

LINCOLN COUNTY LEADER

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TOLEDO.....OREGON

No use trying to acquire the balloon habit unless you are high minded.

"We fear no quakes," is the new motto of the city of San Francisco.

The best sermon is the one that goes over your own head and hits the other fellow.

The formation of a circus trust will not deter the urchin from crawling under the canvas.

According to some ideas, the sweet girl graduates are sweet enough to establish a sugar trust.

It seems to be as difficult to get the Panama canal through Congress as it is to get it through the isthmus.

King Alfonso is determined to suppress the anarchists. The anarchists have the same intention regarding Alfonso.

Mme. Bernhardt in leaving said America's taste had much improved—she had much more appreciative audiences.

King Haakon of Norway will no doubt regard with due suspicion the thoughtful subject who offers to present him a bouquet.

Louisville is arranging to put in a \$1,500,000 filtering plant. The colonels want their little children to have wholesome drinking fluid.

A St. Louis man killed himself because he caught only three small fish after a whole day's angling. The silly season has been fairly inaugurated.

As long as the Fort Howard artillerymen can hit a moving target with every shot, we may expect to see the "Star-Spangled Banner" still wave.

An exchange declares that President Roosevelt could not possibly spend \$25,000 a year in traveling. Did its esteemed editor ever travel much by special train?

In discouraging the use of Niagara Falls for electrical power, it might also be a good idea to shut down on the move to make the Falls the headquarters for suicides.

Over in London the authorities are talking about locking up all anarchists. When they begin we shall probably receive definite information as to what constitutes an anarchist.

Senator Elkins says there is no satisfaction in having great wealth. Perhaps he is merely trying to induce his rich and aged father-in-law to distribute it among his children without waiting to die.

No enterprising town considers it good form to advertise a fireworks display costing less than \$1,000. The fact that there is a heavy discount on fireworks helps to relieve the strain on the conscience of the committee on advertising.

Letters are written more frequently by Americans than by the people of any other country save Great Britain, according to a recent report of the Universal Postal Union. The New Zealanders come third in letter-writing activity, the Germans fifth, and the Frenchmen thirteenth.

Whatever may be said of the languor of royalty in general, no charge of idleness can be brought against that energetic young man, the Duke of Abruzzi. Two or three years ago he was far up in the frozen north seeking the pole, and if memory be not at fault he attained the highest latitude achieved by polar explorers. Just now he is in the heart of equatorial Africa, bent upon scaling the highest peak on the continent. What he will do next is only to be guessed at, but his history thus far warrants the prediction that the future will not find him "loafing around the throne." He is too vivacious for that.

Interest in the protection of bird life has spread rapidly in the United States. A number of States have enacted laws making it unlawful to trim hats with birds or wings. The wanton killing had reached a point where American birds were actually in danger of extermination. The great majority of women whose love of display had led them to purchase bird-trimmed hats have joined in the movement when the wholesale slaughter has been brought to their attention. Not alone on esthetic grounds should the birds be protected. They are with few exceptions useful friends of the farmers. Agriculturists, too prone to note the grain stolen and the fruit pecked by little bills, give no credit for the myriads of insect pests destroyed by the feathered marauders.

They see the small damage, but overlook the great good done by the birds.

If the horrors of Bialystok are permitted or condoned by the present Russian government on the theory that they will serve in the eyes of the world as an excuse for the use of more repression and perhaps the prorogation of parliament, it will find itself in error too late. The civilized world stands to-day horror stricken, but its condemnation centers upon a regime that is daily proving its moral callousness and its utter incompetence to carry on the business of a modern State. It is said that the British foreign office is being petitioned to make representations to the Russian government on this world-disturbing subject. It is not likely that international diplomatic etiquette will permit such action; but if it can be taken, the American people will wish to have its government add its influence also. It is a disgrace to civilization that such outrages should be permitted. Nothing could be more essentially anarchical than the policy or arbitrary want of policy which seems to characterize the present Russian administration. It is a condition that cannot continue and will be ended, it now seems probable, in the throes of revolution. History has never recorded a more incompetent handling of a great crisis than that of the weakling Czar and his reactionary court.

The accredited maxims all spur men to labor. The books are full of illustrious examples of the value of incessant toil. What we need is more of the gospel of rest. Interest in work, the desire to be constantly doing, love of industry for its own sake or for its rewards keep many restlessly busy until nature calls a halt, and the man of ceaseless activity wears out and retires from the active scene. Yes; it is "better to wear out than rust out;" but a stop now and then for oiling up lessens both the wear and the rust. There are sports that kill and there are labors, too, that destroy life. The prudent man will see to it that sufficient time is allotted every day and every year to rest and rational enjoyment that is recreative and life-giving. Stevenson wrote a gentle satire, containing much shrewd wisdom, entitled "An Apology for Idlers," in which he says, among other equally good things: "Perpetual devotion to what a man calls his business is only to be sustained by perpetual neglect of many other things. And it is not by any means certain that a man's business is the most important thing he has to do. To an impartial estimate it will seem clear that many of the wisest, most virtuous and beneficial parts that are to be played upon the theater of life are filled by gratuitous performers, and pass among the world as phases of idleness." It is refreshing to listen now and then to so distinguished an apologist and exemplar of idleness. Amusement is an important part of education. Relaxation is one of the main duties of life. Recreation is not wasting time, but economizing life.

