

TOLEDO..... OREGON.

The greatest book of the century, says an exchange, is the check book.

Now that even telephoning without wires is spoken of, there's certainly something in the air.

It must be quite unhealthful to live over 100 years, judging from the way persons above the age are dying off.

The general impression seems to be that the world's nineteenth-century run was a very fair accomplishment.

A vaudeville trust has been organized, but there is little reason to hope that it will throw out any of the old jokes.

Does Ignatius Donnelly know absolutely now whether there really was a Baconian cipher in Mr. Shakspeare's plays or not?

Instead of giving the expression a bicycle flavor by remarking a man has wheels, the up-to-date terms is he's off on his automobile.

The man who invented the photographic film died the other day in New Jersey. To the uninitiated this may seem like a thin excuse for fame.

People are so impressed with the wondrous possibilities of the new century they are asking where will they end. About the only answer at hand is they'll end in precisely a hundred years from date.

It conveys a rather striking idea of the growth of the country in population to consider that the two States of Iowa and Minnesota contain together more inhabitants than did the country over which Washington became President in 1789.

With a man dead from being hanged in a joke and a woman killed by sitting down at a chair that was pulled away, we do not need a didn't-know-it-was-loaded case to remind us that some folk are getting just too funny for anything but the penitentiary.

The first American deep-sea cable was laid last summer across one of the broad Alaskan bays, and the work of continuing the connecting land line up the Yukon valley is now going forward. Iron masts are used in place of timber. A hole is chopped in the eternal ice, and the pole soon firmly set by pouring a little water around it into the hole. This rapidly congeals, and unless disturbed in some other way will remain frozen forever. Evidently, "unstable as water, thou shalt not excel," was not spoken of Alaska!

Heredity does not determine courage, or its opposite, but the constitutional tendency may be clearly marked through generations. A recent rescue of shipwrecked persons off Grand Manan is the subject of a report from our consul at St. John, New Brunswick. During a period of more than seventy-five years, grandfather, father and sons of a certain family have repeatedly saved life or piloted vessels out of danger. It is said that the Canadian government is to give the rescuers suitable testimonials. The whole world is a debtor to its heroes of peace. To strengthen the courageous purpose of others by brave doing or enduring is to fulfill one purpose of living.

It cannot possibly "make a man" of a boy to pour a peppery sauce down his throat; to pour hot grease on his feet; to pull him at night out of bed into the dirt and mire of the street; to compel him to persist in a gesture or movement till he faints from agony; to make him stand on his head in a bathtub; or ride logs and slug senseless verses; to goad him into offensive replies and then challenge him to fight a higher-class man of more experience, with the result of being knocked out by a blow in the stomach and disfigured with cuts about the face; to bedevil him night and day so that his nerves shall be unstrung and study and success in examinations will become impossible, causing him to be expelled finally.

An illustration of the present eagerness of practically all nations for oceanic islands is furnished by France in its attempt at introducing sheep-raising on Kerguelen Island, about half way between Africa and Australia. These new sheep-raisers will be nearer the south pole than any other Pacific Islanders and the most southerly people on an oceanic island. The island of Kerguelen for many years was claimed by both British and French geographers, but as it was not supposed to be of any special value no steps were taken by either government for the formal occupation of the lonely isle. In 1893 France formally annexed the island, owing to accounts from the French island of Reunion. Inhabitants of the latter found that Kerguelen had an abundance of fish, that it was a re-

sea lions, valuable on account of; that there were a number harbors, that lignite for fuel was found. Moreover, as the isles near the sailing route between Australia, the East Indies and Chinese waters, it would be a good place for a supply station. Although the annual temperature is only 10 or 12 degrees above the freezing point there is a strip or zone of grass on the island, and now the attempt will be made to begin the sheep-raising industry. If this can be combined with the other advantages there will at least be a chance for hardy colonists to make a living on this otherwise desolate isle.

