

The Western Australia Budget estimates that the revenue of the current year will be the highest on record—\$3,417,000.

All association must be a compromise, and, what is worse, the very flower and aroma of the flower of each of the beautiful natures disappears as they approach each other.

Mirth is like a flash of lightning that breaks through a gloom of clouds and flitters for a moment. Cheerfulness keeps up a kind of daylight in the mind, and fills it with a steady and perpetual serenity.

Our bodies are our gardens, to the which our wills are gardeners; so that, if we will plant nettles or sow lettuce, set hyssop, or weed up thyme, supply it with one gender of herbs or distract it with many, either to have it sterile with illness or manured with industry—why the power and terrible authority of this lies in our own wills.

A new record has been established in distance traveling by electric car without recharging the accumulators. To Mr. Krieger, the well-known manufacturer, belongs the credit of covering 30 miles with one charge of electricity, a feat he accomplished recently, when he drove a machine of his own construction from Paris nearly to Chateaufort. The previous best record was 163 miles.

Germany is making its first experiment with a state-subsidized people's theater. The thickly populated industrial district of Upper Silesia has been chosen for the purpose, and in Koeslig-shutte, a hall capable of holding 1,500 persons, has been hired. The theatrical company will, however, travel frequently through the province, and it is from this part of the scheme that most success is anticipated.

A former employe of the Selby smelter confessed that he robbed the company's vault at Vallejo of \$233,000 in gold bars and bullion recently and revealed the hiding place of the gold in the bay and \$141,000 was recovered from the mud. High tide stopped the search for the remainder. It is claimed that Winters, the employe, was promised immunity from punishment and a reward if he confessed. He led the search for the gold.

Miss Sadie Benjamin of Toma Vista, Tex., is the heroine of perhaps the most remarkable episode on record. The daughter of a wealthy merchant, she fell in love with a youth named Garland, and, visiting a circus, they mounted a huge Asiatic elephant and suborned the beast's trainer to urge the elephant to top speed. The long strides of their strange steed soon carried them beyond pursuit, and to the spot where a clergyman could be found.

The death of J. Andrew Cullum of Ridge Spring, S. C., from a stroke of lightning, received two months ago, is remarkable. Mr. Cullum was struck by lightning the latter part of July. His shoes were torn off and there was a burned place on his left side. He was picked up unconscious, but soon rallied, and in a few days was out again. But the spot burned by lightning would not heal. Carbuncles formed on the burns and sapped his strength and life.

The acclimatization of the Scotch grouse in Silesia, on the East Prussian crown moors, and on the Eiffel, has proved so successful that in the last-mentioned district a thousand birds are now seen, where thirteen months ago there was not a single one. The experiment is to be repeated in other Prussian provinces. By the emperor's orders the moors near Schmolzen, in West Prussia, have just been stocked with fourteen brace, which have just arrived from Scotland.

The beauty of procrastination and the advantage of the sluggard are not ethical phrases, but they appear as a sort of a subtitle to one comic episode in a terrible tragedy. When the steamer Islander was going down in Alaskan waters last summer, hurried warning was sent to the staterooms. One man, half-awakened, laughed at what he thought another man. An instant later occurred the explosion, which hurled him into the air upon his mattress, which came down right side up upon the water. The disaster occurred near shore, the mattress was eventually hooked in, and the passenger was rescued unhurt. This tale may be believed only by those who have escaped marvelously the dangers of a tornado, but it is absolutely true.

That the Russian government is providing for eventualities in regard to the building of railway carriages for the Manchurian railway is shown by the notification as to the manufacture of twenty carriages for which an order has been given. The carriages will differ from the present type in that the sides of the carriages will consist of two plates with a thick layer of compressed cork between the inner and outer plates, the latter being 3-4 inch thick. The Russian government evidently fears some sniping along the route.

About one hundred human skeletons have just been discovered in a space four yards square in a quarry in the Olivet quarter of Cannes, France. They are supposed to be the silent witnesses to as many hitherto mysterious murders committed by brigands, who formerly haunted the roads around the town.

