ROTES AND COMMENTS

ELLA Wheeler Wilcox says, in 'Time's finger on the dial of my life points to high noon."

Now, can anybody guess how old.

Ella is?

It is said that the largest diamond at its said that the largest diamond as the world was found a short time ago in the mines of Bahia de Pernagus, Brazil. The gem is reported to weigh 3,100 carats, which is 2,129 carats heavier than the largest existing diamond.

THE Duke of Orleans, head of the THE Duke of Orleans, head of the Royalist party in France and claimant to the throne, has come to the sensible conclusion that even if a monarchy is desirable for himself and family, he cannot down the French Republic. He will quit subsidizing Royalist newspapers and give up the offices of the Royalist committee in Paris.

Ex-Consul General New reiterates the statement that there is no estate the statement that there is no estate of any description amounting to as much as \$1,000,000 in England, either in the Bank of England or in the court of chancery, in which American heirs are interested. The same statement has been made by indubitable authority a hundred times. But whenever a smart lawyer gets out of another job or wishes to take a trip to England at somehody eles's expense the deathless a trip to England at some lse's expense the deathless body else's expense the deathless "fake" of a vast English estate waiting for a number of guileless Ameri-cans to come over and get it is recans vived.

DR. Edward Everett Hale suggests that the United States shall renew its proposition, made to Spain in 1825, to lend her Government a large sum of money on condition that she shall allow this Government to orshall allow this Government to organize Cuba. on a self-governing basis, with its autonomy guaranteed jointly by Spain and the United States. He thinks that it would be just as well to allow the island to remain nominally "the brightest jewel in the crown of Spain," so long as it was actually independent, and for all practical purposes on the same footing as one of the territories of the American Union.

One of the most interesting of the men made rich recently by the Cripple Creek mines is W. S. Stratton, who owns the Independence mine who owns the Independence mine outright and has an interest in other mining properties. He is a carpenter, and three years ago he walked from Colorado Springs to the new camp, a distance of thirty miles, in order to save the fare, which amounted to \$4. Success has not spoiled him, although he now has an income of \$4.200,000 a year. He is a modest, small-sized man, with iron-gray hair and mustache, drossed in a plain business suit, and wholly inconspicuous.

No fewer than sixty-six persons in No fewer than sixty-six persons in Great Britain are shown by the insome tax reports just published in London to enjoy annual incomes of lower \$800,000. There are nearly two thousand more whose incomes range all the way from that figure down to \$50,000 a year, while those possessing from \$25,000 to \$50,000 a year exceed three thousand in number. Some five thousand people are taxed on \$10,000 to \$15,000 per annual, and nearly fifteen thousand citizens on \$10,000 to part thousand one make return of incomes ranging from make return of incomes ranging from the return to rate \$5,000 to \$10,000. When it is borne in mind that the tendency to rate one's income for revenue purposes at the lowest possible figure is almost universal; and that even the most upright and patriotic of citizens think it fair game to "fo" the tax collector, it must be admitted that the showing of the report is eminently satisfactory to Great Britain.

THE aggregate number of employes of all the roads in the United States Is as large as the standing army of Germany. This means that the 1.890 railroads in this country employ 900, 000 persons, and that one person in every ninety of our population depends for a livelihood upou a railpends for a livelihood upon a railroad. From the general railroad
statistics for last year, it will be
learned that our 1,800 railroads carried about 600,000,000 passengers,
which means that if every passenger,
had been a different person, our railthe entire population of the globe.
In addition to this, about sight hundred million tons of freight were carried. To transport these hosts of ition to this, about eight hunillion tons of freight were carThe moonstone exists in North Carolina
To transport these hosts of and Georgia.

passengers and mays these mann-tains of freight required 35,000 loas-motives, 32,000 passenger cars and over 1,100,000 freight cars. Count-ing in all second tracks, sidings and yard tracks, there are something over 220,000 miles of railway tracks in this country. The actual distance covered, however, is 176,461 miles. Every hundred miles of railroad gives employment to 515 men.

A WHILE ago it was asserted that the investment in bicycles reduced that in diamonds, spreading a cold wave over the latter trade in contrast with the warm and fructifying one which descended upon the former. It is now proclaimed that the atatistical average of marriages is threat-Royalist party in France and claims and to the throne, has come to the sensible conclusion that, even if a monarchy is desirable for himself and family, he cannot down the French Republic. He will quit subsidizing Royalist newspapers and give up the offices of the Royalist committee in Paris.

