VICTOR ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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George B. Taschuck, treasurer of The
Bee Publishing company, being duly sworn,
says that the actual number of full and
complete copies of The Daily, Morning,
Evening and Sunday Bee printed during the
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18.....36,800 2..........37,210 . 36,790 3............37,370 19 4.....37.090 21 5 37,630 2237,01037,940 E38,910 25 Wearners 26 10 36,790 11.........49,290 23 12...... 36-660 13......37,100 29 40,730 14.....36,710 30...... 48,900 1,171,470 Less unsold and returned copies. Dally average GEORGE B. TZSCHUCK,

WHEN OUT OF TOWN. Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. Address will be changed as often as requested.

Notary Public.

Omaha's Poultry show has taken wing.

without him.

better in 1909.

Even the astronomers at the Lowell observatory report that their business is looking up this year.

The goosebone prophet who foretold a long and exceedingly cold winter may now begin preparing his explanation.

Castro says he proposes to spend the rest of his days in Berlin. There's no objection, unless it comes from Berlin.

The opening of the base ball season will be the real New Year's day for a large proportion of the popula-

Mr. Roosevelt would like to capture a white rhinoceros in Africa. Chances are he would not look at a white elephant

"Should actresses marry?" asks a French paper. How else could they get the divorces they need for advertising purposes?

If you have anything to say to the Kaiser, you may now send him a letter for 2 cents, a saving of 3 cents from the old rate.

Naval officers are now to be required to ride horseback, as a test of their fitness. That ought to be easy for horse marines.

No one will question but that State Representative Stoecker wrote his pronunciamento as a candidate for speaker all by himseif.

"Millionaires smile rarely," says Mr. Carnegie. Same may be said of and inserted originally in the Record those who get into business competition with millionaires.

The accused Tennessee night riders have failed to prove their alibis. The next line of defense will probably be an appeal to brainstorms.

"There are three parties to every divorce case, the plaintiff, the defendant and the public," says the Brooklyn Eagle. Add one for the co-respondent.

Paris has just been visited by a terrific snowstorm. We felt something of and his library home under a frank, that kind would happen after President Fallieres had his whiskers pulled.

Mayor Jim may yet have an opponent for renomination within his own ing the franked matter of congressmen party. So far, however, he is not los- was as large as the annual deficit of ing any sleep over those mentioned to the Postoffice department. date.

The army reports that there are only 200,000 first class rifles in the country and about 250,000 of the ob- Omaha and at the same time relieve solete brand. That's an argument for the official tax gatherer of unnecessary peace.

Can it be possible that those "cats. dogs and other tame animals" on top port of state, county, school and mu- mean that they are buying them elseof the city hall have excited the jealousy of the wild animals within the ordinary taxpayer in Omaha is concity hall?

A detective who has been conducting the investigations says there are but six honest men in the Pittsburg city council, which has ninety-four members. The number is larger than most people had been led to believe.

MR. TAFT IN THE SOUTH.

The enthusiastic welcoming of Mr. Sunday Bee, one year. 1.50 with him and to join him, at least haif tax collection Baturday Bee, one year. 1.50 with him and to join him, at least haif tax collection Address all complains of irregularities in delivery to City Circulation department. a place in the councils of the nation. a place in the councils of the nation.

Rhodes, as chairman of the committee bill is rendered with distinct items for vironment. said:

opportunity to say to you that if you knew the heart and the head of the men of the south and particularly of Birmingham, you would know that they regard the result of the last election as a bene-Omaha or eastern exchanges, not accepted. the people of the south over their procome to love you for your human quali- is no longer necessary. ties, for we understand that your sym pathies are broad as the universe, but because you have come here, sir, indicating to us that you want the south once the nation

the democratic newspapers of the Secretary Wilson refuses to discuss south and his expressions must be ac- the matter other than to state that he indulge in one of those things somewhere .37,000 cepted as reflecting the best sentiment has no intention of removing Dr. along the line. of the thoughtful men of his section. Wiley, but, on the other side, it is 37,150 Something of his attitude has been asserted that other members of the .38,830 forecasted by other leading democratic board with Dr. Wiley have been pronewspapers of the south and Mr. mulgating regulations in connection couragement to those who have been sulting him and in defiance of hislong working in an effort to advance orders. Dr. Wiley has been connected from old landmarks and establish independence of thought and political years and had more to do with the a man who takes his responsibilities seriaction in the entire south.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 31st day of December, 130s.
ROBERT HUNTER,