READING HABIT IN AUSTRALIA.

Literature of All Kinds Is Greatly in Demand There.

Australasia is in a peculiar position so far as her literature is concerned, says the Review of Reviews. Owing to the fact that English is the language spoken, the reading public can obtain its supplies from three quite independent and distinct sources—from Great Britain, from the United States, and from local sources. The result is that Australians are the greatest readers on the face of the globe, and New Zealanders are even more so. Periodicals and other publications are untaxed, and the copyright laws are little understood and less enforced, so that on a typical Australian bookstall the most cosmopolitan conglomeration of literature imaginable can be seen.

Australia, being so far from the rest of the English-speaking world, has to rely upon local effort for her daily and weekly publications. In this field Australians have shown that they can bring out newspapers which can bear a most favorable comparison with similar publications either in Great Britain or America. The same may be said of the weeklies. It is in magazines and books that the torrent of outside literature has been too great to allow of much local production.

The inhabitants of Australia number only 4,000,000. Had these been scattered over the huge continent, almost as large as the United States, no daily paper of any size could have existed. It happens, however—unfortunately, perhaps, for Australia—that more than one-quarter of the people live in two large cities, and a large portion of the remainder in four or five large towns. The daily paper, therefore, has almost as large a constituency as any published for the teeming millions of America and Great Britain.

Cats.

In Medieval times cats were so scarce that to kill one involved a very heavy fine.

When a man gets a chance to dispose of his troubles he always heaps up the measure.

CHANGES IN BIRDS' HABITS.

With New Conditions Come Adaptations Dictated by Reason.

Among the familiar examples of the changes in the habits of birds which have resulted from association with mankind are those of the chimney swift, or popularly named "chimney swallow," which formerly nested in the hollows of trees and now in all settled regions using the chimneys of the houses, and the barn and cave swallows, the former originally nesting in eaves and now building on the beams and rafters of barns, and the latter, once a cliff-dweller, now attaching its curious mud tenement under the shelter of the eaves of barns and dwellings.

In a series of interesting notes in the Auk on the changes in the habits of birds George F. Breninger records having observed in Mexico the old and the new way of swallow-nesting. In the ancient town of Tuxpan he found numerous instances of barn swallows nesting in the living-rooms, and in the unsettled portions of the State of Chihuahua, 100 miles back from the railroad on one of the large haciendas—a region devoid of the time-honored adobes—barn swallows still nested on the rocks.

Mr. Breninger notes other changes in the nesting habits due to the removal of large timber. There is, for example, the Lucy's warbler, which normally nests in natural cavities in the trunks of trees, most commonly in the mesquite, but in the vicinity of Tucson, where the larger trees have been cut away, the warblers have in some instances had recourse to rebuilding their nests in the abandoned nests of other species, and, most curious of all, among the small limbs of a mesquite tree.

In timbered countries the flickers cut holes in the trunks of trees for their nests. In some sections, where the large trees have been removed and the flickers have no longer such nesting sites, they have taken to the telegraph poles. "Along the railroad between Benson and Bisbee, Ariz.," writes Mr. Breninger, "the telegraph poles and fence posts show evidence of the work of woodpeckers, all by the Texan woodpecker. Throughout this region trees are few and the woodpeckers are forced to use anything that is dead and large enough to permit of a nesting cavity being excavated in it. Dead stalks of the century plant are often used. About Phoenix, Ariz., this woodpecker is common. Timber for their needs is still in abundance and the poles along the railroads and elsewhere are untouched. In some parts of Mexico the work of woodpeckers on telegraph poles has reached the stage of a nuisance and a source of much outlay of money to keep the line in repair. Over a piece of road running between San Luis Potosi and Tampico the nuisance has become so great that the management threatened to dip the poles in a solution of creosote."—Forest and Stream.

Insistent Politeness.

Good-tempered, kind-hearted, and liked even by the Russians, is the description which the author of "With Russian, Japanese and Chunchuse" applies to the Japanese soldier. He also gives an illustration of the determination of the Japanese, even when the object is courtesy.

When, after the Battle of Tashliechia, the Russian garrison evacuated Niu-chwang by order of General Kuropatkin, the Japanese were not long in taking command of the place. Two scouts were the first to enter the town. They rode straight to the civil administration buildings. There, in one of the smaller rooms, they came upon a Russian soldier who had managed to get left behind his brothers-in-arms. He slowly rose from behind some furniture and faced his captors. They smiled amiably at him, and, reassured, he pulled off his cap and commenced to fan himself with it.

Now it is a common custom for the Japanese soldier, in war and peace, to carry about with him in the hot weather a small fan. On this occasion a fan was forthcoming, and handed to the Russian.

He refused to take it, preferring to use the cap.

Still with an amiable smile on his face, one of the Japanese, a short man with abnormally broad shoulders, again proffered the rejected fan with the left hand, at the same time covering him with a revolver.

