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A DEPARTMENT OF MINES.

REPORTS made to the Miners' Convention justify the belief that most of the legislative work asked for by the miners is in a fair way to be accomplished. Members of Congress and State officials have spoken encouragingly of the outlook. The mineral lands bill, it is said, will surely be enacted this winter, and promises hardly less definite are given of a speedy solution of the problem of rehabilitating hydraulic mining so far as that can be done by legislative act.

The one feature of the programme of work undertaken by the Miners' Association that is still in doubt is that of procuring the creation of a Department of Mines, to be presided over by a member of the national Cabinet. Senator Perkins advises that this demand be lowered to a request for the establishment of a Bureau of Mines, under the control of a commissioner subordinate to the Secretary of the Interior. That much he thinks can be obtained at the coming session of Congress, but the creation of a new Cabinet official he declares to be at this time impracticable.

It is not probable that the miners of the nation would be satisfied with the commissioner suggested by Senator Perkins, even if the California association endorsed the proposal. The mining industry of the United States is too vast, too varied, too complex and too important to be adequately provided for by a subordinate bureau of a department so overcharged with work as that of the Interior. To rightly supervise the interests of mines and mining will require all the time and energies of a Cabinet Minister, aided by the staff of a well-equipped department equal to any other in the administration.

It was pointed out to the convention by John P. Irish, "under no other flag is there so great an amount of useful and precious minerals—greater than in any similar area on the face of the earth. Yet we have done the least to promote their production and the prosperity of the men producing them. Under any other Government the United States would be the metallurgical center of the world."

In that statement there is no exaggeration. With a mining industry greater than that of any other nation we have done less for it than any first-class nation on the globe. Our mines yield annually an output worth upward of \$1,000,000,000. The industry is one that involves a large amount of scientific learning and mechanical skill. Improvements in mining methods and mechanism are going on continually in nearly all parts of the world. Other nations collect information bearing on the industry for the benefit of their miners, and provide for its dissemination among them. We scatter the supervision of different phases of the industry through a half-dozen bureaus, so that a miner knows not to whom to apply for information, even as to the meaning of some of the mining laws.

The claim for the establishment of a department is good, and now is the time to urge it upon Congress. The gold excitement in Alaska will incline the country to consider the claims of mining men with more interest than in years when mining is comparatively dull. Moreover, the tariff being out of the way and the financial issue in a fair process of being solved, Congress at this session will have time to consider propositions of a general and non-partisan nature. It is opportune, therefore, to make a plea for the Department of Mines at once. Let the fight be made on that line, and if it fails we may adopt the compromise proposed by Senator Perkins and accept for a time a Commissioner of Mines under the control of the Department of the Interior.

At least one branch of the Social Democracy founded by Debs seems to be in a bad way. Mr. Kavanagh, president of the branch, was subjected to the inconvenience of being horse-whipped by another lady during a recent session. Whether the second lady did this in parliamentary style, first rising to a question of privilege, does not appear from the telegraphed account. But as the affair took place in Chicago it is safe to assume that it was conducted on the lines of a regular "scrap," and without regard to precedents. Mr. Debs, unfortunately, was not present to umpire the episode.

From the first examination of the moon made through the Yerkes telescope it would appear that there is no life on that orb. Such had been the conclusion arrived at by science many years ago. If the Yerkes glass is ambitious to do something practical it might endeavor to throw a little light on the mooted question as to whether the lunar body is composed of green cheese. This question, we believe, is one that has never been definitely settled.

The marriage of Sir Edwin Arnold to a Japanese is only surprising in having been so long delayed. Sir Edwin has given so many indications of being in love with the entire race that the difficulty of making a definite selection probably accounts for his tardiness. We extend congratulations to him, but feel a little diffident yet as to extending them to the lady.

If Lord Salisbury really wishes to resign there does not seem to be anything to prevent his taking this course. Nobody would object particularly. But if the correspondent who sends the rumor feels an impulse to resign, not only would there be no objection, but he could feel certain of absolute encouragement.

All efforts to reform the yellow journal that gives itself daily a new coat of its favorite color are vain. If a sense of shame could be aroused within it the emotion would be a puzzle, and the sheet go through some new and distressing contortion, thinking itself to once more have achieved something.

The latest picture of the Cisneros woman is totally different from any heretofore presented. While variety is the spice of life there is no doubt but life that is all spice is too highly seasoned. Some of the artists who have been "on the spot" evidently struck the wrong spot.