Castro must be chagrined to hear in the south. The five border states onous or injured by the use of colorhow well Venezuela is getting along were republican in their, aggregate ing matter or the preservatives they vote last November while in Virginia, employ in the canning. North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia Omaha broke so many records in and Arkansas, the republican vote in- wrong should be determined without 1908 that it will have to go some to do creased to the point where even the difficulty by experts. Meanwhile, Dr. democrats recognize that the party has Wiley's associates on the Board of a standing and must be considered a Food and Drug inspection have issued facturers against his "interference" with cial. factor in future campaigns. South permits to the manufacturers to go pletely under democratic domination stated on the labels. But this does and in which the republican party not solve the question. If the chemidoes not have a strong, effective, cals in question are injurious to fighting and growing organization. health, their use should be prohibited. The business south is rapidly tiring of If they are not injurious, their use bourbonism and coming to appreciate should be permitted without embarthe fact that its best interests lie with rassing restrictions. progressive political policies. Mr. Taft's appeal to this interest to ally made in the protection of the consumitself with the side of best govern- ers by the adoption of pure food laws

> ABUSING THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE the evils the public has complained of, that the typewriters they attempted to velopments at Washington indicate send to their homes under their con- that the fight on Dr. Wiley is really a gressional franks are being held at fight on the whole pure food movethe postoffice in Washington awaiting ment. the payment of \$19 in postage on each. The members have, of course, protested to the postmaster general and a ruling has been asked on the tioning the courts to release Mr. Morse right of a mere postmaster to withhold on ball, pending a new trial. Morse from the mails anything offered under has been sentenced to fifteen years' the frank of a congressman.

> The incident serves to call repose of the frank was to enable mem- bad taste, considering the charges bers of congress to send their official against Morse and the effect that his letters and printed public documents through the mails without the payment of postage. Even that privilege offered leeway for abuse by allowing the campaign committees of both parties to flood the country with extracts from the Congressional Record, for just that purpose. The greater abuse, however, has been in the use of the frank to sending all sorts of stuff through the mails free of cost. It is a matter of record and common knowledge in Washington that members have used the frank to send their personal belongings, even household goods, through the mails. One thrifty his laundry home every week under a frank and an eminent statesman from Illinois sent his household goods the total filling two freight cars. So greatly has the privilege been abused that a postmaster general reported a few years ago that the cost of carry-

CONSOLIDATE THE TAXES. If the coming legislature wants to make a hit with the taxpayers of

expenditure of time and money, it will consolidate the taxes imposed here on real and personal property for the sup- ple are wearing fewer shoes. It may nicipal governments. As it is now the fronted with this confusing schedule: County and state taxes due November

each year. quent December 1, same year. County and state real estate taxes della quent May I, following year.

City taxes due May 1, each year, City taxes delinquent July 1, same year

Taft to the south, from his reception ferent times from city and school back to plague its makers. at Augusta to his latest interchange taxes, but also a difference between with a delegation of representative the times when personal and real esmen at Birmingham, has unusual sig- tate taxes become delinquent for e (without Sunday), one year....... 6.00 Induce the south to break away from sonalty and realty and who takes ad-Its hide-bound political traditions. The vantage of the time allowed must south is welcoming Mr. Taft, not out make three trips to the treasurer's of curiosity, but apparently from a office at three different times and the later of legislative lobbylists to be kept

> That there is no good reason for this There is no doubt that the real feel- multiplicity of tax payments is selftaxes due county, state, city and school I am going to take advantage of this district and the payment is made in a lump sum in exchange for a single re-

> ceipt. The peculiar condition existing in Omaha is an outgrowth of the consolidiction from God Almighty Himself to dation of city and county treasuries test. I am a democrat. Most of these and may have been excusable for the gentlemen are democrats, but we have transition period, but its continuance