A novel case has been decided by a New York court. A passenger brought suit against the New York Central Railroad for being deprived of his seat in the car. The question involved was whether a man, when he puts his valise or any hand baggage into a seat, thereby reserving it for his own occupancy, is legally and morally entitled to it. The court decided that when a passenger buys a ticket he presumes that he is to get a seat, and unless there is some unusual condition he is legally entitled to it. If he enters an ordinary coach where no seats are reserved and there is no trainman to usher him to a seat, it is the custom of railway companies to allow the passenger to choose his own seat. This practically amounts to a regulation of the company. Therefore, the court ruled, if a person occupied a seat and then for any reason left it without in some way marking it as reserved by himself and returned to find it occupied by another passenger, he has no right to ask that passenger to give up the seat. If, however, he leaves his cane, umbrella or hand bag in his seat when he goes to the platform to buy a paper, or for any purpose, and finds his baggage moved and the seat occupied by another, he has a legal right as well as moral right to that seat. The court further held that a passenger was entitled to but one seat, and could not reserve one seat in an ordinary coach while occupying another seat in a smoking car. This decides a point which has been raised thousands of times on railway trains.

In its broadest statement the problem of the world's economy is to develop and give scope of individual originality, the benefits of whose exercise are registered in individual character as well as in objective results. The English economist, Marshall, however, declares that one-half of the power of human initiative is suppressed by the present social order, and it is not difficult to accept the statement. The happy instances where individuals manipulate circumstances so as to bring out striking results are rendered the more conspicuous by the number of other individuals who entirely fail not only of such achievement but of anything comparable thereto. And yet it is known that these others grade only somewhat below the first in capacity. Of all the stupendous waste exhibited in the physical and moral world this is perhaps the most tragic in character and consequences. Yet it is enacted unobtrusively and with little dramatic effect. It is typified by the circumscribed career of the working class boy who, at 14 years, passes from the influence of the "graded" system of education to "tend a machine" for ten hours a day. The lot of the few who enjoy more elastic and extended educational opportunities and a more adequate field of action thereafter is more in the public eye. Theirs, however, is not the lot of "the great majority." Among the latter there is no inconsiderable proportion whose power of individual initiative is but meagerly developed and whose potential contribution to the world's enterprise is never realized. There can be no doubt that the dominant aim of the century which has just closed has been commercial rather than humanistic. It has been the century of wealth-making. It has launched an entire series of world's fairs. It has established free public schools and abolished slavery, both of which acts mean accelerated material development. It has built great cities with their lack of art. It has gone haltingly forward with its newly demanded factory laws. It has neglected persons as conscious objects. It has trusted for salvation to the instinct of gain. It has—perhaps with some twinges of conscience—assured all men that the current waste of flesh and brain was inevitable and that there could be no better way. The problem of this century is to work out that higher economy in which there shall not only be a still better directed effort to effect material saving but in which the emphasis shall be shifted from the material product to the human agent—in which social advance rather than the instinct of profit-making or even of vast organization shall more effectually dictate action. This does not mean the retarding of material progress. Quite the contrary. The better the man the better his product. And a century whose conscious effort shall be to make all existing progress converge upon the development of its people and upon insuring scope to their capacities will realize a peculiar quality and profusion of productive expression.

Science AND INVENTION

Telephonic communication has been established between St. Michael and Nome by means of a temporary submarine cable. The toll is \$2 for ten words.

It has been demonstrated by actual experiments, observes Science and Industry, that many of our wild forest plants produce seeds that when buried in the earth retain vitality for ten to thirty years.

Recently an institution was opened in Belgium for the alleged cure of tuberculosis by the exclusive raw meat diet. After a trial of a few months the experiment was abandoned, as it was found that there was no efficacy in the Richet cure.

Various scientific departments in England recently held a conference in which they sought to obtain government powers for protecting the delicate instruments in the Kew and Greenwich observatories from any magnetic disturbances that arise from the working of electric tramways and railways in their vicinity.

The humming noise produced by the bees and flies expresses a musical notation. Thus the common house fly often produces the sound F. In order to do this the creature must vibrate its wings 21,120 times a minute or 335 times a second. The honey bee frequently produces the sound A, and vibrates its wings 26,400 times a minute or 440 times a second. In this way one can ascertain the number of vibrations the little creatures are producing with their wings by finding out what note they are humming.

The Rev. J. M. Bacon, F. R. S., proposes to make a balloon ascent during one of the thick, impenetrable fogs which visit London during the winter months. He proposes to ascend to the higher limits of the fog and to explore scientifically its constitution. He also proposes to discharge small cartridges of gun cotton at great heights, in order to ascertain whether the concussion will dislodge or disperse the fog in any way. He has carried out several experiments with similar cartridges for acoustical purposes, at varying altitudes.

