A STATE INSTITUTION

(Continued from first page.)

time, but we usually divide our classes into three divisions. It is not generally understood that our laboratories are equipped for all classes of analytical work, and our equipment compares favorably with other agricultural colleges, although our laboratories are somewhat smaller."

ZOOLOGY AND ENTOMOLOGY.

The recitation room of this department is on the third floor of the main building and the museum is of great interest; we cannot do it justice in this short article—in fact we found Prof. Washburn so very busy in the preparation of his state fair exhibit, that he was compelled to talk while he worked. We were almost taken off our feet as we entered by his saying: "Oh, I know what you want—I've heard about you." Un-nerved as we were, but gratified to know that we were not strangers, we tried to be very much taken up with the collection of "bugs" the professor was preparing, while he said:

"The laboratory in my department is fairly well equipped, for the study of physiology, zoology, comparative anatomy, economic ornithology and economic entomology, as laid down in our course. Our methods are all illustrated with laboratory work, and with the aid of the microscope the student sees himself the structures taught in the text book. Our course in ornithology consists in the study of the typical bird and from that, learning to classify common birds, and to obtain a knowledge of their habits, and their relation to the farmer in economic ornithology, —whether beneficial or detrimental to his interests. We have a similar course in entomology, from the study of a typical insect, to the collection and classification of 300 Oregon insects, which every student is required to make.

"It is expected of the graduate who take this course, to have a good general knowledge of the subjects touched and taken with the laboratory methods which are in vogue in teaching these courses, will give them habits of independent observation and thought.

"The work of my department in connection with the experiment station is entirely independent of college work. It consists of correspondence with farmers regarding injurious insects and advising remedies and in experimentation along these lines. The botanist and myself are engaged in a co-operative experiment to find a combined codlin moth remedy (insecticide) and apple scab remedy (fungicide). This has been successfully determined in other states and we hope to find a combination suitable to Oregon orchards. During the season we have devoted considerable observation to various tent caterpillars. I am not prepared to give my results yet, but they will appear soon in bulletin form.

"Of the grain aphis, I can say that there is no cause for alarm. It may appear next year and the year following, but it may not appear again for many years, and the parasite will keep it in check. There has been no cause for the prognostic reports of newspapers.

"The fertility of weavily peas has been tested. Out of seven hundred infected peas, actual count, forty-five germinated. We are also at present interested in experiments upon plant lice, which will appear in bulletin form."

MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT.

Both the old and new buildings of this department have been under a course of remodeling through vacation, and the machinery in them is now being arranged. The department is under the charge of Prof. G. A. Covell, whom we found with his assistant, Mr. Emmett, storing away the old engine, which had been found too small for the power necessary. Our note book was not exactly in order so we did not produce it until the professor had washed his hands and shown us about the building and escorted us to his recitation room.

He said: "Our facilities for instruction, while our aim is for practical results, include what are generally known as theoretical as well as practical instruction in mechanics. We are pretty well equipped for giving practical instruction in mechanical drawing, and shop work in both wood and iron, which are directly allied to the handling of these subjects scientifically. While our equipment is not so large as many others, it is quite complete and affords means of instruction in nearly all kinds of work, with the exception of foundry work—that is, we have all the tools in our shop usually found in other similar institutions, but not so many of a kind. I assign my first year students to work in the wood shop, before he knows anything about drawings or blue prints, upon practice exercises. This consists of a course of twenty-eight exercise pieces, from the simplest method of joining two pieces of wood to the making of a small panel door complete in all its details. In these pieces the student is given drawings to follow and has the personal supervision of an instructor. The student is then prepared to do practical and useful work, making tables, cabinets, shelves and other things needed about the college, although we have not as yet made anything for sale. We then take him to the blacksmith shop in a similar course, first exercises from drawings, and then to the manufacture of such tools as he will need in the machine shop, such as cold chisels, drills, etc. During this work he is also taught to make clevises, chains, rings, etc. At the beginning of the second year he takes up mechanical drawing. He has had experience in the use of drawings, he now learns to make them, beginning with the very simplest, and concluding with a work-drawing of some machine, like a locomotive, for instance, or an ordinary steam engine. With the third year, and continuing through the fourth, he works in the machine shop on the same plan as in the other classes. The fourth year is almost entirely taken up with constructive work. Two years ago the class completed a small dynamo with a capacity for eight incandescent lights. Last year we began the construction of a six horse power engine, which we will complete this year. During the third and fourth years, while the student has been in the machine shop, he has also been required to give daily recitations in the philosophy of machinery, solving problems that usually arise in the work of a mechanical engineer, the practical operation of the steam engine."

