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THE STATUARY HALL

Most Interesting Spot in the Great Capitol Building.

England's Contribution to Its Treasures Consists of Bronze Likenesses of John Hanson and Charles Carroll.

(Special: Washington Letter.)

THE eagerness of some people to be republic?" said Irish Mary, who sold pies to the soldiers at the Army of the Potomac.

All of her pies were coveted, and one of the soldiers asked her how it was that she could sell nine pies with such unfailing and gay them whatever kind was asked for. She pointed to an imprint and said: "You see that 'U. S.,' don't you?"

"That means 'The Mince!'" she said, dramatically.

But what one of the boys pointed out the fact that she had put out an apple pie that had "P. M." on it, she said:

"The ignorance of some people is appalling. That means! 'Take Mince.'"

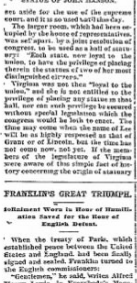
Well, the ignorance of thousands of educated people, on some points, is appalling. A corps of the world's highest school and college graduates, a young woman of considerable force of character, who has been reared and educated socially well-educated boys, recently made the assertion that the national house of representatives is superior to the senate, because the right to vote the revenue is vested in the house of representatives by the constitution; and she informed her veteran uncle that "as money is the control of power, and the house raises revenue, it has greater power than the senate."

But the study learned in the course of conversation that the senate is a co-ordinate body, and, by its power of amendment, usually has really more to do with raising revenue than does the house, in which the revenue bills originate.

But one of the most astounding manifestations of lack of information among people generally inclined to be well educated has been set forth by the legislature of the great old state of Virginia during the past few weeks. The memory of Robert E. Lee, the great confederate military genius, is dear to the hearts of all of the members of his country, and is particularly dear to the people of Virginia because he was a Virginian. This is all right, and perfectly natural. Nobody quarrels with this sentiment; but, on the contrary, it is commended, because worthy of commendation.

The members of the legislature of Virginia, however, ought to be aware of the fact that the memory of Robert E. Lee is not so affectionately cherished by all of the people of this republic. And when they seriously contemplate the idea of presenting a statue of the confederate leader to be set up in the statuary hall in the great capitol building, they might find no objection if it is not all within the range of possibilities for them to inform the congress of such statue, for erection in such a place.

The history of statuary hall ought to be known to all of the people of Virginia, and to all of the people of the republic, but it is not. The great hall was occupied by the national house of representatives for almost 50 years previous to 1864. In this year the new marble north and south wings of the capitol were completed, and occupied by the senate and house of representatives, respectively. The room formerly occupied by the senate was formally



STATUE OF JOHN HANSON.

set aside for the use of the supreme court, and it is so used until the day.

The larger room, which had been occupied by the house of representatives, was set apart, by a joint resolution of congress, to be used as a hall of statuary. "Each state, now loyal to the union, to have the privilege of placing therein the statues of two of her most distinguished citizens."

Virginia was then "loyal to the union," and she is not entitled to the privilege of having any statues in this hall, nor can such privilege be secured without special legislation which the congress would be loth to enact. The time may come when the name of Lee will be as highly respected as that of Grant or of Lincoln, but the time has not come now, not yet. If the members of the legislature of Virginia were aware of the simple fact of history concerning the origin of statuary hall, and the language of the joint resolution setting it apart for that purpose, they would not have spent so much time and energy this winter in debating the accomplishments of a decayed which, however dear, is impracticable.

During the civil war, because of its environments, because of the economic practices and inability of hundreds of thousands of soldiers, Maryland remained in the union, while practically that state took advantage of this fact by entailing on the statuary hall the statues of two of her most distinguished citizens; and they were travelled with the greatest of pomp and ceremony.

One of these is a statue of John Hanson, of whom especial readers of his

STATUE OF CHARLES CARROLL.

days have never heard, read or remembered. And yet John Hanson was not only one of the great fathers of the nineteenth century, not only a great citizen of Maryland but also of the entire republic, and president of the congress of the revolution.

