

LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER

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TOLEDO OREGON

Others are bad enough, but a coffin trust is like working the idea to death.

It is not the woman with the most gold in her teeth who has the dearest smile.

The boy who causes the most trouble doesn't always grow up to be the greatest man.

Considering what it has got various folks into, that Chinese open door has some of the qualities of a trap-door.

Mosquitoes, it is said, will not bite a person who takes sulphur into his system. Making the air sulphurous in the vicinity where they work does no good.

The New York woman who began the study of the Greek testament on her 100th birthday must have read of Cato and the enterprise of his eightieth year.

These Chinese towns have perfectly ridiculous names. Why can't they call themselves something sensible, like Showbegan, for instance, or Punxutawney, or Caucomgamoc, or Kalamazoo?

Inside of eighteen months every elevated railway engine in New York will have been displaced by electric motors. How long will it be before the same thing will be true of every steam locomotive in the country?

It is reported that Joel Chandler Harris has resigned his editorial position on the Atlanta Constitution because he wants more time to play with his grandchildren. If the report is true, we congratulate the grandchildren.

What little reform gets into Turkey usually slips in by the back door. Report has it that the only dynamo now in Constantinople passed the customhouse as a washing machine; and thus the feeling of the authorities were spared.

The Delaware & Raritan Canal Company is said to be mustering its mules out of service, and harnessing up the automobile to do their work on the tow-path. If this sort of thing is allowed to go on till the beasts of burden and of draft are left from their present tasks, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will be tempted to relax its vigilance.

A short time ago Prof. Harry Thurston Peck made the statement that women had never taken part in any gigantic enterprise such as the construction of steamships, railroads, etc. Evidently he had not heard of the native women of India, who make up a large proportion of the laborers in the department of public works. Employed all over India are women and girls, said to be quite as efficient as men, digging canals, making reservoirs, working on roadways and building railroads.

Poison recently ended the life of a 25-year-old Connecticut woman who was not only remarkable in herself, but also in the peculiar quality of husband she possessed. It was while she was indulging in her eighth consecutive elopement with other men and the seventh case of forgiveness on the part of her better half that the latest and finishing phase of her fate overtook her. There is nothing in the occurrence, however, to affect Connecticut's historic claim to being the Land of Steady Habits, for anything more steady than her elopement practice and his in the way of pardoning is rather hard to realize.

In the six Rocky Mountain States of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Utah and Wyoming, agriculture is largely dependent on irrigation. The distribution of the water supply is regulated by law, and costs about one dollar per acre. Nebraska and Wyoming have water commissioners, who receive all applications and determine all controversies. In the other four States there is much litigation. But when the ranchman's water rights are once established, he thinks himself far more sure of regular crops than the farmer in "the humid States," where there is always liability of drouth or excessive rainfall, while he has the exact amount of moisture he needs just when he wants it, and at no other time—and always on tap.

A couple of years ago an old gentleman who has great common sense remarked: "Don't wake up the Chinese. They can live on nothing; they can work for nothing; there are millions of them. If they once learn our system of manufacturing we cannot compete. Don't wake up the Chinese." It begins to look as if this statement were true with regard to military matters. The problem which the foreign powers have to solve is an intricate one. The Chinese have been laying in great stores of ammunition, guns, etc. If their soldiers are drilled in modern tactics it would

seem an impossible task for the foreign powers to subdue them. If China remains a united empire the task will be impossible. If it is split into several kingdoms, each independent of the other, there may be some chance for foreign powers to establish governments on a modern civilized basis. The consequences of "waking up" 350,000,000 people may be serious.

Despite repeated and unquestionable proof of its poisonous nature, the sale of the cigarette is increasing. If it is not to become a prolific cause of physical and moral degeneration, especially among the young, more efficient and more general means must be exerted against its use. It is known to produce in children disorders of the nervous system ending in hopeless imbecility. The insane asylums have had to open a new column of statistics for its victims. Its deleterious effects are not transitory, but easily and ineradicably become constitutional. Many corporations, especially those dealing with human life, tolerate among their servants no one who drinks intoxicating liquor while on duty. The effects of the cigarette upon the brain are worse than the effects of alcohol. One great Chicago corporation has announced that it will carry on its pay rolls no one who uses the cigarette. General opposition of this practical nature may check the sale of the poison. Moral and scientific protests have proven ineffectual.