Mr. E. N. Buxton, in discussing the question of the preservation of big game in Africa, points out the great difficulty of protecting elephants, on account of the high market value of their tusks, and then avers that personally he is opposed to the destruction of elephants at all, on the ground that, valuable as they are for their ivory, they might be still more valuable as weight carriers. The idea of employing elephants as domestic animals of burden is not new, and many have testified to the patient and effective manner in which they apply their enormous strength in the service of man.

An age as great as 5,000 years has sometimes been ascribed to the giant trees of California. Prof. Charles E. Bessey, of the University of Nebraska, regards this estimate as very much exaggerated. He says that he once counted with great care the rings of growth of a tree felled in 1853, and which was fully 24 or 25 feet in diameter, so that its stump served as the floor of a dancing pavilion. The rings numbered 1,147, and that number would represent the age of the tree in years. Prof. Bessey adds that he gravely doubts whether any of the existing trees approach the age of 2,000 years.

TOLD BY THE OLD CIRCUS MAN.

Giant Has a Little Fun on His Own Account with Bootblacks. "Sometimes," said the old circus man, "the greatest of all giants would have a little fun on his own account; mebbe with the bootblacks. I don't suppose that anything ever feazed a bootblack, probably he'd offer to black the boots of a man tall as a church steeple and with shoes as big as the meeting house if one came his way; but, anyhow, the bootblacks used to offer to black the giant's shoes when the great man took his walk through the town, just as they would offer to black any man's. "Sometimes the giant would look down on the boy and then at his own shoes, and then back up against the sidewalk of some building somewhere, where there was room and no awnings in the way, and get his shoes blacked. The giant always considered it a sort of joke on the boys to accept their offer, but the boys never appeared to be put out by it; on the contrary, they were always ready, as they would have been, as I said, if he had been twice as big. And it was more fun than you could shake a stick at to see the way they went at it, and the giant enjoyed this as much as anybody. "Of course, no one box would support the giant's foot, unless he balanced it on it very carefully, and the boy that got the job always, invariably, called in other boys—all the bootblacks in that town were sure to be right around there, and I've often seen five bootblack boxes under one of the giant's feet at one time, and five boys at work

on that one shoe. They'd get the giant to raise that foot, and then they'd put four boxes under the sole and one by itself under the heel. And then they'd get at it. The boy with the heel box would stay at that end and black the heel and rear end of the shoe. The boys, one on each side, with the two boxes: under the sole nearest the shank of the shoe, would work on the sides of the shoe from the shank up, and the two boys with the boxes at the forward end, one of these always being the boy that had struck the job, would bang away on the upper.

"With so many of 'em at it at once they'd make a fairly quick job of it, notwithstanding the size of the giant's shoes, and when they'd got through the four boys that had been called in would shoulder their kits and step away, unconcerned as could be, and the boy that had got the job would shoulder his kit and wait for his pay. Three cents was the price of a shine in those days—this was before the war—and I don't doubt the boy would have taken 3 cents for this job and never said boo. But there was not anything mean or small about the giant. He didn't give the boy 3 cents and pass on, nor 3 cents to bother him a little, and then give him a quarter; but he'd just hand him down five passes to the show, one for each boy.

"Of course, he couldn't have done anything that would give the boys more pleasure. And the whole business was a great experience for them. They got passes to the show, and they got them from the giant, and they were easily the star bootblacks in the town, for they had just successfully completed the greatest job in their line that anybody had ever heard of. It was fun, all this, for the great giant, but I don't believe any of us could compute, if we tried, the deep-down joy it gave the bootblacks."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

AMERICANS ARE FAR AHEAD

Machinists of This Country Have No Equals in Any Other Land.

One of the greatest obstacles to the general introduction of American machine tools into continental Europe is the ignorance of the average European machinist. This is especially true of the higher classes of machine tools. The intelligence which enables an American mechanic to understand and operate a machine seems to be dormant or entirely wanting in his European brother. The American Manufacturer quotes the sales manager of one of the leading manufacturing of machine tools in this country as saying:

"Install a fine machine in a shop on the continent, and unless the maker has sent with it from the works an expert to break the dunderheads into the using of it the chances are three to one that the perfect mechanism will be a wreck inside of forty-eight hours after the power is applied to it. Accustomed to work with tools that are crude and simple, compared with the ingenious and intricate American inventions, the operating machinists of Europe are slow to comprehend the latter and often do them a lot of damage by stupid handling. These facts are so well recognized by our machine tool builders that when giving an estimate on any considerable amount of work care is had to add enough to the price to cover the sending of a man, or men, to install the machines and stay with them until they have proved their merits."