John Hanson was the powerful leader who prevented Maryland from ratifying the articles of the confederation until March 1, 1781, when her sister states, and even Virginia herself, had ratified. Hanson believed that Virginia should do as Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York had done, surrender all claims to the north-western territory of the confederation. After Virginia surrendered her claims, the area of Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio became the common property of the confederation. This action of the sister of Maryland, and the direction of John Hanson, led directly to the ultimate formation of the federal union. That was the beginning of the consolidation of a public domain; the beginning of the acquiring of public lands to common fund for federal uses, lands out of which free states were carved. It was the common ownership of this public domain that did more than all else to cement the sentiment of the federal union. It was Hanson's foresight which made not only possible, but necessary the ordinances of 1784 and 1787, under which the federal constitution developed.

The other statue, of course, is of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, of whom every boy and girl has read and heard. The story is well known that when he had signed the declaration of independence, some one said that there were so many Carrolls then the king would no know which one to take if he proceeded to confiscate the signers, so Carroll immediately wrote beneath his signature "Charles Carroll of Carrollton," so that he should assume he might be the more complete.

In his speech at the unveiling, Senator McComas said: "At a boy of 11 years, Charles Carroll was sent to the college at St. Omers, and later to the colleges at Rheims and Paris. At 26, was a student at the Temple, at London. There for eight years he associated with the master intellects. Returning to Paris and Berlin, at the consequent periods on liberty. At 28 he returned to his Maryland home and, long before his conferees, he advocated revolution and independence.

"On July 4, 1776, the last living signer of the declaration of independence, Carroll, helped lay the corner stone of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad. Forty years before, with Washington, he had sought to widen the Ohio river, to the Potomac, and now, at the age of 96, he foresaw that the American union could not endure without its cradle."

There statues of Hanson and Carroll were cast at the bronze foundry of Crevi, Paris, and were placed in their positions in statuary hall on December, where they remained until the term for their unveiling. Each statue is of bronze, the eyes and three inches high, with the stand, also of bronze, of four inches.

Carroll is represented as holding the declaration of independence in his left hand, and a quill pen in his right hand. Hanson is shown with a document in his left hand, his head slightly lowered, as though engrossed in thought. Excepting the statue of Penn Marquette, these statues are more nearly to be called works of art than any of the statues heretofore placed in the marble hall of memories, of members-ills of the Illustrious.

SMITH D. FRY.

FRANKLIN'S GREAT TRIUMPH.

Enlistment Worn in Honor of Humiliation Saved for the Hour of English Defeat.

When the treaty of Paris, which established peace between the United States and England, had been finally signed and sealed, Franklin turned to the English commissioners:

"Gentlemen," he said, writes Alfred Henry Lewis, in Everybody's Magazine, "I observed you cast an eye upon this old, spotted velvet suit I wear. Let me tell you what I would have you tell to England. Once, years ago, when those differences we have just concluded by still in the sand, I bore a petition to your English privy council. I was laughed and jeered at, if you will, as an outlandish and a savage of no rights, by the grave chief justice and his associates. They put forward a speech can, one Wedderburn, to mouth and worry me. I was helpless, with no friend near my counselors. In my day of heaviest burden, I was clothed in these spotted velvet clothes. I will not pretend I was unmoved, and in my hour of humiliation I made a mental vow that this raiment, worn in the hour of my humiliation, I would put away in the hour of British misfortune and defeat. From that day to this I have laid these garments by, and now, please God, I keep my vow and put them on."

Dooley, Tex.

"Well, Christy may be conceited, but you must admit that he represents a type."

"He surely does; a capital I."—Chicago Commercial Tribune.

WEALTH OF THE GOLD MINES OF THE TRANSVAAL

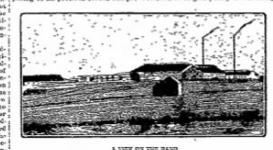
They Can Easily Pay the Part of the War Debt Assigned to Them by England.