That Judge in Southern California who has cited the Warden of San Quentin for contempt in refusing to hang a man as directed by the court must entertain some queer notions. Up this way nobody expects a Warden to do anything of the sort.

The curtailing of the powers of Marshal Creed of Sausalito comes as a surprise; the intimation that the gentleman possessed any powers causes the surprise. Nothing he has done to the gamblers there has indicated anything of the kind.

Speaking of police pulis and such mysterious things; the woman who has been arrested twenty times and never convicted, although in all probability guilty in each instance, could tell an interesting story. But she won't.

Mr. Langtry's statement that she has made her husband an allowance for years may be true. But think of the allowances he was forced to make for her!

Instead of retiring upon the arrival of Milan the Servian Cabinet would have been more manly to have clutched their pockets and yelled "Police!"

THE APPEAL OF THE HAWAIIANS.

THE memorial of the native Hawaiians, published in THE CALL yesterday, addresses the American people and their legislative representatives in a manner which cannot fail to make a deep impression. Read in the light of the events which have preceded its appearance, it makes clear the fact that, at bottom, the proposition to annex the Hawaiian Islands is a proposition to steal them—to steal them, not by the ordinary methods which prevail among persons who make a practice of appropriating the property of others, but to steal them by force and against the protest of the helpless people to whom they belong.

What could be more pathetic than this memorial? Who can peruse it without feeling that, should the annexationists succeed in securing the ratification of the McKinley treaty, a great historical crime will be committed? Every word of it breathes of the helplessness of a forlorn and deserted people; every line appeals to the magnanimity of a nation which every last one of the memorialists has probably heard heralded as the land of the free and the home of the brave; every paragraph is wet with the tears of a declining race, who still love their country and in whom the expiring embers of an exalted patriotism have not yet been extinguished. Could any printed words strike deeper into the American heart than these:

"That your memorialists humbly but fervently protest against the consummation of this invasion of their political rights; and they earnestly appeal to the President, the Congress and the people of the United States to refrain from further participating in the wrong so proposed; and they invoke in support of this memorial the spirit of that immortal instrument, the Declaration of American Independence; and especially the truth therein expressed, that Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed—and here repeat, that the consent of the people of the Hawaiian Islands to the form of government imposed by the so-called Republic of Hawaii, and to said proposed treaty of annexation, has never been asked by and is not accorded either to said government or to said project of annexation."

This memorial settles one thing beyond the possibility of a doubt, namely: Annexation can never take place with the consent of the Hawaiians. The question, then, stripped of all its perplexing difficulties, not the least of which is the question whether the Chinese coolies at the islands can enter the United States, resolves itself down to this: Will the Senate ratify this treaty and annex the islands against the wishes of the native Hawaiians? We have thus presented a most momentous subject for discussion, involving at once the national honor, the integrity of history and the merciful precepts of the Almighty himself. How can the United States annex the islands in opposition to the protests of the natives without committing the awful crime of national grand larceny?

It may be said that the interests of the Hawaiians will be best subserved by making them American citizens; but that argument can scarcely be advanced as a defense to the charge that the United States has taken advantage of the weakness of a declining race to steal their country. Nor is it any more to the point to urge that as Americans their rights will be maintained by the Government of the great republic. Undoubtedly the slaves liberated in 1863 by Abraham Lincoln were better off in American bondage than in African freedom; but that was that ever urged as a reason for keeping them in chains? We do not think the most enthusiastic of the annexationists will advance the probable improvement in the condition of the natives under American rule as a reason for taking the islands from them by force.

The American republic, as the Hawaiian memorialists well say, exists by and through the consent of the governed. Here Presidents, Senators and Governors are servants of the people. It is their duty to obey the popular will, not to control and direct it. What could be more frightful from an historical standpoint than for such a nation, whose starry emblem throughout the world is the luminous beacon toward which the weary eyes of the bondsmen of every clime turn with suppliant tears and heartfelt longings, and in whose generous soil liberty, equality and justice flourish with a magnificence unknown to any civilization that has ever existed—what could be more terrible, we repeat, than for such a nation to take by force for commercial purposes the loved country of a weak and protesting people? The act would deserve and would probably receive the execration of mankind to the end of time.