According to one of the addresses before the Greenacre conference, in session in Maine, the central portion of the United States is destined to contain half its population, and this population is tramount to 700,000,000 population being a little over a government ver 70,000 population being a little over a dollar a head per annum. This increase is all the more remarkable from the fact that the returns in question show an equally notable decline in the number of hours of labor.

Ex-Consul General New reiterates the statement that there is no estate the statement that the entire the statement that there is no estate the statement that the stat

chances of any of them.

An outbreak of smallpox that has assumed almost the proportions of a real epidemic is causing much anxiety in London. It began some months ago, and since then has been slowly spreading from one slum to another, until now the health officials find themselves confronted with a task of no little magnitude, for cold weather is approaching and the disease is one that in ordinary circumstances is much more easily handled in warm weather than in winter, when lack of ventilation in the rooms of its victims makes their chances of recovery smaller and also increases of its victims makes their chances of recovery smaller and also increases the danger of infecting others. The London Lancet, in discussing this matter, explains the prevalence of the malady by stating that at no time within the present generation has there been in England such gross and criminal carelessness in enforcing obedience to the vaccination laws as within the last-six years... This, in the last-six years... This, in obedience to the vaccination laws as within the last six years. This, in turn, is due to the fact that a Royal Commission, appointed in 1889 to investigate the whole subject of vaccination has done its work with such amazing deliberation that even now it is not ready to make a report. Meanwhile the Board of Guardians are constantly declaring that until the question is actiled one way or another they do not feel called upon to enforce with vigor—at all, would be truer—the provisions of the vaccination acts.

She Understood the Trick.

United States Murshal Harris, "a rancher up in the mountains of Lake County, Cal., grew tired of walking five unites over-the children and the county. County, Cal., gray theu or warming five mixes were the bills to get the country paper from his mail box, so that the stage would be compelled to travel a longer route that led past his house. A warrant was issued for his arrest for obstructing the United States well and I went up to serve States mails, and I went up to serve

it.

"I found the old man sitting on his back porch smoking his corncob pipe, and commenced reading the warrant: The President of the United States sends greeting." Just then the long barrel of a muzzle-loading rife was shoved out of the kitchen door and aimed at my head. I saw a nervous little gray-headed woman at the other end of the gun with her finger on the trigger. I could see the bright gray eye twinkling through the buckhorn sight as she remarked: "You git, and don't you come snoopin' roun' hyur agin. The President sent his greetin's onst before when the ol' man cut some timber on gov'ment land, and it cost him 'bout a hundred dollars an' mkplty nigh a month in jail. Then he found out the President didn't know nothin about it. If the President wants to be friendly with the ol' man he'll have to come right hyur without sendin' no greetin's. Git!" it.
"I found the old man sitting on his

Bicyclists in the region round about St. John's, Mich., have a queer, but substan-tial grievance. The fields and farms thereabout are bounded and guarded with quickset hedges instead of by fences. At

SMUGGLED IN SNOW.

Novel Ruse to Hoodwink the Czar's Soldiers.

Until within recent years the Russian frontier on the German boundary was guarded in a surprisingly weak manner for a nation so completely under military rule as the Czar's great empire. But now there is a under military rule as the Czar's great empire. But now there is a strong cordon of garrisons only a few miles apart and a careful patrol service between them. The chief duty of these garrisons is to prevent smuggling and the introduction of Mihlist literature into Russia. The lattrice hard some monotonous, and duty is hard and monotonous, and the Czar does not like to have his best-trained and most effective regi-ments sent out along the boundary

ments sene out along the sene sene out along the sene sene out along the sene sene sene sene and central provinces of Russia. They are seldom expert soldiers, and the lax discipline they are under is further weakened by their excessive drinking. Their small pay is doled out to them twice a month, and every kopeck of it is immediately expended in vodks. After the vodka is gone they employ their spare time in making raids across the boundary line into the German farm yards to suppliant their meager rations.

line into the German farm yards to supplant their meager rations.

Along the entire boundary line between these two countries there is a series of great open plains. Over these an icy east wind blows in winter, and the only way the soldiers can keep alive on their patrol is by the building of wood fires between the posts. Even then the patrols frequently have their limbs frozen in their monotonous marches to and fro. Hence it is not at all difficult to smuggle across the boundary, and fro. Hence it is not at an dintender smuggle across the boundary, and, indeed, it is suspected that the soldiers often add to their small pay by making deals with the smugglers and turning their heads the other way

making deals with the smuggiers and turning their heads the other way when they press by.

