

## SOME ITEMS OF INTEREST

The fence around the St. Louis exposition grounds will be six miles long.

A mountain of granite two miles long and half a mile wide has been discovered in Oklahoma.

During the nineteenth century 200 ships, numberless lives and over \$30,000,000 were lost in futile efforts to reach the North Pole.

The cereal food in a carton costs 21-3 cents, the package 11-3 cents. The price to the grocer is 11 1-3 cents and to the consumer 15 cents.

In Chopin's "Etude" in E minor it is necessary to read 3,950 signs in two minutes and a half, which is equivalent to about 26 notes per second.

To ordinary eyes a man 1,000 yards away—say on a rifle range—appears as a dot. He could not be known as a man except as being a smaller dot than a horse.

The English postoffice gives 20 per cent better speed in delivering parcels than the private carriers, and at a cost of 6 cents for one pound, 8 cents for two pounds and 24 cents for eleven pounds.

In the election of 1892 there were in England and Wales 46,109 illiterates; in Scotland, 4,577; in Ireland, 84,919. At the 1895 election the figures were: Illiterates in England, 28,521; Scotland, 4,062; Ireland, 40,357.

That the low-lying territory of the Mississippi should at times be overflowed is not surprising if one considers that the "Father of Waters" draws supplies from 28 states, draining one-third of the area of the United States.

According to Lord Rayleigh a film of oil on water may be so thin that its thickness is no more than one twenty-five millionth of an inch, which is computed to be, in all probability, the size of a molecule of the oil.

A flock of ostriches at Phoenix, Ariz., now numbers more than 1,000 birds. Their increase is rapid, because a pair, barring accidents, will raise a brood each summer for 70 years. Each pair produces in feathers and eggs about \$30 a year.

The Brooklyn bridge has lost place as one of the wonders of the world since the building of the Williamsburg steel bridge, a mile farther up the East river, and the bridge now building to Blackwells island will be more wonderful than either.

The commercial relations of the Albanians are principally with Venice. The Turkish government gives the Italians the right to maintain postoffices in the cities of Albania and Albania has import and export agents in Italy and a bank in Venice.

The vast bulk of the trade of the United Kingdom is certainly noteworthy. For 150 years down to the present time it has been practically a continued growth. In 1902 the total of the exports and imports touched \$4,390,000,000, the highest figure ever reached.

The restrictions of emigration from the continent to London is now agitated as an urgent public question. The census of the metropolis shows 38,177 Russians, 27,427 Germans, 13,420 Poles, 11,264 French, and 10,389 Italians. New York city can digest that number of foreigners every year.

Since the introduction of the Bertillon system in France 20,000 persons who have committed crimes and who were concealing their identity have,

by means of the system, been identified and brought to justice; and among all these not one mistake is known to have been made.

The number of theological students in Germany has diminished gradually from 4,267 in 1830 to 2,149, or less than half, although the population has doubled since 1830. The insufficiency in the number of candidates for the ministry is discussed as a matter of exceeding gravity by German theologians.

Oregon spends for the education of children \$12 a year per capita; Colorado, \$11; Illinois, \$11; California, \$10; while Kentucky expends only \$3.32; South Carolina, \$1.39; Mississippi, \$2.06. The northern states, on the average, expend nearly five times as much for education, without counting the universities, as the southern states.

One definite advantage in substituting khaki for blue cloth uniforms for the army in the tropics and in summer was not considered when the change was discussed in the war department, the anopheles mosquito not having at that time been exhaustively studied. The malaria-breeding mosquitoes will not light upon substances having a yellow color, but swarm about blue fabrics.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

## Paragraphic Punches.

Chicago Tribune: The Omaha goose and the Omaha gander are served with the same sauce.

Memphis News: The Pennsylvania press is talking through its muzzle just as if it wasn't there.

Joplin Globe: It is by no means uncommon for duplicity and rascality to hide under a shell labeled "Harmony."

Indianapolis Sentinel: The most prominent characteristic of the Iowa idea seems to be that no one has any idea where it is now.

Columbus Press: Those officials in Pennsylvania who want to muzzle the newspapers must be doing something they are ashamed of.

Kansas City World: That Pennsylvania libel law might do well enough for Russia, but it grates on the nerves of America.

Houston Post: The "Iowa idea" will be embodied in the republican platform with modifications. The "modifications" will serve to rope and throw it.

Indianapolis Sentinel: Mr. Baer's present attitude in the matter of coal prices indicates that he doesn't have to call in Providence for aid unless he wants to.

Indianapolis Sentinel: Russia has furnished a new batch of assurances, and Secretary Hay is once more relieved of the fear that something may be done adverse to British interests.

Johnstown Democrat: Some one should employ a clairvoyant and communicate with the spirit of the late lamented David B. Hill and learn what he thinks of the present political situation.

Johnstown Democrat: President Roosevelt says his favorite bird is the robin, which sounds like the favorite occupation of some of the statesmen whom he has helped to various government positions.

Johnstown Democrat: Governor Pennypacker reminds the newspapers of Pennsylvania of their truly happy lot. "In England a hundred years ago," he remarked, evidently regret-

ting the good old times, "the offender would have been drawn and quartered and his head stuck upon a pole without the gates." However, we may get back to this by the end of the present term.

Houston Post: From the scared manner in which Postmaster General Payne is calling for proofs of irregularities in the postoffice department, it is evident that he is afraid he'll get what he is asking for.

New York World: Ten cents increase each month in the price of coal is not very serious in any one month, but as a settled policy of the coal monopolist it resembles cutting off a dog's tail an inch at a time so that it may not hurt the dog so much.

New Haven Union: There is no more reason why the United States should become involved in the squabble about Manchuria than there is for war between Connecticut and Missouri. Only an imperialistic administration at Washington would for a moment entertain such a thought.

## The Commoner Picnic.

The third annual picnic of The Commoner employes was held at Wabash Neb., on Saturday, May 23. The handsome park owned by H. T. Richards of that village was thrown open to the visitors, and Mr. Richards did all in his power to make it pleasant for his guests. Upwards of fifty employes and members of their families were present, and the day was pleasantly spent in boating and kindred pastimes. At noon a basket dinner was served, and later in the day ice cream. Wabash is about thirty miles east of Lincoln and Richards' park is one of the prettiest pleasure spots within easy reach of the Capital City. These annual picnics are looked forward to with delight by the employes of The Commoner, and each one contributes to the enjoyment of the day. The expenses of the excursions are borne by the publisher and the picnic is held at a new place each year.

The annual official publication of the department of agriculture is to be printed about June 15. In an article contained in it on irrigation it is said that more than 7,000,000 acres of ir-

rigated land is being worked in the United States. The total cost of the irrigation systems is \$64,289,601 and the value of the irrigated crops for the year of 1899 was \$84,433,438.



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