According to This Theory The Deserts Are Spreading.

表帝流争被争派争派争派争派争派争派争派争派争**派争**派 Deserts already exist on the earth and the nameless horror that attaches to the word in the thoughts of all who have had experience of them or are gifted with imagination to conceive is in truth greater than we commonly suppose. For the cosmic circumstance about them which is most terrible is not that deserts are but that deserts have begun to be. Not as local evitable evils are they only to be pictured but as the general unescapable death grip on our world. For it is the beginning of the end. What depauperates the forests to grass lands and thence to wastes must in turn attack the sea bottoms when they shall have parted with their seas. Last of the fertile spots upon the planet because of the salts the streams have for ages washed down and of the remnant of moisture that would still drain into them, eventually they must share the fortune of their predecessors and the planet roll a parched orb through space. The picture is forbidding; but the fact seems one to which we are constructively pledged and into which we are in some sort already adventured.

Girdling the earth with what it takes but little personification to liken to the life extinguishing serpect's coils run two desert belts of country. The one follows, roughly speaking, the Tropic of Cancer, extending northward from it; the other, the Tropic of Capricorn. Arizona is in the northern band, as are the Sahara, Arabia and the deserts of Central Asia,

Now, these desert belts are growing. In the great desert of northern Arizona the traveller threading his way across a sage-brush and cacti plain shut in by abrupt sided shelves of land rising here and there some hundreds of feet higher, suddenly comes upon a petrified forest.

Trunks of trees in all stages of fracture strew the ground over a space some miles in extent. So perfect are their forms he is almost minded to think the usual wasteful wood chopper has been by and left the scattered products of his art in littered confusion upon the scene of his exploit. Only their beautiful color conveys a sense of strangeness to the eye, and leaning down and touching them he finds that they are stone. Chalcedony, not carbon! Form has outlived substance and kept the resemblance, while the particles of the original matter have all been spirited away. Yet so perfect is the predaway. Yet so perfect is the predaway in the predaway is fact, and where one fallen giant spans a little canon one almost thinks to hear the sound of water rushing down the creek.

But it is some millions of years and more since this catastrophe befell. and the torrent uprooting it left it prone, with limbs outstretched in futile grasp upon the other side. A conifer it was, cousin only to such as grow today and flourished probably in the Cretaceous era, for the land has not been under water here since the advent of tertiary times.

Nowhere near it, except for the rare cottonwoods along the bank of the Little Colorado, grows anything today. The land which once supported these forests is incompetent to do so now. Yet nothing has changquarternary time the rainfall has been growing less and less. Proof of thise is offered by the great pine oasis that caps the plateau of which these petrified forests form a part peaks. The height above sea level of has retreated since the former forests were. And this is no local alter- Post, ation, for upon the other side of the plateau petrified remains of trees are similarly found.

The line of perpetual green has risen because in desert regions the moisture is found most plentiful nearest to the clouds, from which it falls upon a parching earth. Streams instead of gathering volume as they go are largest near their source, and grow less and less with each fresh mile of dens of Damascus, and, thence issujust beyond the threshold of its gates. a less degree, and those who live

BRIDGE.

One of the Finest and Most Remarkable of Its Kind in the World.

Across the Connecticut River at Hartford the last stone has just been laid in the construction of a stone bridge which is of more than ordinary interest. It has taken nearly thee years to build it, and the cost that manners are becoming more genhas reached nearly \$3,000,000. There tle, that the number of honest people are nine spans, making a total length increases, that morality is spreading of 1,192.5 feet. This structure out more and more into the social masses. ranks the famous London Bridge, which is 62 feet wide and 1,005 feet witness our mid-Lent they would long, while the new bridge is 82 feet doubtless reproach us with becoming

The bridge is crossed by two street car lines on a roadway 60 feet wide and has a 10-foot sidewalk on either side. In the construction of the bride concrete was used for the foundations, Leete's Island granite, a stone of a neutral color, for the top of the foundation to the springing line of the arches, and Stony Creek granite, a stone of light pinkish hue, for the arches and all of the structures above.

The foundations were made by the pneumatic caisson process, and the deepest foundation is about fifty feet below ordinary low water mark. One of the largest caissons (46 by 131 feet) was used. The largest finished stone used in the construction of the bridge weighed forty tons. About 125 000 barrels of cement were used in the construction of the bridge.