It is to be hoped that the rumor that the family of the late Bill Nye is in financial distress is incorrect. Certainly it is hard to understand how the accumulated thousands, the result of Nye's diligent application, could so quickly have been swept away. The humorist was not only a hard-working man, commanding a large income during his later years, but was exceedingly thrifty. It was his habit to reproach Eugene Field for not saving money—and Field never did save any—yet there is no hint that any aims are to be asked in behalf of the Fields. Probably the rumor concerning the Nyes is wrong, for if it is not, the efforts of the humorist represent a wasted life, as nothing he wrote was of value beyond the price it brought and the moment it was read.

PUNISHMENT AND REFORM.

OLD convicts, convicts with experience, when they are to be sentenced ask for some misdeed in this State almost invariably ask the Judge to send them to San Quentin rather than to Folsom. This is especially true of city convicts. The criminal of San Francisco regards imprisonment as a species of medicine he must take for the sin of permitting himself to be caught, and he looks upon San Quentin as a pleasant place in which to take it.

Our convicts have not built up this good opinion of San Quentin upon a mere superstition. The prison has many advantages for a criminal who prefers reform to punishment, and who desires to be in close communication with his pals at all times, so that when reform ideas become monotonous he can talk of old crimes with the old gang and concoct conspiracies for new ones.

Sentimentalists who hold to the creed that imprisonment should be for reform and not for punishment would account San Quentin the ideal prison of the world if there could be found any trace of reform among its prisoners. Certainly there is no punishment there for the average offender. The inmates are better fed than a large number of honest working-men, they have recreation days at which their friends congregate, they manage to get opium in quantities to suit, they have leisure to indulge in personal quarrels, and occasionally a sufficient freedom to get up a fight with almost any kind of weapons they may choose. Not infrequently, by way of making life more thrilling still, they organize a revolt and threaten to establish a small-sized anarchy in the reform institution.

Affairs at Folsom are much better managed. At that prison the city convict is too far away for his pal to visit him with condolences and opium. He has more work to do and less time to meditate new crimes. As a result he is more obedient to discipline and actually a better man than his San Quentin contemporary. His punishment has really something of a reformatory influence. It may not stay with him and keep him straight when he regains his liberty, but it has a good effect as long as he is within the prison walls. We do not fear of assaults of one convict on another or of open revolts at Folsom.

It is high time for the prison authorities to revise the manner in which our penitentiaries are being conducted, or at least that at San Quentin. Prison life should not be made easy to the criminal. It should be a punishment which he will feel as long as he stays in the prison and remember when he leaves it. He should not be permitted to loiter weekly receptions for his pals. He should be allowed to see only his near relatives, and those but once a month. He should be made to work. He should be kept from the use of opium and yellow literature. It should be studiously impressed upon him that society has come to the conclusion that the best way to reform a criminal is to fit the punishment to the crime and apply it with a Roman firmness.

PERSONAL.

F. M. Symonds, U. S. N., is at the Occidental. Rev. Samuel Hirst of Vallejo is at the Grand. M. Lomer, a merchant of Alturas, is at the Grand. James Topley, a druggist of Vallejo, is at the Grand. D. Sullivan of Yreka, Alaska, is at the Cosmopolitan. M. Lauer, a merchant of Alturas, is registered at the Grand. J. M. Witman, a mining man of Newman, is staying at the Lick. E. J. Musto, a merchant of Stockton, arrived yesterday at the Grand. A. Graham, a wholesale grocer of Carson City, N. C., is at the Russ. Jesse E. Carr, the capitalist from Salinas, is a guest at the Occidental. Sheriff U. S. Gregory of Amador County is a late arrival at the Grand. Dr. H. L. Pace of Tulare is at the Palace, accompanied by Mrs. Pace. H. R. Fife, a merchant of Sanger, Fresno County, is at the Cosmopolitan.

Judge E. W. Hunter is here from Eureka. He arrived yesterday at the Grand. Arthur W. Pearce, the mining operator from London, returned yesterday to his home in London. W. H. Hatton, a lawyer of Modesto, arrived here yesterday. He has a room at the Lick. E. J. Cole, a manufacturer of vinegar at St. Louis, Mo., arrived yesterday at the Palace. V. J. Pearce, an insurance man of Everett, Wash., is at the Occidental with Mrs. Pearce. William Sims, who is extensively engaged in farming near Winters, is registered at the Russ. S. A. Gray of Sacramento, formerly colonel of the Eighth Regiment, N. G. C., is at the Russ.