"Will you compare for us, professor, your course of instruction and the work of an apprentice?"

"It would hardly be expected that the amount of time given by the student to any one trade in this institution would take the place of an apprenticeship in a well regulated shop. It is not our object to teach a student a trade in any of the productive sciences, but we do claim that our course will benefit him and give him many advantages over the ordinary apprentice, and in the matter of time, takes the place of from one to two years of his apprenticeship, and taken altogether with the mind discipline he receives in this department, as well as the other departments here, gives him many advantages.

"Yes, as you see, we have been making a goodly number of improvements. In the first place our old engine was too small, and has been replaced by a forty-horse power engine. To the blacksmith shop we have added six new forges, and we can now accomodate sixteen students in that department at one time. We have just set up a new iron planer in the machine shop. In moving the printing department from the old building to the new it gives us more room in the woodworking department.

"From a mechanical student who has completed my course, I expect him to be qualified to begin a short apprenticeship understandingly, and with his scientific knowledge, soon equip himself as a practical mechanical engineer. From an agricultural student who has completed his course with me, I expect him to be able to repair his own farm machinery; to do his own mechanical drawing; to do his own carpenter work, and in short, his field of usefullness to himself is almost unlimited. He is thoroughly prepared to work profitably for himself, and if employed for another, is the most profitable person that can be hired."

The printing department is located in this building, and is under the supervision of Mr. H. R. Clark. This department does all the college and station printing, and gives industrial instruction when desired.

THE GIRL'S HALL.

THE HORTICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

Early in the morning of our third day we again betook ourselves collegeward, and the first man we met on the grounds was Prof. Geo. Coote, instructor of this department. Mr. Coote is a practical horticulturist, and has under his charge, besides the green houses and college campus, some 56 acres in fruits, vegetables and experiment plants. The green houses comprise an area of 2,800 square feet, and in them a visitor can well spend a half day in observing the methods of green-house florticulture, propagating, potting, planting and cultivating flowers. Mr. Coote has 414 named fruits under his care for different experiment tests. Our call was rather hurried on account of Mr. Coote's state fair exhibit occupying his time.

"The purpose of my department," said Prof. Coote, after we had gone the rounds, "is to instruct practically students in florticulture and horticulture as a science. We take up the propagation of large and small fruits; orchards, their planting and cultivation, including the renovation of old orchards; budding, grafting, nursery care, raising trees and plants from seeds, and harvesting fruits and vegetables. Our green houses are well equipped for the study of florticulture, which is for the girls only. The girls are very eager to get to this part of the work and enter into it with a great deal of enthusiasm, and the course is too short for them. The culture of flowers and laying out of grounds is very fascinating to them.

"In our horticultural studies the students are given practical instruction in application of the texts, besides they have the advantage of all our experiments—seeing them carried on.

EXPERIMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

"Yes the first thing I undertook was the renovation of the old college orchard, which when I began was a typical 'old farm orchard' and it is now better than any young orchard five years old. How did I do it By systematic cultivation, in the winter months to a depth of about eight inches, and in the summer about four inches. Te key to successful renovation of old orchards is cultivation, careful pruning and attention. It requires about three years to renovate an old orchard, or two years more to replant one.