That the remarkable growth of outdoor sports in the last twenty years is the salvation of those who are unfortunate enough to be handicapped by wealth and fettered by leisure is apparent to even the most casual observer. A man does not need to be an athlete or a tennis player or a wheelman to note the marked effect of these outdoor pastimes upon those whom stern necessity has not condemned to ordinary physical employments. Neither does one need a vivid imagination to picture the condition of these classes if they were denied participation in outdoor sports. "Twenty years ago," says Casper Whitney, in the Independent, "the popular set at the various clubs consisted of those young men who sat in the windows with their feet on the railings and glasses by their sides. Now the glasses have been banished and the young men of influence are active in yachting, hunting, polo, football, base-ball, rowing, golf, and so forth." This marked change for the better is not confined to the club world, however. It extends throughout the whole United States, and the result is seen in the glorious physical development of the young men and women whom we meet everywhere. The wonderful physical hardihood of our soldiers, many of whom came from offices and stores, which excited so much comment during the war with Spain, is attributed by Mr. Whitney to the growth among us of those outdoor sports which, strange as it may seem, have been fostered by the wealthy and fashionable classes. It is Mr. Whitney's belief that the rise of outdoor sports is not a craze that will presently subside and "leave us cooped up indoors again with our flannels and our grog and doctor's prescriptions." We are outdoors to stay. Our Anglo-Saxon instincts draw us toward this stimulating, muscle-building play. The apparent subsidence of interest in certain outdoor sports is really the indication of a more rational enjoyment of it. One might get the impression from looking about the streets that bicycling had declined. If you go into the country, however, you will find that this is not the case. The bicyclists have found that riding a wheel in the city is nerve-racking, hazardous and unsatisfactory, and now they ride in the country. One of the good things that golf has done, says Mr. Whitney, has been to provide outdoor amusement for people of middle age. Previous to the advent of golf there was no outdoor game for them that could be properly characterized as sport. The craze feature has now gone out of golf and it has settled down as a "systemized constitutional." Along with growth of sports among us there has also been a growth of the true sportsman feeling—sport for sport's sake, and not merely to win over a competitor. The growing tendency of Americans "to play the game for the sake of the game" is the most hopeful sign in the field of outdoor sports in this country.

Bacteria as Purifiers.
At the last meeting of the Society of American Bacteriologists Prof. Kinnicutt gave an account of the change of opinion now occurring in England in favor of the purification of the sewage of cities by means of bacterial growth, disseminated through it, rather than by chemical treatment, as heretofore employed. The bacterial system, he thought, offered the cheapest and most effective method of purifying the sewage so that it may be discharged into rivers without polluting them.

Spain to Have a Better Navy.
The Queen Regent of Spain has signed a decree ordering the sale of a large number of obsolete men-of-war and providing for the reorganization and modernization of the other vessels.

Speak but little and let that little be the truth.

SAURIANS ARE HUGE.

AUSTRALIAN CROCODILES GROW TO IMMENSE SIZE.

Possesses Enormous Strength and Are Things of Terror to Fish and Animals—Large Bullock Stands No Chance in Fighting One of Them.

The crocodile of the Nile differs very little from that of the northern rivers of Australia, which is generally termed "alligator," though in reality a true crocodile. The head of a true alligator is broader and shorter than that of the crocodile. There is also considerable difference in the teeth and their disposition in the jaws. The teeth of the alligator are unequal, and the larger of the lower canines enters a cavity in the upper jaw, while that of a crocodile simply fits into a groove on the outside of the upper jaw, leaving the tooth clearly visible when the mouth of the monster is closed. There are also differences in the webbing of the toes and the form of the legs, though to the general observer there is little or no difference. Crocodiles seem equally at home in salt or fresh water, while alligators do not appear to relish, and rarely visit, salt water. Crocodiles no doubt feed largely upon fish, but as they grow older and stronger and require great quantities of food, they will, when hungry, attack anything from a sheep or a kangaroo to a bullock, a big crocodile making short work of a bullock weighing over half a ton.

Some crocodiles measure as much as twenty-seven feet in length and possess immense strength, besides wonderful cunning and patience. They will lie in wait at a watering place frequented by animals, hardly distinguishable from a log of wood, so still and passive have they become. The unwary victim coming down to drink is suddenly seized in the crocodile's huge jaws and drawn into the water and drowned. At other times the tail is used to sweep the prey into deep water, where, even though it be a heavy bullock, it has little or no chance against its enemy, which is specially provided by nature with an arrangement that prevents the water rushing down its huge throat, even though the jaws are fully distended through holding its prey. Thus, after a few brief seconds the unequal struggle is over and the saurian takes the carcass in tow to some favored locality, where he can enjoy it at his leisure.

