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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, SEPT. 19, 1909.

### TAFT'S TARIFF SPEECH.

The President's speech on the tariff will bring much criticism upon him. He can scarcely expect other conse-On the whole, he defends the Payne bill. Such course he deems a necessity of the situation. So far as the tariff may affect politics, the President realizes that his Administration must stand or fall by this bill. So he makes it a party matter. He had much to do with bringing the bill into its present shape, by forcing concessions from the Senate, and he takes his stand directly against the Republican insurgents, who voted against it on its final passage.

His speech raises the question whether they are to be sustained by the constituents, especially by those of the Republican party, or not. The President commits his party. This speech means no more tariff legislation during his term.

Protection, if not a principle, at least is the purpose of the country. The insurgents themselves claim to be protectionists. But they say the benefits" of protection are not fairly distributed. This will always be a matter of opinion so long as protec tion shall stand as a policy, and the opinion will depend chiefly on local, sectional, or even personal interest. The country will not hearken to the principle of a tariff for revenue; and each district or section contends under protection for advantages for itself. In such contention over "the pie" it is inevitable that some will complain that others are getting the larger

The President believes the Payne bill a compromise of these interests, as far as compromise can now be One effect of his speech is put in uncomfortable position those who desire full protection for the industries of their own states or districts, yet want "the other fellow" to accept reduced duties, or go on the free list. But since the country is resolved on maintenance of protection, this bill, most probably, is as fair as any bill could be on that basis. country wants protection," the President says to protectionists. have it, and you never will get a

fairer or better protection bill. Years ago it seemed probable that policy of taxation of foreign goods. coming into the United States, might be used as a principle or method of revenue, mainly; if for protection, only incidentally so. This would mean a tariff for revenue. The Democratic party for a time seemed to stand behind this principle. But it soon ceased to support the principle, and after awhile abandoned it altogether. At this time the Democratic party, in many parts of the country, is thoroughly committed to protection, state and district where the Democratic party is in the ascendant, and where large interests clamor for protection, its representatives in gress lend efficient aid to the policy. Last March when Cannon and Payne their abandonment by the Republican insurgents. Democrats from many districts that wanted protection for those local "interests," refused to act with the caucus of their own party, and in the skirmish for organization of the House, "stood in" with supporters of Cannon. The protectionists of the Democratic party were afraid to give the opponents of protection power to organize the House. So they let Cannon and Payne walk away

Now, therefore, it is absolutely true that the Democratic party cannot be depended on to disestablish protection, or to render efficient assistance in that behalf. Had Democratic members of Congress joined the insurgent Republican members, the rule of House by Cannon and Payne would have been utterly broken. But groups of Democratic members stuck to the Republican protectionists, regarding the tariff as a local question and holding that the interests of their districts must be conserved.

Since the tariff question has into this state, there is not much use to wrangle over it. Protection now is, and for years to come, will be the policy of the country. Over the details, there always will be conten-But such is the attitude of both parties, in their contention for local advantage or benefits, that it is impossible to regard the tariff as a party question. The most vigorous protests against protection as a policy come from Republicans, not from Demo crats. But the majority of the Republican party is for protection, and President Taft stands with it. A large proportion of the Democratic party also is for protection, and ready to furnish the support for it whenever needed. This, now, is the state of the tariff question.

# A QUESTION OF VERACITY.

It is a curious example of the perversity of human nature that many persons question Dr. Cook's veracity while they accept Peary's unhesitatingly. Perhaps they feel vaguely that Peary had a better right than his rival they believe statements from him them. Take the rate of travel, for example. Both men say they made over fifteen miles a day upon the final dash northward. The Peary partisans declare that no such speed was possible for Dr. Cook, but their own idol could make it with no difficulty at all. So it was with the polar optical phenomwhich Dr. Cook has described. The Peary worshipers cried out that they were incredible when read in the k narrative, but as soon as Peary

related the same things they became Now this sort of thing is neither sky so as to keep pointed invariably indirectly, from its effects. Districts are constained to believe that tobacco and charitable organizations that year, as natural as sunrise.

sensible nor fair. Cook had as much right to discover the Pole as Peary. The latter was better known as an Arctic explorer, but he had not pre-empted the region. Other men were not made trespassers there by his prior adventures. Nor is there any reason in declaring a statement false when Cook makes it and true when Peary makes it. If the two explorers say the same thing, as they do in almost every particular, each adds to the credibility of the other. It is impossible to believe the one and doubt the other. If we believe either we must believe both, and the fact of their close agreement renders it abourd to reject their common testimony. If Peary reached the Pole, so did Cook. Otherwise how did he come to describe it precisely as Peary does?