Every day is a little life, and our whole life is but a day repeated. Those, therefore, that dare lose a day are dangerously prodigal; those that dare misspend it, despatch.

BLIND "HELLO GIRL" A PRODIGY.



MISS ABBIE DOWNING, THE BLIND TELEPHONE OPERATOR OF METCALFE, ILL.

Miss Abbie Downing of Metcalfe, Edgar county, Ill., is the only known blind telephone operator in the country. She is a prodigy. Not only can she attend to the multifarious duties of the telephone exchange with a skill and rapidity rarely excelled by an operator blessed with sight, but is singularly versatile in accomplishments. Although blind since an infant of two years, she does all the things that a bright girl with two good eyes can do, and can do them well. All those little household duties that seemingly require sight above all other senses her deft hands can perform.

She has done the household cooking in her parents' home for years. With unerring instinct she enters any apartment in her home, dusts and cleans it with precision equaled by few. Her housekeeping capabilities have long been the admiration of housewives for miles around. These, however, are but the commoner of her wonderful abilities, as she sews by hand and on a machine. Miss Downing does fancy work that presents the smoothness and beauty of design so painstakingly sought for in vain by more fortunate women. Another remarkable trait is her penchant for music. Not only has she appeared in public and won encliums as a musician, but has taught her skill to others. Her work as a telephone operator is her most wonderful accomplishment. Through the persuasion of George W. Fair, who is interested in a number of Edgar county exchanges, Miss Downing was given a position in the Metcalfe central office. It was a doubtful experiment and many of the other stockholders were dubious whether she could perform the complex duties of the position, however gifted she was in other pursuits. Four weeks ago Miss Downing began learning the switchboard. Her success was almost instantaneous. At the end of the first day she was able to operate the exchange without the aid of her friend and instructor, Mrs. A. R. Wetz. At the end of the

third day her success was so pronounced that she was placed on duty permanently and assigned to the day shift. Officials of the company say they never had a better operator and patrons in other cities, who have occasion to use the Metcalfe toll lines, declare that no operator along the whole system makes connections more promptly or more pleasantly than the "blind girl at Metcalfe."

The Metcalfe exchange operates over sixty telephones besides the work at the toll board. Two operators handle the work, Miss Downing being wholly in charge certain hours. She locates a call instantly by the sound of the "drop," or, if busy and she fails to hear the warning click, by hastily passing her nimble, sensitive tipped fingers over the board. The plug for connection she thrusts into the proper aperture with instantaneous precision. No matter how speedily the calls follow each other she never becomes discomposed, and her mellow voice pleases the ear of the patrons invoking her services. Her geography is as beautiful as that of a teacher in penmanship. She keeps a record of the toll charges, and her method is simple and accurate. The telephone officials exhibit her neatly kept books with pride to every visitor. Miss Downing was born April 23, 1870. When two years old an affliction of the eyes bereft her of sight. When she was three years old her parents removed from Edgar county, Illinois, to Park county, Indiana. She was educated at the Industrial School for the Blind at Indianapolis, graduating June 14, 1892. Her course included scientific studies. In addition, she took special courses in music, elocution and fancy work. Miss Downing says her student days were the most pleasant of her life. Mrs. Wetz, who instructed Miss Downing in the mysteries of the telephone exchange, says she has taught several persons to operate the system, but none proved as apt as the blind girl.

NEW TRIBE OF ESKIMOS FOUND IN THE FAR NORTH



Sent out to examine the native races of the North Pacific and Arctic coasts, the Jessup North Pacific expedition has just made a valuable anthropological report in the shape of a series of striking photographs of Eskimo tribes rarely, possibly never before, visited by whites. A full set of illustrations and measurements were made of the inhabitants of two small villages. They show many peculiar characteristics possessed by these people which are totally different from those of neighboring tribes. Three tribes which have almost been isolated from outside communication

are here shown. The habitable area of these people is far inland in Arctic Alaska, east of the mouth of the Mackenzie river. They belong to two tribes, called the Konkpagmiut and Nanatagiut. Their physical characteristics are so different that it almost warrants the supposition that they are the remnants of some lost tribe that originally emigrated from Asia. Their head measurements are particularly remarkable on account of the low value of the length and the resultant high value of the breadth. The contrast between them and other Eskimo and Indian tribes was found to be very striking.

