry the light to the Legislature, and want to count Deneen

The Republican malcontents, opponents of Deneen, elected many n bers of the Legislature; not a majority of the Republicans, but enough when united with the Democratic members, to make a majority of all. The combination controls the House, but not the Senate. In the House has elected the Speaker-by union of all the Democrats of the body with the anti-Deneen Republicans. This combination, Deneca believes, intends to the election returns and to count him out. But the majority of the Senate refuses to enter into the joint convention, for canvass of the vote, till agreement shall have been made as to the method and scope pi the proceeding. The Dencen men say they do not object to the fullest inquiry into the regularity and legality of the vote, but say the intention of their opponents is to count Dencen out, by rejection of the entire vote of unties and wards, where Deneer had majorities-on general allegation Hence the Senate refuses to meet with the House, till stipulations shall be made, as to the course or scope of proceeding in the con-Inauguration of the Governor therefore is "held up," and the whole course of proceedings, including the of United States Senator. And here is a new complication

Edward D. Shurtleff is Speaker of the House. He is professedly a Re-publican, but a leader of the faction opposed to Deneen. He was elected to the Speakership chiefly by the votes Democratic members. The combination is urging him as its candidate for the United States Senate, and it is asserted will be able to com-mand votes enough to elect him. It is close figuring, but the managers of the scheme give him 165 votes, while the number necessary to elect is 103. Albert Hopkins, present Senator, is a candidate for re-election. He his party nomination by a small plurality, and obtained later a plurality in the general election. Yet now his position is in danger. Should the methods of the reform combination succeed, not only will Deneen be thrown out, but Hopkins will be rejected, and the primary law, as an instrument in the election of Senator, will be overthrown. So, in Illinois,

it's a pretty quarrel as it stands. It may strike the observer that these reform methods in politics, with the boon of primary law and of proportional representation that now prewatte in Illinois, and resultant honesty and purity and regard for the will of the people, are something worse than the old system. The proceedings in Illinois throw much light on the general juggle and bunco game that has been in progress in Oregon for some The whole business is merely a travesty of government by the of the people. In one way, and in another, through hocus-pocus, indirec tion, subterfuge, crookedness of infinite variety, it will defeat the will and intent of the people every time. believes for one moment that Oregon at this time desires in fact to send a Democrat to the Senate? Not even the jugglers or the pawns they move on the chess-board, for one moment believe it or imagine it. As a method of defeating the will of the people this is the finest thing yet invented. Nor, since this is its inherent nature,

THE COAL MINE TRAGEDY.

Another ghastly mining tragedy in the coal mines of West Virginia has snuffed out scores of lives and left sorrow and privation in hundreds of homes. This disaster, following so closely on one which two weeks earlier destroyed the lives of half a hundred men, happened in a mine which the Government inspectors had pronounced safe, and accordingly some responsibility for the disaster must rest on these men. The pity of all these tragedles lies in the fact that they are nearly all prevent-Coal mining has been engaged in for centuries, and inspectors, superintendents and even miners themselves are familiar with the dangers of the calling. Yet there is no appreciable decrease in the number of lives lost or in the number of thes tragedies, which occur so frequently that they have almost lost their power to thrill and horrify those not directly related to the unfortunate victims.

From the frequency of these mining horrors it is quite clear that the safety of coal miners in this country is not sufficiently safeguarded. fact is clearly demonstrated by the records of the industry in this coun try as compared with those in Great In the latter country. number of accidents is only 1.29 per thousand workmen employed, while in the United States the latest official The money would be forthwith re-reports give the nubmer at 3.18 fatal deposited in local banks and thus put

accidents per thousand men employed. This is considerably more than double he number killed per thousand in Great Britain, and the difference can be explained in no other way than through carelessness and lack of sufficient safeguards. It is idle to presume that American coal miners ensitious or more inefficient than the foreigners engaged in the same line of work, and we must accordingly admit that there is a laxity in management and law enforcement governing mine operation that is less in evidence in

foreign mines. Numerous laws have been passed by the states where coal mining is a prominent industry, and Congress has iso provided regulations which, if beyed, would reduce the death roll. Unfortunately most of these laws have dwelt stronger on the liability of the nineowner after the death of the miner than on rigid enforcement of rules which might prevent the disas As it is infinitely better that a terbe protected against disaster than that his heirs be paid for his death after a disaster occurs, it would seem that the best method for preventing these frequent tragedles is enforce rigidly laws compelling mineowners to provide every possible safeguard and also compelling a greater degree of care and responsibility among the mineworkers them-

THE PEOPLE FOOT THE BILL. Mayor Lane says he is poor, hasn't a dollar, and boasts of it; though one can't see that for a man of his lifelong opportunities, in a new country, it is anything to brag of. The simple fact is that he is a man of no proven business judgment or capacity; yet these are qualities that ought to be recognizable in a Mayor of Port-

But unfortunately for the city and for himself, and perhaps more unfor the fortunately for each than other. Mayor Lane is wanting in proven judgment and capacity for business. Some think such capacity a small matter; even a low and sordid What's the use of business capacity in a man whose heart beats armly for his fellow-man?