Conundrums

What is higher and handsomer when the head is off? A pillow. When is a lady's arm not a lady's arm? When it is a little bare? What is that which cats have that nothing else has? Kittens. When may a chair be said to dislike you? When it can't bear you. What sort of countenance is welcome to an auctioneer? One that is forbidding. What does a lamp-post become when the lamp is removed? A lamp lighter. Where was Napoleon going when he was 30 years old? Into his fortieth. What letter in the alphabet is most useful to a deaf woman? A, because it makes her hear. Why is a clock a symbol of modesty? Because it covers its face with its hands and runs down its own works. What nation does a criminal dread most? Condemnation. Why was the first day of Adam's life the longest ever known? Because it had no eye. What did the spider do when he came out of the ark? Took a fly and went home.

Archbishop's Apt Retort.

The archbishop of Dublin recently performed a marriage in the family of a wealthy Irish distiller. After the breakfast the distiller thanked the archbishop effusively for his share of the proceedings and said to him as he took his leave, "The Lord be with you." "And with thy spirit," is reported to have been the rejoinder.

A wise old tiller of the soil speaking of the relative value of grains says grains of common sense are the most valuable.

When a woman discloses a secret it is always with telling effect.

YOUNG VIOLINIST.

Little Chicago Girl Who Pays the Most Difficult Music at Sight. Little 7-year-old Mabel Woodworth of Chicago, is something of a musical prodigy. She plays the violin and plays it in a manner to cause some professionals of three times her years to wonder and envy. Mabel is small for her age, really appearing to be not over 5, and she performs on a little violin that was made to order, so that her tiny fingers could manage all the strings easily. Recently her parents have recognized the child's marked musical ability and are now giving her the advantages of instruction under one of the best professors in the city. Mabel has already played a good deal in public.



MABEL WOODWORTH.

particularly at church and lodge concerts, and she never fails to elicit the plaudits of her audience. She reads the most difficult music at sight and will be a wonderful player not many years hence if she continues to practice as faithfully as she does now.

Gravedigger Lost His Job.

"When I was a boy," said the veteran, as he puffed on his strong cigar after dinner, "I remember there was an awful scandal in our town—a little country place—because a temporary gravedigger, who had been hired to do the work when the regular hand was ill, buried a man with his feet to the west. Ours was a religious, as well as a superstitious, town. Among the older people there was a well-grounded belief that a person must be interred with his feet to the east, so that when Gabriel's trumpet should sound for the final awakening the dead should be able to face the angel on arising. This new gravedigger couldn't have known the tradition, or he would not have flown in the face of superstition and buried his victim with his feet to the west. The thing made such a scandal that they actually disinterred the body and turned the coffin around so that the dead man should rest in the right position. Of course, the new gravedigger lost his job. I don't know that I have thought of the incident for a long time, until I had to go to Woodlawn cemetery a short time ago to attend the burial of a friend. Then, for the first time, it dawned on me that there had been a change in the superstition, and that it had probably been wholly lost to sight, as have so many of the old ones. I noticed that the direction in which bodies are buried now seems to be settled by the direction of the path in front of the plat you own; that is, that interments are made with the feet pointing toward the path, no matter in what compass direction they may point."—New York Times.

Bad for the Counsel.

The fair plaintiff's counsel in the breach of promise case thought that he would make life a burden to the unfortunate young man who was the unwilling defendant. "Do you mean to say," he asked after a lot of embarrassing questions, "that after you had been absent for an entire month you did not kiss the plaintiff, to whom you were engaged to be married, when you first saw her on your return?" "I do," responded the defendant firmly. "Will you make that statement to the jury?" "Certainly, if necessary." "Do you think they would believe you?" "One of them would, I know." "Ah, indeed! Why should he?" "Because he was present when I first saw her. He was at the gate when I rode up, and she stuck her hand out of the second-story window, and I asked her, 'How d'ye do?' and said I'd be back to supper in half an hour. I'm no giraffe."—New York World.

Divorce Laws in Canada.

In Canada the man or woman who wants to sever the bonds of matrimony must go before the dominion parliament, when the committee on divorce in the Senate takes up the case and goes over the details very thoroughly, and if, in the opinion of the committee, the testimony warrants the granting of a divorce, the report to that effect is made and both houses concur in a bill giving the required relief.

Lost wealth may be recovered, but lost time never.