Samuel McMurtrie, the contractor, is in town from San Luis Obispo. His headquarters are at the Palace. Mrs. E. B. Willis of Sacramento, wife of the editor of the Sacramento Record-Union, is staying at the Russ. H. H. Davies and family of El Paso de Robles left here last night on their way to London to be gone several months. F. V. T. Lee left here yesterday evening to attend the State electrical conference in Sacramento last night and to-day. John F. Evans, chief clerk at Salt Lake City in the auditor's office of the Rio Grande Western Railway, arrived yesterday at the Occidental yesterday with Mrs. Evans.

Mr. and Mrs. True and Miss True of Dunsmuir, are guests at the Russ. Mr. True is engaged in business and mining. Sheriff D. B. Getchell of Nevada County, who has been in the city several days, a guest at the Russ, departed last night for home. Captain W. Mattison, who, before he left the sea, used to be in command of a vessel trading with Hawaii, arrived yesterday at the Grand, accompanied by Mrs. Mattison. Rev. W. L. Gibbens, who recently arrived here on his way home to South Carolina from the Oriental missionary field, returned yesterday to the Grand after a few days spent out of town.

Senator John T. Morgan and the Misses Morgan of Alabama, who arrived here Tuesday from Honolulu, went down yesterday to Del Monte for a two days' rest before resuming their homeward journey. Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson, widow of the noted novelist, will arrive here to-day on the steamer Alaska from Apia, Samoa. She will reside in Berkeley for the remainder of the year. Lloyd Osborne, a student in the university. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Osborne, baby and nurse came over from Berkeley last night and took apartments at the Occidental to await the arrival here to-day of Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson. Mrs. Osborne was Robert Louis Stevenson's stepson and collaborator.

Eugene Oppenheimer, Ernest Oppenheimer, Mrs. Anna Br. and Miss Maria Luebbeck left here last night on their way to New York, to depart to-day for the Orient on the steamer China on a pleasure tour of the world. They will spend several months in sightseeing on the continent of Europe. Frank E. Simpson, a capitalist of Boston, accompanied by John H. Hooper of Boston, arrived at the Palace last night, prepared to depart to-day for the Orient in the steamer China on a pleasure tour of the world. Mr. Simpson says that John L. Sullivan will be defeated 5 to 1 in the contest for Mayor; that the general populace of Boston would not tolerate a prize-fighter for head of the city.

Among the arrivals at the Grand yesterday were Dr. C. C. Warner, of Fresno City Trustee from the district "south of the world track," where he is known as "King of the Border." It was he who about a year ago was made Mayor of Fresno for fifteen minutes, and then resigned immediately upon the completion of his term of office. Dr. C. C. Warner, who had elevated him to the exalted position. Dr. C. C. Warner, a corset manufacturer of New York and chairman of the international committee of the Y. M. C. A., arrived here yesterday, one day late, accompanied by Mrs. Warner and Miss Warner. They are at the Occidental and will spend the day on the steamer China for the Orient, where it is the purpose of Dr. Warner, during his present pleasure tour of the world, to visit the Y. M. C. A. secretaries of the more important cities. He says that the committee, of which he has been chairman for the past two years, spends annually \$75,000 in the United States and \$25,000 abroad in its work, which has to do largely with selecting secretaries. Dr. Warner was first in this city about ten years ago, at the time of the international convention of the Y. M. C. A. at San Francisco. He is in the interest of the association. Had he arrived as expected, Tuesday night, a banquet was to have been given by the Y. M. C. A. at the Occidental in his honor. Dr. Warner is the father-in-law of Seabury C. Mastick, formerly of this city, who married Miss Warner last year, and is now living in New York City.

W. S. McCuen, city passenger agent at Oil City, Pa., of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway, of the Allegheny Valley Railroad and of the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railway, arrived here yesterday from a business visit of several weeks to Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia and Portland. He is at the Occidental, accompanied by Mrs. McCuen, and will remain in this city and vicinity a week. He came West to perfect arrangements for the transportation next spring of Easterners bound for the Klondike. He says that the prospects are that over the Lake Shore road alone 10,000 persons will travel during the three spring months on their way west to the Klondike, and he believes that in all fully 200,000 persons may visit the Klondike this season. He will spend the next March, April and May. Of the great Lake Shore road from Buffalo to Chicago he said: "It is the finest piece of railroad construction in the world, a level track 340 miles in length, practically straight, without curves or steep grades, but straightened and furnished with some viaducts, and stands to-day as the life work of the former president of the company, whose ideal it was to make it as it is."

