

bar or on the bench, he never used notes. In the case of Small vs. Atwood, tried before the house of lords, which lasted twenty-one days, the judgment he pronounced, though he was eighty-nine years old, was entirely oral; and, without referring to a note, he spent a long day in reciting complicated facts, in making complicated calculations, and in correcting the misrepresentations of counsel on both sides. Never once did he falter or hesitate, and never once was he mistaken touching a name, a figure or a date."

HAS the number of suicides in the United States increased in late years? The Kansas City Journal says it has, and supports its contention with the following statistics: "In twelve years there have been over 77,000 suicides recorded in the United States, the number increasing annually from about 2,500 in 1891 to 8,600 in 1903. There were 50 per cent more suicides in Chicago in 1903 than in 1902. In Philadelphia, for 1902, the official records showed a ratio of fifteen suicides per 100,000 of population. The president of a life insurance company has stated that, while during fifty years the increase in suicides has averaged thirty to each 1,000,000 persons, the increase of suicides among insured lives has been much greater."

A REMARKABLE case of usury has been brought to light in Denver, Colorado. The Associated Press says: "Thomas Porter, an employe of the Union Pacific railroad in court this morning, asked to be freed from peonage and involuntary servitude, to which he has been subjected by the Star Loan company. Porter complains that because he borrowed \$60 in 1900 on which he has paid back \$470, he has been forced to assign his wages for life and, according to his computation, he will never become cleared of that loan of \$60. Porter, seeing that he was going deeper into the mire, went into the bankruptcy court. The claims of the Star Loan company against him were scheduled as a portion of his liabilities. On August 18 he secured his discharge, absolved from all of his debts. The loan company did not accept this discharge and as soon as another month's salary was coming to Porter, the life assignment was filed with the railroad company and the money was paid into court by the employer. The loan company avers that Porter still owes it \$142."

CONSIDERABLE comment has been occasioned by the enormity of the slaughter in the battles between the Japanese and Russians. Liao Yang was the scene of a most harrowing slaughter, and yet, the Newark, N. J., Advertiser says: "It turns out that the battle of Liao Yang, between the Russian and Japanese forces, was not the bloodiest in military history. In eight previous great battles, three of them during our civil war, the percentage of loss was much greater. A list of these principal battles is worth study:

Battles.	Troops.	Casualties.	P. C.
Gettysburg	151,000	54,807	36.3
Blenheim	108,000	43,000	35.5
Lepsic	430,000	131,000	30.4
Plevna	225,000	70,000	30.1
Waterloo	189,000	52,000	27.9
Wilderness	186,000	49,137	21.4
Chancellorsville	139,000	28,311	20.3
Gravelotte	350,000	35,000	10.0
Liao Yang	338,000	34,500	9.8
Rosbach	83,000	7,700	9.5

THE Advertiser article concludes as follows: "It will be seen that while at Gettysburg less than half the number of troops were engaged than took part in the battle of Liao Yang, the casualties were 20,000 more. In the Wilderness they were 15,000 more. When the battles of Gettysburg and the Wilderness were fought the weapons used were greatly inferior to those of the present day. The troops on either side used the muzzle-loading musket, most of the cannon were smooth-bore and of limited power and range, while the tremendous explosives used at Liao Yang were unknown. If the union and confederate armies at Gettysburg had been provided with the weapons used by the Russians and Japanese in the present war, the three days' fighting would have nearly destroyed both armies."

THE world's output of gold this year is valued somewhere near \$350,000,000, and next year's output is expected to surpass this. But a decline is promised in a very few years. A writer in the Kansas City Journal says: "The discovery of new mines is not keeping pace with the exhaustion of

those now being worked; so under existing conditions, if continued, the output must reach its zenith within a very few years and then gradually decline. However, in the past the supply of this precious and necessary metal has always been sufficient to meet the demand, and probably it will still do so. New fields have invariably been brought in in time to replace the old and exhausted ones. Twenty years ago the Rand was not discovered. Eleven years ago there was no Cripple Creek, Kalgooile or Klondike. Gold, fortunately, is the most widely distributed of metals. There still must remain hundreds and thousands of undiscovered mines somewhere on the globe; but whether these will be unearthed within the next five years, or in time to counter-balance the approaching deficiency, will, of course, be a subject of lively interest until all doubts and fears are removed."

THE old fields do not give very flattering prospects, and the Journal adds: "The prospects for increasing supplies from most of the old fields are not good. The yield from Australia and the United States is falling off. Canada is a disappointment. The Klondike yield reached its highest figures three years ago and since then has materially declined. New Zealand seems to be about exhausted. The output from Russia is confined to the alluvial mines of Siberia, and never surpassed its maximum attained many years ago. Careful calculations show that the mines now in operation in the Rand basin and the Transvaal and Rhodesian fields will have passed the highest limits of their productivity within the next five years."

THE Journal article concludes as follows: "Mining, however, is full of surprises and defies calculations. The very richest veins and deposits have time and again been uncovered by a lucky stroke of the pick in mines that have been abandoned as hopelessly worked out. Thousands of prospectors had worked for years over the Cripple Creek field and given it up as worthless until Stratton made his wonderful find. Moreover there are many places bearing excellent indications of gold that at present have no more than been scratched. Mexico, Korea, British Columbia, Central Africa, and the vast regions of interior China will probably be the scenes of great discoveries long before the stock and visible supply of gold will show a serious decline."

