

The rake-off scandal at the Clarion Normal school came to an abrupt close Wednesday when the grand jury failed to find a true bill. The exposure, made in the first place for political purposes, implicated many prominent men and heavy pressure was brought to bear on the case for a settlement.

Lady school teachers should be grateful to Representative White, of Lackawanna county, who has introduced a bill making it unlawful for school boards to drop women instructors from the pay roll on account of marriage, providing they have taught at least ten years. The present law prohibits marriage of lady teachers during their term of school.

Three new counties are proposed in as many different bills now before the Pennsylvania legislature. Senator Patton, of Clearfield, would like to carve a new county out of parts of Jefferson, Clearfield and Cambria counties, with Curwensville as the county seat. If passed, which is not probable, it would create a county having much good farm land but few important towns. Other schemes provide for the establishing of Conemaugh county, to be formed from Cambria and Somerset, and a new county with Charleroi as county seat, to be formed from Washington, Fayette and Allegheny counties.

A revival of the ancient Loerian custom of hanging every legislator introducing an unnecessary law might do good service at present in shortening the legislative sessions. Every session of representative assemblies finds its calendar crowded with bills of every conceivable nature, many absolutely unnecessary and having no purpose but to get the name of some ambitious new member into print. What is worse, the people in general never know the text of the innumerable bills passed each session, for they are never officially published except in law books which reach only the few. There are too many laws and too many law makers.

The task of growing valuable forests on the barren sand-hills of Nebraska will begin this spring when the Bureau of Forestry will seed about one hundred acres of the Dismal River Forest Reserve near Halsey with Red Cedar and Jack Pine. If the seeding succeeds and is done with economy, the Bureau will seed and plant the following year probably 1,000 acres in cedar and pines and will ultimately extend the forest by gradual plantings over a large part of the Dismal river and Niobrara reserves. A nursery has been established at Halsey, in the valley of the Middle Loup river, with a half acre seed bed protected by laths. A tool house and office building have been built. Nearly 600 pounds of seed, principally Western Yellow Pine, Red Cedar and Jack Pine, has been collected for planting in the spring. The sand-hills are unfit for agriculture. If large forests can be grown on them, the timber will be of very great value to a country now without trees, where lumber brings high prices. The attempt of the bureau has every chance of success.

The Quest of Glory.

Jesus Christ is known to the humblest man; but who knows Tamerlane? Yet the Nazarene had not where to lay his head and Tamerlane conquered the world. It's strange freaks the passing of time plays on the works of men.

Tamerlane was the incarnation of ambition: he was Alexander, Caesar and Napoleon in one. He represented that restless energy which burns in the hearts of many men to-day, driving them over on, hunting, striving, scheming, plotting for power, for glory, for fame eternal. Born a peasant he mounted a throne, he captured the hearts of men and they gave him the strength of their arms. Persia he conquered, Russia fell, Turkestan trembled before him, he imprisoned the successor of Mahomet in an iron cage and crowned his glory with the riches of India. Fifty years he endured the hardships of war and toil without a rest and reduced all Asia, all the riches of the earth to his will, and then, obeyed by the oriental world, free from care, believing himself almost divine, he ceased from scheming and began to wonder where the happiness came in. Two months rolled by and to his surprise he found that the body long denied pleasure ceases to appreciate it, and his restless mind again drove him on the path of war. At the age of seventy he gathered his warriors around him and started for the conquest of China; but he never came back again. With his death the work of his life fell to pieces and all that remains of Tamerlane the Magnificent is the obscure record of a musty, little read histories. It was all a striving and a striving and an ending in nothing.

But in spite of the lesson repeated in every mortal's life, men will still spend all the best years of life toiling for glory which is not, and for wealth which is worse. Nothing but the icy chill of oncoming death can convince them that what is gained in the world is lost in the grave.

Self-Love and Selfishness.

Webster's definition of selfishness is the "quality or state of being selfish; exclusive regard to one's own interest or happiness; that supreme self-love or self-preference which leads a person to direct his purpose to the advancement of his own interest, power or happiness, without regarding those of others." Some one has said: "Selfishness is a vice utterly at variance with the happiness of him who harbors it, and, as such, condemned by self-love." It requires but little observation to convince a person that there is a great amount of selfishness in the world to-day. It seems to be an evil that receives little attention and apparently no great effort is made to check it. There are people who might become offended if they were charged with being selfish, and yet, if they would carefully analyze their actions and feelings for one month they doubtless would be surprised at the amount of selfishness that they would find in their life.

