SCARCITY OF CREAT MEN. Few Statesmen of Notable Power in the World To-Day, Says This Authority.

The London Spectator finds that there is at this time an alarming scarcity or great men in the realm of statecraft the world over. It has discovered two big men, William II. of Germany and President Roosevelt, but are "hampered by a disparity between their objects and their means, which as yet appears incurable." The Spectator challenges anyone to name a man of the absolute first grade—a Naroleon, a Bismarck, a Cavaur or a Garibaldi-the single man of our age "the stamp of whose foot produced armies from the ground." Even Japan is denied the glory of producing m man who can, like Moltke, "secure from victory its full results." Russia is barren of really great leaders. In Germany and Austria no one can be named who "in a great war would be chosen generalissimo." Italy and France are barren of commanding political geniuses "who can solve the social problem or settle the eternal quarrel with the church." The Spectator confesses that England is in no better plight. The crop of truly great men, it thinks, is no longer produced. It is not quite fair to the present to measure its product of great characters with that of the entire past. As well complain that a Shakespeare does

not appear in every age. The yield of colossal statesmanship or generalship has never been very prolific. Once in a generation or two a figure may appear which will live through succeeding ages. There are many undeveloped but possible statesmen and military heroes who have missed opportunities for fame and immortality because there was no occasion to bring them to the front. Had there been no war of independence many American leaders whose names we conjure with would have passed their lives in the obscurity of colonial politics. Not every generation produces a heromaking crisis. If the United States had escaped the civil war, Grant would have remained in the ranks of the plain people, scarcely distinguishable in the throng. In ordinary affairs men may create opportunities for success, but the military genius, as a rule, must await the conflict in which

It is much the same with statecraft. If no overshadowing statesman is now in view in the countries named by the Spectator, it is probably for the reason that conditions have not reached the critical stage which develops the man for the hour. Every crisis breeds its own hero soon or late. It is not safe to say that there are no "village Hampdens," no Washingtons, no Garibaldis awaiting the summons to appear upon the scene. There is much latent, suppressed ability in every country, biding its time. Some countries are outside the sphere of stirring events. We know little of their however promising they may be. It requires a very close student of contemporary history to name the leading politicians of such a country as Australia. The absence of men of world-wide reputation in such countries means that nothing is occurring there to produce such men.

his laurels are to be won.

THE LIVELY LITTLE TROUT.

Jumping Up Through Spouts from One Trough to Another in a Hatchery.

The hatching troughs of the Aquarium's fish hatchery, which are set up on the sides of one of the big pools there, are arranged in step-downs, to promote the circulation of the water through them. Through a pipe in one end of an upper trough the water flows into the head of the next trough, set at a little lower level, and from the second it flows into the third in like manner, says the New York Sun.

In the two upper troughs of this hatchery on one side there are at present lit-. tle lake trout, and in the third trough little brook trout; but little brook trout are sometimes found up among the little lake trout in the highest trough.

The little fellows jump from one trough to another through the spouts that bring the water down, which are slightly curved pipes of about an inch or more in length, with a clear fall of water of as much more from their lower ends. To get up the brook trout have to jump and swim against this fall and the current in the pipe, for a distance that altogether is considerably more than their own length.

The biggest of all the little brook trout here, one that has exceeded all the rest in growth, is now about two and a half inches long. This trout was found the other day on the floor of the Aquarium, outside the upper one of the lake trout troughs. It swam up from the third trough to the highest, and then jumped out over the side of that on the

The fall ought to have killed the litadtle trout, but it didn't. It was put back into its own trough, and was able there to swim about all right, and it has been a number of times since up into the unper lake trout trough. But it doesn't jump out of that any more.

Only a Dream. Father (one a. m.)—Is that young man asleep. Marie? Daughter-Hush, papa! He has just

asked me to marry him and make him happy for life. "Just as I thought. Wake him up!"-Judge.

- Loss from Insects. Dr. A. S. Hopkins, forest insect investigator, department of agriculture, mays the annual loss from insects which prey on forest trees and their grude and finished products is \$100,-:**000,000.**

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING.

EFFECTS OF ALTITUDE ON THE HUMAN FRAME.

Former Incredulity Regarding Attainment of Great Heights Dispelled by Feats of Mountaineers.