It is absolutely certain that Mayor Lane will fail in his effort to with hold compensation from the Portland General Electric Company for light furnished on their contract. another case similar to that of his dismissal of men from the police force, without authority, whom the

city will be obliged to pay. Election of men like Mayor Lane is among the mis-steps of democracy. But the story is among the oldest in history or literature. "Quidquid delirant reges plectuntur Achtvi," The people foot the bill.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS AGAIN.

In the light of the fact that Canada has had postal savings banks for 29 years it is particularly interesting to note that her currency system is upon the whole better than ours, banks are somewhat more stable just as prosperous. The selfish plea that postal savings banks would injure the private banks has not the alightest basis in the experience of Canada or any other country where they have been tried. It is an idle firment devised by the fevered brains of men who think of their own affairs solely and fall to see them in relation to those of other people. The law of ausation is not suspended when we enter the United States. Human nature is the same here as elsewhere and legislation will produce the same consequences, substantially, in this country as in Canada, Germany or England. Postal savings banks have not injured private banks in those nations and they will not do it here. Certainly the restricted system which Postmaster-General advocates work no harm while in all probability it will do a great deal of good.

Mr. Meyer has thrown some new ight upon his plans in an article for the January number of the Chicago Women's World, where he not only mentions that Canada has had postal banks for thirty-nine years without harming anybody, but also shows that American citizens have begun to make deposits in them. One family in the State of Washington, to quote an instance, has \$11,000 on deposit in the Canadian Postal Bank. Our bankers may possibly prevent Congress from adopting Mr. Meyer's plan, but it is difficult to see how they can hinder people along the border from Puget Sound to the Bay of Fundy from taking their money across and putting it where they think it will be safe. Everybody knows that our Italian immigrants send home many thousands of dollars every year to deposit the government's banks, and it might just as well be kept here if we would give them a similar opportunity. Foreigners are constantly bringing money to the postoffices for deposit, as Mr. Meyer remarks, but of course they must be turned away. Hence they do what seems to them the next best thing and send it out of the country. Would it not be better for the bankers and everybody else if it could be retained, even if the retention could only be effected through Government savings banks?

Foreigners are not the only persons who wish the Government to take charge of their savings. Many of our own citizens desire the same thing. They desire it so strongly, indeed, that they are willing to pay roundly for the privilege by purchasing money orders. During the last year \$8,104,447 was thus intrusted to the Government for safekeeping and the depositors paid fels amounting to \$25,000. From this one may infer that Government savings banks would be popular and rould receive large deposits, even if they paid no interest at all. would they not attract deposits which ought of right to go into private manka? Mr. Meyer answers this question candidly and completely. shows that in all but the New Engiand States there are few private banks available for savings. They are so remote from the majority of the people that they might as well not exist at all except for a fortunate few.

In New England there is a savings bank within fifteen miles of every ostoffice, upon the average, but in the Middle States the distance reases to twenty-five miles, while upon the Pacific Coast it is fifty-five miles. The policy of every enlightened government is to encourage thrift by providing easy access to say ings institutions. Can access be called easy when the nearest bank is fiftyfive miles away? What Mr. Meyer wants is to make every money-order postoffice a savings bank where small sums of money can be deposited in complete security and draw a small The rate, 2 per cent, rate of interest. The rate, 2 per cent, is so minute that there could be no competition with private enterprise.

into circulation, while the expense to the Government would be scarcely appreciable. Mr. Meyer says the regular postal employes in Canada do all the savings business without difficulty, except in the central establishment at nto, though they annually handle

\$50,000,000 Government savings banks certainly teach habits of thrift in parts of the United States where improvidence and waste are now rule among the people. The practice of laying up small sums of mone; does not usually come by Nature. It must be inculcated by precept and fostered by opportunity. Where opthrift is seidom sequired. It there-fore speaks well for the native good sense of our people that they hold in hoarding today some \$500,000,000 which they are unwilling or unable to intrust to private banks. The good sense is shown, of course, in saving such an enormous sum under difficulties and without encouragement. Government savings banks would imme-diately call it out of hiding and put it into circulation. Many a man who yould never deposit his earnings in a private bank would be only too glad leave them at the postoffice. may be a misfortune that the people love and trust their Government as they do, but the fact is indisputable.