A novel method was employed to make the intrados, or curve of the arch, a perfect semiellipse, it being customary to approximate this elliptical shape by the use of six or seven radii. A large loft without columns was selected, the floor levelled and a rectangle, 22 by 100 feet was covered with planed boards screwed down The two axes of an ellipse were then laid out by the use of a transit, and upon the transverse axis points one fcot apart were marked on square pieces of zinc, the centres being marked by two intersecting scratches From these points using an ordinary pin as a rcd, perpendicular lines were drawn, and upon them were marked off the ordinates of the ellipse, as found by solving its equation. The points thus found were joined by % inch square pine splines, nailed tight ly in place 1-32 of an inch from the required position and sprung to conform to the curve. The stones form ing the border of the arch were then laid out with this semi-ellipse as a base, and sheet zinc temple's cut out with a diamond pointed tool. These templets were sent to the stone yard enabling the stones to be made ac curately to size .- New York Tribune

WHAT "CAPABLE" MINERS EARN.

Pay Kept Up Despite the Financial Depression.

Figures compiled from the payrolls of some of the anthracite coal-mining companies, showing the earnings of capable contract miners since the November panic indicate that the anthracite mine workers fared better during the business depression than almost any other class of labor.

At one of the large collieries in the middle field the net earnings of sixty efficient miners were computed; the table shows that each of the sixty earned, on the average, \$4.44 for each working day. Several of them earned more than \$100 a month for the three months considered. At another colliery there were six miners earnings of \$4.77.

There is considerable variation among individuals, because as the Anthracité Coal Strike Commission said in its report "experience, natural capacity, aptitude for the work. individual industry, and habits of sobriety materially affect the amount that is earned."

Under the award of the Strike Commission, now in force, the minimum rate at which miners are paid must remain fixed, regardless of business depression or any other circumstance. Their earnings rise, however, with the rise in the price of coal in accordance with the sliding scale established by the commission. With every advance of 5 cents above \$4.50 per ton in the selling price of the ed there since except the decreasing domestic or larger sizes at tidewater, water supply. During tertiary and the mine workers' pay is increased 1 per cent. It happens, owing to the market conditions, that April is the only month in the year during waich the minimum wage prevails.

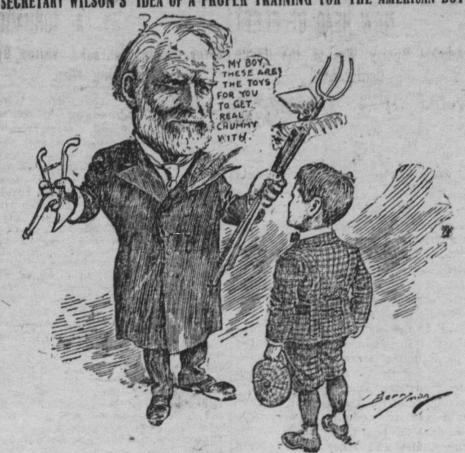
In a list of sixty miners, working and is kernelled by the San Francisco in the colliery of one company, there are thirty-six who earned at the rate the spot where the chalcedony trunks of more than \$1,000 a year during the are strewn is about 4,500 feet; the three months ending with January. lower present limit of the pine in its At this colliery there are employed full development is 6,500 feet. Two only a very small proportion of the thousand feet upward the verdure line total number of miners employed by the company.-New York Evening

Newspaper Making. Considered as a manufacturing business, newspaper making is enormously hazardous and absurdly unremunerative. With other manufacturing concerns the rule is that if they don't make profits they quit but that is not the rule with newspapers. They always have moral and political reasons for clinging to life flow. The brooks descending from the long after there has ceased to be Anti-Lebanon in Syria, water the ger- any pecuniary warrant for it. A newspaper in these days is about as ing upon the plain, lose themselves likely to declare a dividend as a church is. Competition between pa-So in the Arizona desert, though in pers is intense, the price of nearly all of them is too low, the cost of there know it but too well.-Century. white paper and manufacture too high and they give a great deal too much CONNECTICUT'S NEW STONE for the one meagre cent that most of them now sell for. We hope our Great Regulator will make a law soon that no newspaper shall be more than four pages long on week days and six pages on Sunday, nor sell for. less than two cents.-Life.

French Optimism.

We are not so blind as not to see If thirteenth century people could much too virtuous .- Le Siecle, Paris.

SECRETARY WILSON'S IDEA OF A PROPER TRAINING FOR THE AMERICAN BOY



CONGRESS AT THE TWO BILLION MARK.