Three years ago one of the leading mountaineers of Europe expressed the opinion that the limits of high ascents had about been reached. He did not believe the human animal could stand up and work in the increasing rarefaction of the air above an elevation of 28,000 feet. He had no idea that man would ever stand on the summit of Mount Everest, the culminating point of the earth, 29,000 feet above sea level.

Since then, says the New York Sun, a large amount of fresh experience has been collected as to the effects of altitude on the human frame. Critics would hardly presume to-day to question the veracity of W. W. Graham's claim that in 1883 he reached a point within 50 feet of the summit of Kabru (20,015) in the Himalayas, simply because he did not suffer from mountain sickness. Sir Martin Conway and others did not accept his statement for the reason that "neither he nor his companions experienced any of the effects of diminished atmospheric pressure."

The incredulity freely expressed ten or fifteen years ago as to the possibility of attaining such altitudes is now quite out of date. The British expedition that crossed the Himalayas to Lhasa a year ago proved that men may cilmb, carry loads on their backs and even fight at an altitude of 20,000 feet; and Col. Waddell says in his book that the Thibetans, fleeing before the advancing army, crossed snow fields at an elevation of 23.000 feet. When men carry on a military campaign at heights nearly as great as balloons have attained, Mr. Freshfield and other famous climbers who assert that the topmost pinnacle of the earth will yet be conquered have new evidence favoring their contention.

There is no longer any doubt that existence may be maintained at a height greater than that of Mount Everest. It is believed that Coxwell. and Glaisher, in their most famous balloon ascent, reached an elevation of about 30,000 feet, though they claimed an altitude of 37,000 feet. Paul Bert submitted himself in Paris to very low atmospheric pressures during a period of 89 minutes, and for several minutes he breathed under a pressure about the same as that which would be experienced on the top of Everest. There is danger undoubtedly in the rapid ascents which aeronuats sometimes make to very high altitudes. In two hours Messrs. Croce-Spinelli, Sivel and Tissandier rose in a balloon to a height of 26,000 feet, tween that altitude and 28,000 feet, with the result that two of them were suffocated and Tissandier was the sole

But mountaineers usually take weeks to reach the upper altitude, and they no longer ascribe most of their ills to mountain sickness. The guide Zurbriggen, writing of the last stretch on a high Himalayan climb, says that the party was keakened, not by the work of the few previous hours, but "by the continued strain of the last three weeks." Prof. Roy writes that fatigue or excitement rather than the rarefaction of the air is the cause of the quick pulse rate that is associated with mountain sickness. Mr. Freshfield, writing last month, says that all recent experience goes to confirm the fact that the violent indisposition often felt on reaching heights of 12,000 to 15 000 feet tends to disappear on further advance after resting for a short

The only good photograph ever made of Mount Everest was taken awhile ago by the British in a part of Thibet which Europeans had not visited for several generations. The mighty mass, snow covered and piercing the sky, has all the majesty of a great mountain and all the grace and the lightness we see in a white cloud. There are famous climbers who believe that Everest may be conquered, and that when the time for attack comes neither mountain sickness nor rarefaction will be a serious impediment.

They Love Gen. Linevitch. It will be remembered that in one of the letters from Russian officers quoted by George Kennan in the Outlook not a little distrust of Kuropatkin was shown, and the writer added: "The army knows and loves only one general, and that is 'Papa' Linevitch. No matter in what part of the army I have been I have heard everywhere the words, 'If papasha were only here!' He is the man whom both officers and soldiers trust, and with him they will take anything."

Inexhaustible Credit. A Pittsburg constable who performed a service for a millionaire brewer has received a oredit of 1,000,-000 glasses of beer. And now the man has been driven to desperation by the discovery that if he drinks 28 glasses a day it will take him nearly 100 years to exhaust his credit.—Buffalo Express.

Full Credit. Maude-That long-faced Mr. Blank is either a philosopher or a fool and I couldn't make out which. What do you

think? Babette-He talked to me for an hour at the reception last night, and I decided that he is both.—Detroit Free Press.

ZORENE'S' WONDERFUL EFFECT ON SUBSTANCES.

Chemist Rediscovers Ancient Secret of Preservation - Liquid Aiso Has Many Other Remarkable Properties.