THIN ARGUMENT. Governor Chamberlain filled four pages of his message to the Legislature with an argument in support of the assertion that it is within the power of the Legislature to increase the number of Supreme Court Judges from three to five, notwithstanding the constitution plainly says there shall be three Supreme Judges.

The argument thus presented utterly fails to sustain the proposition as set forth by the Governor. When spun arguments are necessary to establish a construction entirely variance with the generally-accepted meaning of the constitution, it is well enough for the Legislature to take the language as it reads. Lawyers can always find reasons to support any kind of interpretation of statutes or constitution, but the ordinary meaning of plain English is good enough for ople in general.

The constitution says there shall be three Supreme Judges. It does not say there shall be no more. Neither does it say there shall be no more than one Governor. There is as much room to argue that the Legislature may provide for the election of two Governors as there is that It provide for the election of more than three Supreme Judges. By amending the constitution the number of Judges may be increased and it can be done legally in no other way.

DESTROYING TRUSTS.

Representative Purdin's anti-trust bill is a shining example of misdirected effort. Were it to become law it might possibly be found effective against labor unions, like the Sherman act. Against every other form of trust it would prove futile. Were every trust in the country dissolved today, tomorrow they would all be flourish ing again under the title of holding companies of something equally simple and effective. The trust is too elusive for the law to seize and destroy, but its property is not always through its property it can be regulated. The time will come, perhaps in the far future, when our legislators will give up the hopeless task of trying to destroy the trusts and begin the entirely practicable enterprise of defining, classifying and controlling them.

The trust is a natural consequence of applying common sense to nomic problems. It represents a distinct advance over old, wasteful methods. Instead of seeking to slay it the law ought to try to discover some method of distributing its un questionable benefits among ers. At present producers retain them all, which is, of course, unjust. outery against trusts is precisely simllar in its nature to the old opposition to machinery. It is the complaint of the past against progress. As soon as people learned how to use machinery properly they found that its benefits were intensely real and its evils imaginary. The same thing will be said of trusts within a few years. If Mr. Purdin would apply his mind to the problem of making trusts subserve the public good he would be much better occupied than he is in trying to destroy them. The first problem he can solve, if he is bright enough. The second nobody can solve,

CAUSE OF THE COLD SNAP. Some philisopher once made the remark that the most alluring feature of science is the fact that it yields up such wholesale returns of conjecture or such a small investment of fact. Perhaps it was some such inducement as this that caused Professor Everette of Tacoma, to indulge in his remarkable 'explanation of the cause of the present cold spell. According to the Tacoma scientist, the present attempt of the weather to establish new reords for severity is due to the fact that the Japan current has been misplaced-not exactly lost, strayed or stolen, but temporarily put out of Professor Everette seems so certain that he has hit on the proper solution of the weather problem that he accompanies his statement with

details. It will be useless for any navigator to go cruising around in search of the Japan current anywhere within a thousand miles of the former haunts in which it has swept since Noah learned to box the compass, for Professor Everette says that it has been shifted 1500 miles out to sea. We are also informed that the cold weather will continue until the Japan current rights itself. Unfortunately for the peace of mind of those who are undecided whether to thaw out the pipes by burning the house down or try the more expensive method of hiring a plumber, the Tacoma dispatch con veying this remarkable scientific covery leaves us in the dark, or rather "at sea," regarding the steps that have been taken to coax the wandering Japan current back into its accustomed haunts. A member of the Jules Verne school of scientists once wrote a very plausible story about a clique

of Wall-street speculators damming up the "intake" of the Gulf Stream (an Atlantic Ocean relative of the Japan current) with a lot of icebergs which were towed into position and kept there until they chilled the stream to such an extent that it sent a frost throughout the banana and pineapple belt, thus making fortunes for the speculators who were "long on the tropical fruit market. It is, of course, barely possible that some thing of this nature has happened to the Japan current. John W. Gates has not been heard from for a long time, and his well-known proclivities

for taking a "long shot" on any proposition which would look wild, woolly and unreasonable to the average gambler would make him an ideal for some such move as this. The method by which he may accomplished this 1500-mile shift of the Japan current is not yet known It will be remembered, however, that a few years ago, when Mr. Morgan, of New York, tried to wrest control of Louisville & Nashville stock from Mr Gates, the latter solemnly that there would be good skating in Hades before Morgan got the road. As Mr. Morgan new controls L. & N., Mr. Gates may have secured supplies of ice for damming purposes from a new and unexpected quarter, and his secret agents may at this very moment be working through the plumbing trust and the blanket manufacturers on one side of the ocean, while they are supplying an unprecedented demand for paim leaf fans and cold drinks in some other quarter of the world to which the Japan current has been shifted. Regardless of details, lowever, we should express thanks to the Tacoma scientist who discovered why the weather is cold.