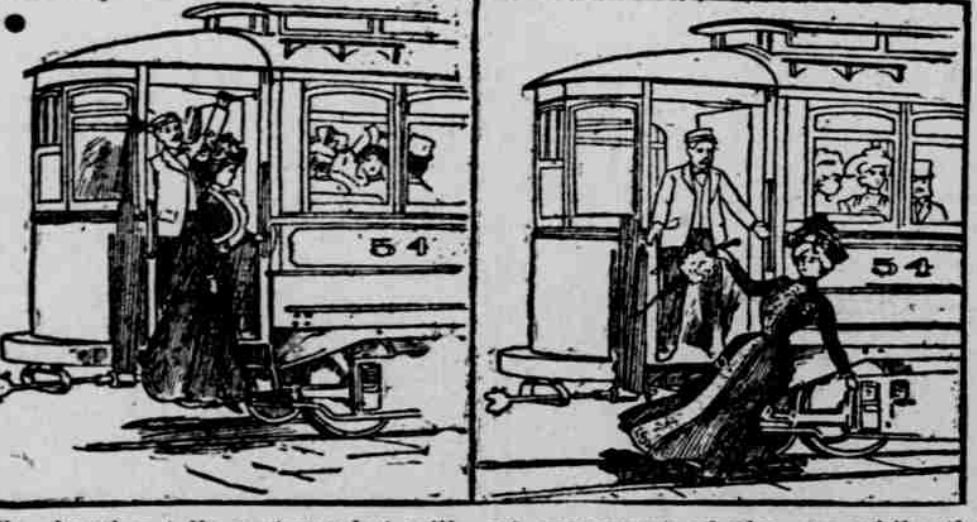
One of the facial peculiarities is the wearing of huge round ornaments sunk deep into the chin. These are made of walrus tusks hollowed out and stuck on by means of a composition of grease and deer's blood. Many of their household objects were collected. They are all of the most primitive sort. Heat for their underground quarters is furnished by a lamp composed of stone slabs, the fuel being supplied by the drippings of a piece of blubber suspended above, which fall into a wick of moss. They live entirely on animal food, a great deal being eaten raw.

RUSSIAN GOLD FIELDS. The Russian government, anxious to develop the gold mining industry—for Russia is in need of money—has temporarily remitted all duty on gold-mining machinery sent into the country. All over Siberia just now is the intruding Kayoshnik, gold hunter—an English, French or American engineer, sent out usually by a syndicate to inspect places where gold is said to exist. A Siberian prospecting party consists of a leader, an overseer, eight workmen, ten horses, eighteen saddlebags, provisions and tools, the outlay costing about \$500. When a likely valley is found, the gold hunter seeks in the river-bed for pyrites, iron, slate, clay or quartz coated with crystals. If the verdict on these is favorable, trees are felled and a hut built. The thickness of the earth covering the gold varies from two to twenty feet, and in regard to this I should point out that, owing to the almost continuously frozen state of the soil and the dense

forests, the gold deposits are protected against the denuding action of the water. If the tests yield 3/4 ounce of gold to 1 1/2 tons of earth, the result is good. If there is less than an eighth of an ounce it is poor. Sometimes as much as half a pound weight of gold is found in a ton and a half of earth. If it is worth while to mine, two posts are stuck up, one at each end of the ground, and the place is registered by the commissioner of police, or under authority from the director of mines. A government surveyor next inspects the ground and prepares a map. After that the finder can borrow money on the security of his mine at a rate of from 20 to 30 per cent. A claim is usually about three miles long. The breadth is determined by the distance between the two mountains in which the gold seam lies, but it is generally from 500 to 1,000 feet. No one is permitted to hold claims of more than three consecutive miles, but if you want to hold more the claims can be