IS THE Transvaal able to pay the sum of $150,000,000 apportioned to it somewhat the expenditure of the South African war debt? To answer this question it is vital to examine the resources of the country. In the light of past experience and present knowledge.

The area seems large, but in a small portion of the enormous total open to profit. which is a little over 24,000,000. The amount apportioned to the Transvaal was fixed placed at £30,000,000, but the city was raised in both England and South Africa that the country would not be able to bear this heavy burden of taxation, and the sum has been reduced to the comparatively modest one of £3,000,000, leaving the sum of $15,000,000 to be borne by the taxpayers of Great Britain.

Three centuries of taxation were available by which to raise the money required to provide the interest and sinking fund on any Transvaal loan for the purpose of defraying the cost of the war. The first source was to increase the taxation of the country, though it was always understood that no steps were to be taken that might alarm capital or injure the investor.

The second source was for the state to assume for itself a larger share of the profits in future concessions than in the past, as by the form of the country "the right of mining for and disposing of all precious stones and pre-



A VIEW ON THE RAND.

cious metals belongs to the state." Great hopes are based on this as the developed mineral resources of the colony.

The third source was to be found in the consciousness of the various monopolies which enlisted under the old government before the war, but employing them at the interest of the whole community and of the empire, and not in the interest of a few privileged syndicates.

In reviving the present area the gold mines of the Transvaal will assuredly be called on to furnish the largest share of the money. Let us briefly examine the history of the gold mining industry in that country and the figures of production. In the past may help us to answer the question as the location of this or that.

Since gold has been discovered in South Africa it has really outdistanced all other pursuits in that country, and her mines yearly yield this precious metal are valued at an enormous sum. Gold was known to exist in this country as early as 1854, but it was not

WHEEL FOR ELEVATING SAND AND SLIMES FROM BATTERY TO CYANIDE HOUSES ON THE RAND.

until 1872-87 that the first field of any importance was opened up on the Lydenburg district. When the first discoveries were made their results were almost somewhat undervalued even by the Dutch emigrants and boers. The Sutherland fields were declared paltry digging in 1884, but about the same time the previous metal was discovered on the Witwatersrand. This field, enormously known as the Rand, is the most valuable. The wealth of the field lies in the fact that the gold is found in a pebbly bed known as "banket," which averages for at least 50 miles on the surface and which has been proved to run downwards from the surface for at least 5,000 feet. The reef of "banket" inclines as an angle, and as the depth increases the angle diminishes. The average inclination of the reef and the angle of the gold is at present, and nowhere else in the world is there found so uniform and unbroken a gold bearing country. The field was proclaimed public property in 1886, and several others were thrown open soon after.

For some years the value of the Rand mines was grudged by her fortunate, as the fifteen big gold producers' Association was organized in 1890 to work one of the richest sections of the Rand with a capital of $5,000,000. Celestial journals, writing with hand knowledge, declared that it was a "gigantic swindle." These doubtful characters and "duffers" worth of the stock was offered to the public, but capital could not be found to take it up. To-day this same stock is worth more than one times its par value.

As the mines have developed year by year, their value has increased, and the further they have dug into the earth the more of the gold-bearing ore has been exposed. In 1897, an Australian miner of long experience, a Mr. Matthew, visited the Rand and made the statement that the payable "banket" did not extend to a depth of over 700 feet. So positive was he in his belief that he backed his opinion with a bet. He is also credited with the statement that he thought if the Rand produced $10,000,000 in gold yearly it was doing well, and then the total amounts of the precious metals in the geological world amounts to less than $100,000,000. At the time these figures were regarded as ridiculously high in England.