Employment of clerks at the Legislature is not necessarily a graft. It is all a question of whether the clerks earn their salaries. If they do not earn their salaries their employment is worse than a more graft; starts them in the effort to get something for nothing, and the first successful experience like the first winning at a gambling game, is likely to prove their undoing. Many young men and women have been kept in paths of useful endeavor by what they considered the misfortune of not securing legislative clerkships. Legislature should employ all the lerks it needs and pay them what their services are worth. Such emplayment is economy. To employ clerks not needed or to pay them excessively is not only an injustice to the tuynavers, but is an injury to the recipients of uncarned money

The solution of the good-roads problem involves a great deal more than is generally taken into account Our educators, for example, are full of suggestions which include the consolidation of school districts so that grade schools and high schools may established in rural communities The first consideration in connection with carrying out this idea is that which involves roads to make these schools accessible to the children of the wider area. In the present condi-tion of our public highways it is necessary that the distance between homes and schools be diminished rather than increased.

The bill for the levying of special taxes for the digging of experimental artesian wells has much to commend Many a community would like to try a well as a source of water sup-ply, but this is found impossible besause a few would be compelled to bear the expense while the many would receive the benefit if the project should be successful. A tax lety makes all bear a just portion of the burden.

The distinction of trying a \$29,000, 000 case falls to the lot of but few jurists, and the case that made Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis famous will be retried before Judge Albert Anderson, of Indianapolis. From general appearances and the evidence introduced at the first trial, a number of other judges will have a chance at it before Mr. Rockefeller finally pays ever the money.

The California Railroad Commisdon has fined the Santa Fe Railroad for carrying oil at a rate lower than that ordered by the Commission. The Washington Railroad Commission has for the past two years been endeavoring to force the O. R. & N. Co. t carry freight at a rate as low as that named by the Commission under the joint-rate order.

All Oregonians quit all business and abandon all effort, because there is a little snow and cold; but men from Chicago go right on with erection of the Meier & Frank building, at eight and ten stories height, placing and riveting the steel beams, covered with From this incident you ice and snow. may see why Chicago is Chicago.

Thus far it's exactly like '62; but it may not last so long. That year it ran till March 10. Snow and low temperature, then higher temperature, then more snow, and lower temperature again. The seesaw lasted seventy Thus far it's the same. But this year it may not last so long.

Nowhere on Monday did the Democratic electors vote for Taft; nowhere did the Republican electors vote for Nowhere, except in Oregon, is the Legislature controlled by one party electing to the Senate the candidate of the other party. There is but one "fool of the family."

Some of the members of the Legislature have made an effort to check the clerkship abuse. It is to be hoped that their course in regard to many other questions that will arise will not put them in the position of having strained at a gnat and swallowed a camel.

A permanent resident of good character and known responsibility might carry a revolver with good intentions. At least there is a reasonable presumption in his favor. But the transient vagrant with no property to protect can have no excuse for carrying a

When it takes thirteen ballots to elect a messenger to carry the vote of the Oregon electors to Washington, there need be no surprise if it takes a few more votes to fill as Important an office as that of United States Senator.

Senator Jay Bowerman proved to be not so much of a Jay after all. Perhaps his name deceived some of his rivals as to his organizing ability.

Those members of the Legislature who oppose the clerkship graft will find themselves very unpopular with Pipe dreams are very appropriate

these cold nights. Thoughts of plumb-

ers are too real to be classed

dreams. Possibly an earthquake of reasonsize and dimensions would do some good around these parts.

Some of the money held out for January bargaining may be devoted

to plumbers' bills and coal. Cold weather isn't so bad when you get used to it.

