

Notes and Gleanings

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Only 19,292 sealskins were taken on the Pribilof Islands during the season of 1903.

The average yield of potatoes in the Province of Ontario for the last twenty-one years is given as 115 bushels to the acre.

Out of 1,000 persons inoculated for hydrophobia, after being bitten by a mad dog, 975 are saved from death.

Indiana is having a wave of temperance reform. During the last year 800 saloons have been put out of business, and about 250 townships in the state have no saloons.

The Women's Temperance League of Vienna has commenced sending out little handcars with hot non-alcoholic beverages to markets, factories and building works, with the object of keeping the working men away from the public house.

In Wales there are no fewer than 508,000 people who cannot speak English, Welsh being their only language; in Scotland there are 43,000 persons who can speak nothing but Gaelic; and in Ireland there are 32,000 who can express themselves only in the Irish tongue.

Dr. Yamel Kin, whose medical degree is said to be the first ever conferred upon a Chinese woman in the United States, talked to the members of the Boston Twentieth Century Club last Saturday. She told them they were too nervous, too unstable, too impressible, too strenuous.

A curious Britain custom has just been celebrated at Plougastel. Here marriages are celebrated only one day in the year. The result was that on Tuesday last twenty-three brides and as many bashful bridegrooms were lined up in front of the altar in the village church to be united in the bonds of Hymen. For weeks the whole district has been in a state of effervescence, and since the ceremony has been performed junketing has been the order of the day.

Iceland now has a population of about eighty thousand, and is governed by an Upper House of twelve members, and a Lower House of twenty-four, which could be accommodated in an ordinary room. We found by correspondence that some of our readers were not aware that the Icelanders are an extraordinarily intellectual people; that their average is higher in more than one respect than the population of more than one State in New England. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says that as a race they are intellectual and have produced many learned men.

The death in Kimball, Page county, Pa., of Homer Fox, twenty-one years old, disclosed a case which puzzled all the physicians of that community. His death was due to a drying up of the blood. Fox's illness began several months ago. From a robust, handsome young man he became a physical wreck. He was unable to walk and had a complexion as white almost as snow. It is said that there is no known cure for the disease, and that its cause has never been ascertained. In the case of young Fox it is said that his true condition was ascertained when no blood followed a cut, even though an artery was pierced.

Denmark is leading the way in Europe for the enfranchisement of women. The Minister of the Interior has introduced into the Folkething, or lower house of the national parliament, a bill which, if adopted, will extend the privilege of voting to every citizen twenty-five years of age who has paid taxes for the year preceding, and who has a fixed homestead. Farm hands, domestic servants and others who have no fixed homesteads are excepted, as are also those in bankruptcy. The great feature of the bill is that it provides that every one who is entitled to vote is also eligible to hold office. As the bill makes no exception as regards sex, the women of

Denmark will have every elective office from premier down open to them under its operation.

Japan has entered upon an economical experiment which is novel and interesting. The government owns the railways, and is going to take the public into partnership. The departments of finance and of communications have at last decided on the plan of converting the government railways into a joint stock undertaking. All the existing government railways and the properties attached to them will be assessed, and the government will hold the shares representing them, while the public will be invited to subscribe the cost required for repairs to existing lines and for the construction of new ones, a sum estimated at about \$35,000,000, out of a capital of about \$140,000,000. It will be observed that the government remains the majority holder, so state ownership is continued.

A city judge of Atlanta, Ga., has ordered the policemen of that city to provide themselves with gags, and to use them upon persons who swear when arrested, saying, "It is the duty of the officery summarily to gag every prisoner, male or female, who begins to abuse the officer and to use profane language when he or she is placed under arrest." He declared that the thing had reached the limit, that he was tired of hearing officers tell of the frightful blackguarding and cursing they had to endure at the hands of prisoners. He added that people passing on the street, oftentimes ladies, were compelled to hear such awful talk. If this is legal, we hope that it will extend throughout the country. Some way should be found of preventing policemen from talking in a similar manner. It is not uncommon, though not as frequently heard in this country as some years ago.