Other experts visited the fields in the following years, and each one of them gave a higher estimate of the value of the gold in the Transvaal. In 1893 Mr. Hamilton Smith prepared a more exhaustive, showing for a depth of 2,500 feet in the reef, and gave the amount of the gold present at $1,625,000,000. In 1895 Theodore Reunert prepared another estimate, placing the value of $2,250,000,000. In 1899 Messrs. Hatch and Chalmers supplemented these figures with an estimate placed at $3,000,000,000, after a careful and conservative investigation, and just preceding the outbreak of the war another expert estimate placed the amount at $5,250,000,000.

Thus it will be seen this each succeeding estimate raised the former, and to-day the best of these estimates is even considered below the harvest figure. The latest figures are furnished by Mr. Eckels, and he estimates the probable yield of gold as $7,250,000,000. This estimate as for the Rand alone, and does not allow for working at a depth beyond 2,500 feet in any mine, while a recent investigation shows that the gold-bearing reef extends to a depth of over 5,000 feet, though with somewhat diminished productivity.

The report of the mines mining engineer shows that gold to the value of over $100,000,000 was taken from the Transvaal fields from 1834 to 1898, inclusive, the Rand contributing over 90 per cent. of this amount. The total value of the output for 1899 was over $60,000,000, of which over one-fourth went to the shareholders in dividends.

According to the recent mining figures all the world's gold mines are less than the Rand will yield a profit of $1,500,000,000 during the next 10 years. A tax of five per cent. of this amount would more than pay South Africa's share of the war debt, and there is good reason to believe that the cost of working the mines will be reduced in the future, adding considerably to the profits.

After reviewing the foregoing figures it will be readily seen that the share of the huge war debt imposed on South Africa is not so heavy a burden as it may at the first glance seem, and it gives a reasonable hope that in time she will easily wipe it out.

JOHN D. GARDNER.

FUN FOR THE ACTRESS,

Her Method of Calling the Elevator Operator for Himself Arousing Hotel Guests.

"I was surprised at the thoroughness of the hotel fire drill of Washington," said a guest of one of the leading hotels in a representative of the Star. "It was about two o'clock this morning when the thing went off. An earnest-eyed man from a late supper, and not guessing the character of time, touched off the fire alarm. There is a little clang-bell at the elevator boy's bell on each floor, about the size of an ordinary watch. A finger nicked against it sounded the alarm. Every boy in the house was awakened by the clang. The answers didn't do a thing to the glass, and as a result there was the greatest commotion you ever heard. The halls were filled with people looking for fire-escapes, and most of them had their customer-pockets on. Windows were thrown open, and it is a great wonder some one did not jump out. Firemen ran here in the halls in every direction in a few seconds, and then it was found to be a false alarm. Many of the ladies could get along

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...COAST.

Conscience of the Pacific States Got the Gold of Miners and Returning Soldiers.

While there are severe laws against games of faro, and poker, craps and roulette in the states of California, Oregon and Washington, it is probable that there never was more gambling on the Pacific coast than to-day. From Seattle southward to San Diego a passion for gambling seems to have taken possession of all classes of people, and "a Los Angeles spree" is worse than a New York fete.

The police at Los Angeles, Portland, Sacramento, Seattle and Spokane have hardly rolled up greater number of chip rooms and smashed more gambling apparatus than ever before, and they say that their efforts are well nigh futile against the popularity of gambling on the coast. Conservatively 1,500 and 2,000 people, throughout California and Oregon have their clubs where gambling goes on nightly among the leading men of the town.

Vendors of lottery tickets are frequently arrested and fined $200 and $250 for carrying on their illicit traffic. The fines are paid out of the pool realized by selling lottery tickets at the old stand. One vendor in San Francisco confessed the other day that never had he known as much money in the country demand for lottery tickets.

The revival of gambling on this coast comes with the shrinkage of suddenly enriched men and women who returned from the Klondike with their kegs and boxes of gold. Subsequently reached a crowd of men who had gone away from San Francisco poor a year or two before came down the coast from Nome with $5,000,000 or $10,000,000 of gold dust.

