THE BEE: OMAHA, MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1914.

The Proposed Mediation.

If the proposal of mediation by representatives of three South American republics, and its conditional acceptance by President Wilson, offers even a chance to adjust our differences with Mexico satisfactorily without further bloodshed, it should be welcomed by all our people.

From our side the only cause for wondermont is that some serious move along this line was not taken when the Tampico incident was acute, and before our battleships were ordered to seize Vera Cruz. Had efforts toward mediation been begun then, the lives of scores of Americans and hundreds of Mexicans might not have been needlessly sacrificed during the last week.

Remit by draft, express or postal order. On'y two-cent stamps received in payment of small ac-counts. Fersonal checks, except on Omaha and eastern exchange, not accepted. So far as shifting before the world the blame for further warfare on Huerta, and reassuring President Wilson that he has made one more attempt at peaceful solution, the mediation proposal appears to be a wise stroke. But let us try to look at it without prejudice, if we can, from the Mexican viewpoint. Huerta and his Address communications relating to news and edi-torial matter to Omaha Bee, Editorial Department. colleagues must be tempted to regard the suggestion coming at this time, and from these particular sources, as prompted, if not formulated. by President Wilson, himself. Will they not State of Nebraska, County of Doug'as, ss. Dwight Williams circulation manager of The Beo Publishing company Leing duly sworn, says that average dails circulation for the month of Marcin 1914, was 1161. DWIGHT WILLIAMS, Circulation Manager. Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this lat day of Apri, IEL ROBERT HUNTER, Notary Public. ask why the mediation should devolve upon the only three South American countries that have refused Huerta recognition, and that have taken the side of the United States? Will they not be suspicious that such mediation is unfriendly, and bound in advance to adjudge the Subscribers leaving the city temporarily Huerta government to be usurpers rather than should have The Bez mailed to them. Adto prescribe what reparation should be made dress will be chauged as often as requested. for the insults and indignities of which slone we have officially complained and set forth as The way to arbitrate is to arbitrate. the reasons for our invasion of Mexican Now if the lawyers indicted by the several territory? federal grand juries can only work it as easily!

The Bee would like to see the war averted. We hope that some peace plan may yet be successful. We hesitate, however, to expect its immediate accomplishment by the present mediation proposal.

"Bricks Without Straw."

Here are some figures from a survey of country schools in a large middle western region: In all the schools linear measure is taught, yet in only onefifth of them are tapelines found; they all teach avoirdupois weight, yet less than a tenth of them have scales; they teach liquid measure, but only a

In a third of the schools geography is taught

everything out of a book; reduce it so far as possible to a parrot'lke exercise of memory; make it all as dry and repulsive and remote from actual life as

While we are surprised to learn that such a condition exists in schools of the middle west and doubt its existence to any appreciable degree within our own immediate vicinity, we present the statement and comment for whatthey are worth. The Post's ironical inferences are all right. If there are any schools or rchoolmasters hereabouts responsible for such deficiency in their methods of instruction, we



Spread the Good Report.

NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., April 25.-To the Editor of The Bee: I seceived that song book all O. K. and was certainly pleased with it. The book was surely worth its price. Already I have spent the evenings playing over these places and enjoyed the time spent. I certainly will publish it among my friends and neighbors. GERTRUDE O'BRIEN, 103 South Tenth, Fourth Corso.

Cultivation of City Waste Spaces. PARIS, April 17 .- To the Editor of The Bee: I have read with interest the illustrated article in The Bunday Bec of March ", on "I'ncultivated Waste Places."