This Perhaps Explains the "Fallure"

of Mr. Carnegie's Philanthropy. H. R. Smith in Human Life, It is the lack of personal element or feeling that constitutes the "fallure" of Mt. Carnegie's philanthropy. A man may give and give, but unless he gives himself, his individual sympathy and love as well as his money, the deed lacks flavor. Mr. Carnegie not only fails to give himself, but he imposes restrictions and conditions with most of his bequests that seem haggling or to smack of the bargain counter. He does not trust those he proposes to mid to live up to their sense of responsibilito live up to their sense or responsion-ty, so he makes trades or agreements before loosening his purse strings. Such a course may be aggressively sen-able, but it has also its "small" side-this manifestation of cautiousness or distrust is unmistakably Scottish. Native born Americans give outright, of-ten too carelessly no doubt, but however keen they may be about commerce they seldom contract for interest on their

The flaw in the great steel-maker's philanthropy, however, lies in the motive animating the man, rather than in his methods. We may regret that his princely revenues do not go to feed and clothe the poor or relieve their physical suffering, but the Highland conception of Christian charity differs honestly, if emphatically, from that of its founder. To Carnegle, mankind's progress is desirable primarily for business purposes—so to speak. One has but to read his gospel of wealth to realize how it differs from the gos-pel of brotherhood. He has the courage of his convictions, too, and argues pretty stoutly that Christ and his followers who conceive that the clusive instinct or inspiration to relieve all suffering. deserved or undeserved, from motives of loving kindness plend unwisely, and that he is right. To him, as to Tennyson's hard-headed, empty-hearted old farmer, "the poor in a loomp are bad," and he has neither the imagination and he has helled the treatment of the more compassion to help him realize that the social and economic conditions that gave him privileges have made them so. One shrinks a little from his lack of sympathy with the incompetent and unfortunate, but a purely practical named to the sympathy of the sympathy with the incompetent and unfortunate, but a purely practical named to the sympathy of the sym must experience whatever phase fe it would understand otherwise, it would seem curious that s clever and sensible a man can believ that the best prescription modern civi-limation can find to offer man's physical pain and soul hunger is intellectual

COLLEGE MEN ON THE STAGE. Many Graduates of Recent Years Are

to Be Found Among the Players.

Washington Post. Few people realize that the number of college men who adopt the stage as their life work increases each year. Vale, in fact, sends one or more of her graduates into the ranks of the pr sion every year. The president of the Yale Dramatic Association in 1907, Mr Charles Hopkins, is now with the John Drew Company. The morning after his performance of the Bishop in "The Pretenders," which the Yale Dramatic Association gave in New York in 1906 nearly every critic in New York spoke it may be recalled, of his finished it may be recalled, of his finished acting in unqualified terms of praise. Jofferson Crane, ex-1909, is also a member of Mr. Drew's company, Franklin Johnston, manager of the us-sociation in 1903, has been manager of the Ren Greet Company since being graduated. Willard D. Howe, president of the association in 1901, has been on the stage ever since his graduation, and had a prominent part last year in "Brewster's Millions." Charles T. Terry, who was prominent in the asso-tion a few years ago, is now Fiske's assistant stage manager. G. Mitchell, of the class of '95, has been a member of Miss Maxine Elliott's com-pany this season, and Frederick Trues-

for Miss Mary Mannering.

After the performance of "Revisor" last year. Daniel Frohman offered Thomas Achelis, the president of the association, the puff of Fernand in "The Thief." Mr. Frohman declared Daniel Frohman offered "The Thief." Mr. Frehman declared young Mr. Achelis' work the best he had ever seen on the amateur stage.

doll of the same class is leading man

Finest Exhibition of Sen Power

Hartford Courant.
If the earthquake had not occurred the passage of our battleships through the Mediterranean Sen would have been more or less of a parade, with naval more or less of a parade, which control of the cont sion produced by our fleet during its long and memorable journey. But events have changed all that. Nobody events have changed all that. Nobody in that historic sea is now thinking of naval power or warlike capacity. The larger interests of a common humanity now fill the horizon, and the best ship is the one that carries the most and goes the fastest in the work sales. It is an unforessen and our most and goes the issuest in the work of relief. It is an unforeseen and curious change for ships that were built to carry 12-inch guns and for crews that have been trained to shoot fast and straight; but it is glorious work all the same. Both our ships and our seamanship will prove their quality as well in this race to help those who are in distress as they would if they were operating as a compact force with every gun ready for action. Many, in deed, will regard this haste to reach Stelly and Calabria the sufferers in Sicily and Calabria as the finest exhibition of American sea power made during the entire battleship cruise.

Poe's Early Death Not a Calamity. George L. Knapp in January Lippin-

A great, a wonderful, a morbid genius; that, as the last as at the first, is one's judgment of Poe. We may mourn for his wasted life, but not for his early death. The best of him was done already. The flawless taste had failed: the unrivalled craftsmanship was failed: the unrivalled craftsmanship was lost; the jingle of "For Annie" had followed the melody of "The Haunted Palace," 'The House Usher," had given place to the transcendental folly of "Eureka." Whisky and opium had done their perfect work. The evil things in robes of sorrow had finished the ruin of the monarch's high estate; it was but the husk of greatness that was borne to the hospital on that night in the lonesome October of 60 years in the lonesome October of 60 years in the lonesome October of 60 years agone. The symphony was over; it was time for the leader to go. It was best, it was kindest that the mumming should cease with the music, that the score of the haunting harmonies be intrusted to the world's safe keeping; and the rest be left to grow a dim remembered story. Of the old time entombed.