London.—The Hungarian chemist, Brunn, of the university of the same name, has not revealed, but has described in a paper which vouches for the facts as being well known in the highest scientific circles in America and Europe, his alleged discovery of a liquid chemical compound which renders certain kinds of matter proof against the effects of time. He asserts that it doubles the density of nearly every kind of stone and renders it waterproof. It imparts to all metals qualities which defy oxygen, and thus they cannot rust. It is also a germicide of hitherto unequaled power.

The professor says that while traveling in Greece some 25 years ago he noticed that the mortar in stones of ruins which were known to be over 2,000 years old was as hard, fresh and tenacious as if it had been made only a year. He secured a piece of the mortar and has been working on it ever since until now, when, he says, he has discovered the secret. The compound is a yellow liquid, which the professor has christened zorene.

An interviewer describes the following experiments. A piece of ordinary and easily breakable slag after immersion in zorene defled the full blow of a hammer. There was the same effect on ordinary bricks and a block of red jarrah wood. All three were then immersed in water for a long time. When taken out and weighed with delicate scales the presence of a single particle of added moisture could not be detected. Two pieces of steel submitted to an ammonia test equal to five years' exposure to the air emerged from the bath as they entered it. An ordinary table knife which had lain open five months did not show the slightest stain.

Prof. Brunn asserts that he will be able to make dust, germ, water proof roads, giving a commercial value to hundreds of millions of tons of slag which is now useless in the mining and smelting districts. It will at the very least double the life of metals exposed to the air such as in bridges, railroads, vessels and tanks.

FEAST OF SNAKE-CHARMERS

They Throw Live Serpents Upon a Statue of St. Deminic in Procession Believing Cures Will Come.

Naples.-A strange procession was seen in the town of Cucullo, near Aquila, when the statue of St. Dominic was carried through the streets. Snake charmers annually attend the festivities, and it is their duty, while the procession is moving, to keep near the statue and throw handfuls of live snakes upon it. The painter Michetti illustrated the scene in a painting. which was exhibited in Paris some years ago. He represented the statue covered by a mass of green snakes like;

a statue of Medusa. When the snakes fall to the ground there is a rush on the part of the charmers to gather them up and throw them on the statue again. The inhabitants believe the possession of one of the snakes which has been coiled around the statue insures them against snake bites for the rest of the year, and many are the professionals who go from town to town exhibiting the snakes caught during the celebration, using them for incantations.

ORCHID SELLS FOR \$4.375.

London Auction Sale of Flower Requires Purchaser to Share Seed with Grower.

London.-The highest price ever given for an orchid at auction sale was realized in the Portland street rooms. It was an Odontogiossum crispum named Roger Sander, and is the only one of a variety in existence.

Soon after the flower was offered the bidding was brisk and the price went to \$4,375. Even at this high price there was a condition which provided the seller should, when it became ripe, have half the seed carried in pod.

The plant had been crossed by Odontoclossum crispum known as Luciani Sepals, and the petals are almost covered with richly brilliant red color. sprrounded by a margin of purest white, which emphasizes the brilliant coloring, giving an exquisite beauty to the bloom. The lop is large and white, with a central blotch, and some small markings around a deep yellow crest.

Tours World in Auto.

A special cablegram announces the arrival of Charles J. Glidden, the Boston millionaire, in Paris from Java, completing an automobile tour of the world. He covered 25,000 miles by auto in 210 days, passing through 24 countries and 8,000 cities, towns and villages. Besides he traveled 24,627 miles by water, which alone took 78 days. He carried the American flag to Upper Torneo, in the Arctic circle, in Sweden. and to Bluff, New Zealand. Mr. Glidden was accompanied by his wife and a machinist. He plans a tour of Africa this fall.

Bich Girl Wife of an Indian. It has developed that Miss Edna Thepess Kenton, the daughter of a rich Philadelphia manufacturer, has been the wife of A. H. Nash, a Winnebago Indian, for nearly two weeks. Nash gradwated from Carlisle in 1897 and studied at Andover and the University of Pennavlvania.