entered in the names of your wife partner or friends. When a mine is once registered it must be worked. If the finder has not the means he may sell his claim, or transfer it. But if it is not worked it is, after an interval, forfeited to the crown. Robbers Drug Victims. Adolph Carlson, an Armourdale (Mo.) saloonkeeper; Louis Arlinger his night bartender; Tom Schwaber, a packing house employe, and the saloon porter were dragged in Carlson's place of business by two robbers, who administered "knock-out" drops. The robbers secured \$200 in cash and \$150 in checks and then set fire to the building and escaped. The fire was extinguished before much damage was done. In consequence of the enormous production of coffee in Brazil, the quantity raised in India was in 1900 only about one-half of what it had been in 1890.

Way to Leave a Street Car.



The drawing tells a story that will be interesting to many women, especially to those women—and their name is legion—who always descend from a street car or other vehicle with their backs turned toward the motorman or driver. The result is shown in the illustration on the right. The slight-

est movement of the car while the fair passenger is leaving it in the position indicated almost always causes a fall that, if it does not result in injuries, will at least give the victim much mortification. Besides, there is a gracefulness and sense of security in the ranner of leaving a

car as shown in the picture on the left. Even the attitude of the conductor makes it manifest that he feels assured the passenger will reach the street in safety, and that there will be no need of holding her by the arm, the shoulders, or any portion of her dress. Of course, it need not be said that if the car be perfectly motionless one can leave it safely while in either position, but horses are restless, and motormen are sometimes impatient or careless, with the result that the vehicle moves, and, then if the passenger be facing backward, disaster follows. The best and safest way is always to descend from a car in the position shown on the right. Then, even if the car should move, the natural position and inclination of the body will prevent humiliating disaster and possibly injury.

The late Governor Pingree of Michigan subscribed to a clipping bureau, and kept all the printed comment about himself. This was kept in a set of scrapbooks, which was said to contain 45,000 columns of newspaper comment.

THE LADY AND THE TIGER.

Fair Nimrod Who Bowled Over Jungle Monarchs in India. A record performance for a woman's record by a correspondent, says the London Field. "Miss Pole, niece of Lieut.-Gen. Sir George Luck, was the lady, and, as the object of the shoot was solely to get her a tiger, the party assembled was a small one—namely, Sir George Luck, Lieut.-Col. Ellis, R. E. Captain Cook, A. D. C., and two Indian friends. The shoot was to last four days, from a camp about ten miles north of Purnapur, on the Rohilkhand & Kumaon railway. Thirty-six elephants were collected to form the line, and it was evident on our arrival in camp that our hosts had left nothing undone to insure success. First Day—On approaching the River Saradah we spied an alligator basking on the sands on the opposite bank. Miss Pole killed it with the first shot. Arriving at the beat, and 'khubber' being vague, we formed line for swamp deer, and before long one fell, like the alligator, to the lady's rifle. Second Day—Toward 1 p. m. out came a toppling tiger, making straight for Miss Pole. Bang went her 303, and 'stripes' was a corpse. One shot, no more, as he never budged. Almost at the same time another came out to Sir George, which shared the same fate; and yet another, but this was too cunning and got off unharmed. Needless to say the excitement and rejoicings were great. Mahouts shrieked 'Shabash!' and clapped their hands; 'sooties' stared in blank astonishment. All seemed mad with delight. Lunch followed, and then a start for No. 3, the wily one. The first beat proved too much for him; with all his craft he could not escape Miss Pole, who overtook him over when going at full speed at 130 yards. This was not the first experience of tiger shooting, but I can safely affirm that it was the prettiest piece of shooting I have ever witnessed. Third Day—Sir George Luck killed the first tiger of the day. Then came a grand beast, who crossed Miss Pole to her left and plunged into a small stream in the hope of escape, but this was not to be permitted. On reaching the farthest bank he received a bullet which struck him full in the body. He thereupon threw himself into the stream again and endeavored to regain the beat, but only just managed to scramble up the bank, when he collapsed and was stone dead before any of us could get up to him."