The captive took the gift without further reluctance and fanned himself with vigor. It cooled him far more than the cap.

Bird Surgeons.

Certain birds seem to possess a remarkable instinct for surgery. The woodcock, the partridge and some others are said to be able to dress their wounds with considerable skill. A naturalist observes that he has shot several woodcock that were recovering from wounds previously received. In every instance he found the injury neatly dressed with down plucked from the stems of feathers and skillfully arranged over the wound, evidently by the long beak of the bird. In other cases ligatures had been applied to wounded or broken limbs.

TURNED LOOSE ON THE WORLD.



LUZON'S LONGEST RAILWAY.

New Government Line Runs Through a Fertile Country.

The longest railway in the Philippines will be the government line leading through the wonderfully fertile interior of Luzon from Manila to Aparri, the northernmost port of the island. It will be, as it were, the great transcontinental system in the islands.

The survey calls for a line 336 miles in length. With the exception of one difficult grade, the road will be comparatively level, and trains should make the trip in ten hours. Recently the writer traveled over the line of this survey on horseback. In all the trip there was only seen one hillside of about three acres which was barren land, and here it was being worked for a lime quarry.

From Manila the road will run northeast 125 miles through the valley of the Pamanga to the Caraballo Mountains, which run north and south from ten to thirty miles from the west



LUZON RAILWAY ROUTE.

coast of Luzon. It will cross these mountains over the South Caraballo pass, elevation 3,750 feet. The summits are covered with immense hardwood trees.

The railroad will climb for thirty-five or forty miles through these mountains. The country reminds one of the Cumberland mountains of Tennessee. There are occasional little settlements in the valleys where the Indians—Igorrotes from Benguet Province—grow coffee. Every little farm is protected with a bamboo fence to keep out the deer and wild boar. There are no native Tagalogs dwelling in the mountains. These Indians are stronger and more industrious than the Filipino of the plains.

About twenty-five miles above Bambang in Nueva Vizcaya Province the survey strikes a tributary of the Magat River at an altitude of a little more than 2,500 feet. From this point until near Aparri there is an almost imperceptible decline in the grade.

Bambang is the prettiest little town in the Philippine Islands. The people are "pacificos" and took no part in the insurrection. Only one company of American troops has ever been in Bambang. Fifty years ago the Spanish built great cathedrals and bridges and improved the roads. The country is rolling and the valley is open. The long, low, slanting foothills are densely covered with timber. The country is capable of supporting an immense population.

From Bambang the railroad will run almost directly east down the Magat Valley to the Cagayan Valley, fifty-nine miles by the rail, then down the

Cagayan Valley almost due north to Aparri.

In all this traveling one is impressed by the fact that the Philippine Islands still possess vast stretches of immensely fertile but unsettled country.

CARELESSNESS IN AMERICA.

Larger Percentage of Accidents than in Other Lands.

Our national carelessness is the explanation given by the Literary Digest for our dreadful record of accidents, says American Medicine. In reviewing an article by G. E. Walsh upon accident-preventing devices in America (Cassier's magazine), it is shown that we stand first in the world in the accident record and that the rule seems to apply to all trades and professions. The proportion of miners killed, for instance, is nearly treble that in France, and about double that in other European countries. For every five men killed by accident in the United States there are only three in all nations of Europe combined. Our railroads alone kill twenty-one people every day. The remarkable fact is brought out that we lead the world in the invention of accident-preventing devices, and adopt fewer of them than any other country. Indeed, many of the inventions travel to Europe for recognition and adoption. It is claimed that our workmen will not use the safety devices, as something childish, but prefer to run the risk like men. This is true, but it is also true of European workmen. Indeed, the old story of the safety lamp in mines shows that accustomed dangers are forgotten or minimized.

Permanent "museums of security," such as that in Amsterdam, Walsh says, should be established. In these there are on constant exhibition every conceivable device for lessening risk to life from accident. They will educate the public, and the workmen will gradually be brought to the point of demanding protection. It is suggested that employers be held to a stricter accountability and be compelled by law to safeguard employes, as in Europe, but it can be replied that American workmen will not submit to restrictions easily imposed in Europe. They are free agents, with a right to kill themselves, if they please, or injure others. No man is his brother's keeper here, and this is probably the real basis for our national disregard of the rights of others. It is more than carelessness.

The surgeons of the country see all these accidents, and carefully investigate each case. It seems reasonable to suggest that they should be able to see the causes and suggest remedies. Knowing more of the matter than any other body of men, can they not take some concerted action which would make life safer in America?

American disregard for human life is the fact which seems to impress European visitors more profoundly than any other characteristic. Since we claim to be the most democratic people on earth, it seems remarkable that with more power in our hands than any other nation, we are unable to safeguard ourselves to anything like the extent accomplished by monarchic nations of the enlightened parts of Europe.

Stopped Walking.

"I suppose your husband hasn't done much walking since he bought his new auto?"

"No, indeed. He broke his leg the first time he went out in it."—Cleveland Leader.

When people want to say real mean things about a druggist they accuse him of charging-for sample bottles of medicine.