contain twenty-nine acres of glass.

Dip any one ever see more lovely weather than this we are now enjoying.

THE Oregonian says "Oregon has been lucky, so far, to pass the gauntlet of economy,"-in Congress.

Our exchanges will please make correction to-wit: Steamer Chance went aground on a sand spit three-quarters of mile inside the Siuslaw bar. There were fifteen feet of water on the bar at the time she struck the spit.

SENATOR MITCHELL has asked Congress to appropriate \$250,000 to improve rivers. This is to establish a deep water in existence, and a movement is on foot channel from Portland to the sea, but there is some doubt of Congress passing the bill owing to the opposition raised life of the great author. by various localities in Oregon.

no small figure in affairs at Washington. Note this: The committee on public buildings appropriated \$50,000 for the Salem public building. Hermann would not have it that way. He wanted more and he got it. After persistent work he got a raise of \$10,000, making the appropriation \$60,000.

A MOVEMENT to Bloomst to an any one church-bell ringing is talked of in San Francisco. The Report of that city contends that the theatres have as good a right to use steam whistles as the churches have to use bells more especially as the theatres would not, in announcing their performances, awake people before daylight in the morning.

THE Columbian Exposition at Chicago ought to be a success if money can make it so. Thirty-nine nations and twenty four colonies have prepared to make exhibits, and the money already "in sight" from various sources to be expended on buildings and exhibits exceeds \$25,000,-000, without counting the expenditures of individuals or the \$5,000,000 which Congress is to be asked to contribute.

THE new United States silver coins are ready for distribution, and in a few months they will be in general circulation. The designs are any thing but pretty. The eagle looks as if it had been crushed, and is about as squat and depraved a specimen of the king of birds as has ever been conceived. The head of the Goddess of Liberty is not a modest or lovable female, and the ornamental work is cheap looking.

OFFICERS at the New York Custom House were suddenly called upon not long since to decide the proper tariff on the Pope's blessing. A New Yorker while abroad bought two rosaries at eight dollars for his maid servants, and then expended four dollars in having them sent to Rome for the Pope's blessing. On reaching New York the honest importer explained the whole matter to go ahead just the same. There is al- ties of Kings and Richmond, and por-

THE buildings of the World's Fair will the customs officers, and said he was ready too much money invested and too tions of the counties of Westchester and willing to pay duty on the full value of rany promises of a rich return for time the articles. Accordingly he was as- and money expended, for men of the fisessed forty per cent. on rosaries as such nancial calibre possessed by the chief and thirty-five per cent. on the Pope's promulgator of the enterprise to lessen blessing as an article "not otherwise their faith sufficiently to cause them to provided for."

J. M. MUNDY, the partially blind sculptor, has just completed in clay a colossal statue of Washington Irving, It has recently been seen in the sculptor's studio at Tarrytown, N. Y., by many who knew Irving, and the likeness is pronounced perfect. The figure is seated in a comfortable looking arm chair, and the pose is easy and natural. the Willamette and Lower Columbia It is the only full length statue of Irving to have it cast in bronze and set up in some place associated with the works or

A WRITER in the New York Tribune THE Honorable Binger Hermann cuts suggests that the island of Juan Fernan- is a way of spending leisure: The taking dez should be occupied by United States troops and strongly fortified. This island was the lonely home of Alexander Selkirk, immortalized as Robinson Crusoe. It is described as an earthly paradise where all kinds of tropical fruits of Toynbee Hall, is that leisure is best grow in profusion, pigs, goats and fowls, used in getting away from ourselves. of various and and and

> claimed that this island is naturally fitted to withstand a siege, and that it could be easily made as impregnable as Gibraltar, as on account of extensive and dangerous reefs it is approachable only in the direction of its one barbor, Port Cumberland, which has a depth of water sufficient for the largest vessels Self-consciousness is undoubtedly the and is surrounded by highlands from which a plunging fire could be directed against approaching vessels. If fitted up as a great coaling station with every facility for refitting both men-of-war and merchantmen, it is believed that it would become an important commercial post in time of peace and give the United States a commanding position in those seas in time of war.