THERE are several animals which seem to need no water, or which drink only at certain intervals. A writer in the Brooklyn Citizen, commenting upon this fact, says: "There is a certain breed of gazelles which never drink, and the llamas of Patagonia live for years without taking water. There is a particular class of cattle near Losere, in France, that rarely touches water, but in spite of this fact these cattle give milk of a rich quality, from which excellent cheese is made. Many naturalists have the theory that hares do not drink or that water is not a necessity for them, and that the dew on the grass is sufficient for their needs."

A WRITER in the New York Sun points out that the standard of salaries of mayors of American cities is high compared with the pay of congressmen, state legislatures and of the cabinet and state officers. This writer says: "The mayor of New York receives \$15,000, \$5,000 more than the governor. The salary of the mayor of Philadelphia is \$12,000, \$2,000 more than is paid the governor of Pennsylvania. The salary of the mayor of Boston is \$10,000, \$2,000 more than is paid the governor of Massachusetts. The mayor of San Francisco receives \$6,000, the amount paid the governor of California. Denver pays its mayor \$5,000, while Colorado pays its governor the same amount. St. Louis pays its mayor \$5,000, the same salary paid the governor of Missouri. The salary of the mayor of Chicago is \$10,000; the governor of Illinois is paid \$6,000. New Orleans pays its mayor \$6,000 a year. Cincinnati and Cleveland have the same rate of pay. Allegheny City pays \$7,500, and Baltimore the same. The mayors of Louisville, Jersey City, Buffalo, Providence, Newark and Detroit receive \$5,000 a year each. The mayor of New Haven receives \$3,500, and the mayor of Worcester, Mass., \$2,500; the mayor of Minneapolis, \$2,000; the mayor of Binghamton, \$1,500, and the mayor of Dallas, \$1,000."

THE Kansas City Journal, commenting upon the great corn crop of 1904, says: "Preliminary returns to the chief of the bureau of statistics of

the department of agriculture on the production of corn in 1904 indicate a total yield of about 2,453,000,000 bushels, or an average of 26.7 bushels per acre, as compared with an average yield of 25.5 bushels per acre as finally estimated in 1903, 26.8 bushels in 1902, and a ten-year average of 24.2 bushels per acre. It is estimated that 3.6 per cent of last year's crop is still in the hands of the farmers, so the visible supply of corn now in the country must be 2,466,465,051 bushels, all told. The crop of this year surpasses that of last year, but is considerably smaller than was that of 1901 when the greatest crop on record was produced. The United States never was a great exporter of corn. The greatest amount ever exported since statistics have been preserved was in 1898, when the exports reached 11.14 per cent of the crop. Since then this percentage has been reduced almost to nothing. Last year it was 3.04, and in 1902 it was only 1.84. This year it is not believed that any part of the crop worth considering will be shipped out of the country. The home consumption increased by the increasing use of cornmeal as food for man will exhaust practically all the supply."

"YOU have given me \$45,000 too much money," said Harry B. Cassin, as he returned to the Southern National bank at Louisville, Ky., a package of bills which had been given to him as \$5,000, and which really contained \$50,000. The interesting story is told by the Louisville correspondent for the New York World in this way: "Cassin is only sixteen years old and is employed as a runner by the First National bank. He surrendered the fortune which had come into his hands through a mistake as calmly as if he had been correcting a mistake in change at a lunch counter. He is a son of Henry F. Cassin, United States commissioner, and has been at work only a short time. He was sent to the Southern National bank with a check for \$32,000, and presented it for payment to H. D. Ormsby, the cashier. Mr. Ormsby made the payment in batches of bills each containing \$500. He counted out sixty-five of the packages and paid the remaining \$400 in loose bills. While checking off the count of Mr. Ormsby, Cassin noticed that one of the packages was different in appearance from the rest and took it up to examine it more closely. To his surprise, he found that it was marked '\$50,000.' 'It was a very natural mistake,' said the boy, 'and any person is likely to make the same kind of a blunder in handling bills which have been assorted and placed in packages. It did not occur to me that there was anything remarkable in the experience, and I immediately returned the bills to their proper owner.'"

THE great weight of storage batteries which is so serious an objection to their use on passenger cars and smaller carriages, is said to be an advantage on switching locomotives, as it gives the necessary adhesion. A writer in the New York Commercial, referring to this point, says: "Such a locomotive is being tested in the yards of the Prussian state railway. Among its special merits it claims that of always being ready and that of costing less than steam for irregular service. The battery of two hundred cells is charged once a day from a source of constant current of one hundred and ten volts. The total weight of the locomotive is 59,000 pounds, of which 22,000 pounds is the weight of the battery and 9,500 pounds that of the other electric apparatus."

RECENTLY a statement was issued from Tokio to the effect that the total losses in killed suffered by the Japanese army since March 29, 1904, when the crossing of the Yalu river was made, to the present time, were, in round numbers, 12,000. A writer in the New York Commercial, commenting upon this statement, says: "Doubtless the number of wounded was three times as great, which would make the total losses in battle in the four months of campaigning about 48,000 men, or, say, 50,000. The Japanese are reported to have fought with extraordinary courage and even disregard for life, while the Russians are known to be stubborn and sturdy fighters. Both armies have improved long-range small arms and breech-loading cannon, besides machine guns of the most formidable description. The Japanese have had in the field not less than 250,000 men, while the Russians had 150,000. The Russian losses are not known, but as they generally fought behind defenses of some sort, it is likely that their losses were not so great as those of the Japanese."