Crocodiles at night time low and below just like cattle, especially like bulls, and I have spent some nights in an open boat in Cambridge Gulf, northwestern Australia, where the whole place seemed to be alive with them, and what with their splashes and cries, and the weirdness of the whole scene, and their close proximity as they at times rocked the boat, sleep was impossible, for there are several instances on record where crocodiles have taken or have attempted to take men from out of camps and boats. A poor fellow named Reed, the mate or second mate of the Gulman, had gone in his vessel to some river in Carpentaria Gulf. The vessel was at anchor near the mouth of the river. The mate, Reed, had been dispatched in charge of a watering party, and was some distance up the river in a large open boat. Water had been obtained, and they were all ready for a return to the ship. All being made snug, the three fellows turned in, having made their camp in the boat. The night was a very fine one, the moon shining brightly, when toward midnight the sleeping camp was aroused by some terrific shrieks. These were the cries of poor Reed, who, enveloped in his bedding and mosquito curtains, was being borne off by a crocodile. It is said by those who knew him well and accompanied him on this and other previous trips that he had a habit of sleeping with his foot on the gunwale of the boat, and no doubt this afforded the crocodile an easier opportunity of seizing him.

The crocodile has a remarkable eye. It can arrange the pupil to a vertical or horizontal position at will to suit its requirements by day or night. It has a special natural protection to the eye, and through a "duct" escapes the fluid when the "monster weeps. In fact, he is a peculiar brute altogether, with many special gifts besides his huge jaws that help to make of him the terror that he is. The crocodile lays a large number of eggs, which are remarkably small for so large a reptile, being just a shade larger than those of the domestic duck. Its nest is a huge mound of long grass, leaves, reeds, flags and a kind of broad-leaved grass, built to the height of four or five feet, with a circumference of from thirty to forty feet, and always near water. The northern crocodile lays its eggs in January or February. Neither parent does any sitting. The eggs are deposited to the number of forty or fifty near the top of the mound, which looks just like an ordinary haystack. The rain—and it rains at this time of the year every day—and the hot sun create a great heat in the mound, which hatches the eggs. —Sydney Mail.

Curious Facts About Children.
An interesting paper by Dr. Macdonald, of the Washington bureau of edu-

cation, discloses some novel facts concerning children that will cause general surprise. Children with long heads are not as bright as those with broad ones. Very long heads indicate dullness, despite the ancient saw. Bright boys have the advantage of dull boys in height and weight. White boys of American parents show more nervousness than their colored and foreign-born associates. White boys of non-laboring parents have the poorest eyesight. Colored children have the best. Girls who attend private schools are not as strong as girls of the public schools. Girls as a general thing, however, can endure more pain than boys, but the boys are not as sensitive to petty annoyances.

POOR PICKINGS OF AUTHORS.

Cash Comes in Most Cases After Publisher Gets It in Hand.

In a brief chat with one of our leading booksellers the other day it was very curious to hear him speak in a purely commercial way of books which we have all read and enjoyed, discussing the sales of this or that volume in the same way that a wholesale grocer or commission merchant would discuss barrels of flour or bags of potatoes. Every now and then a rumor becomes current that some writer has received vast sums for his work. As a matter of fact, there is a certain regular percentage which is all that ever reaches even the most successful. When anyone who is not entirely unknown, and may even, perhaps, already have some literary reputation, brings his manuscript to a publisher, the writer usually is given an advance ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000, the largest in recent years having been given to an English author within the past three months. When the novel is finally published the writer will receive 15 per cent. of the actual selling price of each copy, including the advance money, which on a book selling at \$1.50 would amount to 22½ cents for each copy sold. Let us suppose that the author had received \$10,000 it would be necessary for the publisher to sell about 22,000 copies before he got his money back, because it costs him about \$1.05 to put the book on the market. Then for the next 22,000 issued he would make about 45 cents on each book, until the author's total royalties had equaled the advance copyright, at which point the publisher would again be obliged to pay the writer the 22½ cents for each of the books sold.

It will be readily seen from the above figures that even the greatest selling books do not make their authors and publishers millionaires at one jump. Of course, only a very few and fortunate of the many writers ever receive any advance on their copyrights, as no publishers are going to take the risk of paying out money without feeling very certain that they will eventually get it back. Occasionally some well-written story remains unprinted for a long time, but all publishing houses are eagerly keeping watch for novelties and the possibility of discovering new authors is ever in their thoughts; therefore when one hears young writers complaining that they cannot get a hearing it is safe to surmise that their wares are not of any value. —Philadelphia North American.

WHAT THE CHINESE EAT.

Rice Is Not the Principal Diet of the Common People.

It is the popular belief in this country that rice is the chief diet of the lower classes of China. This is erroneous, for rice is a luxury from their point of view, because too costly for every-day consumption. They eat much pork, which costs little for hogs of razor-back breed are plentiful everywhere, and the pig is the domestic animal par excellence. She sleeps in the living room, recognizes her name and displays in her intelligence the inherited results of centuries of training. She litters twice a year, and of her offspring the males are fattened while the females are sold or kept for breeding. The household porker is a pet; she is fed at every meal of the family, foraging for herself at other times in the streets and fields. And it should be remembered that the pig is decidedly a clean animal when properly kept.