Four out of five of these self-styled gold seekers are reckless gamblers. Some of them have been gorged in hands at one sitting have been seen men at Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, Sacramento and Los Angeles. Occasionally there have been gamers in which $25,000 at Klondike riches have been shifted from one owner to another. It has been reckoned that more than $1,000,000 of Nome gold was won in poker and faro from the miners during the winter of 1899-1900 in San Francisco.

The growing of thousands of soldiers through Seattle and San Francisco on their way to and from the Philippines has also stimulated the gambling spirit. Many a young man returning from a campaign in the Philippines has lost every dollar of his hard-earned money in gambling, upon his manner out in San Francisco. Several of the most elaborate gambling houses in the country are conducted in private in San Francisco. Small clubs devoted to poker are scattered all the business blocks all over the town.

Police pressure connected with colonels are common, and in the large hotels like the Palace, Occidental and Grand, there are from a dozen to a score of private poker games going on every night. One at the Cliff House and at Ingleside poker games occur every week in which there is no limit and chips as worth $10 each. San Francisco runs to horseracing. The gaze wonders at frequently $5,000 for an afternoon, and as great is the demand for pool selling privileges that hundreds of $5,000 and $1,000 are offered.

CURABILITY OF CONSUMPTION

Not Well, Save a Medical Authority to Have Two Absolute Conditions.

Nowadays, in order to promote the erection of sanitaria to encourage the governments persons to wage energetic warfare against tuberculosis, and to clear the affected, it is customary to talk glibly of the curability of tuberculosis. We fear that perhaps this will be overdone, says the Philadelphia Medical Journal. We run the risk of unduly depressing those afflicted with any tuberculosis is only a moderately serious condition, that nearly all cases are curable, and if they do not get well, the disease is seriously to blame, and, moreover, in view of the mild nature of the infection, all the sufferers must be very soon being advocated to consult at once.

Pulmonary tuberculosis is a serious condition. The first might as well be faced, and might as well be impressed upon our patients. There are few physicians nowadays who, in spite of the earnest talk at sanitary meetings and by lay and medical journals, would not be filled with horror at the discovery of tubercle bacilli in their own sputum or in the sputa of those near and dear to them. It is true that there are many people living in the west who have had for years tuberculosis pulmonary, and who, otherwise, are a few such living in consumption in the east, and there are fewer still living in the eastern cities who have had tuberculosis for years and the disease in such chronic form that it does not give any evidence of their general condition. But the prognosis still remains grave. Every patient should have time to the worst and, nevertheless, died? How many patients have died who have been informed that they were far worse than when they started? In the interests of truth in the interests of the patient, perhaps in our own interest, we think that the prognosis of pulmonary condition should be more generally regard by the medical profession.

Comets of the New Year.

Eight periodic comets are due to pass a visit to the sun in 1903. In fact, the perihelion date of one the Tempel-Swift comet, fell in December, 1902, and that of another, D'Arrest's, comet in January, 1904. Seven of them send their last previous visit in 1890, and one in 1894. But not all were seen then, and it is not expected that all will be visible this year. Some will be big, one behind the sun, and some are supposed to have gone slightly astray under the influence of Jupiter. Their names and perihelion dates are: Perrine, May 5, 1903; Giacobini, May 15, 1903; Spitaler, August 29, 1903; Faye, October 13, 1903; Brooks, December 31, 1903; Tuttle, November 21, 1903; D'Arrest, January 15, 1904.—Science.

The most surprising property of aluminum is its newly-discovered power of giving a fine, razor-like edge to steel cutlery. Magnified a thousand times, the knife edges produced on the ordinary wholesome appears rough and jagged; while that yielded by the aluminum sharpener is straight and smooth.

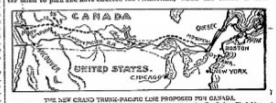
GREAT RAILWAY PROJECTS THAT ARE BEING PUSHED

America, Africa and Australia Are Working on Big Traction Problems.