PORTLAND PREFERS PORTLAND. The burden of the complaint made in the testimony of the Astoria witnesses, at the common point hearing, which closed in this city yesterday, was that, in deepening the from Portland to the sea, the Port of Portland had interposed a barrier which prevented Astoria from becoming a great seaport. To nullify the effect of this great expenditure of money, which Portland has made in order that the commerce of the Columbla Basin may have easy access to and from the world's markets, an effort is now being made to force the

railroads to haul freight over the 100 miles of road between the two cities free of charge. This proceeding would be, of course, such a rank discrimination against Portland that it would not be permitted to exist, for some means would be found of re-Zeal of Astorians in attempting to

secure advantages which nature has denied them is, of course, commendable, and Portland has no objection to Astoria getting all of the business that can legitimately be attracted to the mouth of the river. But Portland people in the future, as in the past, will prefer to do business in Portland. In deepening the river, in providing railroad and wharf faciltties and in entering objection to any attempt by unnatural methods to divert to other ports traffic thich naturally belongs to this port, this city is merely protecting its own interests. Astoria will continue to grow, and the Puget Sound cities will do likewise, out the extent of this growth will depend on the natural advantages of the respective ports and the enterprise of the citizens in making the most of these advantages.

Portland has no intention of moving to Astoria, to Tacoma or to Seatseeing men, who selected the site at the most convenient point at which the commerce of land and sea could meet for interchange. Time has already vindicated the judgment of the founders of Portland, and there will be no reserval of that judgment. Portland in the future, as in the past, will maintain a channel to the sea of sufficient depth to float any vessel that can enter the river.

## CONCERNING COMETS.

Next Spring will not be the first time that Hallev's comet has made a brilliant appearance in the sky. It has been a regular visitor to the solar system for many centuries, perhaps since the beginning of things, and has more than once terrified the mighty with its flaming splendors. It was this comet which appeared in 1456, when the Turks were besieging Bel- the market. Dr. L. O. Howard, in an grade and threatening to drive Christianity out of Europe. Pope Calixtus our economic losses through insects, III was so frightened at the evil omens repeats the reproach that, while the he saw in its tall that he launched a Government has done wonders to prebull against it and commanded all the serve the health of pigs, cows and fatthful to unite in prayer against the monster. Their prayers prevailed. The comet salled quietly away to some other department of the universe state government has done wonders to present the property of the serve the health of pigs, cows and horses, it has never succeeded very well in doing a similar service for men and women. In fact, some of our some other department of the universe state governments permit little chilatory. for the sake of protection. In every and did not a particle of harm. It is dren to be done to death h marvelous what an effect the petitions dred in factories when an easy legof the plous sometimes have upon the course of Nature, but in this instance one may safely guess that the comet graphic Magazine is reprinted from would have acted about as it did had the matter is that with all their pafaculty for puffing themselves out so enemy they have in the comm without much substance to back it up

> The ingenious Ignatius Donnelly. the raging terror of orthodox Shakes-1887 entitled "Ragnarok," in which he | mosquito was thought to be a andertook to prove that the vast tail of a comet through which the scribes the deluge of mud and stones which desolated the world and slew its inhabitants. Incidentally he opines of yellow fever has been mentally altered by this catastrophe. One may very easily be too hasty in of court. He is not altogether absurd. That the drift must have come from somewhere is certain, and nobody can deny that the earth not only lops wobbles ungracefully as it comet's tail had disarranged its ideas. only serious trouble with Donnelly's theory is that the tail of the