"I have tried 55 varieties of peaches on the college grounds, and out of that number of varieties I have found none successful. There are localities, however, in the Willamette valley where peaches can be abundantly and profitably grown.

"This season we have taken notes upon the dates of polenization of fruits for the purpose of cross fertilization. We have the fact demonstrated that by fertilizing one pear with the polen of another larger variety its size is increased, while its quality is not affected. In the experiment of cross-fertilization an unlimited field of improvement in all native fruits is opened. Native fruits, are hardy and adapted, but want the introduction of quality.

"Another practical demonstration here, has been that we can raise early cabbage. I plant my cabbage seed in September, and by the last week in May we have early cabbage, or just as early as California cabbage reaches our market.

"I have tested many new varieties of vegetables, and when found better than those ordinarily used, scatter them out among farmers. Seventy-five varieties of strawberries have been tested, and out of them I have found three varieties, the Haverland, Dutter, and Micheal's Early, which are far superior to any variety now grown here. Likewise we have tested 45 varieties of gooseberries, and from that number find the Industry, the Oregon Champion, and Smith's Improved, superior varieties."

THE BOTANICAL DEPARTMENT.

Although our space is limited we cannot overlook the importance of this department to the farmer. This department of the college is under Prof. Moses Craig, who answered all our little questions and showed us through, but by this time we had got used to opening our eyes in astonishment. Plant physiology is of the greatest importance to the student. The object of this instruction is very like that of human phys iology. As a plant's physician, a student must know its physiological structure; this is taught him here. Cellular structure is made clear from spore to full developed plant, by means of themicroscope, cllarts and enlarged models made of gelatin. Our plant physician, the student, when he understands a healthy plant and its cellular construction can readily detect a diseased plant, thus making use of this inestimable knowledge. In the study of forrestry their cellular strength is shown mountings of tevery specie. The student is taught the classification of plants; how to mount and preserve them for reference. The department has some ten thousand specimens, of probably five thousand species.

"The main object of our course," said Prof. Craig, "is to develop the power of observation. When he has completed the course, we expect him to know when his plants, trees or crops are diseased; what the cause is and remedy; to be able to classify any ordinary plant and its adaptability to climatic conditions and soil."

This department is very interesting and lack of space is regretted in which to do it justice.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY AND HYGIENE.

Lastly we visited Miss Margaret C. Snell, the instructor of this department, at her home. Miss Snell is a very entusiastic practical worker and instructor among her girls. Last year 90 girls received instruction in her department daily.

"The object of my department," said she, "is to teach young ladies how to cook; family higiene—how to take care of their own health and that of a family; how to furnish a home; how to make her own clothing, and the principles underlaying these branches.

"Yes, sure, there is an art, a science, and chemistry of cooking. An art, or rather an artisans work, and requires a great deal of practice to make perfect. It is remarkable how awkward some of my girls are when they come to me, even in measuring a teaspoonful of salt, and similar things I ask them to do. A science, for many persons make it a life study, and the proper and wholesome preparation of food is no small matter in a home. A chemistry, for there are many changes that take place in food in preparation. The chemical changes in yeast, sour milk, and bread are instances.

"In cooking they have twenty lessons or lectures, practically illustrated in the kitchen.

"Health is of great importance, and but few things contribute so much to the welfare of a family. A course of lectures is given of the principles underlying hygenic living.

"Our course of sewing extends through one year, including a book of samples, and concluding with some finished garment. Every girl should know how to make her own clothing.

"A course of lectures is also given on house furnishing. This is really a science and the principles underlaying it are made a study. There are a number of rules taught, hich bring out taste, harmony and good effect in house furnishing which every woman should know.

"O yes my girls take to the course of industrial work very readily, and are very much interested.