AUTOMATIC MACHINE TELEGRAPH

The latest thing promised is the reduction of the cost of transmitting one thousand words to ten or fifteen cents is promised for the not remote future. The *N. Y. Advocate* says: "It is affirmed that a telegraph system has been invented by which an operator can telegraph three thousand words a minute. By means of it a business man in New York may dictate to his stenographer a letter of a thousand words, addressed to a correspondent in Chicago. The stenographer writes the letter on a tape, punching out the characters with a machine having a keyboard resembling that of the typewriter. A messenger takes the tape to the telegraph office; it is there fed to a machine and the letter of one thousand words is transmitted to and printed on a tape in Chicago in exactly one minute. The tape is then delivered to the New York man's correspondent, and his stenographer copies it out. This invention is known as the automatic machine telegraph. It is almost too much to believe, but as the inventor, P. B. Delaney, is the electrical engineer who invented the multiplex telegraph system, by which six messages can be telegraphed over a single wire at the same time, it may be true.

ORATORY.

All speaking is not oratory; most even of what men call fine speaking has little akin to it. The form of expression may be of the nicest, the flow of words of the smoothest, and even the thought of the highest order, and yet it may not be oratory. On the other hand it is possible for the sacred fire to flash forth from rude and unlettered people and with strange and moving force.

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Real oratory is a child of truth and ardour. Falsehood is fatal to its birth, and coldness clips its wings and hinders all effective flight. The soul must be at white heat and cry to be delivered of its message, and the message must proceed from the very throne of truth, and appeal for response to the deepest feeling of the auditors. Oratory delights in broad lines and bold imagery; it dislikes the tangling strands of small issues and dry detail.

The mental eye of the orator must see with perfect clearness the thing he wishes to describe, or he can never adequately represent it to his hearer; he must feel its absolute truth and urgency before he can stamp its burning importance upon his auditors. The real orator cannot be a bad man; the ring of his coin must be genuine. The eternal mint of truth utters no spurious metal. The mission of the orator has not ended. So long as truth lives and men feel, so long as there is place and scope for him.

Neither painting nor music, nor sculpture, nor poetry, nor any other form of expression, can ever replace the living prophet, called of God, on fire with truth and impelled by the relentless fiat, "Go forth and speak to my people."—*Hon. G. E. Foster, in February Canadian Magazine.*

A Japanese Statesman's Testimony.

The outworn religions of Asia are fighting a losing and hopeless battle with Christianity. Her younger and more intelligent men are seeing the emptiness of their old beliefs, and her statesmen are beginning to make comparisons between the backwardness and weakness of their own countries and the power and progressiveness of the nations where Christianity is the dominant faith. Japan is advancing rapidly towards not only the rank of a leading political power, but also to a place among the Christian nations, as they are commonly called. A former member of the Japanese cabinet, Baron Majima, made an address not long since at Tokyo, in which he emphasized the importance of religion as an essential to the welfare of both state and individual. In closing he uttered this striking remark:

"And when I look about me to see what religion we may best rely upon, I am convinced that the religion of Christ is the one most full of strength and promise for the nation."

THE MAGAZINES.

Dr. Arthur J. Brown, of the Presbyterian Board of Missions, writes in the *Review of Reviews* for February on "The Railways of Canada." Dr. Brown's article is based on personal observation, and is illustrated by a map of completed and projected lines, and by various striking scenes in Chinese railroading.

The letters from Italy of Maud Howe Elliott, daughter of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, which constitute the paper called "From Italy to Pittsburg," in the February *Lippincott's Magazine*, are full of picturesque facts whose edges have been taken off by charms of style and a sense of humor. Mrs. Elliott discovered the source of the tough little Pittsburg Dago who is helping to do the world's hard work.

The readers of the *Canadian Magazine* will find excellent matter in the February number. Professor Goldwin Smith writes on "Can Canada Make Her Own Treaties?" "Comments on the Alaskan Boundary" is attractive. The article on Sydney, Australia, with illustrations, is out of the ordinary. The second instalment of the "Fight for North America" is illustrated with portraits of Governors Shirley and Dinwiddie, and autographs of some of the early French Governors. There are short articles, stories, and the departments are interesting.

HELPS MAKE HOME.—From Washington States comes this pleasant word, written by a subscriber who, until this year, was a resident of Marysville, N. B.: "We enjoy the dear old INTELLIGENCER more than ever (if possible), and it would not be home without it. We wish the paper and the editor the most prosperous and successful year in their history."

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