Your writer has not made a new discovery. A quarter of a century ago James Laughland, then in charge of the Assoclated Charities in Omahn, observed a similar state of affairs. Mr. Laughland was born in Great Brita'n, where he spent his early manhood. He then went out to South Africa, where he remained a decade or so, and later came to Omaha. when about 60 years of age. He was a good organizer and an energetic man. He knew what was necessary to produce a crop. First, the ground: second, seed: and third, labor. He called on real estate owners and asked permission to use their vacant lots for garden purposes and met with but few refusais. I owned marly all of Durant Place, rich, level land, not thin, exhausted soil or ground that had been filled with yellow clay as shown in itwo of the three large pictures in your article. I gave consent for Mr. Laughland to cultivate twenty lots. At that time I had a team and carriage and used to drive out evenings with my children, expecting to see the gardens grow Towards the close of the planting season Mr. Laughland came to my office and said apolegetically, that he had more ground than he could use and that he had not been able to get anyone to plow up and plant a crop on my lots. It was not poss ble, he said, to obtain the requi-

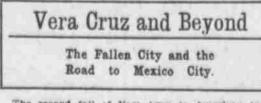
Young people are supposed to want work, to be aching for it. The acres (8,000) have been found; now for the achers.

The youngsters whom I have known hest were disinclined to rise with the lark and wield the hoe or pick potato bugs to the music of the warblers. Men and women who have a regular occupation need the mornings and evenings for rest and while your writer's plan looks good on paper. I pred ct that it will be found difficult to put into practical operation. As Harry P. Dauel used to say: "There

are a good many holes in a saimmer. If space permitted, I would give my views on vacant lots and nonresident owners, having noticed that both are usually neglected and friendless.

LEWIS S. REED.

What Kind of Progressive! NORTH LOUP, Neb., April 25 .- To the Ecitor of The Bee: In view of the talk about him as a progressive let us look into Mr. Howell's case and find just how progressive he is. Mr. Howell is now at the head of the Omaha water works. He was very active in the lobby of the legislature a year ago in the interest of a water district and also of water power developments on Nebraska rivers. A special committee on water power was appointed in the legislature, with Mr. McAllister of Dakota county chairman. Very early in the session Mr. Howell appeared before that committee and many other people in a meeting at the Lindell hotel at Lincoln. Much to my surprise Mr. Howell strongly advocated state ownership and state development of water powers in his speech before the committee. Tn watching Mr. Howell's movements since that time I have been thoroughly convinced his speech demanding state ownership of water powers was a preconceived scheme to drive the Standard Oil interests into certain agreements with certain other financial Interests with whom Mr. Howell was connected. Those ailled interests were having much trouble with respect to the infringement of water power franchises on the Loups and Platte. Soon after Mr. Howell's speech, a concession was made by the Standard terests and again Mr. Howell showed his hand in the legislature, this time not in the interest of state ownership, but in the interest of the allied corporate powers Before going further let me suggest that the Lincoln correspondent of the World-Herald must certainly represent some very select political gas plants of Lincoln, with whom this writer has had some very distinct experience in court. do not need an introduction to the gentlemen, as my acquaintance with them is very intimate. Two or three weeks after Mr. Howell made the famous speech on state ownership, he came back with three water power bills and he handed them to me and I read them. The more important of them was introduced as H. R. sos and 8. F. 425, Both bills were worded alike. The house roll was not pushed, but the senate file was forced and passed with seven dissenting votes only. I will quote section 5 of the bill: section 5 of the bill: Section 5-Said water power district shall be a body corporate and posses all the usual powers of a corporation for public purposes, and in its name may sus and be sued, purchase, hold and sell is resonal property and real setate, and shall have the sole management and con-trol of its assets, including all rents, revenues and income from sale of water power and electric energy that now are or may be hereafter authorized by law; an dthe sole management and control of hydro-electric and suzillary steam-electric power plant or plants including distribution lines within or without said r ater district now or hereafter owned or distribution lines within or without said vater district now or hereafter owned or leased by said district; and said power plants and distribution lines are horeby declared to be works of international im-provement. Said water power district shall also have the power to appropriate private property required by said cla-trict and power plant or plants and the authority and power herein conferred shall extend as far beyond the corporate limits of said water power district as the authorities thereof may deem neces-sary. eary Now suppose that Lancester county might have formed itself into a water power district according to other provi-W. M. Paxton, St. Platte City, Mo., has won a sions of the same bill-that district would prize for attending funday school for more than sixty have been enpowered to go into any part of the state and condemn any steam-James Connaughton, principal keeper of Sing Sing electric, power plant-any water power prison. New York state, is taking, in a hospital, his alts, or any other property needed in the interest of such district. And the whole institution would have been governed from Lincoln, perpetually, and would also have been "international improvements" subject to the State department at Washington. Study the section quoted above and see what there is in it. Mr. Howell brought that bill to the legislature as a substitute for his original demand of state ownership. But my principal objection to Mr. Howell is that in case of his election on the republican ticket, the World-Herald, and not Mr. Howell, would be governor. If the fool-killer were to come along, how could he overlook Lincoln? WALTER JOHNSON.



