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WEATHER.

Oregon and Washington - Rain; cooler in interior.

IT'S BARELY POSSIBLE.

If Meyer Wise succeeds in getting three or four of these improvement clubs organized and at work, it is barely possible there may be developed a morsel of that Astoria initiative which is so essential and so difficult to find.

"LEST WE FORGET."

Without any desire to prompt the council prematurely, nor unnecessarily, but lest it be entirely forgotten, we respectfully suggest that this city is overrun with a lot of beastly slot machines, the pettiest, nastiest, lowest phase of gambling ever devised.

THE 1905 JOKE.

The joke which has been going about the country ever since 1906 came in has finally been exploded, so to speak, except possibly in the remote regions of the United States.

very rare. That puts lots of folks on the "qui vive." There was quite an influx of new subsidiary coin, all bright and shining, with last year's date, soon after New Year's day, and naturally the unsuspecting, because uninformed, were eagerly scanning their "pile" for the "dollar of our daddies" brought up to date.

"THE SKEETERS BIT."

The oldest inhabitant came into "The Lewiston (Me.) Journal" office the other day, and remarked that as an average winter this was exceedingly severe. "Speaking of warm winters," said he, "do you recall the winter of 1832? In that winter I went to school from December until March barefoot, with nothing on but linen pants and a cotton shirt.

FOOTBALL IN CHINA.

Football is being so generally denounced in this country that it is refreshing to find a part of the world where it is looked upon with favor and where its growing popularity is regarded as a happy augury of civilization.

EDITORIAL SALAD.

Benjamin Franklin's grave is neglected, but his memory is kept green.

The crying need of the times is a combination automobile and airship.

The kaiser remains optimistic. The more whacks our president gets the more optimistic becomes the kaiser.

Our warships made a good impression at Gibraltar. It might not be so easy to make an impression on it.

That was good Boston French Governor Guild used in congratulating the new president of France.

Brimmagem Joe probably does not now regard it as very important whether he convinces Mr. Balfour or not.

When Senator Tillman suspects anybody of being below his level he always proceeds to get even with him.

Evidently they have the same kind of job to give out in France, but over there they make it sound better by calling it President instead of Vice-President.

Having voted for a sensible lower tariff bill, the Democratic Congressmen are anxious to keep their record straight by proving they are ashamed of it.

Poultney Bigelow is now giving college lectures about Panama. The vaudeville managers sometimes get beaten in the race for attractions.

The merchants of Manila think they see a profit in the increase of the army in the Philippines. Somebody will be pleased, then, by the order.

The gossip about the crops is beginning to form an important part of the conversation at the afternoon tea parties in the Stock Exchange.

The Carnegie Hero Fund Commission has rejected the claims of all rescuers in the Slocum case. The great disaster seems to have had not even the saving grace of heroism to relieve its blackness.

President Castro of Venezuela is going to have the pleasure of seeing a foreign naval parade made up exclusively of French ships. Won't Abdul Hamid be envious?

There isn't much said about it, but the manner in which King Edward keeps his kingdom out of the embroilment of

European States marks him as one of the great rulers.

Poultney Bigelow is placed in the position of a man blown up by one of his own magazine articles that he thought he had prepared with a non-inflammable fuse.

Dr. Hulbert, of the University of Chicago, thinks football is too good a game to lose. Yes. It is also too good a game to be commercialized and brutalized as it has been in late years.

Though the House of Representatives "insurgents" thundered in the index, like General Bingham's nine separate gods of war, they didn't carry any seals home when it came to harmonizing performance with promise.

The collapse of the Dominican insurrection and the complete confirmation of the constitutional government by the republic—a government that seems not for a moment to have been in danger—should be regarded as an ample answer to Senator Tillman's inquiry concerning the whereabouts of authority when Carlos Morales got off the perch.

Sir A. Conan Doyle has shared the fate of many other conservative statesmen in Great Britain and has been elected to stay at home from Parliament. Many readers will sympathize with him in his disappointment, but they will not be altogether disconsolate so long as "Sir Nigel" keeps on his conquering way.

The recent bereavement of America in the loss of a distinguished Secretary of State will make sympathy with the Germany Empire prompt and deep in the similar loss which it has just sustained. Baron von Richthofen was not as well known to Americans as some of his predecessors and colleagues have been, but he was a competent, indefatigable and loyal servant of the imperial crown and a contributor in no small degree to the superb development of German interests during the last thirty years.