It is noble to work; it is the only way a woman can be truly happy. Luxurious idleness brings unhappiness. I think a woman who knows how to care for her own home work is far more charming and beautiful than one who does not have this practical knowledge. Education should not place us above housework. Why, I like to do my housework much better than before I attended school, and I have given 15 years to seminary work. The truly happy woman is she who knows how to dust, washes, sweeps, cooks and sews. I shall be only too glad to give my life's influence to enobling work."

We found Lieutenant Dentler in his commodious suite of rooms in Cauthorn hall, the boys' dormitory, of which he has supervision. Lieutenant Dentler was radient with smiles and received "ye scribe" as cordially as could be expected of one about to launch life's ship on the blissful waters of matrimony. To talk with him was only to convince us of his great qualifications as commandant of the cadets, which position he at present holds under detail from the U. S. army.

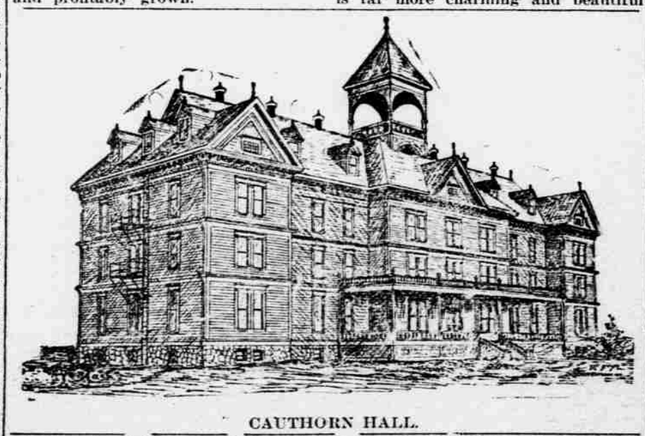
Lieutenant Dentler, we would like to have you tell the Gazette, for its readers, the origin of the military department; how it is maintained and in whose interest.

"Well, you know, in December, 1893, congress passed laws authorizing a detail of 100 commissioned officers to colleges for the dissemination of military knowledge, and it was under this law that I was sent to the Oregon Agricultural college. All state agricultural colleges are required by the government to have military departments, and it is for this purpose that the 100 officers are detailed and sent out by the government. All the state agricultural colleges are endowed by the government, and this college will receive eventually from that source $40,000, and as a return for this outlay, it requires the college to maintain a military department. The detail of each officer is for four years, but so far as the college is concerned it is continuous, as when my detail is over, there will be another officer who will continue the instruction the same as I have begun it. We receive our pay direct from the government the same as any army officer.

"The object of this office in disseminating military knowledge, is that in time there will be educated men, who also have a military education, to command troops in case of war—receive a commission; that there will be disseminated throughout the country qualified men to take a commission and command troops. All these 100 officers do not go to agricultural colleges, however. Yale, Harvard and Princeton ask for military officers, and have sufficient influence to secure them. All the large colleges throughout the country have departments under the government's detail for teaching military science and the art of war. It is through the endowment of state colleges that the government claims a pledge that they will maintain their respective military departments.

"We teach military science and the art of war as far as we go, the limit depending upon the time alloted us by the college authorities. In this college the authorities have given one hour each day—that is one school hour, which is fifty minutes, or five school hours per week. All male students unless physically incapacitated, are required to drill and study military tactics, the art and science of war. In a single year a boy does not progress very much. He may learn the manual of arms, but that is a very small part of his military education. But a boy who stays here for four years ought to be able to take a commission in the national guard and in fact he is qualified to take command of a company, equip it and do everything else that is necessary as well as any one with the same amount of military instruction. You can readily see the advantage he will have over other men not versed in the science; he is prepared to take a commission and command troops, whereas if he was instructed he would have to enlist as a private and in turn work out his promotion.