CALIFORNIAN IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, Oct. 20.—At the Plaza—J. Leonard; Grand Union—A. C. Clark, A. Koenig; Metropolitan—T. A. Corbett; Vendome—A. M. Boyd; Morton—W. R. Bort; Marlborough—S. B. Rickstone. Mr. and Mrs. A. Bogart and Mrs. Adeline Bogart left the Plaza and sailed on the Paris for Southampton.

CALIFORNIANS IN WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—O. E. Thompson of Los Angeles, R. B. Howe of Oakland, Thomas R. Baird of San Francisco are in Washington.

THE MONEY ORDER SYSTEM.

Philadelphia Record. The postal money order service now brings to the Government a net yearly revenue of almost \$1,000,000. A system which is thus shown to be more than self-supporting, while affording a great convenience to the people, certainly deserves a chance to develop its full powers of usefulness, and the more so since it is a medium which would mean little increased expenditure by the Government and certainly a material growth in receipts. For this reason the Postoffice Department will meet with general approval, even though it should anticipate the public needs in some localities.

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS.

Among the many musical treats promised for this season Ysaye stands out pre-eminently. Every one remembers Ysaye, his famous Alpine hat, his shaggy hair, his lionine head and broad shoulders. Ysaye is a violinist among violinists. He is a tremendous personality, and although he never condescends to trickery, yet his music is so warm, so human, that it appeals to the general public as well as to the cultured virtuoso. He is the ideal of the broad, virile school which Wilhelmj incited. Ysaye has much work to do before he will reach San Francisco. He is engaged to play with the New York Philharmonic, the New York Symphony, the Symphony Society of Cincinnati and many other associations, as well as in most highly paid and the most attractive divette in Paris.

This afternoon at 3 o'clock in Metropolitan Hall Fritz Seibel and his fine orchestra will make virtually their first appearance this season. No one can forget the enthusiasm created by this clever conductor during his last visit to the coast, and that his baton has lost none of its cunning will be fully demonstrated to-day to the large attendance which will doubtless greet his reappearance.

Mme. Emily Lassague has issued cards of invitation to a song matinee to take place at the Y. M. C. A. on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Mme. Lassague is comparatively a new-comer, but she has gathered laurels in



Y SAYE, the Great Belgian Violinist, Who Will Shortly Visit America.

nearly every large city coming West, and north as far as Seattle. When Ysaye was here before he played to crowded houses every time.

The ballet of Sardanapalus at the Olympia. Paris, is making a grand success. The music is said to surpass anything M. Edouard Dancie has written before. The innovation of dances is much appreciated, for the ears are charmed at the same time as the eyes, and as to the scenery—it is enough to make all Paris run to the Olympia. The first scene is somber, calm—in fact, religious—since the audience is called upon to assist at a fete given in honor of the god, Baal. The second represents an orgy of Sardanapalus, and the last is a veritable orgy of women. Women are everywhere. It is the prettiest scene of all, and was inspired by the marvelous picture of Rochegrosse, "The End of Babylon." The end of Sardanapalus is grand, magnificent. Transforming his throne into an immense funeral pyre he gives the order that all his wives, into it, and while he mounts it himself in order to set it on fire the rebels penetrate into the palace with threats of death to every one.

A new theater, destined to make known the work of a single musician, is in course of erection in Germany. It is M. August Bungert, the author of a tetralogy entitled "The Olyseus," who will be the patron of this theater. The composer finds that he needs a tetralogy a special scene like that of Richard Wagner, and he has succeeded in finding his Bayreuth. The pretty little town of Godesberg, beautifully situated on the banks of the Rhine, offers to M. Bungert a fine spot for the erection of his theater. He has met with a certain number of friends who have subscribed 500 marks each for the construction of the theater. It is the system of "patronage" which served Wagner so well. It is said that the fate of the enterprise is already assured. If the tetralogy of M. Bungert is as valuable as that of Wagner, this enterprise will not be a bad, for Godesberg is only a few hours from London and Paris, and the country is quite as pretty as that on the banks of the Meise at Bayreuth. The Dresden Opera has already acquired the right of representation of Bungert's tetralogy. The third part, entitled the return of Ulysses, has already been played with much success; the first part, named "Circé," will be played next season; the other two will follow in 1899. M. Bungert must hasten the construction of his special theater, or otherwise one will have seen the tetralogy at Dresden before he can produce it on the banks of the Rhine.