METALS TIME-PROOF. HUNGRY MEN REFUSE WORK

Out of 500 "Bread Liners" in New York, Only Two Willing to

Take Country Job. An artist who formerly had a studio in the Fleischman building at Broadway and Tenth street, recently purchased a country place in Connecticut, says the New York Press. His experiences in trying to get a steady and reliable man-one who would stick to his job-to shake the furnace in winter, mow the lawn and hoe the vegetable garden in summer, were varied and manifold and altogether unsatisfactory. He had it firmly impressed upon him at last that to get "help" in the country was no small undertaking.

Then he thought of the 'bread line' which formed each night under the windows of his old studio in New York -the line in which shivering and hungry men waited for hours to get the dole of bread which kept them from starvation. Mr. Fleischman, the founder of the charity, once said that he was sure that none but deserving men-men who really needed the food -were his beneficiaries. "When a man will stand for two or three hours waiting in a line for a loaf of bread." the philanthropist had said, "it is a pretty sure sign that he needs it." This was the light in which the artist had been accustomed to view the members of the bread line and he glowed with philanthropic fervor as he thought: "Now here is a good home and a good job for some poor and deserving acvil. Why did not I think of it before!"

So he went to Capt. Henry, the official of the Fleischman establishment who supervises the bread line nightly,

and stated his case. That night there were 500 men in the line and Capt. Henry went along it announcing to all that a good job was waiting at Darien, Conn., for any one who wanted it. Of those 500 men only two expressed a willingness to accept the offer, and one of these was not over-enthusiastic about it. All the others declared that they wanted a job. and wanted it badly-but not in the country. In short, of the 500, 498 preferred to sleep in the parks or cheap and crowded lodging houses, to live on charity or by begging, to endure hunger, rags and misery in the city rather than go to comfort and plenty in the country.

The man whom Capt. Henry chose of the two who did volunteer has so far proved all that his employer could wish, and has shown no indication of a desire to return to the old life of the city. But the season is young yet and this man was one out of 500.

LIGHT FASTER THAN SOUND

Everyday Incidents Which Go to Prove the Truth of This Assertion.

About 1,000 yards from the window where I sit is a factory which blows its whistle every noon, writes the author of "Nature and Science," in St. Nicholas. The steam always comes from the whistle some little time before the sound is heard. Yesterday I counted three seconds between the time when the first steam was seen and when the sound of the whistle was heard. The whistle is heard when the weather is foggy or clear; hot or cold: windy or calm. It is sometimes louder than at other times. but it always takes three seconds to travel the 3,000 feet from the factory to my house.

We often hear also an echo of the whistle, which comes two seconds later than the first sound. This is the same sound coming by a roundabout journey 5,000 feet long. It travels first 1,000 feet to a hill beyond, and then is sent back 4,000 feet to our house.

A few days ago I heard a band of musicians playing upon the street and although they were far distant from me, the high tones of the piccolo and the low tones of the bass horn reached me exactly together, showing that high and low tones travel at the same speed.

During a recent thunderstorm I noticed a flash of lightning, and counted ten seconds before the sound of the thunder was heard. This showed me that the storm was about 10,000 feet (or about two miles) away. little later, however, the time between the lightning and the thunder began to grow less, and the noise of the thunder became louder, which showed that the storm was getting nearer. Finally a dazzling flash of lightning was followed immediately by a deafening crash of thunder, and at the same time the shingles flew from a patch of roof on a barn near by. It had been struck by lightning, and was soon in flames.

English Scenery. Bome urge against English landscape that it is too much crowded with marks of civilization for the purposes of a tour, but to the right-minded there is but an added romance in a bridge spanning a small brown water. a village girt with pastures, the roofs and towers of a far town, the flash and murmur of the telegraph wires along the high road, or the smoky glow of a train clanking along the valley or thundering forlornly in the distant hills.—Outlook.

The London Girl.

The history of the London girl's complexion is a tragedy in itself, and symbolic, besides, of all the other minor tragedies of the town girl's life. Yet it is simply a history of smuts and-hard water. In Bath the average of good complexions among young women in every rank of life is about 80 per cent. In London the average is not above 49 per cent.-The World and

SOCIETY GIRL TO RESCUE.

Miss Boebling Throws Aside Embroidery to Give Lesson to Firemen in Life-Saving.