weigh much more than an ounce. Sir Isnac Newton said on an occa sion that if a comet's tail could be low fever infection by its compressed into a thimble it would be called stegomyla about as dense as the earth's atmosfrom dense it must be when it is spread pompously through a space of from one person to another, because some scores of millions of miles. In we are not subject to yellow fever, fact, astronomers have been puzzled first and last to conceive what the condition of the matter must be which composes a comet's tail. There are Perhaps it has not yet made its way few substances we know anything to discover the Pole, and therefore about which are so exceedingly tenuwhich they reject when Cook makes hangs the hills on a September afternoon is compact in comparison with it. Stars of the fifth magnitude shine have thus far been singularly free through thousands of miles of tail without any loss of brilliancy, and we perstition has arisen that the locality are pretty certain that on June 30, is immune. One malarial patient from 1861, the earth was involved in one for several hours, though nobody anopheles mosquitoes to bite him and knew at the time that anything ex- carry his germs to other people, will traordinary was happening. was no deluge of rocks and clay. There was not even a pestilence or the death from malaria. It goes everywhere of any renowned monarch. One curi- and attacks everybody. ous thing about comets' tails is the timate that fully one-half the popula-

away from the sun. The sun seems to frighten or at least repel them. To accomplish this amazing feat they through space much more swiftly than the theory of gravitation permits, and savants have been hard put to it to account for their conduct, which is highly erratic, if not scandal-

Speculation on this point has led to the conclusion that the tail of a comet is not matter at all in the ordinary gross sense of the word. Neither is it an actual ghost, one hastens to add, It is probably a wan and wasted assemblage of electrons, which, as everybody knows, are nothing more nor less than little wads of negative electricity. Now the sun is negatively electrified also, and when we recall the fact that two charges of electricity of the same kind always repel each other, we have the secret of the strange performances of a comet's tail. It is driven away from the sun exactly as the thin leaves of a gold elec-trometer repel each other. But the tail is not the whole of a comet by any head, which, like the majority of human heads, is comparatively quiescent and innocuous. Weemust beware at this point of trying to push the re-semblance between comets and men too far, for while we possess a stomach, or middle segment, the heavenly visitant has none. It is all head and tail, without body.

The head or solld part of a comet is composed of that sort of material which Ignatius Donnelly wrongly placed in the tail, although he greatly exaggerated the quantity of it in any single one. It is a mass of small stones such as we often see falling earthward on a clear night, a bunch of meteors, in fact, held together rather loosely by their mutual attraction. Our November meteor showers come from the rubbish which a comet has scattered at the point where it crosses the earth's orbit. Gravitation draws them into the atmosphere, and whe they strike it the impact heats and usually vaporizes them. This November meteor comet makes regular trips around the sun. The same is true of Halley's and a few others, but most of those which visit our solar system sheer off again into infinite space never come back. They are ships which we pass in the night, glimpse fleetingly and know nothing further

## SOME OF OUR FOES. In one of the satirical chapters of "La Terre," Zola tells how the hero's

wife and his cow happened to fall sick at the same time. For the suffering

cow the good man labored with strenuous zeal all night long. Piteous was his grief at the thought of losing her and great was his joy when, as the dawn broke, she seemed to be out In the meantime his wife of danger. had been left to get through the night the best way she could. If she did not die it was not because her hus-band valued her above his livestock. The feeling that human life is something which it is worth while to take pains to save seems to be one of the last and highest products of civiliza-According to Zola it had not tion. yet appeared among the French ensantry when he wrote "La Terre." According to many observers it comparatively rare in the United States. There is a bitter saying, common among workingmen, that human bodies are the cheapest commodity on article in the Geographic Magazine, on our economic losses through insects

islative act would save them.

Dr. Howard's article in the Geo-

one of the bulletins of the Department Calixtus held his peace. The truth of of Entomology, and many others of similar character have been issued. rade and bluster, comets as a rule are Lately the Government has been trynot big enough to accomplish much ing to make the people of the couneither for good or harm. In their try understand what a dangerous as to present a terrifying appearance | phold fly, which passes under the innocent allas of the housefly they are amazingly like turkey gob- filthy pest is probably accountable for deaths than any other insect in the United States, but, taking world over, the mosquito's record ex-There was a time when the joke, especially the Jersey variety. 'drift' of cobblestones and clay which | Our so-called humorists have all had covers a great part of the Northern their laugh over it. Nowadays the Mississippi Valley was deposited by the joke has pretty completely disapjoke has pretty completely disap-peared, and intelligent people underearth once had the misfortune to stand that death has few more efsweep. In excited paragraphs he de- fective allies on earth than the tiny mosquito. Dr. Howard recurs/to the well-known fact that the propagation that the impact of the comet's tail these insects in all parts of the tropalso slewed the earth's axis around so ics, and he tells again in his article that ever since that fatal day we sail | the interesting story of the prevention through space lopsided toward the of yellow fever epidemics in Cuba, in plane of the ecliptic. Of course the Louisiana, on the Isthmus of Panama succession of the seasons was funda- and in other places, by draining mudpuddles and thus extirpating mosquitoes. These pests played an important laughing the speculative Ignatius out part in causing the failure of the French engineers who undertook to dig the Panama Canal. Mosquitoes not only killed off their workmen in such numbers that excavation was imtoward the plane of the ecliptic, but | peded, but they were also fatal to the officers, who were, of course, better skims along, just as it might do if a protected than the men. Dr. Howard tells of a band of eighteen young engineers who came from France on the same ship. Within a month all biggest comet ever seen does not but one of them had been killed by infection from mosquito bites.