Henry Muller of Hamburg has invented a bowless violin, of which he gave an exhibition in Berlin. On the table lay two violins and a cello. The necks of the instruments ended in a wooden box, and the bridge was concealed by a desk. The inventor played the first of the instruments with the second violin and cello. The tone was good, but inferior in warmth and fullness to that produced by the hand. The players used only the left hand for fingering. A quivering of the drapery of the table created a suspicion that the notes of the performers were at work on the mechanism, but at the end of the performance the covering was raised showing that there was nothing of the kind below the table. Whatever the secret may be the entertainment was highly interesting. Probably the mechanism disappeared before the drapery was raised. If there was nothing to hide where was the need of drapery?

Mme. Blanche Marchesi and her husband, the Baron de Camille, were recently the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught at Abercrombie Castle. As the Queen was also at Balmoral her Majesty expressed a desire to hear the eminent artist in an informal manner. Mme. Marchesi sang quite a series of songs, and her husband, who was with her, accompanied her on the piano. The Queen was also at Balmoral her Majesty expressed a desire to hear the eminent artist in an informal manner. Mme. Marchesi sang quite a series of songs, and her husband, who was with her, accompanied her on the piano. The Queen was also at Balmoral her Majesty expressed a desire to hear the eminent artist in an informal manner.

THE TRYST.
 Here is the world of moonlight slanted
 'A down the enchanted stream, here
 The stars are set in the firmament
 On wind-swept edges of wood and mere;
 And the roses swing in the burguedo hedges,
 And the moon is in my far sojourning
 Of a tryst new found and a life made dear.
 Of a tryst new found! In my days of yore,
 The gray skies under, ah, sweet my own,
 I had but known in my far sojourning
 Of this returning, the hope alone
 Had won my heart from his hapless yearning;
 Alas! my faith and my doubting, spinning
 I had been content—if I had but known!
 For, wheresoever my feet went roaming,
 At every gleaming my heart would fly,
 Hitherward drawn and hither winging,
 Persistent clinging to tryst's gone by,
 When light of day had broken the night
 Of dusk and the roses and you and I!
 Yes, if in days of dread I daster,
 When Love's a master, his gifts were slow,
 I had my own complaint that meant to cheat me,
 When roses greet me with scents I know,
 When light of day had broken the night
 And when through the dusk you come to meet me
 Even as then, in the long ago!

SANDY'S SALVATION.

Spare Moments.
 "An' hoo's the guid wife, Sandy?" said one farmer to another, as they met in the market place and exchanged snuffboxes.
 "Did ye no hear that she's dard and buried?" said Sandy, solemnly.
 "Dear me!" exclaimed his friend sympathetically. "Surely it must have been very sudden."
 "It was sudden," returned Sandy. "Ye see, when she turned ill we hadna time to send for the doctor, see I gied her a bit pouther that I had lying in my drawer for a year or twa, an' that I had got frae the doctor mysel', but hadna ta'en. What the pouther was I dinna vera weel ken, but she died soon after. It's a sair loss to me, I can assure ye, but it's something to be thankful for I didna tak' the pouther mysel'."

ODD FACTS.

The average price of a cashmere goat or sheep is about \$1000. About five pounds of wool are used for an entire cashmere shawl.
 Corrosive water is a common source of trouble in metal mines. Its effect on iron, curiously enough, is greater when it simply drives on the metal than when the iron is immersed in it. A 12-pound iron rail has been cut in two in a few weeks by drops of water falling on it.
 The latest charge against electric railroads is that in many places where they run near the coast they disturb the working of submarine electric cables. The electric street railway in Cape Town, Africa, says the Electrical Engineer, has affected seriously the efficiency of the siphon recorder of the submarine cable of the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company.

PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT.

The bronze statue for the memorial to Harvey Rice, "the father of the Ohio school system," will soon be cast.
 Benjamin Bissell, who lives near Ballston Spa, N. Y., says he has voted for eighteen Presidential candidates, not one of whom was elected.
 The Germans seem to be losing respect for their Emperor. Last year there were 33 per cent more imprisonments for less than thirty than eleven years ago.

