

matic rays of brilliance and lustre. The sunbursts on the star are too large to be designated by that usual cut glass term, so they have been given a new name—the Louisiana Purchase star. In all there are 100,000 cuts or deep incisions on the vase, which required turning it 200,000 times. The vase weighs 200 pounds. It was produced by nine men, who spent 2,000 working hours on it. The man who made the blank is 6 feet 7 inches tall. A shorter man could not have handled the great piece of glass. Twenty blanks were turned out before a perfect one was produced. The remarkable brilliancy of the vase is caused by the fusing in the glass of 10 per cent more lead than is ordinarily used."

A WONDERFUL record for promptitude and attendance is that of J. C. Lotz, who works in the revenue department of the government. Speaking of Mr. Lotz's fine record the Kansas City Journal says: "Forty-two years of service without ever having been late to his work is the record of J. C. Lotz, the oldest employe of the internal revenue department at Washington. Although over 80 years of age, Mr. Lotz is at his desk every morning promptly at 9 o'clock and the years he has spent in the work make him one of the most valuable employes in the bureau. He has been continuously in the accounting department and during the years he has served has seen more than \$7,000,000,000 pass through the office. He has the exact figures, which he has kept for many years."

MRS. VANDERBILT employs a college graduate to keep her costly bric-a-brac dusted and for this task she receives the sum of \$5,000 per year. Speaking of this fact, a writer in the Kansas City Journal, says: "Her hours are short and her time is practically her own. In the Vanderbilt mansion she occupies her own suite of rooms and when she goes out to drive she has her own hansom. A saddle horse is at her disposal. 'If I were to employ a green girl to dust my bric-a-brac,' reasons Mrs. Vanderbilt, 'it would soon be all broken. She would break more in a minute than I pay her in a year. I must get a refined, cultivated young woman, who will realize its importance and its beauty and its value.' And so she pays \$5,000 a year to a college graduate to keep the numerous pieces of bric-a-brac dusted."

THE value of one vote—what is it? A writer in the New York Tribune contributes a very interesting article on this subject, saying: "I have only one vote. What difference does it make if I use it or not? There will be no change in the result because I do not go to the polls. This is the most frequent form of excuse with which careless or indolent citizens soothe their consciences on election day. Of course the excuse carries its own refutation with it. If everybody thought and acted thus, there would be no election at all. In the gubernatorial campaign in Massachusetts in November, 1839, Marcus Morton defeated Edward Everett by a single vote in a total poll of 100,622. This defeat interrupted the hitherto triumphant political career of Everett, and withdrew him from the field of possible presidential candidates, until 1860, when he reluctantly consented to run as vice presidential nominee on the ticket headed by John Bell, and was 'snowed out of sight.'"

ANOTHER instance of the value of a single vote is given by this writer as follows: "In the spring of 1811, at the annual election in Rhode Island, there was a town precinct closely contested by the federal and the republican (the peace and war) parties. A federal farmer, hurrying down to vote just before closing time, was stopped on the way by finding one of his valuable pigs fast between the planks of a fence. He tried to pull the pig out and failed. Then with some difficulty he pried away one of the planks, released the pig, and started on a run for the voting place. Just as he got within a hundred feet of the town clock struck six. The polls closed without his vote. The result was the war representative from that town was elected by one vote. When the general assembly met a few weeks afterward a war senator was chosen by one majority on joint ballot. In 1812 the declaration of war against England was carried in the United States senate by one vote. General Jackson was nominated as a major general and confirmed by one vote. January 8, 1815, he commanded the army at the battle of New Orleans, won a great victory, became a

popular military hero, was elected and re-elected president of the United States, turned all the Whigs out of office, removed all the deposits from the national banks, vetoed the bill, and played havoc generally, and all because that pig was fast in Rhode Island got fast in a plank fence."

CONCLUDING his interesting article the Tribune writer says: "In the more limited area of congress a single vote has frequently lost or carried an important measure. In 1868 one vote transferred from the 19 negatives to the 35 affirmatives in the Andrew Johnson impeachment case would have given the president's enemies the two-thirds' majority necessary for conviction and removal. In 1846 the revenue reform or 'free-trade' tariff, an act of the greatest financial significance, was carried by the casting vote of Vice President George M. Dallas, who had at one time pledged himself to vote against it. But the importance of one vote was never more signally demonstrated than in 1801. Suppose that just one of the 73 presidential electors who declared for both Jefferson and Burr had cast for somebody else the vote he gave to Jefferson. There would have been no tie, the election would not have been transferred to the house of representatives, and Aaron Burr and not Thomas Jefferson would have been the president of the United States."

AN INTERESTING story is related by Prof. B. LeFevre, a French teacher, in the high school at Sumry, in Russia. He says that repeatedly as he was watering the plants in his garden he approached a window of his drawing room and was suddenly impressed with a feeling of acute sadness. On the third day he noticed that one of several pots of lobelia was missing from among others at that window. He spoke to his wife about it, and she then told him that she gave it away four days before. M. LeFevre believes that the other lobelia plants in that window were mourning over the departure of the plant given away and that the "aura" of sadness emanating from them communicated itself to his own spirit.