Trenton, N. J.-After saving herfather's thoroughbred horses from being burned to death, Miss Emily Roebling, daughter of Charles G. Roebling, and a leader in society, stopped a runaway fire engine and assisted the firemen to couple up a line of hose which had burst.

Just before her crowded hour Miss Roebling was alone in her home doing fancy work. She saw smoke coming from her father's stable and laying aside her embroidery hoop, rushed out to the stable to find the borses frantic with fright.

The animals were rearing and plunging about in their stalis, but without a moment's hesitation the plucky young woman entered the stalls and. untying the halter straps, led them out of the burning barn to a place of safety.

"I never was afraid of horses," she said when congratulated upon her work by friends.

Then the firemen came, and as one of the engines began pumping a section of hose burst, throwing a deluge of water over the horses attached to a chemical engine.

The driver lost his reins and the horses with the engine bolted across the lawn. Miss Roebling saw them coming, and, hastily tying the horses she was leading, grabbed the runaway fire engine horses by the bits and brought them to a stop.

The excited firemen did not seem able to cut out the broken section of hose, and while they were arguing about it Miss Roebling went over and "kinked" the section of hose below the break and with the aid of a fireman held it until the section with the break was taken out and the two ends of the hose coupled up.

When the firemen put out the fire Miss Roebling took her father's horses back to the stable and then took up her embroidery again.

PRESS CLAIM 39 YEARS OLD Government Is Called Upon by Widow of Captain to Pay for Sinking

a Brig in 1866.

Boston.—An interesting claim against the government on account of the collision of a Maine brig and a United States gunboat 39 years ago has been entered in the United States district court, the claimant being Mrs. Sarah V. Small, of Brookline, wife of Capt. Frederick A. Small, who was master of the brig; Carl A., Gustav L. and Frederick Small, residuary legatees under the will of Capt. Small; George A. Jewett, of South Portland, who was mate of the ship; his wife, who was on board at the time, and Sarah M. Pennell, wid-

ow of one of the principal owners. The brig Olive Frances sailed on July 24, 1866, from Boston for Little Glace bay, Cape Breton, under charter to carry coal to Bath, Me. She proceeded until Monday morning. June 30, when about 40 miles from Sambro light, on the Nova Scotia coast, she was run down by the United States gunboat Winooski. The brig filled and capsized. The gunboat picked up the

ENTANGLED HIGH IN AIR.

Aeronaut Caught Against Smokestack for Hours at Milan-Finally Rescued.

New York.—At Voghera an aeronaut has passed through a terrible experience while making an ascension on a trapeze at Milan. A gust of wind blew the balloon against the smokestack of a factory. It became entangled, but the balloonist clung to the bar of his trapeze at a height of 150 feet from the ground and shouted for help. Firemen arrived, but their ladders were too short. An army engineer at Pavia was summoned by telegraph and arrived three hours later.

Meanwhile the aeronaut, stin calling for help, was losing strength, while the balloon was gradualty losing gas. Soldiers finally succeeded in hoisting a rope to the top of the chimney and the aeronaut was lowered to the ground in such a feeble condition that he had to be taken to a hospital.

TREES MADE TO GROW FAST

"Wizard" Burbank Finds Way of Grafting Black Walnut Varisties with Large Profit.

Banta Rosa, Cal.—By crossing different varieties of walnuts Luther Burbank has produced a tree which makes the fastest growth of any tree known. He regards this achievement as of immense importance commercially, for it will vastly extend the use of walnut in the manufacture of furniture, and even permit of its use as cordwood for

His success was attained by crossing common English and native California black walnut, and also crossing two varieties of native black walnut.

stove or grate fires.

righteous decision.

Walnut wood for manufacturing purposes now costs \$250 to \$500 per 1,000 feet. When new varieties are grown in sufficient quantities the price will be greatly reduced.

Justice Hits It Right. A Minnesota train robber has been sentenced to 50 years in the penitentiary. Once in awhile the blind goddess of justice gropes her way to a

Lucky Clerk. in New York the other day a bank clerk who had stolen \$35,000 was sent to a reformatory. It was a lucky thing for him that he took more than 75 CORLA

BRITON MEETS HIS CAPTOR

English Officer Clasps Hands in America with Adversary of South Africa.