Illustrated Bits.
Dr. McNamara tells of a schoolteach

Dr. McNamara tells of a schoolteacher who was endeavoring to convey the idea of pity to the members of his class. He illustrated it.

"Now, supposing," he said, "a man working on the river bank suddenly fell in. He could not swim and would be in danger of drowning. Picture the scene, boys and girls. The man's sudden fall, the cry for help. His wife, knowing his peril and hearing his screams, rushes immediately to the bank. Why does she rush to the screams, rushes immediately to the bank. Why does she rush to the

After a pause a small voice piped Please, sir, to draw his insurance

Short-Sighted Man.

How often in this world of care.

Of sorrow and of sin,
Short-sighted man goes and buys his skates
Just before the thaw sets in.

—Charles A. Payton.

LACKING IN PERSONAL ELEMENT. GREAT CONSTRUCTIVE REFORMER. What Yuan Shih-Kai Has Done for the

Chinese Empire. PORTLAND, Jan. 12 .- (To the Editor.)-If it is in order for an American to lecture Chinese in respect to their own country, I would like to urge upon President Lee Mee Ginb, of the Port-land branch of the Chinese Empire Referm Association, more temperate lan-guage. Mr. Lee this morning styled guage. Mr. Lee this morning styled Yuan Shih-kai a traitor to his country. Furthermore, Yuan is charged with never being a reformer, in the true sense of the word.

Lee must admit that the universal foreign sentiment, at least, is against his harsh conclusions. Foreign against his harsh conclusions. Faring officials at Pekin, foreign merchants who have spent their lives in China, foreign students who have the deepest and friendlest feelings for China and are devoting much time to advancing the reform movement of that country, hall Yuan Shih-kal as one of the greatest vestiles constructive reformers of est, positive, constructive reformers of the age. It will also be found that Yuan's following in China, among the real reform element of the Chinese. is very great, so far as foreign ob-servations can go to prove. Yuan was the chief agent of the

Empress Dowager in the coup d'etat that deposed the young Emperor, Kwangsu, in 1898. When his part was learned, when several of the reform leaders were beheaded and others fled, and the Empress Dowager Tz'ehsi was classed as a bitter reactionary, Yuan classed as a bitter reactionary, Yuan won the hatred of most of the Chinese reform element, and so far as their light permitted them to judge then, perhaps rightfully. But ensuing time has unfolded another chapter in Chinese history of inestimably greater importance than the coup d'etat. From the date of the death of Li Hung Chang, following the Boxer troubles, until the death of the Empress Dowager a few days past, Yuan Shih-Dowager a few days past, Yuan Shih-kai was the strong man of China, the real potent adviser to the throne. It is during this period that China has been committed to the greatest reform programme known to the history of the country. Voluntarily, and it is the country. Voluntarily, and it is said at the behest of Yuan Shih-kal, the Empress Dowager committed the Tatsing dynasty to the granting of a constitution to Cliina, creation of an imperial parliamentary body, establish imperial parliamentary body, establishment of a provincial and municipal iegislative bodies, adoption of the Western standard of education, reform of the army on strictly modern lines, organizing a modern naval department, abolition of differences beween Manchus and Chinese in all political aspects except in succession to the theory ects except in succession to the throne elevating by imperial decree the mer-chant and industrial magnate to the evel of the scholar in regard to offices etc. No more far-reaching, serious, progressive reform movement has ever been inaugurated in any country in the length of time, without a bloody

If in no other light she is made immortal, the political reforms ordered by Trichisi will emblazon her name on Chinese and world history white deeds of men are chronicled, provided the Chinese people will but take up the work outlined and see that it is exe-cuted. Yuan Shih-kai has been the recognized leader in the reform work during this period, and had the ear of the throne as no other minister of of the throne as no other minister of modern times. It seems but fair and reasonable to say that he has been largely instrumental in the work, even the guiding mind, assisted as he has been by such able lieutenants as Tong Shao-yi and Llang Tun-yen.