THE FIGHT ON DR. WILEY With the demand that he be deagain to hold its place in the councils of posed, some of the manufacturers of the country have started an open wor-General Rhodes is the veteran edi- fare on Dr. H. W. Wiley, chief chemist framing of the pure food law than any Mr. Taft does not hesitate to say other one individual. He has conthat he hopes good may come of his ducted many experiments touching the visit by the political breaking up of effects of adulterants, coloring matthe south to correspond with the po- ter and cold storage on food products ing politics a subject of uncertainty, to enforce the provisions of the pure a subject for discussion and independ- food law. His latest order prohibited ent action throughout the country. No the use of benzoate of soda and than the success of plans to that end. turers have apealed from his decision verdict was prenounced. All observers agree that the trend and have demanded his removal, asloward republicanism is very marked serting that goods are not made pois-

Great progress has already been states, and the demand is for intelligent enforcement of these laws until Two congressmen have been notified have entirely disappeared. The de-

The citizens of Bath, Me., the birthplace of Charles W. Morse, are petiimprisonment for huge financial frauds in the banking business. The newed attention to the abuse of the loyalty of his fellow townsmen at franking privilege that has grown to Bath must, of course, be pleasing to be little short of a scandal. The pur- him, but the efforts are in decidedly release would have,

The appeal of the democratic organs to the democratic legislators to fulfill their platform pledges in order to hold the confidence of the people who elected them sounds very well. But how does it fit in with the appeals made during the campaign by the same democratic organs asking the people to turn down the republican lawmakers of the last session notwithstanding the fact that they had scrupulously redeemed all their promises?

While the fight is waxing fast and furious as to who is to fill the speaker's chair in Nebraska's coming democratic legislature, the other law-making branch may rest undisturbed in the assurance that it will be under the safe and sane guidance of a republican presiding officer in the person of Lieutenant Governor Hopewell.

Lower rents in Omaha would be highly desirable from every point of view, and so would a more liberal policy on the part of most landlords with reference to repairs and ordinary accommodations to tenants. If the Real Estate exchange will tell us how to get one or both it will do the community

Boston shipped 24,000,000 pairs of shoes less in 1908 than in 1907. This does not necessarily men that the peowhere than in Boston.

Mr. Bryan's Commoner is rounding out its eighth year without having to meet the troublesome question of removing its editorial rooms to Washington or suspending publication.

That charge of extravagance lodged

Not only do we have county and administration by the democrats in the, state taxes due and delinquent at dif- recent campaign is what is coming

Chinese are not allowed to shave their heads for 100 days after the nificance, in view of the fact that he county and state. In other words, death of the emperor. The Chinese has stated one of his purposes to be to every taxpayer who pays on both per- barber will naturally wish long life

As an autograph collection that regeek. 10c disposition to get better acquainted treasurer must make three separate at Lincoln by the secretary of state is with him and to join him, at least half tax collections and issue three separate far from promising to be of either value or interest.

President Ripley, of the Santa Fe. ing of the south is voiced in the ad-evident. In no other city in the state declares that the building of the dress inviting Mr. Taft to visit Bir- is the same system employed. Every. Panama canal is a waste of money. Mr. ford of the timber of two of its most decency of our civilization, with all its destruction by earthquake, volcano and mingham, in which General Rufus N. where else but in Omaha a single tax Ripley is evidently a victim of en-

Confidenced to the Limit.

Chicago News. Uncle Sam is trying to get back 20,600 acres of coal lands alleged to have been taken fraudulently from him in Utah Uncle is getting good and tired of being an easy mark.

Swearing for Their Lives,

Chicago Inter Ocean. The testimony in the Reelfoot lake murder case reveals the fact that, though otherwise industrially blackward, the natives are no slouches when it comes to the manufacture of alibis.

Lining Up with the Big Fellows.

Boston Herald. The republic of Panama is preparing for world's fair in 1915. No matter how small

Business Before Bathos.

Louisville Courier-Journal. Victor Emmanuel's curt "don't talk nor sense" in reply to a toadying Italian's statement that his majesty's presence in the earthquake district would "console the populace" throws a pleasing side light upon the character of the Italian monarch. with the government for twenty-five Like King Humbert, he is, or seems to be, ously and a king who does not take himself too seriously.

Why Crooks Smile.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Crusade Against Food Fakirs.

Boston Herald. of food purity, will be better appreciated cerned. because of the enemies he has made. The Whether Dr. Wiley is right or protest of the National Molasses Refiners' gredients in food products.