The second fall of Vera Crus to American troops was in marked contrast to the flerceness of the defense when General Scott forced the surrender of the city March 19, 1867. The fighting last week occupled parts of three days, yet the casualties were greater than on the former occasion, though the totals combined barely rise above a skirmish record. Forty-eight years ago General Scott at the head of 12,000 men bombarded the city for four days, assisted by the flect under Commander Perry. A garrison of 4,500 men resisted as best it could and surrendered on the fifth day, with a loss of 1,000 men. The Americans lost eleven killed and fifty-six wounded. In the intermittent fighting of last week, up to Saturday morning, the loss was seventeen killed and seventyfive wounded.

Vera Cruz is the chief port of entry in Mexico and is about 500 miles by railroad from Mexico City. Its normal population is 32,006. The city rivals Boston in crooked streets and has a large number of narrow lanes which intersect broad streets of modern construction. In the commercial part of the city the houses are of two and three stories and are well constructed.

A dozen years ago the Diaz government started work on the present new port, spending \$12,000,000 in making it the best and safest in the republic. It has an aera of 570 acres and accommodates steamers of large draft.

Should necessities of the present situation force an inland invasion to Mexico City, the road onward from Vera Cruz is about as tough a proposition as marching men can tackle. General Scott and his troopers were on the way the greater part of four months and fought several severe batties before American artillery was trained on the fortifications of the capital. Two lines of railroad connect the two cities-the Mexican railroad, standard gauge and well constructed, and the Interoceanic, a narrow gauge of little value and poorly equipped. Both roads wind around numerous mountains, across innumerable ravines and canyons on bridges that may be quickly destroyed with explosives. Tunnels may be amashed or the right of way blocked by rolling boulders down the mountain sides.

An army expert in the New York Sun contends that the march of an army of invasion to Mexico City from Vera Cruz means guerrilla fighting for approximately 300 miles under conditions to try the most seasoned of troops. It means taking men accustomed to atmospheric conditions at sea level up as high as \$,00 feet to Mexico City.

Only trails made by hundreds of years of mule trains over the old military road can be followed, and that means a constant harrassing by sharpshooters in the mountains. No troops not hardened to the climate and altitude could accomplish the journey unencumbered. Weighed down by field equipment it would be a physical impossibility for them to do fast work. General Scott proceeded slowly, giving some of his men three months to learn how to use their strength in the rarified atmosphere. It will be neces-SAFY NOW

If the rallroads can be saved by any method the problem will be easier. There will be the Mexican raliway with its 264 miles to the city or the other, the old road with its 294 miles.

There are mportant towns and cities nestling up in the mountains all the way from the tropical towns of San Francisco to the semi-tropical Jalapa, and up into the cold Oriental, Pavon, Puebla, Gillow and San Lorenzo. The rivers to be crossed will be many. There will be many souvenirs of the American visit, among them at Perote, which has an altitude of 7.853 feet. It is the ancient fortress of San Carlos de Perots which was captured by General Worth. Of late years it has been a military prison.

Man Behind the Guns.

Rear Admiral Frank Friday Fletcher, the man behind the guns in Vera Cruz and American commander of the city, was a genuine landlubber in youthful days, being an Iowa man born in far-famed Oskaloosa. He is on his fifty-ninth year and has been in the naval service since July, 1876, reaching his present rank in October, 1911. He has commanded the torpedo boat Cushing, gunboats Kanawha and Eigle, the cruiser Raleigh and the battleship Vermont. In 1910 he was appointed as aid to the secre tary of the navy for the division of material, holding this post until transferred to his present command. The admiral received much prominence in naval circles throughout the world by his inventions, known as the Fletcher breech mechanism and gun mounts.

