

the United States. The government proposes following the same policy in Panama."

**A** NATURALIST at Boston recently criticised Mr. Roosevelt because of his hunting trip, and contended that the president should not slay any beast, particularly at this season of the year when nearly all the natives of the wild had young dependent upon them. The school board for the District of Columbia issued an order May 2, prohibiting the circulation among school children of a juvenile publication dealing with kindness to animals and edited by this Boston naturalist. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says that this was done as "a slap at the president's critic."

**I**N HIS message to congress, December 1904, President Roosevelt said: "I am of the opinion that at present it would be undesirable, if it were not impracticable, finally to clothe the commission (the interstate commerce commission) with general authority to fix railroad rates." Referring to this statement the New York Sun says that it is very different from the statement made by Mr. Roosevelt in his Denver speech. At Denver, Mr. Roosevelt said: "I have spoken of the policy of extending the powers of the interstate commerce commission and of giving them particularly the power to fix rates and to have the rates that they fix go into effect practically at once. As I say, that represents in my mind part of what should be the general policy of this country."

**A** VETO recently made by Governor Higgins of New York is just now attracting widespread attention. The story is told by the Albany correspondent for the Chicago Tribune in this way: "A bill introduced to legitimize a child born out of wedlock, which caused considerable comment but little opposition in its passage through the legislature, was vetoed today by Governor Higgins. The measure is entitled 'An act for the relief of Adelia Queenie Barker,' and recites that she is the illegitimate offspring of Charles Bell Barker and Adelia Gertrude Stringer. Governor Higgins characterized the bill as 'an insult to every faithful wife and to womanhood itself.' The father at the time of the birth of the child," says the governor, "had and now has a lawful wife living. He and his paramour, with brazen impudence and utter disregard of the rights of the lawful wife and the rules of morality,

unite in a petition to the legislature to legitimize the issue of their lawless love. If this bill should be approved a legal status would be given to a semi-polygamous relation and concubinage would become an honorable estate."

**B**ECAUSE of his devotion to his sick comrades a federal prisoner at Ft. Leavenworth has been released. A Washington correspondent for the Chicago Tribune explains as follows: On President Roosevelt's order a telegram was sent today from the department of justice to the warden of the federal prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kas., instructing that official to release Dr. John F. Tubbs, who has been serving a five years' sentence since January, 1903. Dr. Tubbs was a resident of Timbo, Ark., and was known as an educated and refined man of more than ordinary professional attainments until the time of his conviction on the charge of counterfeiting. About a year ago there was an unusual epidemic of pneumonia at Fort Leavenworth. Dr. Tubbs lost no opportunity to make himself useful. For a time he was practically in charge of the hospital. His devotion to his patients was remarkable. He contracted the dread disease and his life is now despaired of.

**T**YPHOID fever strikes high among deadly diseases. A writer in the Chicago Tribune says: The deaths from it in the United States in the last census year, 1900, numbered 35,379, being more than were caused by diphtheria, scarlet fever, and appendicitis combined. Nor is prevention of typhoid the only beneficial result gained by improving the water supply. Pure water is an aid to healthy digestion. Impure water causes several internal disorders besides typhoid and aggravates many diseases that it does not cure.

**A** GREAT many people will undoubtedly regret to learn that the report that the president no longer accepts favors at the hands of the railroads is not correct. Walter Wellman, the Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says: "It is not true, as has been published that President Roosevelt has decided to pay all the expenses of his trips about the country, including the private cars and other conveniences furnished by the railroads. Mr. Roosevelt simply follows the practice of his predecessors in the presidency. These courtesies are extended by

railway companies, not to the individual, but to the office. The president probably will start on his southern trip about the last of September and return to Washington by the middle of October, when it is expected the special session of congress will be called. After he has completed his trip of next autumn the president will be able to say that since he came to the White House he has visited every state and territory in the union. Florida and Arkansas are the only two he has not set foot in, and he intends to visit them both this year. After that he means to stop touring and settle down to hard work."

**G**EORGE BUNNER, one of the veterans of the Mexican war, and his twin brother, William Bunner, celebrated their eighty-first birthday March 22nd, at the residence of George's grandson, Arthur Bunner, of Elmwood Place, Cincinnati. The Bunner twins were born near Blue Richmond, Ohio. George belonged to the first company of the First regiment of the Ohio Volunteers, and rendered his first services in the Mexican war at the battle of Monterey. The Bunner twins are wonderfully well preserved. They are said to be the oldest twins in Ohio. Four generations of the Bunner family participated in the celebration of March 22nd.