GREAT railway projects seem to be again the order of the day, though they now make less impression upon the world than they did when each new road was built. For several years there has been recorded in the newspapers the progress made in the construction of two important lines of railway, the Trans-Siberian and the Cape-to-Cairo. These have received attention not so much because of the vastness of the project of construction as because of their direct influence upon the destinies of the world.

Of these two lines, the Trans-Siberian is virtually completed to such an extent that travel on it is possible from the shores of the Pacific to Moscow, though it is being steadily added to so as to secure greater perfection.

The Cape to Cairo line is still a dream-land picture, but it is certain to take definite shape in the near future. Section by section the gigantic scheme which Cecil Rhodes saw in his empire dreams is coming into being. Ten years ago most people doubted the practicability of a railway across the Soudan; more recently still they were dubious as to the feasibility of the Uganda scheme. Results have proved the practicability of both, with the important distinction that one was unprecedented by a minister, and the other has lacked the master mind to plan and have effected the



THE NEW GRAND TRUNK-PACIFIC LINE PROPOSED TRANSCONTINENTAL.
The Route of the New Road Is Shown as a Direct Line and the Canadian Pacific by Black Lines.

best and cheapest method of building. For the present generation shall live to see Uganda's railway perfected and available. The Cape to Cairo line was first the dream of Dr. Livingstone's son. "We will go from Cairo to Cape Town and preach a railway, and still it Livingstone's line," he said, a quarter of a century ago. That idea was deemed in his frontier. Cecil Rhodes' first scheme, too, failed on materialize in his lifetime, but the project was carried through in the interests of the government as certainly as the Transsiberian.

There is not a doubt that the latter for undertaking has inspired the whole railway-building world. There is something irresistibly fascinating in the linking of one extremity of a continent to his opposite and farthest point. The arm of prosperity upon which Canada has entered has already necessitated the extension of railway facilities, and great enthusiasm exists in the Dominion over a gigantic scheme which is spoken of as England's reply to the Trans-Siberian line. The new route would run from Quebec to Port Simpson;

THE CAPE TO CAIRO, ACROSS AUSTRALIA
The great railway line from Cape Town to Cairo as planned by Cecil Rhodes.
For the Un Greater Australia Railway Project

would have a total length of 3,220 miles; but 208 miles shorter than the route from Quebec to Vancouver, and 733 miles shorter than from Quebec to Yokohama via Vancouver. All this, of course, if the scheme be accepted. The promoters aver that England by using the new route could put troops into Manchuria four days sooner than Russia, by making use of the Trans-Siberian, could bring her envoy from Moscow to Vladivostok; and further, that England could send an army, when I had the proposed line in three weeks' shorter time to China or Japan than by the fleets could. The estimated cost would be about $75,000 a mile, roughly $150,000,000, and the line would tap vast wheat fields and bring rich in the forest coal and petroleum.

A cash bounty to cover this amount will be asked of the Canadian parliament when it meets in Ottawa in March. The voting of the subsidy is, however, assured, and with the great population from each lines as the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian Northern, both of which tap the northwest territory, and in both of which heavy subsidies were paid by the Canadian government in cash and land. At the same time patriotic sentiment, of which the latter is composed, will bring the entire isthmus and the Central American states into close touch with the markets of the United States and of the world.

Not less fascinating is the heroic scheme for a great railway trunk across Australia. It is unnecessary to repeat at this time of day that one of the great needs of this island continent is more railway facilities. There is nothing so very wonderful in a mind timid to treat this subject, even though in parts the route is unrolled by civilization to-day. The route, which is to link Port Darwin with Port Augusta, completes the transcontinental link. To the countrymen the railway is to be made secure, subject, of course, to the necessary restrictions. A statistician has figured out 30,000,000 acres of land as the aggregate of the grant which the Australian government must concede for its railway. Well, Australia must have tracks, many tracks, and the route is a vitally important one. It will mean three days saved for the mails, and some people will prefer the comparatively short railway journey to a rough passage across the Bight of Australia. It opens up a way, said to the agriculturist and mineral-seeker, and is a very important matter for the whole colony. The Commonwealth has the option of purchasing the railway upon its completion. DANIEL CLEVETON.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S BEAUTIES.