Rev. Dr. Williams, in his "Middle Kingdom," says that the Chinese in the vicinity of Canton, from whom are recruited nearly all of the pig-tailed immigrants to this country, have a remarkable appetite for cats. One frequently sees pussies hanging, nicely dressed, in the butchers' windows, the meat looking so white and clean as to be almost appetizing. They are kept alive in the shops, too, in cages ready for killing. Because they are so prolific and find so much of their own food, they can be raised profitably. Cats' eyes are considered a great delicacy by the rich, those of black cats being regarded as choicest and commanding the highest price. Rats and mice are seldom eaten, except in case of famine; they are too hard to catch to be cheap. But among the Chinese there is an old joke about an imaginary dish called "honey and squeak," made by inclosing a live mouse in a piece of honeycomb.

Giving a girl a musical education often means only that she has an additional place to loaf—a music store where she "tries" new pieces.

WHAT THE CHINESE WORSHIP.

Their Religion Is a Mere Form, Their Deities Are Indefinite.

The only religious worship the average Chinaman performs, aside from ancestral rites, is a prostration and an offering "to heaven and earth" on the first and fifteenth of each moon, or in some cases on the beginning of each new year. No prayer is uttered, and after a time the offering is removed, and, as in other cases, eaten.

What is it that at such times the Chinese people worship? Sometimes they affirm that the object of worship is "heaven and earth." Sometimes they say that it is "heaven," and again they call it "the Old Man of the Sky," (lao t'ien yeh). The latter term has led to an inference that the Chinese do have a real perception of a personal deity. But when it is ascertained that this supposed "person" is frequently matched by another called "Grandmother Earth" (ti mu nai nai) the correctness of the inference is open to serious question. The word "heaven" is, it is true, often used in the Chinese classics in such a way as to convey the idea of personality and will. But it is likewise employed in a manner which suggests very little of either. "Heaven is a principle" the vagueness of the term is obvious. To this ambiguity in classical use corresponds the looseness of meaning given to it in every-day life. The Chinaman who has been worshipping heaven upon being pressed to know what he means by "heaven" will frequently reply that it is the blue expanse above. His worship is, therefore, in harmony with nature, either individually or collectively. His creed may be described in Emersonian phrases as "one with the blowing clover and the falling rain." In other words, he is a pantheist.

HIS FIRST FIRE ASSIGNMENT.

Excuse of a New Reporter for Neglecting Duty.

"Say, hustle down to the stock yards right away," said the city editor to the new reporter. "There's a fire down there. It may turn into something big, but even if it doesn't we want a good little story on it anyhow."

The new reporter shot out of the door, with perspiration starting at every pore. The fire did not turn out to be a great conflagration, so no more reporters were sent down to the yards to take care of it. The city editor depended upon his new man for the story. But for some unaccountable reason the reporter failed to return to the office and the paper had to go to press without the account of the fire.

The next day about noon the new man strolled leisurely into the office entirely unprepared for the thunderstorm that broke over his head as soon as the city editor caught sight of him.

"Say, what the dickens is the matter with you anyhow?" said the editor. "Why didn't you write up that fire that I told you to?"

"Why," gasped the youth, "there wasn't any use to write it up, everybody was there and saw it." —Chicago Chronicle.

Primitive Methods in Corea.

Individual missionaries and mechanics have trained Corean carpenters in the use of American tools, but as a rule they prefer their old-style planes, which they draw toward them in planing, and like best to use their own saws, which necessitate the employment of two men sitting opposite each other on the ground and operating the saw on the stick or timber, which is held in place by the feet of the operators. In spite of these apparently clumsy methods the Corean carpenters do very fair work.

Long-Range Photography.

Captain Gentilli, an Italian officer who has been experimenting in long-distance photography, has discovered a means of taking photographs at a distance of many miles. By this means it has been possible to photograph fortresses from a distance of eleven miles and masses of troops at a distance of eighteen miles. Captain Gentilli's invention is likely to become of considerable importance from the military point of view.

An Element Instead of a Virtue.

Sincerity is no single virtue to be classed with others and ranked above and below them. It is rather an element running through character and life, as the sap runs through the tree, giving life and vigor to every branch and a tender beauty to every leaf and blossom. Let us cherish it as the deepest principle of our hearts and the most vital element of our lives.

Coinage of Gold Pieces.

The United States never coined gold pieces of a higher denomination than \$20. Some years ago a jeweler at San Francisco struck gold pieces of the value of \$50, but that was on private account.

Remarkably Good.

"I saw the bishop sprinting for a car to-day with a bag of golf clubs on his arm. Does he play a good game?"
"Good? You bet it's good! goody-good. Why, 'Pshaw' is about his limit." —Puck.

With the waning of the honeymoon the misguided man discovers that the coming woman has arrived.