No Cause for Worry. Philadelphia Record. According to the report of General Bell is too weak and the cavalry is superannuated. Such was the case with both the infantry and the cavalry before the war of 1812 and the war with Mexico, and, above all, the stupendous civil war. But thanks to the volunteer militia the country worried through these crises with compara ment is bound to have beneficial ef- in the nation and in the different tively small aid from the regular army. General Bell imparts the assurance now. however, that the long marches and other tests of endurance inaugurated by the president have done much to elevate physical condition and morale of officers and men. Let us rest happy in the con viction that the country is safe.

The Record Disaster. Springfield (Mass.) Republican. greater destruction of human life from prove convenient to the president. earthquake than is new afforded. But along the pathway of civilization few experiences have been met with so sweenthe cities along the Messina strait. The destruction of Lisbon by earthquake and riously estimated from 30,000 to 60,000 House, persons, is to be thought of in this connection; and tradition has it that the shakabout in the year 526 destroyed over 200,-900 lives. But within the range of authentic record this latest Calabrian earthquake is apparently to be written down as the most destructive of all.

SOURCES OF HISTORY.

Newspapers Indispensable in

New York World. At the meeting of the American Historical association at Washington this week one of the interesting papers read was Newspapers of the Eighteenth Century as sue with Bancroft's remark that "you can-

not write history from newspapers.

most interested, as the colonial press was hampered by official censure, but in the evolution of the press since independence, a historian, as Mr. Nelson remarked, who important industries. ignores that field will miss "a great and valuable mass of material." Even in a study of the revolutionary era the news papers, brief as they were, throw much light on the life of the people, and without that our conception of events would be fragmentary and the meaning incomplete. In the absence of the telegraph telephone and news organizations, with editorial comment usually covered terests of the country," and that by a paragraph or two, it is readily understood why Bancroft gained little material from the newspapers in writing his earlier

Letters, journals, diaries and public docuin recent times their relative value as compared with that of the newspapers as ests are there really that are to be "subgreatly decreased. As James Ford Rhodes, industrial interests? That seems to take the historian, in speaking before the association on the use of newspapers for hismarked, they are indispensable "to get at all the facts, to go to the bottom of Mr. Rhodes also acknowledged things." the aid he derived in the period mentioned journalists as Greeley, Bigelow, Raymond, Webb, Bowles, Thurlow Weed, Schouler and Medill.

would dream of writing history without consulting the newspapers of the day as, against the outgoing republican state and contemporary record of the past."

WHEN SEC. TAFT RESIGNED.

An Incident of the Campaign of 1904 and the Outcome

George Griswold Hill in Collier's, That William Howard Taft, who has the next president of the United States, ence deliberately and formally resigned from the cabinet of President Roosevelt and to lament-that is about all that can and henceforth the calmest water of the dent and his former secretary of war that, too. there are not a half-dozen people in the world who have ever heard of Mr. Taft's resignation and Mr. Roosevelt's characteristic declination thereof, but the private letter-press of these distinguished men will prominent statesmen. Had the fact of Secretary Taft's resigna-

ing the exciting days of the campaign just ended there would have been fewer people who feared that President Taft would be cernable in the case of such appalling catoo greatly under the influence of ex- tastrophes is the almost universal outpour-President Roosevelt, but apparently the ing of sympathy in practical forms. The only person otherwise in a position to collection of funds for the relief of the sufrelate the incident in print was pledged to fering began in this instance at many points confidence until after November 3, 1908. Mr. Taft, with many expressed regrets, replace what has been lost, they will be as frequently as Caesar's wife has been formally resigned his position of secre- large enough at least to save thousands tary of war because his loyalty to the best from starvation. interests of the Filipinos forbade his ceasing to advocate the reduction of the duty on Philippine sugar and tobacco and his loyalty to the president seemed to demand. The lines which man has drawn across the cessation of such advocacy by a member of the cabinet.