It is well also for the Chinese of the world to study Yuan's work in Chili province, before adjudging him a traiter and emosed to reform. If his am-

or and opposed to reform. If his am bitions had been personal, he had won derful opportunity during the latter days of his viceregal reign in Chill. Here he was held the most puissant of all the viceroys, and was also the 0,000 foreign-drilled troops, the mos su,000 foreign-drilled troops, the most effective and practically the only mod-ern force possessed by China. The Pel Yang Army was in those days practically China's only effective millipractically China's only effective mili-tary strength. Yuan's command of it was complete, as he paid his men reg-ularly and well, clothed and fed bet-ter than ever before, and established the highest standard of Chinese mili-tary service. Yuan, as viceroy of Chili, organized the first municipal and pro-vincial assemblies ever organized in Chine and ever the type of work vincial assembles ever organized in China, and gave the type of work adopted by the throne for the general provincial reforms. He built factories, opened broad streets, employed scientific health officers, organized provincial revenues so as to reduce collection costs, and did many other things. tion costs, and did many other things of wonderfully inspiring example to

he Chinese nation.

Because of this work in the last few the Chinese nation.

Because of this work in the last few years, Yuan Shih-kai is fully entitled to be regarded a true friend of his country and a deep, constructive reformer. He is so accepted by the world at large. It is advanced by these friends that he believed, when assisting in the coup d'etat of 1898, that the young, inexperienced Kwangsu was entirely too radical in his programme, and that China's reform should be along deeper, quieter lines, as it has been since Yuan was the chief adviser to the throne. All Chinese should be inclined to lean to this view, in the light of the great work recited. Yuan's dismissal by the new regent is taken by the world as a reactionary move, or as being upon grounds of personal difference. Let all Chinese hope it is the latter, although that should not be sufficient for losing the services of a great reformer in the the services of a great reformer in the hour of sore need.

hour of sore need.

May I urge upon the Portland Reform Association and all other Amerlcan Chinese, more temperate expressions regarding their great men. This
is a crucial time in Chinese history. It
is now that all who love that country
spanish bury personal differences facis a crucial time in Chinese is now that all who love that country is nould bury personal differences, factional conflicts and prejudices. China needs a united, patriotic people at present, who will insist upon carrying out the peerless reform programme that has been pledged. To get unity of action for their country, many minor things must be overlooked. Members of the 190s reform party should be ready to Join hands with any real reform worker, forgetting past discords and griving to one end. If Yuan Shihkal, Tang Shao-yi and Liang Tun-yen's life work is studied carefully, it will be found that these men are great, enlightened patriots, who are giving all they can command to true reform, and they should especially be admired by the Chinese residing in America.

OBSERVER.

Very Elastic English Word.

New York Press.

A Frenchman asked a New Yorker:

What is ze meaning of ze Americaine word 'press?' I have looked in ze dicword 'press?' I have looked in ze dictionaire and find ze press newspapers, ze press ze printing machine, ze press ze grand crowd, ze press for ze dder, ze press for ze cotton, ze press for ze girl to embrace, ze press for ze hat, ze press for ze clothes, oh, so many kinds of že press I am weary." "Well, monsieur, the press you mean probably means to exert pressure; that is, to importune, to persuade, to squeeze, the—" "Ah, zat is ze word! Merch What grand language when one lestle word have so many thanslations!" Being a gentleman of no little French importance, our visitor apittle French importance, our visitor appeared one night at a swell reception and was vociferous in his applause of a certain singer. Rushing to the host he cried, "Salre, do me ze grand favor! Pray squeeze ze lady to sing one more song!

Spreading Western Civilization.

Washington Star.

If Theodore Roosevelt desires to make his visit to Africa a truly historic event he can do so by introducing opossum raising and sweet potate culture to the natives.

LIFE'S SUNNY SIDE

"Gee," sighed the little boy who had overeaten, clasping his hands on his waistband, "I guess I know new what our Sunday-school teacher means when she says: 'Remember thy equator in the days of thy youth.'" - Kansas City

An enterprising commercial traveler attempted to bribe a country merchant in Scotland with a box of cigars. "Na, na," said the merchant, shaking his head gravely, "I canna tak" 'em. I

maer dae business tha way."
"Nonsense," said the drummer: "but if you have any conscientious scruples you may pay me a shilling for the "Weel, weel," said the honest shop

"Pli tak' twa boxes."-New Orleans Picayune. You scan your list of good resolves

With kindling eye-and then Take out an old and unused set And dust them off again. -Chicago Tribune.

"The lips that touch wine," she quoted, "shall never touch mine."
Without expecial enthusiasm he admitted this to be the proper stand. Friends thereafter wondered to see him drinking champagne through a straw.—Philadelphia Ledger.

"Any retail places around here?" asked the salesman in the strange town. "There's the woman's club over there in the Town Hall," drawled the old

"Great Scott! And what do they re-"Gossip, young man, gossip,"-Boston . . .