SUNNY GEMS.

"A politician who keeps an ear to the ground is likely to hear a great deal that is interesting?" "Yes," replied Senator Sorghum; "and on the other hand he may simply get an earache."-Washington Post.

"Demosthenes acquired success by talkwith pebbles in his mouth," observed ing. Sage. But if he fived today he would have

to talk with rocks in his pocket," re the Fool-Louisville Courier-Journal replied Ican. "Pretty brisk village, they tell me

"Briak!" I should say it was brisk! There ain't a bachelor in it-an' there a only two old maids, an' neither o' them is more'n 27. -Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Doceor, is your patient sure you can "How did you know my patient was not

"I heard that you were going to try the silence cure."-Baltimore American.

The suburban car was waiting at a turnout for the car going in the op-posite direction to come along. "It's sharmeful." complained an impatient woman passenger, "to have to be stopped

"Well, ma'am," said the conductor, calmiy, "If you want to finish your trip in an ambulance, we can go on and collide with the other car."-Hoston Transcript.

"Who is that man who is being cheered by the crowds?" asked the

cheered by the crowds?" asked the atranger. "That is John Smith." replied the by-stander. "What did he ever do?" asked the stranger?" "He invented the noiseless phono-graph."-Louisville Courier-Journal.

What has become of your cousin?"

"She went crazy over the tango and we had to send her to a sanatorium." "Hers is a sad lot." "Oh. no; she's perfectly happy. They tango at the annatorium and she has learned four new steps."--Cincinnati Enquirer.

Mr. Kelly-An' how are ye this mornin'. Mistress Flyn? Is yer rheumatiz any better Mrs. Flyn-Well, yis, I think it is, I thank ye koindly. The new doctor's treatment is doin' me a worl' ay good, I belave. He advoises me to take queen ann enternally, and to rub anarchy on me j'ints. So I'm doin' it, an' I think

He-i can't afford to marry for five years Will you wait for me? She-Cortainly-if no one else marries me before then -Judge.

it's helpin' me wonderfully."-Christian

"This letter plainly envenomed my father's mind against me. How do you suppose the writer did it?" "I suppose to be in the fashion, he used a poisoned prn."-Baltimore Amer-

HYMN OF THE WEST.

Edmund Clarence Stedman. O Thou, whose glorious orbs on high Engired the earth with splendor round From out Thy secret place draw nigh The courts and temples of this ground

Eternal light, Fill with thy might These domes that in Thy purpose grew, And lift a nation's head anew!

llumine Thou each pathway here. To show the marvels God hath wrought! ince first Thy people's chief and seer Looked up with that prophetic thought. Looked up with that prophetic Bade time unroll The fateful arroll. And empire unto freedom gave

From cloudland height to tropic wave.

Poured through the gateways of the North Thy mighty rivers join their tide, nd, on the wings of morn sent forth. Their mists the far off peaks divide. By Thee unsealed

The mountains yield Ores that the wealth of Ophir shame. And gems wrought in seven-hued flame.

Lo, through what years the soil hath lain Lo, through what years the soil nath in At Thine own time to give increase— The greater and the lesser grain. The ripening holl, Thy myriad fleece! Thy creatures grage Appointed ways: League after league across the land The censeless herds obey Thy hand.

Thou, whose high archways shine most

clear Above the plenteous western plain. Thine ancient tribes from round the sphere

To breathe its oulckening air are fain; And smiles the sun To see made one

Their brood throughout earth's greenest space. Land of the new and lordlier race?



site labor.

It is our guess at long distance that the mediation proposal represents a lot of busy The man with the hammer, Venner, bas fifth have any measures

without maps, and in more than two-fifths without globes. All of them seek to teach children things about this fruitful and wonderful earth, yet more than two-thirds of the teachers never step outdoors to vitalize a point by the fields, flowers, woods, rocks and streams negr at hand.