ion been known to the general public dur-

and inconsequential a nation may be, it is B. Cortelyou, then chairman of the re- man kind. Suffering which speaks no lannever so far down the scale that it can't publican national committee, to make sev- guage and knows no boundary lines brings eral speeches in support of the republican home to the well housed Chicagoan, as to national ticket, and Mr. Cortelyou's request the Parislan, the Londoner, the man of was urgently seconded by President Roose- Berlin, of Vienna, of Tokio, and of Peking, velt. Accordingly, Mr. Taft went up to with equal force the shock of a human Connecticut, where his standing as a Yale catastrophe. alumnus has long made him exceptionally popular, and delivered a forceful speech in support of Roosevelt and Fairbanks. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Taft dwelt were many Connecticut farmers, who, un-Abe Ruef, the San Francisco boss, has that any reduction of the tariff on Philipbeen sentenced to fourteen years in the plue tobacco would seriously jeopardize titical breaking up of the north mak- and has been vigorous in his efforts penitentlary, but it is explained that it will their profits. Reports of their disapproval take at least three years to carry the case of the sentiments expressed by the secreup through the various courts that may tary of war reached Chairman Cortelyou, yet be appealed to. In view of this fact and and he proceeded immediately to indite a in view of the material that some of the lengthy epistle to the president, in which greater service could be accomplished copper sulphate in preserving and courts to be appealed to are composed of in his most dipiomatic manner, he subfor the benefit of the whole country coloring canned goods. The manufac- it is no wonder that Ruef smiled when the mitted the facts and suggested that, at for the secretary of war in his public addresses to refrain from dwelling with any considerable emphasis on the plain duty Dr. Wiley, chief chemist of the Depart- of the United States to the Philippines, and ment of Agriculture, and the protector especially in so far as the tariff was con-

When President Roosevelt received Chairassociation against his "pernicious ac- man Cortelyou's letter he scribbled across tivity" is evidence that his crusade against one corner; "Respectfully referred to the undesirable food preservatives is genulne secretary of war," and sent the communiand effective. The protest of food manu- cation by special messenger to that offi-

their methods and practices will not dis- As soon as Secretary Taft read the letter Carolina, Louisiana and Mississippi on using these colorings and preserva- credit the service he has rendered in the he gave instructions that he was not to be press his feelings. So delicate did he cansider the undertaking that he employed no chief of staff of the army, the infantry a draft and then a final copy. He assured stenographer, but laboriously penned first he found himself confronted with the necessity of such action, of his absolute unwillingness by any act of omission or commission to jeopardize Mr. Roosevelt's political it was the plain duty of the American conadvocated, and of his own inability to perceive a course whereby he might, without cease from urging a reduced tariff or avoid injury to Mr. Roosevelt's political fortunes, Under these circumstances he felt compelled in deepest sorrow to sever his con-In the more remote parts of the world nection with the Roosevelt cabinet, his many cases might doubtless be cited of resignation to take effect as soon as might

The composition and double inscribing of this long and delicate communication ingly deadly as the one now reported from proved no easy task, and it occupied the greater part of Mr. Taft's day, so that it was nearly nightfall when a special messen tidal wave in 1755, when a loss of life va- ger carried the document to the White

It required barely two minutes for Mr Roosevelt to compose and inscribe his reing down of Antioch and villages round ply, and his answer may be recorded as one of the most comprehensive and portentous epigrams in history. Across the corner of Secretary Taft's carefully penned communication the president wrote these words:

"Dear Bill: Fiddledeedee .- T. R.

That was all; but it was sufficient, and William H. Taft understood that his resignation of the portfolio of war had been

promptly and emphatically declined. Mr. Taft has never ceased his carnest advocacy of the reduction of the tariff on from Scylia, where Messina harbor is lo that by William Nelson on "American Philippine sugar and tobacco, and it is a cated. After that the fishermen had all safe prediction that unless the national Sources of History." Mr. Nelson took is. legislature shall already have granted the urged concession it will play an important feil into the maw of Charybdis. part in his first annual message to con That might be true for the period of greas; but during the campaign of 1904 American history with which Bancroft was Chairman Cortelyou did not again assign the uncompromising secretary of war to Development Chiefly in the Western speak in any section where the growing of sugar and tobacco constituted one of the

WHY TAFT WAS ELECTED.

Southern Democrat Suggests an Extraordinary Mission. Charleston News and Courier (dem.)