PARISH REGISTERS.

The Sort of Entries They Kept in the Old Days in England.

A vicar, John Printer of Worle, is accused in 1584 of having got so drunk "at a Tavern in London, being the house and sign of the Swann in old Fysh Street," that he had to be "carried to his Lodging, or some other convenient place, (he) being so dronck, not hable hym-self to goe"—that is, walk. He is also charged with being "a common player at Bowles in the churchyard of Worle (his own parish) and a common haunter of Tavernes alehouses, Bearbeatinge (baiting) and Bul-beatinge, yea, upon the Sabbathdaies, and an usual player at Tables (backgammon) & Cardes in the alehouses and Tavernes."

On Sept. 25, 1621, John Brock of Dundry is presented.

"For usuallie playing of the fines and cudgills in the churchyard theare on Sabbathdaies and hollie daies, as namelie hee, with others, did see uppon St. Marke's daie past, and being reproved by the churchwarden for the same, hee gave him a froward answer sayinge, 'wee are at exercise to doe the kings service, & you will not suffer us, but the whilles you cutt your neighbors throats.'"

"That on Sonndaje, 1 Julij, & on Sonndaje 24 Junij ult. hee, Arthur Payton, and Edward Ward, tayler, did dance in the churchyard thereof," and Richard Hulvord "played upon his instrument to those that usuallie dance in the churchyard theare."—London Academy.

THE BIRD OF DEATH.

It is the Only Venomous Member of the Feathered Tribe.

Among all the thousands of feathered creatures classified by the trained ornithologists but one, the rpr n'doob, or "bird of death," is known to be venomous. This queer and deadly species of the winged and feathered tribe is a native of the island of Papua, or New Guinea. The bird is described as being about the size of a common tame pigeon, of gray plumage and a tail of extraordinary length, ending in a tip of brilliant scarlet red. It is a marsh bird and is found to inhabit only the immense stagnant pools adjoining the lakes of the interior of the island. The rpr has a hooked beak as sharp as a cock's spur and hollow. The venom with which it inoculates is distilled in a set of organs which nature has provided for that purpose and which lie in the upper mandible, just below the openings of the nostrils. Under this poison secreting laboratory in the roof of the mouth is a small fleshy knob. When the bird sets its beak in the flesh of a victim this knob receives a pressure which liberates the venom and inoculates the wound. No man, native or otherwise, was ever known to recover from a bite inflicted by a rpr n'doob. The suffering in such cases is said to be much more agonizing than in cases of rattlesnake and Gila monster bites.

A Persistent Nest Builder.

One of the most energetic nest builders is the marsh wren. In fact, he has the habit to such a degree that he cannot stop with one nest, but goes on building four or five in rapid succession. And there is nothing slovenly about his work either. Look among the cattails in the nearest marsh, even within the limits of a great city, and you will find his little woven balls of reed stems, with a tiny round hole in one side. There is a certain method even in his madness, for the nest in which his wife is brooding her seven or eight eggs is less likely to be found when there are so many empty ones around. Then, too, he uses the others as roosting places for himself.—London Opinion.

Vinegar.

Vinegar is fatal to many kinds of bacteria. We read that during the great plague in London a couple earned fabulous sums in nursing the wealthy and that their own means of defense was swathing the lower part of the face with cloths dipped in strong vinegar. Some one says, "My grandmother used a gargle of salt and pepper with vinegar for all us children, and she didn't have to go to a sanitary club to learn it." True, no doubt, a timely though utterly empirical use of that gargle has saved many lives.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

"Carat" as Applied to Diamonds.

Although the term "carat" is applied to diamonds as well as to gold, it does not mean the same thing. Used with regard to the metal it expresses quality or fineness, 24 carat being pure gold and 22 carat equal to coined gold. But applied to the diamond carat means actual weight, and by this measure 115 1/2 carats are equal to an ounce troy. The value of a diamond is not merely so much per carat, irrespective of size, but increases in an increasing ratio with the weight of the stone.

Sure of Himself.

"I'll give you a position as clerk to start with," said the merchant, "and pay you what you are worth. Is that satisfactory?"

"Oh, perfectly," replied the college graduate, "but—er—do you think the firm can afford it?"—Philadelphia Ledger.

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