Four years ago in far South Africa. on the banks of the Vaal river, Commandant G. Mare, of the Boer forces, while doing scout duty near Weltkopfontein, captured a British officer, Capt. J. Johnson, of Kitchener's scouts, with about 222 men and held them prisoners for over five months. . Recently when Commandant Mare

was on duty at the Scranton avenue show grounds, 20,000 miles from home, this same Capt. Johnson came up, 88luted and with tears of joy in his eyes told the Boer officer how glad he was to see him again and how surprised to run across him in America, so many thousand miles from where they last met, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The story of the battle in which Capt. Johnson was captured is intensely interesting. The Boers, 460 mer strong, occupied a low hill at Weit kopfontein. The British charged up the hill, with Capt. Johnson at their head. Three times did the captain fire at the commandant on the way up the hill, and so many times did the Boer leader return the compliment. Both men were slightly wounded, and when they came almost within reaching distance of each other both fired again. The revolver of one missed fire and the aim of the other was poor, so that before there was time for another round the powerful Boer had the Briton by the back of the neck and the struggle was over.

Being far from headquarters, Commandant Mare was forced to keep his prisoner under his personal charge for over five months. The two ate together, lived together, slept together and treated each other as brothers, and when the British prisoners were turned over to headquarters at the end of five months it was with great regret that the two officers parted, although five months previous they had been deadly enemies.

So delighted was Capt. Johnson to see his old captor that he took from his finger a valuable seal agate ring. once the property of his mother, and insisted on the Boer officer keeping it to remember him by. Capt. Johnson . carries in his pocket a pass through the Boer lines signed by Commandant Mare at the time of the capture.

Commandant Mare himself is an interesting figure. He has been in active service against the Zulus or British ever since he was 15 years old. He was shot through ten times in the late war. One of the bullets was extracted from his hip only last summer in St. Louis by Dr. Barry, of the Rebekah hospital. The doctor's bill was \$260, but he said he would call the bill square if he could keep the bullet. He wears it to-day as a watch charm.

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The commandant's tenth son was born in St. Louis last summer and was christened Teddy Roosevelt Mare by the proud father. President Roosevelt has personally seen his namesake and given him a number of gifts.

OCCUPATIONS OF ANIMALS.

They Reap Not, Neither Do They Spin, Yet They Are Alwavs Busy.

How is it that birds and beasts manage to pass through life without succumbing to ennui, or at least without being bored nearly to death? Animals, as a rule, do not loaf; it is not thus that they solve the problem. Loafing is an art which but few living creatures understand, says the Indian Times.

Lizards, crocodiles and chaprassies are the greatest authorities on the subject. Animals have acquired the knack of making much ado about nothing, they have learned to be very busy without doing anything. This accomplishment obviously differs from that of loafing. It is one which animals have brought to perfection, and of which many human beings-chiefly womenare very able exponents. There is overhead a wasp busy exploring the holes in the trunk of a tree.

Why he does this he probably does not know; he has not time to stop and think. He is quite content to explore away as though his life depended on it. Five times within the last six minutes he has minutely inspected every portion of the same hole. All this labor is useless, in a sense. Without it, however, the wasp would in all probability die of ennui. The wasp is not an isolated case. Most animals are experts at frittering away time; they spend much

of their lives in actively doing nothing. Watch a canary in a cage. He hope backward and forward between two perches as though he was paid by the distance for doing so. Look at the butterfly. He leads an aimless existence. Nevertheless he is always busy. A bee probably visits 20 times as many flowers in a day as a butterfly: for all that the butterfly is always on the move.

Prodigal's Besentment. "I realize," said the unhappy parent,

"that the way I have brought you up conclusively proves that I am little better than a fool."

"Sir!" said the wayward youth. "I appreciate the fact that your age protects you from my just resentment. If you were a younger man I would soon teach you that no man can speak disrespectfully of my father in my presence." -Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Church and State in France.

In a word, the church and the state. after years of a troubled union, in the course of which they have had frequent periods of "shying plates at each other's heads," so to speak, have about reached the conclusion that their temperaments are mutually incompatible. and that to agree to disagree and live apart amicably is the wiser course-Alvon F. Sanborn, in Atlantic.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

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