Mr. Bryan says that Mr. Taft was financial, commercial and industrial in-"would rather remain a private citizen than be president and be subservient to those interests, as Mr. Taft must be, under the conditions that elected him." It would appear from what Mr. Bryan says that it ments then as now were invaluable, but was very fortunate for the country that he was not elected. What other interchroniclers of the events of the time has served" but the financial, commercial and in everything that is worth serving-the merchants, the bankers, the manufactory in the period from 1850 to 1877, re- turers, the workingmen, and the farmers. Mr. Taft ought to be very much pleased with Mr. Bryan's tribute. It is the best thing that has ever been said about him. Yet the great Nebraskan is picking his from the editorial comment of such great flint again for another race for president. According to the dispatches the other day he is willing to respond as long and as often as the democratic party calls No historian of any period since the for him. But there "won't be no demomodern development of the newspaper cratic party" in 1913 if he shall be nomnated again. Somebody ought to tell him so-Henry Watterson, or Josephus Danto use Mr. Rhodes' language, "an ample lels, or Urey Woodson, or Norman E. Mack; somebody he will believe.

DISASTER'S MIGHTY SCROLL.

Brighter Side of Dark Picture, with Historical Reflections. Louisville Courier-Journal. Wherever human hearts beat with warmth sen chesen by the American people as buman hearts will feel for Italy and for

those who have suffered in the calamity in the south of that fair land. To shudder

Brotherhood of Man.

Chicago Inter-Ocean. sina and Reggio, and the neighboring dis- of state between the Scylis of anarchy on entirely substantiate the facts here given, tricts of Sicily and Calabria just before the the one hand, and the Charybdis of corfacts which constitute an important if dawn of December 28, has its brighter side porate greed upon the other?" In such brief chapter in the history of the nation to the thoughtful mind. This is in the evibecause of the striking example they af- dence it evokes of the human kindness and ures of the spelibinder fortified against faults.

Practical Sympathy.

New York Tribun-The only compensation immediately disbefore any appeal for help had been made, It was during the campaign of 1904 that and we hope that, however inadequate to

Calamity Makes Whole World Kin.

Chicago Tribune. the world and the languages which he has inherited to mark the passing difference of nationality all disappear when such a crush-Secretary Taft was requested by George ing blow descends on one part of the hu-

Great Historic Region. New York Evening Post. The country in which earthquake, floor upon the subject of Philippine progress and and fire have spread ruin is one of the the solemn duty of the American congress great historic regions of the world. Scienmaterially to reduce the duty on Philip- tists say that Sicily-Calabria lies on a pine sugar and tobacco. In his audience seismic boundary formed by the meeting of two geologic formations. But Sielly and der the guidance of Secretary Wilson, had Calabria have witnessed the clash of other invested their all in the cultivation of than geologic forces. Reggio di Calabria, tobacco, and they had conceived the idea as Rhegium, was one of the cities of Magna Graecia, where Greek culture blossomed almost at its highest, and where Pyrrhus fought with Rome for supremacy in the Mediterranean. With Rhegium, Rome closed its conquest of Italy, and with Messina it began the conquest of its first province and of the world. Europe and Africa fought out their battles in Sicily during the Punic wars, and Normans and Saracens least until after election, it might be wiser contended there a thousand years later. Now Messina and Reggio di Calabria are laid in ruins by a titanic convulsion that is reported to have cut a new course for the strait of Messina, so that Ulysses would find the task of sailing between Scylla and Charybdis harder than ever.

Earthquake Ravages in Italy. Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

No inhabited part of the earth's surface is so subject to destructive quakes as the region about the strait of Messina which has again been visited by a vast calamity from this cause. Every century within the are the only southern states still com-Calabrian region of Italy afflicted to a on the difficult task of composing a letter and there have been frequent periods of of resignation which would adequately exsubjected to these disturbances. We must Turkey for approval will contain the go back, however, to 1783 to find anything equal to the present experience in destructiveness. Like this one, that earthquake the president of the deep sorrow with which shock shook down many of the villages of Calabria and, passing under the strait of Messina, leveled most of the city of Messina and caused a tidal wave which completed the destruction, as now. The estiwelfare, but, on the other hand, of his un- mated loss of life at that time was 100,000, bors, who found her starving and freezand it is quite possible that this astoundpine islands, his unshakable conviction that ing figure of mortality will be reached in the present case. It is a matter of record denying herself food and warmth. gress to grant the tariff concessions he had that for seventy-five years, following 1783, this region of Italy lost 111.000 inhabitants from earthquakes more noteworthy for sacrifice of loyalty to one or the other, their frequency than for their special destructiveness.