"Besides, it is a great advantage to the government, in case of a war, to have men—educated men who are qualified to take a commission and do good service. Another strong object of the departments military science in these colleges is to inculcate in the minds of their students a patriotism; love for our country; honor to our flag; what our country is doing for them and has done for them. So you can see that every thing connected with my work here is in the interest of the national government. While my work is in perfect harmony with the college, it is for the government in teaching military science. It is expected that I will give as much time to higher military instruction as possible. A portion of the time throughout the year is devoted to theoretical study and recitation work, as well as practical instruction. We are somewhat handicapped here by not having an armory, in as much as there is so much wet weather. Still we get good results from the practical instruction given."



CAUTHORN HALL.

THE BEST PAID AUTHOR.

Rudyard Kipling's seven words for $1, said to be the highest price paid any literary man of our times, reads very small in comparison with what was paid Judge Paxton for a literary article. Until McLeod came on the scene, the Read ing Railroad had used an old sign at the crossing, "Beware of the engines and cars," with a mass of further instructions in small print. In some suit for damages it was claimed that the warnings were not clear. McLeod went to Judge Paxton, who composed this admirable notice: "Railroad Crossing—Stop, Look and Listen!" For this little composition he received the modest sum of $4,780, or over $796.66 a word. When it comes to emoluments, the poets are not in it with the lawyers.—Springfield Republican.

A VACATION IN BED.

A popular novelist says that nothing equals a day in bed. It is better than a holiday at Coney Island. Spend the whole day in bed, and then, next morning, jump into a cold bath. This treatment will make you feel as if you have been a week at the seaside.

THE PORTLAND MARKET.

Portland, Sept. 19.—Flour—Portland, Salem, Cascadia and Dayton, $2.40 per barrel; Walla Walla, $2 85.

Oats—The market is quiet and weak at figures: No. 1 white feed oats at 30c on track, and good winter grey from 25c to 28c.

Barley—Feed barley is quoted at 65c per cental. Brewing is worth 80c per cental, according to quality.

Millstuffs—Bran, $13; shorts, $13; chop feed, $15 to $17.

Hay—Good, $10 to $11 per ton.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 25c to 27 1-2 per pound; fancy dairy, 20c to 22 1-2c per pound; fair to good, 15c to 17 1-2c; common, 12 1-2c.

Cheese—Oregon, fair, 8c to 10c per pound; Swiss, imported, 30c to 32c.

Onions—Oregon, 1c per pound; yellow, 1 1-4c per pound.

Poultry—Old chickens are quoted from $3 to $3.50; young, $1.50 to $3; Young ducks are nominal at $2 to $3.

Eggs—Fresh Oregon are firm at 20c.

Melons—Water melons are worth from 75c to $1.75; casabas, $2.50.

Fresh fruit—Pears, 50c; grapes, 25c to 50c per crate; Oregon apples bring from 50c to 75c per box; quinces, Oregon, 80c to $1.

Provisions—Eastern hams, medium 14c to 14 1-2c per pound; hams, picnic, 11c to 12c; breakfast bacon, 14 1-2c to 15 1-2c.

Wool—Valley, 7c to 9c, according to quality; Umpqua, 7c to 9c; Eastern Oregon, 6c to 7c.

Hops—There is no settled market price. Dealers anticipate opening at 7c to 9c.

NEW YORK PHALANX

Republican Convention at Saratoga.

Splendid Platform Formulated.

The Democrats Scathed in Unmeasured Terms for Blunders and Failures.

SARATOGA, Sept. 18.—The state republican convention called to nominate a full state ticket, was rapped to order here today at 12:40 p. m. Hon. Lemuel Ely Quigg, of New York city, was made temporary chairman. Temporary Chairman Quigg, in his address, arraigned the democratic party for the passage of the new tariff law, and denounced the machine democracy of New York city. He said the outlook for the republican party in the coming election was encouraging. The convention at 1:35 took a recess until 4:30.