A Western editor recently happened to see the Ten Commandments and thought them so original that he clipped the article and ran it under the heading of "modern literary thought."

A Pittsburg belle has captured a penniless English earl. The prayer of the American heiress is, "Anything O Lord, just so it's labelled."

The Country God Forgot.

The recent statehood contest in the Senate directed the attention of the public to one of the most remarkable and least known regions in the United States. Speak of Arizona or New Mexico and the average easterner has visions of a hot desert, bare mountains, lazy half-breed Indians and wild west cowboys, good only as a home for consumptives—a place of banishment. The impression is not wholly wrong, but far from correct. So little indeed has this region been favored by nature that its best friends can only describe it as "the country God forgot,"—a lonely forsaken stretch of sand, growing nothing better than cactus and dotted here and there with the whitened bones of animals which have died of hunger and thirst, where insect life is so abundant that if one picks up a handful of sand half of it will jump away; but the hand of man is rapidly correcting the harshness of nature and side by side with the greatest deserts and waste places in America are developing the richest farming and grazing lands in the world. This great section is more than twice as large as the German empire, but contains a population little more than half as large as the city of Chicago alone. The immensity of its resources when fully developed is beyond comprehension, and fortunately for it, President Roosevelt is the best friend it has in the union. An irrigation canal dug through the most desolate parts immediately transforms it into an Eden rich in the most luxuriant vegetation. Add to this the mildest climate in America and it becomes a land well worth spending money upon.

It is a curious fact that this uninviting region, the last to be settled in the union, was the earliest inhabited section of America. Long before the white men came Arizona was inhabited by probably a quarter of a million people, who have long since disappeared from view. Of their history we know almost nothing, but they left behind them traces of high semi-civilization, prominent among which are extensive stone ruins and the remains of many irrigation canals constructed by them. And it is curious, too, that this region, described by the historian as "not worth good blood," has caused more bloodshed than any other portion of the union. In colonial times much Spanish blood was spilled in exploring it; Mexican blood was shed in quelling the Indians; it witnessed the Texan war for independence; the United States made a most unholy war on Mexico to possess it; and it has ever since been the scene of Indian skirmishing.

Instrumental music is becoming more popular every day. It is interesting to read a defense of instrumental music in sacred houses written by a grave professor of ancient history in the latter part of the seventeenth century in England: "It is a goodlye thynge to make music in the house of the Lorde. For itt doth have a power to counteract the baneful influence of ye devil on the spinal marrow." This was in reference to an ancient superstition that when the spinal marrow decomposed it became a serpent.

Any man may be miserable in misfortune, but it requires a philosopher to discover cause for grief in the hour of prosperity.

The unspeakable Turk has heard the complaints, considered the matter and promised to do better with the ease of one who has been there before.

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Bonds and Mortgages,	\$10,996,953 27
Real Estate,	11,861,588 51
R.R. Bonds and Stocks (Market Value)	18,621,442 50
Municipal Bonds (Market Value),	5,737,301 95
U. S. Gov. Bonds (Market Value),	109,000 00
Cash in Banks and Office,	4,016,069 51
Interest and Rents, due and accrued,	384,521 34
Loans on Collateral Securities,	4,736,750 00
Loans on Policies,	1,066,916 83
Premiums Deferred and in course of collection (net),	1,812,795 96
Total,	\$60,245,339 87

LIABILITIES

Reserve on Policies,	\$49,800,630 00
All other Liabilities,	923,304 54
Surplus to Policy-holders,	9,521,405 33
Total,	\$60,245,339 87

LIFE INSURANCE ISSUED AND PAID FOR during 1902, including Ordinary Insurance (\$87,000,000), over	272 MILLIONS
ASSETS, end of 1902, over	60 MILLIONS
INCOME, during 1902, over	33 MILLIONS
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SURPLUS, over	9 MILLIONS
POLICIES IN FORCE, nearly	5 MILLIONS
INCREASE IN PAID-FOR INSURANCE IN FORCE, over	108 MILLIONS

MAKING THE GRAND TOTAL OF
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Paid Policy-holders in 27 Years, nearly 68 Millions

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