The mosquito which spreads yelbite calopus by the It is not so interesting to Imagine, then, how very far people in this part of the world as the species which carries malaria while malaria knows no limits, either of soil or temperature. The malaria-bearing mosquito is called anopheles. to the Columbia Flats, but if it ever does, malaria may become as deadly The haze which thinly over- a pest here as it is on the Roman Campagha, or about Lake Kopais in Greece. Places along the Columbia from malaria, and naturally the susome other locality, and a swarm of There soon destroy this There is no such thing as immunity

which have never known it before are often suddenly invaded and made almost uninhabitable. Some savants attribute the decline of the Greek race, which once dominated the world, to an invasion of maiarla.

The country has now become so in-

fested that almost every child is exbodies of the people and dwarfs their intelligence. The beleif that it strengthens the race by selecting the hardiest for survival has been shown to be false by experience. though few things are more ghostly. really does is to degrade the entire stock. The Roman Campagna was once a prosperous area of farm land. It had mosquitoes, but their bite was Harmless because there was at that early day no malarial infection for them to propagate. During the wars between Marius and Sulla mercenary troops were imported who brought malarial germs with them. The mosquitoes of the Campagna then became oison bearers and the entire region was almost depopulated.

The beauty of all this lies in the fact that malaria, like typhoid fever means, though it is by far the most and yellow fever, is a preventable disterrifying portion. There is also a case. We suffer and die from it because we are careless and lazy. as we permit the filthy typhoid fly to parade over our food and bestrew it with deadly germs, so we permit the anopheles mosquito to multiply in pools and marshes which might easily No mosquito is ever be drained. brought to maturity on dry land unless some accommodating person sup-plies a rain barrel or tub for the wiggier to wiggie in until he gets his wings. The scientific pessimist who has predicted that the flats of the Columbia will one day be as deadly to nankind as the Roman Campagna is, unless timely messures are taken to drain them, probably exaggerates, but the subject is well worth thinking

#### PHYSICAL BASIS FOR CALVEN'S THE-OLOGY.

The world has become accustomed o the theory of the criminologist, which seeks to excuse crime of the low, vicious or vulgar type upon the basis of individual irresponsibility, superinduced by heredity and environment. But it belongs to the modern pathologist to arraign men, burned their fellows at the stake for the love of Christ, at the bar of cause and acquit them on the plea that as they were physically constituted, they could not help doing as they did.

Dr. I. A. Danforth, writing in the Northwestern Advocate (Methodist), presents from this standpoint a study of John Calvin, which is interesting. "It would be impossible for a modern physician," says Dr. Danforth, "to regard the blood-curdling tenets of Calvinism as the product of a healthy mind." He goes on to say that "the study of Calvin, great and lofty and pure as he was, and Christlike, as he tried to be, is really a study in mental pathology." It is further set forth that healthy mental processes were almost impossible to him, since, inladdition to his self-imposed, extreme asceticism and his excessive intellectual labors, "he carried about in his trail and half-starved body, a list of diseases that would have furnished material for a professor of chemical redicine through a whole lecture term and then have enough left for half a dozen modern surgical clinics." This estimate of his biographers is the basis for Dr. Danforth's theory that the brain of John Calvin was literally poisoned by the diseases of his