The convention reassembled at 4:50 p. m. Hon. Warner Miller was made permanent chairman. Congressman Payne, chairman of the committee on resolutions, presented the platform, which extends greetings to the republicans of Pennsylvania, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine. "for their prompt and just judgment of an incompetent democratic administration." National affairs are referred to as follows: "The democratic president of the United States and the democratic chairman of the ways and means committee of the house of representatives have announced that a war against the protected industries of the country has but just begun and it is to be prosecuted to the bitter end. On behalf of the wage earner, the agriculturist, the business man, and of every sacred interest in the empire state of the Union. The republican party of the state of New York in convention assembled accepts this challenge and pledges itself to defend her against all assault on the rights of the workingman and his employer, both wantonly invaded by reckless demagogues."

Then follows an arraignment of the democratic administration, declaring: Its most important achievement thus far has been fitly characterized by the chief executive as one of perfidy and dishonor. It has rewarded the largest contributors to its campaign fund by the best of foreign missions; denouncing trusts, it permitted one of them to formulate its tariff bill; promising continuance of the vigorous foreign policy established by the lamented Jas. G. Blaine, it substitutes "a policy of infamy," in which Hawaii was freely offered up; denouncing the Sherman act as a cowardly makeshift, it was enabled to repeal the silver purchasing clause of the act only by the help of republican senators; arraigning protection as a fraud upon labor, it passed a mongrel protective measure so tainted with scandal that it barely escaped the veto of a democratic president; advocating free raw materials, and extension of our foreign trade, it destroyed all profitable reciprocity advancements made by President Harrison; pledging itself to the payment of "just and liberal pensions" it treats union soldiers as if the G. A. R. badge was a badge of beggary and brigandage; pledging retrenchment, it exceeded the last republican congress by $27,000,000 in the face of decreasing revenues and after it had added $50,000,000 to the public debt; while pretending to be in favor of individual freedom, it hastened to enact an odious income tax force bill, empowering deputy collectors to enter the homes of citizens and compel them by threats of official summons and heavy penalties to disclose their private affairs. "We denounce the Northern democratic congressman for permitting Southern members to protect the chief products of their section, while removing or largely reducing the protective duties on the products of the North.

"We favor an honest dollar and oppose any effort, whether by removal of tax on state bank issues, or the free coinage of silver, to lower our currency standard and we favor an international agreement which shall result in the use of both gold and silver as circulating mediums."

The vote for governor stood: Morton, 532 1-2; Fassett, 69; Woodford, 40; Butlerfield, 29; Russell, 26; Bliss, 4 1-2, and Askell, 1.

The nomination of Morton was then made unanimous, each opposing candidate making short speeches, pledging him their support.

Judge Saxton was nominated for lieutenant governor and Haight was nominated for judge of the court of appeals. The convention then adjourned sine die, at 2:10 a. m.

BITERS BADLY BITEN.

GORIN, Mo., Sept. 18.—The Colorado and Utah express on the Santa Fe was held up by robbers at 3:30 a. m. today. As the railroad and express officials had a spy on the trail of the bandits, when they stopped the train they met a hail of buckshot and bullets, and it is said that at least two are dead in the surrounding woods, while as many others rode for the rendezvous, 21 miles away, riddled with bullets. They shot "Dad" Prescott, the engineer, before they even gave him a chance to hold up his hands. His wounds, it is believed, will not prove fatal. When the train left Chicago at 5 o'clock last evening, the railroad and express detectives, all walking arsenals, climbed on at every station. Among them were Chief Detective J. J. Kenny, of the Santa Fe, and J. A. Matthews, who has been acting as a spy for two weeks and getting news of the robbers' plans. The latter brought the news that the robbers early in the day decided to leave their hiding place, near Memphis, at 8:30 o'clock last night, and make their third attempt to get rich at the expense of the express company. They expected to make a haul of at least $50,000.