SEX IN POPULATION.

U. S. CENSUS FIGURES SHOW THAT MALES PREDOMINATE. Since 1850 There Has Been a Distinct Numerical Superiority of the Male Over the Female Element in This Country.—The Causes. Whatever differences Dame Nature may have intended between the spheres of influence of men and women, she evidently intended that numerically at least the two sexes should stand on nearly the same footing. The world over, except where recognizable causes interfere, the male and female elements of the population are about equal. At first sight, perhaps, this may not seem at all remarkable. But it is to be remembered that in many families—large ones, too—the great majority of the children are of one sex or the other. And one should not be surprised if the aggregate effect of this lopsidedness were to produce a considerable excess of men or women in a nation. The fact that such is not the case, then, shows that there is some potent and mysterious law of compensation at work upon the race as a whole. And this law operates upon many of the animals as well as men. On the farm it is found convenient to preserve a great preponderance of one sex over the other in cattle and chickens. The bull calf is predestined from his birth to conversion into veal, and a similarly stern fate consigns the superfluous cockerel to the gridiron or chicken pie at a tender age. But, so far as the natural increase is concerned among cattle and poultry, an approximately even balance is preserved. Curiosity, not to say astonishment, is excited, therefore, by a recent announcement of the United States Census Bureau. The enumeration of 1900 shows that there are 100 more men and boys than women and girls in the United States, and that the difference exceeds 1,800,000 in a population of 76,393,287. The excess appears more distinctly, perhaps, when it is said that there are 512 males and only 488 females in every thousand people in the United States. What is more, this sort of thing has been going on, with some little fluctuation in the percentage, for over half a century. As long ago as 1850 there was a distinct numerical superiority of the male over the female element. By 1850, the preponderance was even more conspicuous, but in 1870 less than for several decades. The returns for 1880 show a slight gain once more, though the disparity of 1860 was not quite reached, and those for 1890 a still further increase. The situation has scarcely changed in the last ten years. Indeed, the Census Bureau figures out a microscopic falling off in the growth of the male population as compared with the female. To be sure, the excess was only 1,569,097 in 1890, and has since been enlarged by 254,727; but the bureau finds that the percentages of gain are not quite alike, and that there are faint indications of a future reaction. The state of things here revealed is the more striking when compared with that existing in Europe. Both in the United Kingdom and on the continent the women are more numerous than the men. It is possible to detect forces that disturb the balance in some of these countries. But Mr. Porter, superintendent of the census of 1890, was inclined to think that these influences did not operate perceptibly in Austria and the Netherlands, and hence that normally the female sex outnumbered the male in nearly the proportion of 51 to 49. Comparison with that standard, then, makes the excess of males in America stranger than if Nature exhibited strict impartiality. The two forces which appear to be chiefly concerned in upsetting the equilibrium are war and immigration. And of the two the former is much the less effective. Still, it was powerful enough to influence the returns in Germany and France after the famous struggle of 1870-71. And in the United States it pulled down the male proportion of 5.112 in every 10,000 in 1860 to 5.656 in 1870. As might be expected, the greatest excess of men is to be found in the far west, in the great agricultural and mining districts. In Minnesota and Nebraska there were at least 54 men out of every 100 people for a long time, from 55 to 58 in the Dakotas and from 60 to 68 in most of the regions to the west and southwest. The ratio in Montana was once as great as 81 out of 100, and even in 1890 was 66 1/2 to 33 1/2.

WHAT A LEADING AGRICULTURIST SAYS OF WESTERN CANADA.