Appropriations Made by This Session Exceed One Billion Dollars---Facing a Big Deficit---Estimated Excess of Expenditures Over Receipts is \$60,000,000 For the Fiscal Year.

leaves behind a record of unprece- ent session of Congress to \$1,944,-dented expenditures. Coming to 248,679.63. The total appropriation Washington fresh from the scenes of of the last session of the financial disturbance of the early amounted to \$919,948,679.63. fall, it has pushed the appropriations for the first session of the Sixtieth m Congress above the billion dollar

Not so very many years ago Speak-Per Reed and his billion dollar Con-S gress startled the country. Now the D country has reached billion dollar A sessions, and it takes two sessions to make a Congress.

Not only does the billion dollar session follow closely the receding wave of a financial flurry, but it comes with It a Treasury depleted and facing a deficit estimated for the fiscal year at \$60,000,000, and for the current year ending December 31, 1908, at \$100,-000,000. The official statement of Public Building bill ... 20,000,000 Treasury Department recently showed an excess of expenditures above receipts of \$53,018,829.37. The excess of receipts over expenditures was \$58,410,542.53 one year ago, making a difference on the wrong side of the ledger of \$111,429,371.90.

Nearly all the annual supply bills have received consideration from the not show a substantial increase above bill passed at this session; \$106,000,-\$26,000,000 in the annual appropriation for the navy.

Exceeding Last Session's Figures. Making a conservative estimate. and adding the actual increases of annual estimates submitted to Conshown in those passed or under con- gress. These suggestions have not sideration, the appropriations of this kept the figures down and have had session exceed those of the second little good effect. session of the last Congress by \$104,- Democrats are already preparing 300,000. To this sum must be added to make use of the figures furnished

ions of this bill is \$20,000,000. the estimate of the appropriations in former years.

Washington, D. C .- This Congress | made and contemplated by the pres-

-Car oon by Berryman, in the Washington Star.

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| fiscellaneous | 4,25 | 0,000 |
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| propriations | 4,30 | 0,000 |

Total\$124,300,000 Totals of Money Bills.

Some of the expenditures authorized by Congress for the fiscal year 1909 are, in round numbers, \$11,-000,900 carried in the fortifications bill; \$222,000,000 in the postoffice \$98,000,000 for the army; House of Representatives, in which \$123,000,000 for the navy; \$163. bill; they originate. Not one has been 000,000 for pensions, including \$15,passed by this Congress which does 000,000 to carry the widows pension dicial bill, and \$24,000,000 in the urgent deficiency bill.

The leaders have raised warning voices and urged the cutting down

the amount in the public building bill by their opponents in campaign docudemanded by those having close dis-tricts, where the judicious distribu-the record of the party in power. tion of the contents of the "pork bar- Most, if not all, of the committees rel" helps to turn the tide of votes. A making up the money bills have conservative estimate of the provis- failed by many thousands of dollars to meet the estimates made by the Added to the increases carried in executive departments. The tendency the appropriation bills this gives an has been always to increase rather aggregate of \$124,300,000, and raises than decrease the amounts expended

MOB WOMEN IN "SHEATH" GOWNS

Newest fashion Too Much For Parisians at Longchamps, But Police Won't Object. Paris .- Disturbances which threat- tional of them have a divided skirt

Longchamps race course on Sunday limbs. from the appearance in the members' enclosure of four young women at that the police were obliged to retired in ultra-fashionable gowns. The move the young women from the endressmakers of Rue de la Paix fre-qently boom their latest creations at wrapped his cloak around a divided Longchamps, but Sunday's experi- skirt and conducted the owner to a ment was too daring even for cab. Summonses were talked of, but

fitting and so transparent that some turned indignantly away, while some ing fashion, there is nothing more to men laughed and jeered. The wear- be said." ers had been sent by their employers

ened to become a riot arose at the showing the outlines of the lower

The excitement became so great the police decided not to act. Director The gowns were so classic, so tight- Touny, of the municipal police, said: "It seems these dresses are the

of the onlookers rubbed their eyes in latest fashion. I think them someamazement. Others blushed, others what daring, but if it is the prevail-One cynic remarks: "As Paris

advertise the so-called sheath thinks to-day, the world thinks togowns, an attempted revival of the morrow. This fashion will spread Directoire fashion. The most sensa- over the whole world."

WIFE TAKES HORSE'S PLACE.

Drags a Junk Wagon Around, With Husband Driving, and Humane Society is Powerless.