Policeman-I found them in the cellar half starved - father, mother and nine children-and thought they'd be better off on the island. Judge-Had they nothing at all?

Officer-Not a blessed thing, your honor, except a photograph of Rocke-velt with his autograph and "congratuations" written across it.-New York Aunt Mary-I hope, Emily, that you

and Charles will never become cold a Emily-We may get cold, Aunty; but I am sure there is no danger of oming distant. We intend to live always in a flat.—Puck.

A Scotchman stood beside the bed of his dying wife, and in tearful accents asked was there anything he could do for her. "Yes, Sandie," she sold. "I am hoping

you'll bury me in Craeburn Kirkyard."
"But, my lass;" he cried, "only think
of the awful expense! Would ye no be
comfortable here in Aberdeen?" "Na. Sandie; I'd no rest in my grave inless I were buried in Craeburn." "It's too much you're askin'." sald the loving husband, "and I cannot premise you ony such thing." "Then, Sandie. I'll no give you ony

peace until my bones are at rest in my native parish."

"Ah, weel, Maggie," said he, "Fil just gie ye three months' trial in Aberdeen an' see how ye get along."-Philadelphia Ledger.

"Brother Philander," said Bert Walker the other day to the boss deacon. "I have something serious I want to say to you. know that you keep a bottle of liquor n your cellar. Suppose our minister and he rest of the deacons should find it out?

What would you do?"

Whell," replied Philander slowly and thoughtfully, "the first thing I should do would be to find a new hiding place for the bottle."—Kansas City Journal.

A correspondent sends an amusing story of a visit which the archbiehop of Sunday School. For a few minutes Dr. Davidson took in hand a class of small girls who were gained. payloson took in girls who were going over the story of Solomon. "Now," he asked, "who was the great queen who traveled so many miles and miles to see the king?" N answered. "Why, you all know, queen who came to see the king?" no one seemed to remember, know I am sure," persisted Dr. "The name begins with S; and she was a very great queen" Just then a little hand shot up, and a shrill voice cried.

Dry Whent Shorts for Birds.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 12 .- (To the Editor.)—We heartily commend your ef-forts to induce the public to take care of the birds during this cold weather. During the last week we have been feeding the birds a variety of feed, and find that whole wheat is too large for the smaller birds. Cracked wheat is better, but dry wheat shorts scome to

be better relished than any other feed we have given them.

Where all the birds come from is a mystery, as when we first began to feed them there were but a dozen or two. Now we have perhaps 200 or 200. There must be some secret code or way of communication between them, as more and more of them keep coming duily.

The pleasure derived from watching them more than repays one for the small trouble of scattering out a little

What a Teacher Sees.

Rochester Settlement Bulletin.

Have you ever seen that almost indefinable look of joy in the face of a boy or girl who watched you as you examined a finished article that had been made with his or her hands? It may have been a baskot, a chair that had been caned, book rack, a magazine holder, a woven rug or pillow. The meaning of such an accomplishment, which had proved in the young mind a new-found ability, is something so worth while that every possible means for such development should be means for such development should be used. A question asked by Judge Lindsay

A question asked by Judge Lindsay of Denver is just to the point, "If a certain kind of education—such as work with the hands in an industrial school—helps to prevent a recurrence of an act called criminal, why not supply that kind of an education in the class fulnes." first place?"

This shows one view of this many-sided subject which is being felt and considered throughout this country and others.

A FEW SQUIBS.

"I wish I were an ostrich," said Hicks angrily, as he tried to eat one of his wife's biscuits, but couldn't. "I wish you were returned Mrs. Hicks. "I'd get a few feathers for my hat."—Boston Transcript. "That picture is by an old master," the owner stated promptly. "Luch umph. commented the critical visitor. What was he master of?"-Philadelphia Pub.o Ledger.

"I shall insist on making come speeches on the tariff," seld Senator Sorghum. "Then you are deeply interested?" "No, but in would rether talk than listen."—Washington

Wife—I can't understand, John, why you lways sit on the plane-aton when we have ompany. Everybody knows you can't play note, Husband—I'm well aware of it, dear, either can any one else when I'm sitting iere.—Judge.

"You really ought to take up the study of reincarnation," said the young woman of great mentality, "Not I," answered Mr. Dustin Star. "These investigations are giving me all the trouble concerning my past that I can handle at present."—Washington Star.

"So you are not going to make any New Year resolutions?" No," answered Mr. Meekton. 'I fully meant to make a few, But when I amnounced my intention the members of my family had so many sugges-tions to offer that I grew discouraged."— Washington Star.