The cog wheels of progress are in no way impeded on the Great Siuslaw by fear lest our further bar appropriation should not be forthcoming, neither is there a halt called as to the probable outcome of the proposed transcontinental railroad. All things tending to the early development of the Great Siuslaw valley resources are as flattering at the present time as could well be wished for. In the opinion of THE WEST there is no question as to the further appropriation of at least one half of the amount asked for and more than that is more probable than less is possible. As to the railroad there is no doubt but the next census, and Chicago will have work will be resumed at an early date. The extent of the work will, of course, depend largely upon the amount of capital the managers can interest in the project, but even if no capital outside our the proposed consolidated city comp isc local stockholders is secured, work will the present city of New York, the coun-

rop the project. The West believes a new era is soon to dawn upon us, and that ere the time indicator has tallied mother six months Florence will be three times her present size, and while even then she will be in her infancy she will be a mighty spry babe for her age.

## THE BEST USE OF LEISURE.

According to Archbishop Farrar, the best use of leisure is that which in the form of recreation and noble culture furthers the work of a man's life, builds up his moral being, and enables him mo.e and more to endure as seeing that which is invisible.

The Head Master of Harrow suggests to of some science, art or study, which lles apart from one's common daily vecation, and which will incidentally enrich and invigorate the mind. The view advanced by the Reverend Mr. Barnett,

mand notice, and it is the worry; not the work, that kills. In our leisure we should try to get away from ourselves. We are inclined to believe that the last opinion is the one which best answers the question as to the best use of leisure. bane of our day and generation. The controlling tendency of modern life is to emphasize and magnify self. The "new journalism" threatens to abolish the privacy of life. Its fierce light beats not only upon thrones, but pierces into the most secluded parlors, the most obscure offices. There is no sphere of action which is safe from its intrusion and, as a consequence, we live in an atmosphere of personalities. Our inmost thoughts are deemed public property. If, therefore, we would attempt to do as Walt Whitman bids us, "to loaf and invite our souls," we must shake off for the time our surroundings; in other words, get away from ourselves, and in so doing we secure the truest leisure.

IF THE bill proposed by the commission appointed to consider the best plan for the union of the communities about New York harbor is adopted by the New York Legislature and afterward approved by the people whom it concerns, New York city will make a big showing in to annex Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis and several other good sized towns before it can hope to compare with it. The territory to be included in

Queens. Staten Island, Brooklyn and a number of other good sized cities are included in this area. There are several populous cities on the New Jersey side of the harbor which are practically as much a part of New York city as Brooklyn, but not being within the borders of New York State of course the Legislature of that State cannot provide for their annexation to New York city. To the principle of the bill there will be little or no opposition in the Legislature, as it simply provides for the submission of the question to the votes of the people in the districts which it is proposed to consolidate, but there may be some opposition to the details of the scheme. How the people in the great cities surrounding New York will receive the proposition for consolidation can only be determined when the vote is taken. There will probably be strong opposition on the part of some of the office holders, but the scheme for the consolidation of all these contiguous cities will probably appeal to the pride of citizens in general. Residents of Brooklyn and other cities adjacent to New York usually call themselves New Yorkers when they are away from home, and take oride in the progrese of the great genely sigs. It is not ets, it forms the great city place. The hame to of been proposed, but it is probable that the name New York will be retained.

THE air is thick with rumors that something of vast importance is going to happen in the railroad world. Rumors of this kind are apt to have a general correctness, though the details of railroad secrets are usually pretty well kept till the operators are ready to realize. It is easy to believe that the foreshadowed event is a new amalgamation of lines, since the whole tendency of railroad development is in this direction. The most earnest efforts of railroad owners for many years past have been to create an unbroken line from ocean to ocean. Perhaps this is what is going to happen. The Northern Pacific and Baltimore & Ohio could do this .- Oregonian.

IT WILL gratify the lumber interests that in a recent talk to a Spokane committee Mr. James J. Hill reaffirmed his intention to establish an \$8-per-ton rate for lamber from the coast to Lake Superior as soon as the Pacific extension of the Great Northern is completed. "This is no guess work; I know we can do it," said Mr. Hill. He made also some very interesting remarks on the lumber situation. Referring to the East, he said that only at the headwaters of the Mississippi, in Minnesota, is there now any large body of timber. Michigan is denuded of her pine, and Wisconsin will be in the same condition ten years hence her annual cuts being now from 1,000,-000,000 to 1,200,000,000 feet. Then the country will depend on the Pacific coast, -Oregonian.