Scylla and Charybdis. Washington Star.

In those old, old times when gods and goddesses were so very like human beings that they felt such primal passions as love and jealousy it was quite common for them to vent their spleen upon unhappy mortals who offended them by transforming the victims into animals, birds, trees and rocks. It was in this way that the convenient channel of commerce flowing between Sicily and Italy became beset by two serious perils. Circe hated a beautiful mortal woman named Scylla, because a certain fisherman preferred Scylla to herself, and she changed the luckless malden into a hideous monster and set dogs and wolves to bark around her. Scylla preferred death to such a state, so she flung herself into the straits of Messina, at their narrowest point, on the Italian side, and became a great rock, looming in the very course of vessels. Just to give the men who followed the sea their full measure of trouble Jupiter selected a woman named Charybdis, against whom he had a grievance, and changed her into a vicious whiripool, placing her in this guise on the other side of the straits they could attend to in navigating the straits, and often in avoiding Scylla they

NEW RAILROADS BUILT.

States Philadelphia Press Fewer miles of new railroad track were ald down in the United States in 1908 than in any preceding year since 1897. More than three-quarters of all the new trackage this

year lies west of the Mississippi. Railroad construction in this country reached its maximum in 1902, when 6,000 miles were built. Only 53 per cent of that elected through a combination of the smount has been laid this year. It is unnecessary to go into details to show why such a large decrease should occur in 1908.

> The reasons are patent to all. But even a severe trade depression could not halt the keen competition that is evident in the far west. More miles of new road were built in Montana than any other state, and nearly all of it was paid for by three big systems, which are under the domination of two rival groups of men. Competitive railroad building in the east has not been seen on any very important scale, barring one exception for a long time, but on the Pacific slope the cas is just the reverse. The Hill-Morgan faction on the one side and the Harriman-Rocke feller faction on the other, are reaching with vigorous hand for new conquests.

The extraordinary case with which a company like the St. Paul can finance a transcontinental trunk line which, with sidings, aggregates 2200 miles, compared with the throcs through which the Northern Pacific had to pass, is an eloquent comment ary on the vast expansion of American wealth since Jay Cooke's day. Now the work is done without creating a ripple on the financial sea. Then it laid the foundation of a panie that shook the world.

ORATORY SAVES THE PIECES. Famous Figures of Speech Untouched

by Nature's Convulsions. Kansas City Times. Scylla and Charybdis cannot be destroyed. The mere rock that was known us Scylla may have been engulfed. The whirlpool that was Charybdia may be now is a fact known to but few people. Indeed, be done. If there is any sort of assistance Mediterranean. But Seylis and Charybdit is safe to say that uside from the presi- possible Americans will be glad to join in will endure as long as oratory flows in Kansas and Missouri.

"Mr. Chairman, what do we see? The Scylla of corruption on the one side; the Charybdis of oppression on the other.' The appalling disaster that fell upon Mes- Or-"Who shall guide the grand old ship Immortal words are these cherished figflood. Virgil may have supposed that he had given the repository for their fame. Indeed, it may be admitted that he did have something to do with it as a starter. But the real shine is here with the western prators "Pellon" has been "piled on Ossa" many

a time. "High Olympus" has been scaled so quickly and so often as to make a Swiss Alpine climber envious. "The dogs of war" have been held in leash over time. The "Rubicon" has been crossed almost declared to be above suspicion. The 'Ides of March" have done duty for November a thousand times for each election. These have all done and will continue to do "yeoman service" for the spellbinder. They have been almost as effective as the warning that "Caesar had his Brutus," or the reflection that "Alexander sighed for more worlds to con-

quer. But of all the eternal band none other s comparable to Scylla and Charybdis. They have been, facile princeps, the favorties, filling every requirement of sound and antithesis. No period so effective as they supply. No climax so sure to get

hand and establish a reputation. Scylla and Charybdis are not destroyed. The awful calamity that has swept over southern Italy has at least spared the western world that devastation. The suggestion that if the worst came to the worst the pillars of Hercules might take their place is wholly impertinent and needless, Transplanted to America Scylla and Charybdis have became institutions, secure as the Declaration of Independence, and, like the declaration, enshrined in the hearts of the multitudes.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Dr. Edwards, of the Carnegie institute s now in Shanghai getting ready to make the first magnetic survey of China.