**T**HE following table shows the mileage of the government railways, together with expenditure, tonnage, etc. The mileage of government railway track open for traffic increased from 2,212 miles at the 31st of March, 1901, to 2,235 miles on the 31st of March, 1902, and the capital cost from £17,207,328 in 1901, to £18,170,722. The total earnings amounted to £1,874,586, against £1,727,236 in the previous year, and the total expenditure to £1,252,237, against £1,127,848 leaving a net profit this year of £622,349, against £599,388 the previous year. The net revenue is equal to a return of 3.43 per cent on the capital invested on the open lines, and of 3.19 for the total capital, £19,496,553, invested in opened and unopened lines:

	1899-1900.	1900-1901.	1901-1902.
Miles .....	2,104	2,212	2,235
Expenditure .....	1,052,358	1,127,848	1,252,237
Tonnage .....	2,422,019	3,339,687	3,529,177
Parcels, horses, dogs..	662,655	675,849	720,134
Cattle, sheep, pigs....	2,624,899	2,536,118	2,983,477
Passengers .....	5,468,284	6,243,593	7,356,136
Season tickets.....	63,335	82,921	100,779

## THE BLIND MAN'S PRAYER

Four men of varying ages were rambling together in Nebraska fields. Among the birds and flowers, the growing grain and the life-full trees men are apt to grow communicative. Creation's wonders are never so interesting and so productive of thought as in the springtime, and thought concerning the mysteries of fields leads, very often and very naturally, to thought concerning the mysteries of men.

While the members of this little party were resting under the shade of a tree the younger one, although free from serious want or perplexing care, registered complaint against his lot in life and protested very bitterly because of the burdens he was required to bear. One of his companions, a gray haired man whom we may well describe as the philosopher of the party and whose career had been marked by struggles and tribulations such as the young complainer had never known, advised his companion to look about him and, observing the sorrows of others, understand how much reason, after all, he had for congratulating himself.

These men halted at a farmhouse for the noonday meal. Summoned to the dining room they found already seated at the table a gray-haired man with form bowed and bent with the weight of years, and with remarkably large eyes from which the sight had long since departed.

The mistress of the home called upon the aged man to pray and the listeners heard:

We thank Thee for Thy abundant love and mercy; for the privilege Thou hast given us to labor in Thy vineyard where there is so much work to be done in Thy name and for the good of Thy creatures. Accept our grateful acknowledgement because of the pain and grief we have been spared, and our glad thanks for the manifold blessings that have been showered upon us. Make us strong to

bear whatever in our human view may seem to be undue affliction and bring us to a full appreciation of the opportunities and happiness ever at our hand. Comfort with Thy great power and Thy enduring love those who are less fortunate than we and help us one and all to educate ourselves for the higher and better life that has been prepared for us.

At the conclusion of the prayer the philosopher of the party cast at the young complainer a look, the significance of which was evidently grasped in that quarter. When the visitors left the farm house the philosopher addressing his young friend, asked: "Compared with your own condition could you see in the condition of that much afflicted old man any reason why he should give thanks for the 'manifold blessings' showered upon him?"

"I was never so much impressed with a prayer as I was with that blind man's acknowledgement," said the young man, "and I believe that after all I have many reasons to be thankful. If a sightless and decrepit man can be grateful for his privileges, I can, at least, find balm in Gilead."

"Every furrow in that old man's career," said the philosopher, "is sown with the seed of thankfulness, and every one of his more fortunate fellows in the world might well be grateful for the opportunity of looking upon his affliction and listening to his psalm of praise."

The young complainer had learned his lesson at the knee of the sightless man. It was a lesson similar to that which, in the long ago, had been taught to one who said "I once complained because my feet were bare and I had no money to buy shoes; but I met a man without feet and became content."

Someone has written, "If we fasten our attention on what we have, rather than on what

we lack, a very little wealth is sufficient." Put in another way: If we fasten our attention on the sorrows, the trials and the calamities we have escaped, we need find no great difficulty in being grateful for our privileges and contented with our lot.

A few years ago the sight of a black cloud did not strike terror to the hearts of men, but in this day the coming storm is closely watched and brave men and courageous women are not ashamed, at the first gust of wind, to seek safety in the cellar. As the young complainer learned his lesson in the presence of a sorrowfully afflicted yet wholly grateful man, so throughout the world today communities may find cause for congratulation.

We read of calamities falling all about us; we are told of these terrible affairs in which the lives of innocent men, women and children are blotted out; we hear of terror stricken human beings, some driven to the asylum and others to the very verge of insanity; we learn that property, the accumulation of years of toil and privation, is in a moment swept into nothingness; that towns built through a vast expenditure of public spirit and individual struggle have been destroyed; that prosperity and plenty have, in the twinkling of an eye, been replaced by privation and penury; that death and disease stalk triumphantly in places where, but a moment before, all was life and health. In the presence of these awful facts no man need be so rigidly practical, no man should be so devoted to the chase for the dollar, as to be ashamed to pause and make grateful acknowledgement, either to God or to his own destiny, for the "manifold blessings" that are showered even upon the humblest member of a community that lies not within the pathway of the storm and comes not within the courses of the flood.

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