Proceeding with his pathological findings and arraying them in de-fense of Calvin, Dr. Danforth says: blood, owing to his unwise abstinence from sufficient nourishing food, and his ascette and sedentary life. Therefore, in place of healthful oxygen-bearing red-blood globules, with their life-giving properties, being sent with their life-giving properties, being sent to his brain, his cerebrum—gauld be under the depressing and toxic influence of carbonic dioxid, which would be positively inhibitory of normal mental processes. Secondly, he was suffering also from chronic septemia, or blood-poisoning from the presence of septic gegms, derived from any one of his discases which involved tissue destruction or "necrosis" like "hemorrhages and hemorrhoids and ulcers," and so a modern bacteriologist, could be have examined the blood of Calvin, would have found two or three varieties of pathological microbes circulating through his system, forming minute fool of necrosis, and sending swarms of septic germs

through his system. forming minute fool of mecrosis, and sending swarms of septic germs to the already poisoned brain.

Thirdly he was a chronic dyspeptic; In fact, he was in a chronic state of mild starvation, and his nervous and muscular ems were calling loudly and constantly

drastic and cruel criticism This is certainly a charitable view to take of the case; possibly, also, it is a scientific view, and upon this basis it may serve to explain and in a sense excuse the ferocity of Calvin's theology.

TOBACCO AND THE CLERGY. A home for decayed clergymen, which has just been closed in Philadelphia, had only one inmate. In the twenty-one years of its existence it has admitted only fifteen applicants. The reason for this sad failure of an admirable charity is said to be clause in the founder's will, which forbade the decayed clergymen who entered the home to use tobacco. Poverty and a pipe seem to have charmed the good old Philadelphia ministers more than comfort devold of nicotine. Perhaps without nicotine there was no such thing as comfort for them. Ministers, like other men, become often using it a number of years, and cannot forsake the habit without keen suffering.

The question whether an old man ought to give up tobacco or not is lest structures will suffice; years he has to remain on earth it food, but of the simplest. smokes or not. Even if he "chaws" ity over him. A vastly more im-portant question is this: "Ought a furious habits which are sure to make him their slave when he is old?" Especially ought he to consider it when the habits render him offensive to other people. We can imagine nothing ful if Portland ever did a more fuice on his chin.

Of course one may try to evade the dilemma by saying that tobacco is not injurious and that the habit of

impairs the physical and mental powers of those who use it. Certainly it makes them objects to be shunned. There never yet was a healthy man who relished the undisguised smell of

STATISTICS, ACTUAL AND SUGGESTIVE. A string of statistical figures may be interesting or not, according to the The territorial area of the United

States-not including outlying islands

estimated, is 3,602,990 square miles. That of Europe, including Russia in Europe, is set down at 3,986,975 square miles, nearly onehalf Russian; but division between European Russia and Asiatic Russia s somewhat indefinite. In 1783, on the achievement of our independence, the area of the United States was 827,844 square miles—larger than the present area of Austria-Hungary, the German Empire, France and Spain. The Louisiana Purchase, with the area added from the portion of Oreof 1846, added 1,171,931 square miles; the Florida Purchase of 1819 included 59,268 square miles; Texan Annexation in 1845 brought in 375,239; the Mexican Cessions of 1848 added 591,-318 square miles. The Alaskan Purchase of 1867 increased the National area by 577,390 square miles, making the present total on the continent 3,602,990 square miles. Area of our outlying territories is thus estimated: Philippine Islands, 127,853 square miles; Hawaiian Islands, 6449; Porto Rico, 3606, making for the islands a total area of 137,908 square miles.

The total population under the jurisdiction of the United States is probably about 95,000,000, of which almost 10,000,000 are in the outlying islands. The population of the Philippines, upon their acquisition by the United States, was overestimated. The census taken in 1903 was not wholly correct, but approximately so. It gave a total for the group of 7,635,-426 inhabitants. In 1899 the population of Porto Rico was 953,243. probably now exceeds 1,000,000. Hawailan Islands have about 200,000 inhabitants.

