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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1901.

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MORE THAN A FLEA.

Harry Murphy, the bright young cartoonist of the Portland Oregonian, as a picture in a recent issue of that paper representing Governor Van Sant of Minnesota, as a Lilliputian landing on the hand of a giant and in quotation accompanying it: "That's a valiant flea that dare eat a breakfast on the lip of a lion!"—Harry V.

Mr. Murphy's cartoon is well drawn. It is evidence of the development of a genius with which the artist is endowed. However, his view of the movement of the Minnesota governor is not representative of the actual status. It is a task that the simpler state executive undertaken a great task. And it is true that he may fail. Indeed, that probably—fall in the sense that he cannot prevent the merger of the

as Northern and Northern Pacific. Failure at this moment may not permanent failure. If, as many expect, Governor Van Sant do not succeed in spoiling the plans of the Hillmen people for the elimination of way competition, it will but serve to azeation the American people to a zation of their situation. They learn that some of the warnings of the growth of the trusts' power are wisely given. And they may need to demonstrate that the nation is greater than any coterie of street financiers.

Need, such an arousal of sentiment is manifest in the expressions made by the press of the country. Governor Van Sant has been the agent which has aroused this sentiment. He is much larger than for he represents the hopes of American people and the rights of a try that stands for liberty and for all.

THE RABBIT DRIVE.

December 29, at Butter creek's since with the Uamilla river, a of rabbits will take place. And of these animals are to be and slaughtered. It is the on to make it a picnic occasion, going in a spirit of sport to see bits killed. They will be driven an immense corral, and then will enter the enclosure and them on the heads with stout Blood will flow like it flowed massacre of Saint Bartholomud anyone enjoying the sight will remember that day as he live. s one view of the event. An- this: These rabbits are a great loss to ranchers, eat-

ing the alfalfa and other food of the livestock, and returning nothing to compensate for their destruction. The ranchers find it necessary to do something to free themselves from the ravages of the little animals. They take the point of view of the expedient, and do it from a sense of self-protection. It is necessary to rid the range country from the pest of the rabbits, and they resort to these drives to accomplish the desired end.

But why anyone with feelings of humanity wishes to witness such bloody slaughter purely from curiosity is more than the average person can comprehend. These slaughters, if they must take place, should be conducted without throwing over them the brutishing cost of enjoying the sight of gore, and hapless death in an instant of more physical organisms than ever before were destroyed in a single killing.

THE TAX DODGERS.

An Indianapolis telegram says: Never before in the history of Indiana has there been such a manifest determination on the part of the county officers to search diligently for sequestered property. The tax ferret is having an inning of unusual prosperity, and the holders of mortgages and other securities of record in many counties are kept busy explaining how they happened to lend more money than they accounted for on their tax returns.

In some instances, mortgages given ten years ago, and never accounted for when the owner made his tax returns, have been found on the records, and in these cases the full amount of taxes for the entire period have been collected. In others, however, the ferrets have found, when the mortgage was summoned before them, that the mortgage had been paid off, but had never been satisfied on the books in the recorder's office, and in all instances of this kind the mortgagee was forced to complete the record, that it might not mislead in the future.

Some of the experiences of the ferrets fully demonstrates that all kinds of tricks are resorted to in order to escape taxation. One case illustrates a number with which the ferrets have had to deal. In a county containing a populous city was a man who was extensively engaged in the sale of patent rights. He has made a large fortune in the past few years, mainly in Indiana, and has loaned money to many farmers, and always takes mortgages to secure the loans. Each of these mortgages gives the residence of the mortgagee in a neighboring state, and though he has lived here for ten years or more, making his home at one of the best hotels in the town, he has never paid any taxes.

When the ferret looked up his mortgages he found that they aggregated a large sum and that he had never made a tax return to the county. He then addressed a letter to the county auditor of the county in which the patent right man claimed to have his residence and learned that he paid no taxes there. A request for the tax rate in the county showed that the rate was higher than in the county where the mortgages were recorded. The ferret then requested an interview with the dodger and showed him the list of mortgages taken from the books.

As he expected, the dodger said that he was not a resident of Indiana and did not have to pay taxes. The auditor of the county was present and told the capitalist that he would be compelled to put the mortgages on the tax duplicate for ten years unless he made an affidavit that his residence was in another state and city. The affidavit was made without a protest, and as soon as it was signed the ferret produced the letter from the auditor of the county in which the dodger claimed his residence, and showed that he paid no taxes there.

He then gave him the alternative of paying the taxes in Indiana or having his affidavit and a list of his mortgages sent to the neighboring state and there placed on the tax duplicate. As the rate there was higher than in the Indiana county, he chose to pay here,

and did so for all the period that he had sequestered his property. The mortgages then went on the tax duplicate for the current year, and it is not believed that he will undertake to hide any more property in Indiana behind the non-residence dodge.

CHICAGO'S 'PHONES.

Six months ago Chicago had 30,000 telephones. Today she has 40,000, and within the next two years we will install instruments that will bring the total number of subscribers up to 100,000. This may seem like sanguine prophecy, but as a matter of fact, it isn't prophecy at all. The figures are based upon solid calculation and we intend to keep our word.

That is the way that President John I. Sabin of the Chicago Telephone company spoke about the enormous increase in the number of telephone subscribers in this city. The company's "campaign of education" entered on some time ago in connection with the experimental installation of party lines in residences and small stores, has been so successful that the demand has got beyond the resources of the corporation. Yesterday the directors decided to issue \$2,000,000 additional stock in the coming year making a total increase in twelve months of \$5,000,000.

Several thousands of applications for the service are now in the hands of the installation department, every branch of the working force has been increased over 20 per cent, and the canvassers have been taken out of the field. The unsolicited orders alone are taxing the capacity of manufacturers of telephone apparatus to the utmost.

One interesting feature of the rush for the service and the demands it imposes has been the opening of what is practically a school for new operators. These are being trained in their duties as fast as possible, and even placed at switchboards as fast as they pass the tests demanded.

Of the 10,000 new subscribers secured during the last six months, 5000 are people who have never used the telephone at all. The lines that have always been large are now demanding the installation of individual switchboards and internal services, a system that within the last few weeks has been secured by some of the leading hotels. Movable phones are being installed in all the leading restaurants with plugs beside each table, enabling customers to use the apparatus while eating their meals.

President Sabin declares that the company has no expense to make for the character of the service it is offering, and says that the most rigid surveillance is constantly exercised over the work of the operators.

"We find," he said last night, "that our employees make within a fraction of half a million switches a day, the average number of mistakes being barely five hundred. When, as sometimes happens, one patron meets with more than one of these mistakes he is naturally incensed, but our claim is that no city in the United States can show a better telephone record than this, either for rapidity of connection or accuracy. The service is being brought to the greatest degree of perfection of which human ingenuity is capable. The vast business interests we serve demand this treatment. That we are giving it is sufficiently demonstrated by the unparalleled increase in our list of subscribers in the last few months."

It is the belief of the company that in the near future Chicago will be able to show a greater number of telephone subscribers for its population than any other city in the world.—Record-Herald.

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