THE German law courts have settled the question of the supremacy of the kaiser, and have settled it apparently to the liking of the latter. The Milwaukee Sentinel prints the following interesting story: "Germany is stupefied over the latest case of lese majestie. A woman named Heilmholtz at a harvest festival in Blankenberg cried out: 'Hoch, hoch fur Gott.' On being questioned by a policeman as to why she did not reserve this form of salutation for the kaiser, she replied that she thought even the kaiser would admit that God came first. The enunciation of this subversive principle alarmed the police. So Frau Heilmholtz was prosecuted for lese majeste and fined \$2, with the alternative of ten days' imprisonment. An appeal was telegraphed to the kaiser, but he ignored it. They say he has been long troubled by this delicate question of precedence and is content now that it has been definitely settled by a German law court."

FRED JOHNSON, a resident of California, is authority for the statement that the island of Anacapa, one of the Santa Barbara channel group, is being slowly but surely washed away into the ocean in a most peculiar way. Mr. Johnson claims that this phenomenon is due to the presence of 400 sheep on the barren rocky island. These sheep, according to Johnson, are actually wearing away the rocks. On the south side of the island they run along the top of precipitous cliffs, forming deep pathways about three feet from the edge of the cliff. Rain soaks into these ruts and from time to time parts of the bluff fall into the sea. On the north side of the island are canyons and hollows where the soil has collected. Between the rock and the upper crust the soil washes out, and caves sometimes as deep as twenty feet are formed. The sheep run over the top of these, wear ruts in the earth, which in turn is washed into the sea.

WHY does snow fall in flakes? This question which puzzles so many people unfamiliar with the process of crystallization, is answered in the American Press in this way: "Snow falls to the earth in flakes because it is water solidified in starlike crystals, each snowflake being usually made up of several crystals, which are excessively light on account of the large quantity of air among the frozen particles. The snow crystals arise from

the slow passage of the water vapor of clouds, when the temperature falls below freezing point, into the solid condition, the fairy-like transformation taking place by the tiny independent particles of water grouping themselves with the utmost mathematical regularity around different centers. Each crystal of snow, as of anything else, is therefore a more or less perfect geometrical solid. The most complete snow crystals are formed in a clear atmosphere, where there is nothing to retard the gradual process of crystallization or molecule construction. Rain, on the other hand, being a liquid, falls in drops."

SEVERAL representative business men of Cincinnati, have entered a protest against newspaper guessing contests on the election, now so common throughout the country. The American Press cites a protest made by these men as follows: "Being unalterably of the opinion that the schemes complained of herein stimulate the spirit of gambling, encourage breaches of trust, create profligacy and mendacity and that they are as detrimental to public morality as any lottery ever devised, and being firmly of the opinion that they are in contravention of the United States statutes against lotteries and schemes for the distribution of money by chance, we respectfully petition you to cause such steps to be taken by the department of justice and by the postoffice department as may be proper and necessary to suppress the schemes of chance now being promoted through the use of the United States mails. We therefore respectfully petition that such an order be issued and further call attention to the fact that prompt action on the part of the government will inure to the benefit not only of the participants in these illegal schemes and to the general public, but to the promoters thereof as well."

IS LAZINESS caused by a germ? The Philadelphia Public Ledger says: "Uncinariasis Americana, otherwise known as the 'hook worm,' and also as the 'germ of laziness,' has had its habitat in Philadelphia since last August, certainly, and probably its advent long antedated that month. Laziness, long thought to be the result of temperament and climate, is no longer to be frowned upon by the parent and employer—at least not until a competent physician has determined that the 'germ' is not present in the body of a weary one. According to Dr. M. H. Fussell, assistant professor of the practice of medicine in the university of Pennsylvania, who discovered the presence of the disease, numbers of Philadelphians may unknowingly be the hosts of the 'germ' today, while attributing their condition to other causes."

THE symptoms of this disease, according to Dr. Fussell are a feeling of extreme lassitude, shortness of breath and occasional palpitation of the heart. The patient is pale and anemic. This was the condition of Reuben Wilson, a carpenter, who came to this city from Barbados more than a year ago. He entered the university hospital in August, and his case, the first of its kind in Philadelphia, was a puzzle to the physicians. After eliminating all other causes for the condition, Doctor Fussell proceeded on the assumption that the man was suffering from a visitation of the uncinariasis, and finally demonstrated to his associates that such was the case. More than 1,300 of the 'germs' were taken from the patient and a number are preserved in the doctor's office in Manayunk. Wilson recovered and left the hospital. It was at first thought that the man had brought the disease from Barbados, but inspection under the microscope showed that the 'germs' were of the American variety, discovered by Dr. Charles W. Stiles of the Bureau of animal industry at Washington, to which he attributes the laziness of the 'cracker' element of the extreme south. It was at one time thought that the 'germs' could live only in a sandy country, but since the case of Wilson this theory has been exploded."

AN INTERESTING story is told by the New York American in this way: "Last Friday a priest restored to the president of a traction company \$550, the amount of a verdict a woman had secured at the end of a damage suit. The woman confessed to the good priest that she was not seriously injured, but that her lawyer had told her to swear to certain things not true in order to make the verdict stick. The seal of the confessional conceals the name of the lawyer."