Prof. Thomas Shaw of Minnesota University Gives an Unbiased Opinion. In a letter to "The Farmer," St. Paul, dated Sept. 1st, 1901, Prof. Thomas Shaw of the Minnesota State University has the following to say, after having made a trip through Western Canada: "The capabilities of the immense area known as Western Canada are but little understood on this side of the line. Our people are apt to look upon it as a region of frost and snow, a country in which but a small portion of the land relatively will ever be tillable, because of the rigors of the climate. True, the climate is cold in winter, but Western Canada has, nevertheless, just that sort of climate which makes it the most reliable wheat producing country in all the continent. An Immense Area. Western Canada is not only an immense area, but the same description will apply to those portions of the country that are capable of being successfully tilled or grazed. Nearly all of the prairie Province of Manitoba can be brought under cultivation, although probably not one-third of its surface has been laid open by the plow. Assiniboia to the west is a grain and stock country. Saskatchewan to the north of Assiniboia has high adaptation for the same. This also may be said of Alberta to the west. Here lies what may be termed a grain-growing and stock producing empire, the resources of which have been but little drawn upon comparatively, viewed from the standpoint of the agriculturist. When it is called to mind that even in the Peace River country in Athabasca, and several hundreds of miles north of the Canadian boundary, wheat was grown which won a premium at the World's Fair in 1893, the capabilities of this country in wheat production loom up more brightly than even the brilliant northern lights of the land that lies toward the pole. Adapted to Stock and Grain Production. The region under consideration is, however, mainly adapted to growing grain and grazing stock. Much of it is adapted to growing both grain and stock, but certain areas, especially towards the mountains, are only adapted to ranching, except where irrigation will yet be introduced. The country can be done successfully along the many streams that flow down from the Rockies and water the country towards the east and north. The adaptation of the country for wheat production is of a high character. The cool nights that usually characterize the ripening season are eminently favorable to the filling of the grain, and to the securing of a plump berry, and consequently large yields. The crop this year is a magnificent one. In Manitoba and the territories it should certainly give an average of more than 20 bushels per acre. But should the yield be not more than 20 bushels, the crop will be a most handsome one, owing to the large area sown to wheat. Many farmers only grow grain. But those who do succeed as well in growing oats and barley as in growing wheat, and these foods for stock should be abundant. Some grow cattle, and others combine the two, named, of course, is doubtless the best of the three during a long course of years, that is to say, where much farming is practicable. Quality of the Live Stock. It was a pleasurable surprise to note the high quality of the stock. The average of quality in cattle is higher than the average of cattle in our state, unless in the dairy classes. This opinion is not reached rashly or without ample opportunity for investigation. I spent three long days in the show ring at Winnipeg making the awards in the beef classes. I question if any of our states, single handed, could make such a showing in cattle. It was my privilege to make the awards at several shows and at all of their fairs were evidence that much attention is given to the improvement of the stock. I noted carefully the character of the herds that grazed along the railroad and everywhere the high average of the quality of the stock was in evidence. Reasons for Quality in Stock. The quality of the grass is good. Many of the settlers came from Ontario and had been schooled as to the value of good stock before going west. The railroads and the government have taken a deep interest in making it less difficult and costly to the farmers to secure good males. Those who are anxious of changing their residence should bear in mind that the lands in Western Canada are many of them free and others reasonably cheap. Information will gladly be given by any agent of the Canadian government, whose advertisement appears elsewhere. Our First "A"-less President. President Roosevelt is the first occupant of the White House, says somebody, who has looked it up, in whose name the letter "a" does not appear. Not only has that letter appeared in the names of all previous presidents, but also in the names of nearly every one of the sixty-one Americans who have received votes for presidents in the electoral college down to William J. Bryan. There are only eight exceptions to this rule. Clothes Get Sick. And cannot be ironed into shape again without the introduction of a starch containing medicinal properties. Defatted starch contains the solution that brings all washable goods back to health or newness. It makes any washable article of apparel look like new. Any grocer will sell you a 16-oz. package for 10 cents. Use it once and you will never buy any other. Made by Magnetic Starch Co., Omaha, Neb. May Still Be Had at an Advance. Charrreux is not to go as a result of the abandonment of the famous old monastery where it has always been made. One of the brethren has become a secular priest for the purpose of looking after the liqueur. The price is to be advanced. Rub a little butter on the fingers and on the knife when seeding raisins to avoid the stickiness. A wise man enjoys the little he has while the fool is looking for more.