Two exceedingly novel attempts were made iast springly the smuggling fraternicy both of which proved successful. In one case late one night a band of men in Germany began snow balling some villgers on Russian territory, and the Russians returned the attack. In the snowballs throw: from Germany, however, yards of fine Brussels lace were concealed. This method proved most successful, for even the secret police did not discover it, and the guard of the frontier certainly had no idea of what was going on. Quite as efficacious was the bringing in of thousands of Nihilist proclamations, through Silesia under the very eyes of the garrison. These proclamations were in the hollow staves carried by a body of men who passed themselves off as pious piggings entering Russia on a sacred journey. off as pious pilgrims entering Russia on a sacred journey.

Ducks That Don't Take to Water.

Hydrophobic ducks may seem a bit strange, but a writer in the Revue Scien-tifique tells of such. These were not mad ducks, but merely ducks that hated what people have come to consider their natural element. There were three of them, and element. There were three of them, and they had lived some years in Paris, where they had a small basin and their daily bath. Their owner finally took them to the country to live beside a fine lake, thinking it the ideal place for the amphibious. What was his surprise, on putting them into the lake, to, see them fustantly scramble ashore and wanddle Indian file secioboring table, whence they never the present the present them into the secioboring table, whence they never the second them into the secioboring table, whence they never the second them in the second them is the second them in the second them in the second them in the second them is the second them is the second them is the second them in the second them is the second them in the second them is the second them is the second them in the second them is the second the second them is the second them is the second them is the second the second them is the

them into the lake, lo. see them tostantly scramble ashore and waddle Indian file to a neighboring stable whence they never came out save to feed.

Never could they be induced to remain in the water save by force or fear, and when there they always drew close together, so as to occupy no more space than that of their bath basin at Paris. They were ethoroughly afraid of the lake, and they never became used to it.

In Picardy, it seems, young ducks are often kept from the water in order to protect them from water rats, and prevent them from eating things that might injure their flavor when they appear on the table. Ducks thus brought up until their full growth of feathers is acquired refuse to enter the water, and if forced in sometimes drown.

Giant Fossil Palm Leaf.

In the office of T. B. Corey, mine superintendent of the Oregon Improvement Company, in the Burke building, there are two magnificent fossils of what was once a large palm leaf. They have been once a large paim leaf. They have been preserved in a drab-colored sandstone, and preserved in a drab-colored sandstone, and all the veins and tracings of the original leaf are remarkably distinct. One of the blocks forms the base of the leaf where it once joined to the tree, while the other evidently caught up the extreme end of the leaf. In the former, the lines radiate in clear lines from the stem, and run like the folds of a fan toward the outer edge, widening as they go; and in the latter they are shown to have been very broad. The leaf was at least, four feet long and fully as broad at the widest part. The fossils were presented to Mr. Corey by C. B. McDowell, who found them near Hamilton. They are interesting relies of a time when the palm tree flourished in this iliton. They are interesting relics of a time when the palm tree flourished in this region in all the vigor of a tropical growth.

The money has been subscribed for the proposed baloon trip of the Swedish engineer Andree to the North pole. The baloon will be made in Paris at a cost of \$8,000.

The English government in India lects \$35,000,000 a year from the se

California is having great luck in her experiments of importing insects to pray on and exterminate the various parasitic pests that have caused so much damage to vines and orchards; but a few cautious people are the least bit worried over the voracious appetites of the imported insects, and the possibities of what they may turn to feed upon when all the parasites to their taste have disappeared.

The golden winged ladybird, imported from Australia a few years ago to eat-up the cotton cushion scale; has completed that work it most of the southern counties of the state, and has turned its attention and appetite to the wooly aphis on the apple trees. Another beetle, imported to destroy the red and black-scale, has also cleared the parasite from several counties, and lately had appeared in great numbers in the cornifieds. Just what its mission there is has not been accurately determined. The experts believe, and the farmers hope, that it will destroy the, larvae of a destructive bug, which eats and spoils much of the sweet corn raised on the coast.

What the farmers are beginning to pray fearfully is that the little beetles may not develop vegetarian appetites, and they are also beginning to wonder what the constantly increasing hordes of the now beneficial insects will live on when their natural prey is exterminated. They hope they contract consumption or some other convenient disease, and reason that nature will kindly fix up the matter satisfactorily. Some of them bear in mind the fact that the moongoose was imported into the Island of Jamaica to kill off the rats which ate up the sugar cane, but now the mongoose has eaten up almost every living thing in the island less than a ham in size, and the government would give a year's revenue to be rid of the pest. and the government would give a year's revenue to be rid of the pest.