That is the blessed old educational recipe: Get possible.-Saturday Evening Post.

hope they will not fail to profit by these suggestions. The time for teaching boys and girls wholly by theory has gone by. The Bee is a strong advocate of the objective system of education, as much so in the urban as rural schools. In this connection, however, let us take occasion to remark that in the Omaha schools may be found some excellent examples of that method. We feel sure that inquiry would disclose very little in this connection here to complain of.

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CORRESPONDENCE

MARCH CIRCULATION.

51,641

summer and the second

"No political colonels!" Our democratic

As partial amends Uncle Sam is furnishing

friends have troubles in plenty with the post-

the inhabitants of Vera Cruz a free aero

been quiet about Omaha for an unusual length

of time. Be on the lookout for another brickbat.

light wires underground is being extended in

Omaha. Why not enlarge the compulsory under-

Charities and Corrections conference this week

calls for a sufficient lull in the war excitement

to permit it to receive the attention it deserves.

States, saying, "Americans have stood by

me when I needed friends." Coming from

an outlaw and cold-blooded murderer, that

Villa expresses friendship for the United

If that offer of American locomotive engi-

The area in which conduits take electric

The excellent program of the Nebraska

hours put in by the Hon. John Barrett.

ground district for all the wires?

seems a rather questionable tribute.

masterships.

tournament.

By carrier per month.

By mail per year. \$6.00

nears to man Mexico railroads is taken up trains in Mexico will run as they never have run since those same American engineers ran them before they were run out of the country by the rebellion.

Gevernor Major of Missouri has committed himself to this: "There will be no Missouri regiments commanded by politicians, ignorant of all things military. We will want men who know how to fight, not politicians." Governor Major must have had his ear to the ground.

The anti-suffragist women have kindly resolved to leave to the men of the nation the decision of the policy of peace or war, and to stand ready to render such service as women have always rendered in such emergencies. Now, what are the suffragist women going to do about it?

The governor of California has refused to fall in line with the mush-and-milk hurran raised by an emotional San Francisco editor for the release of Rouf from the penitentiary, the editor being the same who got so much fine free advertising from his pursuit of Reuf to the prison. As a standpatter Governor Johnson commands admiration.

Under the spur of legislative enactments, puched through by the beneficiaries, pension systems for municipal employes have been piled up on New York City without due consideration of the cost or adequate provision for raising the money. The peril of municipal bankruptcy is so apparent that a city commission tentatively agrees on a half-and-half system of contributions by the city and the employes. Unless some system of partial self-insurance is provided the various pension funds will break down under dead weight.



Lovers of cock fighting were considerably disapinted by the miscarriage of arrangements for a main to take place a short distance from the city. The fight had to be called off owing to the nonappearance of the Council Blufts birds. The leading members of the Evans, Bryant & Hoey

meteors are stopping at the Millard.

Notice of a meeting of Myrtle lodge. Knights of Pythias, is signed with the name, James Catters, chancellor commander. The

bock teer seaton has been inaugurated in Omaha Mrs. Joseph Steabell issues a card of thanks to

friands assisting in her late bereavement. The family of John Lindsey received an increase

by the arrival of bright twin boys, Rev. J. S. Detwiler, the new pastor, conducted ser-

vices in the new Lutheran church. Dinamore is back from an extended trip to

the cust, where he investigated new and improved methods of sanitarium treatment in connection with his proposed row sanitarium.

Bonner, 1815 Dougias street, advertising house shing goods in largest assortment and lowest

Mrs. Annie Lathrop, wife of i. C. Lathrop, died at their residence, 1605 Farmaro struct. The remains are being shipped to Glenwood, In., for interment. | "half soled" and returned by parcel post.

Another New African Race.

Following rather closely on the heels of the discovery of the blonde Eskimos in the wilds of the Arctics comes the announcement from a missionary of the finding of a new race of black gian's in the remote fastnesses of the Sudan. Like the Arctic blondes, his African brunettes display signs of intelligence and gentleness seemingly incompatible with a race of hitherto unknown creatures. These African giants, says their discoverer, not only exhibit intelligence. but instincts of religion and culture. According to his report, they are cleanly, fond of dress -in their way-and benevolent. They are brave, but humane; they will capture the wildest of beasts, but harm no human being; they believe in a Supreme Deity and have their sacrifices, and their men are kind to their women and children.