We got by the Florida Purchase a territory exceeding in size that of England and Wales, and by Texan Annexation an area larger than that of Austria-Hungary, Italy and Switzerland. The Mexican Cessions brought us almost as large a territory as that at the present time of France, Spain and the German Empire (colonies not included). Russia, except the Asiatic part, is but little larger than the area covered by the Louisiana Purchase and the acquisition of Oregon. it is not probable we shall ever have within the like area so dense a population as that in Europe, from the Mediterranean to the Baltic and from the Atlantic to the Vistula-not pecause we have a less productive or more waste land, but probably shall not adopt on any very extensive scale in our country the numble, meager methods of life and industry that have grown up in Europe during many centuries. probably we shall be more free from devastating wars. In our country there is a tendency to reduction of the size of families, which is likely to continue and increase till exhaustion of the resources of nature shall cut off the hope of the many of improving their condition or of becoming rich. Then we shall have the familiar paradox of increasing numbers with increasing poverty and hopelessn But that will be far in the future.

WHERE FIRE LOSS IS HEAVIEST. The destruction of property by fire fense of Calvin, Dr. Danforth says:

If it were possible to subject the John Calvin of October 27, 1553,—the day that Servetus was burned at the stake—to the servetus was burned at the stake—to the portion to the hardship that it entails. It is, at best, a waste of resources that the community cannot afford, since, if covered by insurance, it comes out of the heavy tax that insurance entails upon the individuals of a community.

On secount of the wide distribution to the heavy tax that insurance entails upon the individuals of a community.

On secount of the wide distribution to the heavy tax that insurance of the peled to supply a period to supply a On account of the wide distribution of the loss it is relatively lightly feit, but it is a waste, nevertheless, that represents much striving in the larger sense and not a little saving and selfdenial in the smaller, since no insurance covers, or can cover, a loss so

> many sided. It is, however, when fire breaks out in a farming community and destroys in a few hours the labor of an entire ear-for the most part uninsured when it leaps across the settler's clearing and reduces his house and barn to ashes; when it destroys his growing or gathered crops, ruins his rehard trees and leaves him and his family smoke-begrimed, their wistful eyes looking out of blistered faces, their earthly all represented by smouldering, blackened rulns, waste is plainest, the desolation that it eaves in its wake the most bitter and The expression, hopeless. The expression, "tried as by fire," takes on a literal meaning under such conditions and they who face this trial are in far greater need of immediate and material assistance than are the majority of those who face fire loss in the cities.

The latest message of distress, incident to the encroachment of forest fires upon country homes and crops, comes from the Las Posas Hills, the vicinity of Ukiah, California, Hundreds of tons of hay and beans have been burned, homes in the canyons have been destroyed and a solid stretch of thirty miles, in the path of the fire, has been laid waste. the message that comes from this desolated section of California. The conditions demand material aid, of the practical order. This the state and its great commercial city, though not long ago fire-swept and later rehabilitated by the unstinted offerings of generos ity, will no doubt furnish. required is the easiest that It is pospretty completely ensiaved to tobacco, sible to render. People of this class are unaccustomed to luxury, but they are used to, and will duly appreciate means to help them help themselves. Houses they must have, but the simprather devoid of interest. For the few they require, but of the plainest sort: makes little difference whether he rest-implements, feed for the stock that was saved from the fire; and seed we can extend the mantle of our char- for resowing their burned-off fieldsthese are the things necessary to put the people of the burned-out farming man, when he is young, to acquire in- district again on the road to the independence that comes through labor.

Portland has been generous to peo ple near and far, who have suffered loss from fire and flood, but it is doubtinseparable from his pipe, who recks with the insufferable odor of tobacco and possibly wears a street of the control of the c and possibly wears a streak of the tically to the help of citizens of Eastern Multnomah County, who lost homes and crops and clothing in the great forest fires that devastated large area in that district, in 1902. using it is not offensive, but neither There were no frills put on the clothplea can be admitted. In spite of ing sent out to destitute families from many poets and a few physicians we the workrooms of the various churches

but the unfortunate farmer folk were well clad when the work ended. ornamental cottages rose on the sites of burned-out homes, but the houses, built of rough lumber, gave from the storms of Winter, and with this and other assistance along practical lines, the farmers took a new ease upon opportunity and today no trace remains of the black and bleak desolation.

We can only hope that the thrifty ranchers of the Las Posas Hills will be as fortunate in receiving timely and practical assistance in their need as were the sturdy yeomanry of our eastern foothills in their distress. Such aid is not charity, it is an expression of simple humanity and true neighborliness.

