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THE HIGHEST POINT OUTWARD THINGS CAN BRING ONE INTO IS CONTENTMENT OF MIND, WITH WHICH NO STATE IS MISERABLE.—SIDNEY.

AN ASTONISHING REPORT.

IT IS UNLIKELY that congress will act favorably on the recent report of the postal commission, but that the commission, composed of senators Penrose, Carter and Clay, and Representatives Overstreet, Gardner and Moon, should have made such a report is astonishing.

One of these congressional censors expressed himself against "the confusion of newspapers and magazine types, and the unhealthy exaggeration of the modern newspaper, especially its Sunday edition," which he said was "a consequence of the expansive power of fiction."

There are some of the provisions of this press-gag bill: The title and date line must appear on every page of every part of a paper. No paper shall consist substantially of fiction, nor carry advertisements covering more than 50 per cent of its surface.

There are other regulations and restrictive provisions, but these will serve to show the nature of the bill. It is indeed a marvel, considering that this is the twentieth century.

can censor and suppress it for anything that does not suit a postmaster-general or any of his assistants who are constituted press censors. The thing is surely an impossibility, and that six members of congress would make such a report probably not a newspaper in the United States would have believed if it were not a duly and officially reported fact, put down in black and white.

DESERVED TO BE KILLED.

THE overwhelming vote by which the proposed amendment to Statement One was killed at Salem is highly creditable to the Oregon senate and reassuring to the people. Statement One is the best provision in the primary law.

INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE.

JOHN F. DRYDEN'S unsuccessful campaign in New Jersey has not only exposed his discreditable public and business character and bared to public gaze the type of man who too often gets into the senate from corporation-ridden states, but has drawn attention to the loot of the public, especially of poor people, under the guise of industrial insurance.

Some states are considering the plan of encouraging wage earners to deposit their little savings in state-controlled banks, where in case of necessity they can withdraw them. Massachusetts has organized a Savings Insurance League, of which ex-Governor Douglas is a member, and concerning the purpose of which he says: "It is intolerable that the working man should be obliged to give up so much of his earnings to obtain a few hundreds of insurance."

The general ratio is the same. During that year 1,247,226 policies were written, and only 60,818 became claims. It collected in premiums, \$241,931 and paid back \$58,616. While all these policies were written and 667 terminated by death, 19,688 others lapsed and forfeited because their holders were either dissatisfied or unable to keep paying.

\$589,000 for advertising, printing, postage and stationery, and \$2,786,765 for the expenses of the home office. The total disbursement was \$20,645,124 and the people who furnished the money got but \$11,544,899.

COAL AND OIL LANDS.

THIS CONGRESS has before it no measure exceeding in importance the bill introduced by Senator La Follette, with the hearty approval of the president, for the retention by the government of all its coal and oil lands that have not yet been disposed of.

It is argued with a great deal of plausibility, to say the least, that if any large proportion of the coal and oil lands of the United States were worked under such conditions there would be no coal trust, and Standard Oil would be a public menace.

President Roosevelt has been so busily engaged making treaties between the Californians and Japanese that he just has not had the time to write his message on the revision of the multiplication table.

With a company of constabulary killed, two American teachers missing, schools and houses burned, and the Pulajanes spreading themselves like

an overshadowing cloud over the Philippines, the indications are that General Wood will have to practice some more pacification with his pen.

IDEAL MARRIAGE.

By Ella Wheeler Wilcox. All love that has not friendship for its base. In like a mansion built upon the sand, though brave its walls as any in the land.

Domestic love and happiness is supposed to be one of the lesser themes to forest: the intellectual mind; subjective religious, social and political questions.

HOW SHE WOULD USE SAGE'S MILLIONS.

By Beatrice Fairfax. Seventy-two little lives are snuffed out every day in New York city. Seventy-two possibilities of great man or womanhood slip out into the vast hereafter. In almost every case the cause of death is attributed to what Mrs. Russell Sage should do with her vast fortune.

Mrs. Sage is a good and wise woman, and I have no doubt she will spend her money in the most far-reaching benefit to humanity.

Amende Honorable. "We want to do the square thing," wrote the editor of the Hickory Ridge Missonian, according to the Chicago Tribune.

February 15 in History. 1719—Louis XV of France born. Died May 10, 1774.

1748—Jeremy Bentham, English philosopher, born June 6, 1748.

1844—Andersonville prison opened for the reception of prisoners.

Elihu Root's Birthday. Elihu Root, secretary of state since July, 1905, was born in Clinton, New York, February 18, 1845.

THE TROUBLE WITH THE RAILROADS.

From Collier's Weekly. Since Mr. James J. Hill a few months ago warned the country that its railroad facilities had fallen hopelessly behind the needs of its business, a succession of frightful accidents and trying commercial pinches has given impressive confirmation to his assertion.