Evidently, these 8,000 newly discovered tribesmen belong to the negro race and possibly have been discovered many times before, possibly not. The Sudan is a mighty land, Africa a mightier one. For all we know there are many hidden races and peoples within these boundless domains yet to be heralded to the world. each of which in turn, like this one, may bring forth its lesson in some form or other for us. who boast of all the benefits of higher civilization. What we know thus far of many of these African races, principally with respect to their treatment of women, suggests that instinctively they have hit upon the path toward the highest intellectual and moral development. In their kindly attitude toward womankind they are that much ahead of many of the Asiatics to start with, although among the latter are the oldest known peoples of the earth.

People and Events



The Reason Why.

In a discussion of the divorce evil, Judge Ben B. Lindsey, during his New York honeymoon, told this story of an unhappy marriage;

"Over their tea at the window of a Fifth avenue restaurant one woman said to another:

"There goes Jim's wife. She's never at peace when Jim is out of her sight.' "'Dear me!' said the second woman. 'Is it be-

cause she loves him so?"

"'No; it's because she knows him so.' "-New York Mall.

Disappointment.

President Howard Elliott, pleading at a dinner in New York for fairer public opinion toward the New Haven lines, said:

"Public opinion, as it has shown itself in the past -it's growing a little kinder now-makes me think of the farm girl.

"A young farm girl asked to have Saturday off in order to go and see a man hanged. Permission was given her and she set out before daybreak, having twenty miles to walk.

'When she returned that evening she was in tears 'Whay, Milly, what's the matter?' said her mistreas.

" 'Oh, dear' sobbed the girl. 'Oh, dear!' The man's been reprieved.' "-New York Tribune.

Quite True.

"Yes, my friends," exclaimed a lecturer, "there are many excuses for the glass. The sick man says he must have his glass to make him well. The shivering taximan must have his glass to make him warm. The sweating mechanic must have his glass to make him cool

"But they lie, friends. Don't believe the workman who says he can't work without his glass. I defy anybody to mention to me a workman who cannot work as well and better without his glass as with it."

A voice in the back of the hall made itself audible: "I'll tell yer one!"

"I defy you to do so," said the lecturer; "I defy you, sir!" he roared.

Then the voice observed:

"The glazier can't do without his glass." The locturer continued his oration at a decided disadvantage .-- London Tit-Bits.

Dodging the Issue.

William J. Price, minister to Panama, smiled recently when reference was made to the way some people have of dodging the issue. He said he was rended of Jones.

When Jones returned to his happy little home in the suburbs at hash time a few evenings ago he was met at the door by mother, who was wearing a stern expression that seemed to portend a domeatic argu-

"James." said the good woman, impressively, come out into the shed. I want to show you something.

'I am right with you, beloved one," merrily responded father, inwardly doing a bit of guessing. "Trot out the show."

"Just look at those emptly hottles," returned other, pointing to quite a large heap of pints and half-pints on the floor. "How do you suppose they ever got in our cellar?"

"Really, dear, I don't know." answered father, blushing guiltily. I never took an empty bottle in the cellar in all my life "-Philadelphia Telegraph.



Mrs. Anna M. Bruen of Belvidere, N. J., who celebrated her ninety-second birthday recently, has been a Sunday school teacher for eighty years. A New Yorker's 5-year-old daughter proved an effective witness for her father in his suit for divorce. Quite a record of youthful experience in do-

first vacation in thirty-eight years ...

years without missing a Bunday.

meatic ways. Miss Ruth E. Gets of Lancaster, Pa., who was married to Charles Clark last week, carried a bouquet of flowers which was carried by a relative at her wedding thirty years ago.

Nantucket's venerable cobbier, Asa C. Jones, last week received a pair of shoes by parcel post from an old patron of his now living in San Francisco to be