Russian wheat shipments for the week ending yesterday were 6,384,000 bushels, the largest on record at a corresponding period. There was a decrease of more than 1,200,000 bushels in the American shipments and heavy decreases in the Argentine and Australian shipments. These enor mous shipments from Russia are quite similar to the movement that set in when the new Argnetine wheat crop began coming on the market last January. Present prices are sufficiently attractive to induce fereigners to rush their wheat on the market in record breaking quantities, and the heavy shipments enable European consumers to meet their demands with out necessity of abnormally high prices, which a few weeks ago their depleted stocks seemed to forecast. The world may be following an im provident policy by eating up the available surplus of one country before the crop of another country is harvested, but so long as these crops follow each other in sufficient volume to meet the demands, there will be no abnormal prices.

for fifty years a conspicuous figure in the British Navy, in a speech at New York Friday, made the very candid admission that "supremacy means life or death for the British Empire." He also stated that what Great Britain desires is to hold what it has. The announced policy of Great Britain's chief rival, Germany, is continually to increase its power on sea and land. As Germany practically reached the limit of exploitation in its own territory, and the most convenient field for a raid is that on which Great Britain has claims, it is daily becoming more apparent that British supremacy at sea may now be Great at its maximum. Great Britain's thirst for power and territorial ex-pansion up to the present time has been such that the desire to hold what it has was never so prominently displayed, as the desire to grab everything in sight. This publicly ex-pressed modesty may be attended by serious results when the news is wafted to Berlin.

Admiral Lord Charles Beresford,

Evidence seems to be accumulating that Papa Elkius is to purchase the Duke of the Abrumi after all. It will be remembered that a few months ago negotiations were rudely broken off because it was learned that the Elkins family tree had no royal branches. Subsequently Papa Elkins, after a still hunt on both sides of the country, ran down and cornered a title of his own. It has always been a little hazy in the mind of the public how this title had been lost in the shuffle, while the Elkins fortune was growing, but it is said to bear the proper hallmark and to be in good repair. Most of the American milfor their silly offspring pay only for the one title, but in the Elkins-Abrussi case it would appear that Papa Elkins not only had to spend a large sum for the Duke, but in addition was compelled to supply a title for his un-

"The Alaska Almanac," for 1909, Harrison Publishing Company, Seattle, comes to the notice of The Oregonian a little late in the year, but contains a mighty good account of the beauties and glories and resources and possibilities of Alaska, with picorial illustrations that add to the attractiveness of the text. Alaska has made Seattle, and Seattle should exploit and cherish Alaska.

Typhoid fever of a virulent type has een disseminated by the water of an old well on the Evangelical campmeeting grounds near Jennings Lodge, on the Oregon City carline. Three deaths have resulted. oves residents of that district to look after the filth source which contaminates this well, and, above all, to shun its water as they would a pes-

The regular dispute between the wholesale and retail grocers in the matter of furnishing a supply of pershable stuff to hawkers at less than retail rates is on. Prices that conumers pay to whomsoever they purchase surely ought to afford money enough to go round and leave purveyors in all lines reasonably happy.

If one-half of the Portland people who visited the State Fair will attend he coming meeting at the Portland Country Club, success at Portland will The round-trip fare to Salem was \$2. To the Country Club races and livestock show it will be 10

By the aid of the Government dredge Mathloma, river transportation has been resumed between Oregon City and Salem. It is on a job of this kind that the Government "gets olld" with our Valley farmers.

Councilman Belding may succeed in putting through an ordinance requir-ing a one-pound loaf of bread to weigh sixteen ounces, but it isn't clear how he can force a baker to sell it for five cents.

Latest telegrams indicate that the cities of Detroit and Philadelphia are more interested in a local contest than in the North Pole controversy.

And now the Southern Pacific is going to harness the Clackamas above Cazadero. Wonder is that the management hadn't done it years ago.

Washington street is steadily coming up in the world. Its next step ill be a twelve-story building at the I could drop to the earth by night northeast corner of Fourth

Another skyscraper for Washing on street! In a few years Portland oo, will boast of a city canyon.

Who said that the State Fair al wars brings rain?

# TOPICAL VERSE

Etiquette for Any African Jungle Hunter. Laugh with the gay hyens, Teep with the crocodile;
Attune your mood
To the jungle brood.