The information obtained by the interstate commerce commission from all parts of the country, indicates that through the anxiety of the railroads to push their inadequate facilities to the limit the risks governing the operation of the block signal system are almost universally disregarded and the system itself has become absolutely ineffective.

The most endearing loves of life are not composed of passion, admiration, romance and sentiment alone. All these elements are contained in a great love that is based on the solid foundation of friendship.

At the same time the shortage in cars in coasting long and distant throughout the west, Mr. Lacey, chairman of the interstate commerce commission's subcommittee that has been investigating this subject, has filed a report in which he shows that the railroads failed to protect a large crop of grain, although they had every reason to expect a large crop.

Some of the coal faming which has caused so much suffering in the northwest the railroads tried to shift the responsibility to the country coal dealer, who, according to their account, had imprudently failed to lay in his supply early in the summer.

Some of the railroad potentates questioned by the commission took a view of the situation that was rather different in its gloomy intensity. President Hill of the Great Northern declared that the roads as a whole had "not kept in sight of the country's growth."

During a special agent's visit to Klamath Falls about 40 claims were proved up-on, and his presence will have a tendency to hasten the issuance of patents, providing, of course, his reports are favorable.

SMALL CHANGE.

Brother Geer has denied things before. A Minnesota man weighing 440 pounds died poor.

The United Railways can't get busy any top soon. The governor is at least relieved of a heavy responsibility.

Gold in sufficient quantities is fine coloring matter for an expert's opinion. Most men who would like to be railroad commissioners are not fit for the job.

Eggs are worth \$5 a dozen in Alaska. That beats their price in Portland this winter.

The Thaw trial is mainly an exhibition of Jerome and Delmas stopping each other. What propriety is there in a state treasurer having the appointment of a railroad commissioner?

Of course the shippers will have to pay the raise in railroad employees wages—and then some. An eastern preacher named Lemon has been given an assistant, and now the flock enjoys Lemonade.

Oregon won't care if the railroad commission does nothing if Mr. Harriman will get a move on and do it first. A Chicago professor says American women can't talk. Has he lived all his life in a deaf and dumb asylum?

A Philadelphia man wants a divorce because his wife loves to go shopping. That fellow belongs to the old bachelor's ranks. The Detroit News says Rockefeller's gift to education was a "confession," if so there is a great deal more to be confessed.

Milwaukee is proud of its waterworks. We always supposed that water was something of but little consequence in Milwaukee. The president has probably observed that the railroads, though declaring big dividends are boosting freight rates all along the lines.

A Philadelphia man proposes to build a railroad from that city to heaven. But he could not depend on a heavy passenger traffic. It is estimated that the late rates in the price of oil will not make up for nearly a year that \$3,000,000 Rockefeller gave away the other day.

Julian Hawthorne says the president's English is the worst he ever read. But readers know what he means, and that is the main thing. And it would seem that Hawthorne cannot have read much.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS.

A Silverton man sold a 4-month-old colt for \$250. Alpike is proving a hardy forage plant up the valley.

Some apple trees in upper Hood River valley were injured. Scores of robbers, and some of them kidnapers, infest Pendleton.

Residents of Mill creek near The Dalles have formed a good roads association. Electric lights at Corvallis are very bad, owing, it is said, to lack of power.

A cow shut up in a building near Haines, tells the Record, lived four weeks without food. Polk county farmers are plowing and getting ready for spring planting.

The Union Republican has information that the belt railroad in Grande Ronde valley will now be completed. A Rogue river man while prospecting for coal exhausted the coffee remains for some early settler, who for lack of more consecrated ground had found repose there.

A milk cow was found dead in Lakeview, and as the carcass was being away through the streets, the town milk cows formed a lengthy procession behind it, says the Herald.

Port Orford Tribune: Strangers are daily coming and going on all kinds of missions, but most of them are looking for land to locate, nor storms, nor roads, nor hardships, dampen their zeal.

A Douglas county 5-year-old girl was missing, and all the neighbors turned out to hunt for her, and it was supposed she had fallen in a swollen creek and was drowned, but after some hours' search she was found asleep in a chicken coop.

Two Linn county men have ordered 25,000 frogs eggs from the east and will start a frog ranch in a big slough located on their farms. Within six months they expect to be able to put 40 dozen pair of frogs legs on the market weekly.

Hepner has become quite a fine poultry center. Some of the best pure-bred birds to be obtained in the United States have been secured from the foremost brooders of America, some of these choice birds coming from as far east as New York and Massachusetts, and costing from \$10 to \$20 apiece, says the Times.

The supervising engineer of the reclamation bureau writes that the total area of the Klamath basin is somewhat reduced as compared with the reports of previous boards, and the total acreage now figured on, including land at present irrigated, is about 120,000 acres, the reduction being due partly to the probable omission from the project of the bottom of Lower Klamath lake, which is found too expensive to reclaim at present.