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to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.
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CLE DEMANDED.

aras Land

the Powers of a Police J tice They Arrest or Release F

The Japanese police are nearly al Samurai class. I think that force considered the most perfect polic world," says Lafcadio Hearn, the way American writer, now a resid

Japan.
Some twenty years ago the Departu
Police of Japan was modeled on
ench system and the result has been
esting. In the first place, the dep
eit is independent of the munic
vernments of the Japanese cities;
the state or province it is under the d
of the governor. The Keisstsin-Bu
d of the governor. of the governor. The Kessatsu-Bu blice headquarters," of each province the capital city, while all of the ci-provided with a central office and substitutions as are needed.

men. ome of the qualifications that are nded in a candidate for appointment

e force in Japan must seem extraord to Americans. Each applicant for intment must write a short essay in ics, as well as in the modern Japan He must also be well read in of Japan, must understand its's laws, must be a fairly good ari n, and—a sign of progress, inde tory of Japan, must understand its in ipal laws, must be a fairly good aristician, and—a sign of progress, inde-must be able to converse and write eith

must be able to converse and write eit French or English!
The better result of the mental qualtion of the police is proven by the fat the policeman can act as a police je on the spot, and is thus able to se of a trivial offence without mak unnecessary arrest.
The physical requirements in an ap at are much simpler. He must possod health, be free from deformity, a st be at least five feet two inches jeht.

ter passing satisfactory mental a Sical examinations, the applicant lass a police fledging. He must nond six months at a "preparate ool," where he is drilled in the scient

de, but remains a sort of apprentice to be completes the whole course of stud-st important of all his training now ijitsu," which is the Japanese name i

police work. While in this preparate partment he is not a policem in of f

st important of all his training now ijitsu," which is the Japanese name i ysical culture. It includes the art estling, which, as the Japanese practi-is a secret known only to the Samur ss. By the aid of this art, the athle fight offensively or defensively wi weapons, and can restore the unco ous without the aid of spirits or dicines. ines. ''taijitsu" or art of ''breaking mu

he 'taijlisu" or art of ''breaking mu
"as it is sometimes called, does m
least resemble American boxing. I
aid a man who weighs 130 pounds
to throw a man twice his weight
force the Japanese goyernment decidedopt the taijisu, or "art of breakingles," a 128 pound professor of the a
a public contest with a heavy ar
a public contest with a heavy ar a public contest with a heavy ar six footer whom he vanquishe ease. The victor was only 5 feet s in height, while the wrestler whor verpowered was more than six fe ad weighed over 250 pounds, and h t size moreover was not due to fat, b development of solid muscle like a fight between an elephant and

like a fight between an elephant and and the lion won. In less than the the big fellow was thrown to the where he lay senseless until restore he aid of the same "art of breakin les." Since then the science of ta has been highly cultivated, not on has been highly cultivated as first part of physical culture.

Japanese policeman was first ped with a heavy club about for ng and one inch and a half in dian Afterward this weapon was abart for a cavalry sword, for the reason be great majority of the policemen rawn from the Samuras class, with cultivated and so had a s ears ago policemen were equippe revolvers and short clubs, which

s they now carry.
apanese policeman does not hand
a captive. He is provided with but strong, cord, about six feet long which he ties the offender's arms elling him, after being tied, to pre

the police force is drawn chiefly

the police force is drawn chiefi-the Samurai class, who love neithe y nor favoritism, but honor and coun-nere is no such thing as bribery. the Department of Police there, and bureaus, namely, political, news censorship, public meeting, festival

ment, etc.

system of secret police, or detection also very perfect, and the move of all criminals of more or less determinately traced and recorded at panese "Rogues' Gallery."

uniform of a Japanese policeman is size much like that worn by "L"

olgn much like that worn by "L" uards in New York City. In wind black, in summer it is white.

SHOOTING A RAPID.

ting Soune On a Canadian Fliver.

ve approached the steersman in the auce stood up to look over the The sea was high. Was it too Could they leap the wave? Their quick talk among our guides as we is along, undecided which way to Then the question seemed to settle as most of these woodland questions if some allent force of nature hed believed.

de - re il comin