When others are smiling, smile. Add with the busy adder, Chatter with chimpanzees: If porcupines Have freiful spines, Be tactful, and strive to please.

Clean the spots from the leopardt Return the bear's fond hug; When the tigers bound, Lie on the ground, And act like a tiger rug.

With zebras wear striped clothing; With camels a camel's-hair shawle Adapt your tone To the beast's own,
And you'll have no trouble at all!
—Carolyn Wells, in Harper's Weekly.

Progress. When friends no longer cared to sit Around and talk, In olden times, one would suggest: "Let's take a walk."

And then when walking was abhored. And wheels came in.

It was quite common then to hear:
"Let's take a spin."

And then when bloycles were loathed And autos plied Across the land, was often heard: Let's take a ride." But autos now are out of date

The air above, so now we save 'Let's take a fly.' What we'll do next nobody knows,

And airships ply

Perhaps suggest When airships are no more the fade Tet's take a rest." -New York Sun.

Alas and Alackt The melancholy days are come, The saddest of the year; School books now rise to take the place Of Johnny's fishing gear.
—Boston Herald.

Too Practical. "Where'er I turn." he sadly said,
"A dreadful waste I see!
The clothes I wear from foot to head
With buttons are too free.
Upon the back and on the sleeves. All usclessly and still, They stand. And surely none believes They help keep out the chill.

Unon each house what fancy lines They carve and trace. 'Tis plain That all these elegant designs Do not protect 'gainst rain. And pictures, lights and flowers there, Where festal spirits meet To dine, but growd the bill of fare. They are not good to eat.

What creatures vainly run! What uselessness we all disclose In hours of rest or fun If power to do as I see fit
Were given to me here
I'd make this world before I quit A vastly different sphere!"
—Washington Star.

What fruitless vegetation grows!

A Misspelled Tail. Hittle buoy said: "Mother deer, May eye go out to play? he sen is bright, the heir is clear; Owe mother don't say neigh.

"Go forth my sun," the mother said;
His ant said: "Take ewer slay,
Ewer gnelss new sled awi painted red,
But dew not lose your weigh."
"Oh, know!" he cried, and sot the street With hart sew full of glee. The weather changed and snow and And reign fell fierce and free,

threw snow drifts grate, threw watery He flue with mite and mane. "Though eye wood walk bye Said he: Eye may not ride, 'tla plane.

'I'd like to mest some kindly sole, For here gnu dangers weight, And yonder stairs a treacherous whole, Two sloe has bin my gate.

'A peace of bred, a gnelss hot stake, Eye'd cheews if eye were home; This crewel fair my hart will brake; I love knot thus to rome.

Tm week and pail; I've mist my rode," But here a cart came passed. He and his sled were safely toad Enck to his home at last.

Houston Post.

The Rival Millennium. When the 'lectric-light bulbs bloom When the lectric-light bulbs bloom And the early eggplants lay, When the weather counts its change And gets settled down to stay, When the chickens wear their "shoos" And the pigs wipe all their pens,

Til move out in the country on a farm!
When the wagons take their tongues in
And the cherries throw no stones,
When the butter flies churn And the corn-ears tend the 'phones, When the ants do all the mending and the beeses wax the floors, Then I'll move out in the country on a

\_A. C. Fitch, in Harper's Weekly. The Doer. Never "planned to some fine day,"

Never "meant to, anyway," Everything of work or play Katydid. Never "would have but for this," Never "made the barest miss," Everything for woe or bliss

Katydid. Never "would if others would," Never "would, but what's the good?" Everything just as she should

Never "would another trip," Never "had to let it slip," Everything with firmest grip Katydid.

-New York Sun. A Sky Househoat Wanted,

Build me a househoat, please, To sail in the upper air; In the skies I could take my ease— There would be no neighbor there!

Build me a houseboat, pray,
That will float on the other's blue;
I would go where there's naught to pay—
Where no weekly bills come due. I could sit at my bumble door

And gaze on the vast expanse; There would be no sounds galore, No sights that would vex my glance. There would be no plane's strum.

No phonograph loud and shrill, And the beggar would never come To stand on my lonely still

And fill up my larder quick. Then rapidly take my flight Where the cloudbanks are piling thick.

Build me a houseboat do! I would dwell in the realm on high, This planet may do for you, his planet may be But for quiet and peace I sigh.

-New York Sun.