During the youthful days of Zola and the late Henri Melissar, when they were both assistants to Melissar, Hachette & Co., the work of Melissar was to reach down the volumes from the shelves for Zola to make into parcels.
 Mark Twain's trip on the glacier has been beaten by five Swiss tourists, who recently went down the Gwachtin, in the Dammsstock district, on an avalanche. They got to the foot of the mountain alive, but considerably bruised.

A recent writer on the Baconian theory says the disappearance of Shakespeare's manuscripts proves nothing. Only two or three signatures and a fourth receipt of Moliere are in existence, and he was born after Shakespeare's death.
 Dr. Marpillero, an eminent Italian scientist, who has for a number of years been making experiments and observations relating to children's ideas of life and death, has published his experiences. He found that in answering questions about life the poorer children almost invariably took a brighter view than the children of the rich.

In a recent number of the Medicinische Wochenschrift, Professor Mikulicz describes his success in aseptic surgery as due to the fact that he always wore gloves sterilized in steam, thereby diminishing the probability of infection of the wounds. In long operations he repeatedly changed his gloves, which can be cleaned and used several times.
ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.
 BILL OF SALE—J. F. City. A bill of sale does not have to be verified before a notary public.
 ALICE RIX—S. S. City. Alice Rix (nee Ballard) was divorced from McDonald, her first husband, and then from J. H. second.

DRAW PEDRO—O. S. City. In draw Pedro a player must not move more than one card. The tempo of trumps is the only one that counts as game.
 COPYRIGHT—G. S. City. To secure a copyright for a print or engraving follow the rules given in "Dramatic Copyright," that appeared in Answers to Correspondents in the issue of the 19th.

WINNER'S CASE—H. W. City. The case of Officer Wintzer, who was shot since shot a boy, is still before the Commissioners, for the reason that the wounded boy has not yet been able to appear before the Commissioners to make his statement of the affair that led up to the shooting.
 FATHER AND SON—J. F. City. There is nothing illegal in a son purchasing a place of business from his father, providing the son has attained the age that enables him to make a contract, and the father is not responsible for the debts of the father contracted in the business would depend altogether upon the terms of sale.

A MURDER OF LONG AGO—W. H. S. City. On July 9, 1864, Thomas Briggs, chief clerk in the banking house of Robert Curtis & Co., was murdered in a carriage on the North London Railroad while on his way to his residence in Hackney, England. One Franz Miller was arrested for the crime, and in October of the same year and executed November 14 following.
 DRAW-POKER—Sub-criber, City. In draw-poker a straight may be composed of the five of hearts, six of diamonds, seven of clubs, eight of spades and nine of hearts. The ace, ten, queen, jack, and king, irrespective of suit, is a straight. The ace in a straight may change in value, for it may be taken as a high card, or a low card, or a middle card, or a deuce, three, four and five is a straight, but it is the lowest one; it would be beaten by a two, three, four, five and six.

HASTINGS COLLEGE OF LAW—J. J. City. Graduates of accredited high schools and private schools of this State, who are eligible for admission to the University of the State of California upon certificates, and whose certificates cover the requirements for admission to the College of Law, are admitted to the Hastings College of Law. An applicant for admission to the junior class must be at least 18 years of age; must apply for admission to the college; must deposit with the registrar a certificate of good moral character, unless he presents a certificate as alluded to must pass an examination in certain studies named. The classes meet daily at 8:15 A. M. and 4:45 P. M.

RIGHT OF WAY—J. S. M. City. In San Francisco, in case of a fire, the apparatus of the Fire Department has the paramount right of way, as you will see by the following: "The fire ordinance of the Board of Supervisors: 'All steam engines and other movable apparatus belonging to the Fire Department, Fire Marshal and Fire Companies, and all apparatus of fire engines, to be used in the city, shall have the right of way through all streets, lanes, alleys, places, courts of the city and county of San Francisco, and shall have the right of way through all streets, lanes, alleys, places, courts, together with all other vehicles contiguous thereto, excepting streetcars, shall take and keep the right of way of the street, unless the same be obstructed; and all streetcars in the vicinity of any fire shall stop at the fire hydrant, and in order to give the apparatus of the Fire Department the right of way through the streets, lanes, alleys, places, courts and other streets of the city, the fire apparatus shall have the right of way, and for that reason has the paramount right of way for the time being, and a small streetcar would come to a halt to let the apparatus pass.'

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