As out from between two high embankments, just one mile from Gorin, sped the train, there came the looked-for signal, and not 50 years away was the swinging of a red light. Within 20 seconds the train was at a standstill. Out from the dease undergrowth north of the track came four forms, the face of each hidden by a black mask. One rushed to the engine almost before his companions could reach the express car. Within ten feet of the tender he pointed a rifle at "Dad" Prescott, the white-bearded engineer, and, as he shouted "Hold up your hands," pulled the trigger. "Dad" fell to the floor with a bullet in his right breast. With one bound Kenny gained the top of the tender, and bringing his gun to his shoulder, sent a shower of shot almost into the face of the man. How the fellow managed to move six inches is a mystery, but he did and made for the woods. The shot which laid Engineer Prescott low was a signal for a fusilade, and also the signal for the hasty retreat of the robbers to the shelter of the timber.

The Santa Fe and Wells-Fargo officials received a tip of the contemplated raid nearly three weeks ago, and every night since then not less than half a dozen secret service men have been on the train until the danger point was passed.

W. H. Wilson, a Pullman car conductor, said: "Such a scramble for safe places I never witnessed. Women were frantic in their endeavors to get out of the way and men no less eager, showing as much fright as they possibly could display. Some lay flat on the floor, others barricaded themselves in their berths or got underneath while others ran frantically up and down the aisle, apparently bewildered One man, probably 50 years of age, when the shooting began to be fierce, knelt down in the aisle and prayed long and loud for deliverance."

$388,000 IN WAGERS.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Sept. 18.—Official returns by counties show 269 plurality for Owens, but Breckinridge's manifesto is understood to mean that the district committee on Saturday, will be instructed to go behind the returns made by the democratic committee. Breckinridge men here have a majority of the county commissioners but they were not disposed to go behind the returns from the precincts.

Owens men claim that frauds were against them instead of in their favor, and that money was being used to get the district committee to reverse the returns of the county committee. There is over $388,000 in the district in wagers and those who put up money on Breckinridge are anxious for contest proceedings.

JONES NO POPULIST.

San Francisco, Sept. 18.—C. C. Powning of Reno, Nev., is in this city. In an interview he stated that Senator John P. Jones had indicated his future course to his friends. He says Jones has not joined the populists, but has gone over to the silver party of Nevada. In the meantime Jones will disregard the demand of the state republican committee that he resign, because that would give Governor Colcord an opportunity to appoint a republican as Jones' successor. For that reason he will wait until the Nevada legislature meets and then resign, offering himself as a candidate to serve out his own unexpired term.

CARBINE SHOOTING.

Bellevue, Neb., Sept. 18.—The annual carbine competing of the departments of East Platte and California opened today, some surprising records being made. One result Major Lindsay, first lieutenant, ninth cavalry, won 164. Miller Toler, sergeant Co. D ninth cavalry, second; Jacob Stultz, sergeant troop C sixth cavalry, 153; third, R. A. Bradley, sergeant company G fourth cavalry, 153; fourth, A. Baker, sergeant troop C, sixth cavalry, 153, fifth.

THE GRAIN WORLD.

New York, Sept. 18.—Hops quiet.

Liverpool.—Wheat steady; demand moderate; No. 2 red winter, 4s 3 1-2d; do spring, 4s 6 1-2d.

San Francisco.—Wheat shipping 80 to 82 1-2 milling. Walla Walla wheat is still on the market seeking custom at 70 cents for fair average, 60 to 65c for No 2 and 40 to 50 for off grade.

ALLEGED OBSCURITY.

Washington, Sept. 18.—The recently published book, entitled "If Christ Came to Congress" has been detained in the mails, pending an investigation by the postoffice authorities of alleged obscenity of the publication. The author is M. W. Howard, of Alabama, who expects to be nominated for congress by the populist convention tomorrow.

THE DEAD ENGINEER.

Washington, Sept. 18.—Major Thomas Turtle, one of the best known officers of the engineers corps of the army, died here today aged 50 years.

MORTON CAPTURED IT.