"One must not forget that the people on whose authority the reports are sent are all made with terror." And Ferrero knows Italians. The approaching centennial of his birth

s putting into print many pictures of the Martyr President Lincoln. None have yet come to notice as beardless as the Omaha high school statue. One photograph taken the day before the assassination shows the short beard with which he is usually represented. One of the three memorial windows

unveiled the other day at Plymouth church, Brooklyn, showed a group of four distinguished American women-Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, Mary Lyon, Emma Willard and Catherine Eather Beecher-described scope of recorded history has seen this as the four great educators of American womanhood. If reports from the Orient may be re-Hed upon the Grand Vizier's list of sen-

ators to be submitted to the sultan of names of two Jews-David Effend! Mohis first dragoman of the imperial divan, and Behor Effendi Eskenazi, a member of the state council. A granddaughter of Philip Frenenu, the revolutionary poet, Miss Mary Hammell

of Locust Grove, L. I., is under !naniry as to her sanity at the instance of neighing in the house where she has been living alone. She is wealthy but persists in To the list of self-made men whose business transactions embraced an extra-

ordinary variety of interest must be added Solomon Andrews of Cardiff, who dled at the age of 73, leaving a fortune of \$4,880,000. Unable to read or write, he started business by hawking pies and tarts that he had baked himself. Before long he embarked in other enterprises and became wealthy.

LAUGHING REMARKS.

Fluffy Young . ag-I'd like to pr. pay he express on | ac.age. Express Co...p. y Agen!-What's the the express of Fluffy Young Taing-Nothing, sir. It's a bundle of letters. I'm ending them back to him.-Chicago Tr.bune.

"That man says he niver forgets a "He speaks truly," answered Senator Sorghum. "He did me a favor fifteen years ago and has been talking about it ever since."—Washington Star.

Mistress—When I engaged y u. Lucinda, you said you had no male friends. Now, almost every time I come into the kitchen I find a man there.
Lucinda—Lor' sakes, he am no male fren' Mistress-Then who is he? Lucinds-Ma husband !- Puck. "It does seem strange," remarked the party who seemed to be thinking aloud. What seems strange?" queried the mine

cent bystander.
"That after getting a man in het water woman can't understand why he should oil over," explained the no.sy thinker.boil over," ex Chicago News. Wiggles—I hear Bjenks has been very iii. Is he out of danger yet?
Waggles—Well, he's convalescent; but he won't be out of danger until that pretty nurse who has been taking care of him has gone away.—Life.

"Was yours a case of love at first sight?" "Hardly. The first time I saw my hus-ban he had on motor goggles."-St. Louis

"Don't mix in," said Uncle Eben. "Two men dat fights kin shake han's an' friends afterwards. But neither of 'em ev has much of a regyahd foh de referee.' Washington Star.

St. Patrick was driving the snakes out "If you take my advice, young men," he said to the reporters, "you won't write this up-you'll get the reputation of being nature

But the good man's admonition was wasted. They rushed the story into print— Chicago Tribune.

THE MONTHS AND THE JEWELS Harper Bazar.

Garnets, January's gems, mean "Victory and Power;" February Amethysts rule sweet "Affec-tion's" hour; tion's" hour;
March with Jaspers decorates those who are "Wise and Bold;"
April's deep-blue Sapphires reign where "Truth" is bravely told;
Chalcedonies belong to May; their message is "Good Chedr;"
The Emeralds of June declare "Immortal Life" is clear;
July claims Diamond's "Purity"—freedom from spot or stain; from spot or stain; ust's sky-blue Turquoises stan1 for August's sky-blue "Worldly Gain." September's Chrysolites proclaim: "Hope Ever for the Best;" The Beryls of October tell of "Happiness and Rest. and Rest."
ember's glowing Topazes are types of
"Faithful Friends."
ember's blood-red Rubies sing: "God's
Power Never Ends."