Chicago, III .- Harnessed between | Mulcaski kept to the outskirts of the shafts of a wagon heavily laden the town at first with his novel with old iron, bottles and rags, Mrs. "steed." As long as Mrs. Mulcaski Frank Mulcaski, fifty-five years old, is willing to perform the task the wife of an Evanston junk dealer, has Humane Society can not interfere, it taken up the task left off by the fam- is said, and there is no other agency ily horse at its death two weeks ago. Which would be empowered to act. Supplied with specially fitted harness, At times Mulcaski stops to consult she has made it possible for her hus- with his wife concerning purchasers band to continue in business.

Daily she draws the wagon through she is watchful for chance custom the streets of Evanston and Wilmette, responding with alacrity to her husband's cries of "whoa" and "giddap." advantage he did not enjoy before.

Philadelphia Doctor Says

"Fatal to Pick Buttercups." Philadelphia.-That the picking of tercups and inhaling their perfume.
"Buttercup fever" is the term Dr. Chalfonte gives the disease. "In Germany and Holland there are laws forbidding the growing and picking of buttercups," said the physician.

Suntyal delives that if a person who is apparently drowned could be immediately operated upon and the heart exposed, artificial respiration might be induced.

Squeezing of Heart May

Save "Drowned" Men. Hartford, Conn .- Wonders are prebuttercups is injurious to the health dicted by Dr. D. F. Sullivan for the of children is the theory of Dr. W. new method of resuscitation which W. Chalfonte. He declared at a meet- he employed on Nuncio Chial who ing of physicians that some cases called measles are not measles at all, heart had stopped beating by the but are the effects of gathering but-

and routes to be taken. In addition

normal pulsations.

Dr. Sullivan believes that if a per

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The College and Good Literature

By WILLIAM SEAVER WOODS, Editor of the Literary Digest.

The number of students in the various colleges in America to-day is reckoned at about 150,000, and if our colleges can turn out an army of 150,000 every four years, charged with the leaven of idealism, I think that before long there will begin to be results. Over on the other side of the water, where literature seems to be in full flower, the national wealth is in the hands of a few great families, and the young man who is born poor is pretty sure to stay poor. It is easier for such a young man to turn to the consolations of literature and accept the assurance of the philosophers that wealth is a curse and never brings happiness. So, while the magnates are winning great fortunes in the far East, he writes stories and poems about it. In America the young man of ability can take his choice. He can either go into business and wish later that he had gone into literature, and he can go into literature and wish he had gone into business. That is, if he is unsuccessful. But as for the man who really has the divine fire, I never heard of one who was sorry for it. We cannot have, and we do not want, a literature founded on the denial of opportunity to rising young men to make their choice, but we can have a literature founded on the deliberate choice of the best minds to seek the best things; and when we have that, America is likely to have the best literature.

A Country of Patriots.

In nearly all European countries, as in Eugland or Russia, there is a wide gulf still between the educated classes and the uneducated. It is the shameful disgrace of all our civilization. But in Georgia in the Caucasus there is no such gulf. Of course there is ignorance. Even in England some of the educated classes are not marvels of learning, and we cannot expect a much higher standing in the Caucasus. As to the Georgian peasants, there is a favorite story of a young enthusiast who for the first time attended a Social Democratic lecture given by a follower of Karl Marx, and was afterward heard praying before a sacred icon: "O Lord, make me a proletariat! Make me a proletariat soon!"

But in peasants and nobility alike I found the same quickness of intelligence, the same freedom of mind and eagerness to learn.

This alertness of mind is naturally accompanied by the passion for equality, and a peculiar readiness to shake off the droll social and political traditions that generally survive much too long. "Your name proves your noble family," said my Georgian companion to a dripping boy who had walked miles through a raging storm to pass on a borrowed book and was now drying his thin cotton clothes before our fire. "Then I must change it," answered the peasant, simply. "I refuse to be noble." He also refused to touch wine, because it pays duty to the Russian Government .-- H. W. Nevinson, in Harper's.

The Old Subscriber. We sometimes wonder if newspa-

per men generally appreciate the old subscriber at his true value, says the Lansing (Iowa) Mirror. We mean the old stand-by who takes the home paper year after year, through evil as well as through good report, and pays his subscription regularly just the same as he would any other honest debt. As a general thing the old subscriber is patient and slow to wrath. He will overlook many little slights from the editor, slights which the man who borrows his readings would not stand for a minute.

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