Saratoga, N. Y., Sept. 18.—Ex-vice-president Morton was this afternoon nominated for governor by the state republican convention.

THE PRECIOUS STONES.

Where They Come from and What They Signify.

The best opals come from Hungary.

Black pearls are the most valuable, then pink and yellow, then white. Pearls are steadily increasing in price; they cost three times as much as they did ten years ago. A pearl which could have been bought for $1,000 in 1884 is now worth $3,000.

The American turquoise is the best. In value this lovely blue jewel ranks below the diamond, ruby, or sapphire, but its popularity as a ring ornament never wanes. The Persian turquoise fades when exposed to light, and turns a dull green. Blue is the favorite color of the Persians.

Every jewel has a peculiar significance. Each is a favorite in a certain month of the year: January—garnet, constancy. February—amethyst, sincerity. March—bloodstone, courage. April—diamond, innocence. May—emerald, success in love. June—agate, health and long life. July—cornelian, contentment. August—sardonyx, matrimonial felicity. September—chrysolite, antidote against madness. October—opals, hope. November—topaz, fidelity. December—turquoise, prosperity.

The value of precious stones produced in the United States last year was $300,000. The export of diamonds from South Africa averages annually about $20,000,000. There are 25,000 diamond-diggers employed there. A diamond is a crystal of pure carbon, and as such is safe from injury by acids. It is very brittle; few precious jewels are more so. Only one pure blood-red diamond has ever been found.

The topaz is nearly transparent. The yellow topaz comes from Saxony, the white from Siberia, the pale blue from Brazil. False topaz is yellow quartz. Chrysolite, too, is often used to imitate topaz. The topaz was once one of the most popular of precious stones in fashionable use, but it has declined much of late years in the public estimate of its beauties.

These are the weights given by a statistical authority, of the six largest known diamonds: Koh-i-noor 103 carets; Star of Brazil 125, Regent of France 136, Austrian Kaiser 139, Russian Czar 193, Rajah of Borneo 376.

The red variety of the garnet is the most common, but violet, green, and white garnets are not altogether rare. Bohemian garnets are dark, blood-red in color, and in the largest sizes are very valuable. Cinnamon rubies, so called, are garnets.

Except in color, the sapphire is the same stone as the ruby, but less rare. When of fine quality it is as valuable as a diamond of the same size. The choicest shade is blue.

The breastplate of the high priest, as decribed in the forty-ninth chapter of Exodus, was made of gold, blue, purple and scarlet. Upon it were set four rows of precious stones. In the first row were topazes of several varieties. In the second row there were an emerald, a sapphire, and a ruby. In the third row there were an agate and an amethyst. In the fourth row there were a beryl, an onyx, and a japer. They were enclosed in ornamental work of gold, the girdle being held together by strands of linen.

The ruby is, next to the diamond, the most valuable of precious stones. The most popular is "pidgeon's blood." The color varies from rose to crimson. The ruby, jewelers say, is extensively imitated. The Brazilian ruby is a topaz; the Cape ruby is a garnet. The true ruby will scratch either of them, and may be thus distinguished.

EARLY MOULTING HENS.

As a rule, when the hens begin to moult early in the summer, they cease to lay, the result being that they are at once sent to market as no longer profitable. This is a mistake for all hens must shed their old feathers and take on new plumage, some beginning early in the summer, while others do not commence until late in the fall, but the process requires about three months' time. In other words, a hen takes one-fourth of the time during the year to moult, giving her a period for laying not exceeding 300 days at the maximum. The moulting period has something to do with winter laying. Granting that three months' time must be lost, it is plain that if a hen begins to moult the first of August,

MUST BE WELL FIXED.

Topeka, Sept. 18.—A story is afloat, in financial circles, that A. A. Robinson has been offered the presidency of the Atchison system at a salary of $60,000 a year, but that he has declined, saying: "I will accept no position with the Santa Fe until it has been thoroughly washed and dried."

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