Delights of the Summer Months and Attractions for Tourists and Sportsmen.

I regret that so little is known of the island by the pleasure and health-seeking people of this country, for I feel sure that if it were more widely known hundreds of Americans would visit it during the summer season, says the New York Independent.

The summer months are perfectly delightful. There are no extremes of heat or sudden changes to cold; the air is fresh and bracing. As regards scenery, Newfoundland has points from Quebec to Vancouver, and 725 miles shorter than from Quebec to Yokohama via Vancouver. All this, of course, if the scheme be accepted. The promoters aver that England by using the new route could put troops into Manchuria four days sooner than Russia, by making use of the Trans-Siberian, could bring her envoy from Moscow to Vladivostok; and further, that England could send an army, when I had the proposed line in three weeks' shorter time to China or Japan than by the fleets could. The estimated cost would be about $75,000 a mile, roughly $150,000,000, and the line would tap vast wheat fields and bring rich in the forest coal and petroleum.

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The summer months are perfectly delightful. There are no extremes of heat or sudden changes to cold; the air is fresh and bracing. As regards scenery, Newfoundland has points from Quebec to Vancouver, and 725 miles shorter than from Quebec to Yokohama via Vancouver. All this, of course, if the scheme be accepted. The promoters aver that England by using the new route could put troops into Manchuria four days sooner than Russia, by making use of the Trans-Siberian, could bring her envoy from Moscow to Vladivostok; and further, that England could send an army, when I had the proposed line in three weeks' shorter time to China or Japan than by the fleets could. The estimated cost would be about $75,000 a mile, roughly $150,000,000, and the line would tap vast wheat fields and bring rich in the forest coal and petroleum.

A cash bounty to cover this amount will be asked of the Canadian parliament when it meets in Ottawa in March. The voting of the subsidy is, however, assured, and with the great population from each lines as the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian Northern, both of which tap the northwest territory, and in both of which heavy subsidies were paid by the Canadian government in cash and land. At the same time patriotic sentiment, of which the latter is composed, will bring the entire isthmus and the Central American states into close touch with the markets of the United States and of the world.

Not less fascinating is the heroic scheme for a great railway trunk across Australia. It is unnecessary to repeat at this time of day that one of the great needs of this island continent is more railway facilities. There is nothing so very wonderful in a mind timid to treat this subject, even though in parts the route is unrolled by civilization to-day. The route, which is to link Port Darwin with Port Augusta, completes the transcontinental link. To the countrymen the railway is to be made secure, subject, of course, to the necessary restrictions. A statistician has figured out 30,000,000 acres of land as the aggregate of the grant which the Australian government must concede for its railway. Well, Australia must have tracks, many tracks, and the route is a vitally important one. It will mean three days saved for the mails, and some people will prefer the comparatively short railway journey to a rough passage across the Bight of Australia. It opens up a way, said to the agriculturist and mineral-seeker, and is a very important matter for the whole colony. The Commonwealth has the option of purchasing the railway upon its completion. DANIEL CLEVETON.

Where the Trouble Comes In.

He—I hope you didn't believe what they said about me.

She—I made it a point never to believe more than half I hear.

He—But the trouble is you women generally believe the wrong half.—Brooklyn Life.

Little Brother Says:

"I'm not down on girls any fuller than advice by de bone an' flesh an' complexion so on old cats about it, but de mind my feller mos begins to advise me I'd get upset after it an' wonder what de idiot am talkin' 'bout."—Detroit Free Press.

His Only Excuse.

"Your honor," testily cried counsel for the plaintiff, "I protest this case should go on; the defense has secured many postponements, and it's beyond counsel is never ready because he is afraid—"

"I've got a good excuse," interrupted the "because" counsel for the defense. "I deny it. "Ignorance of the law excuses no one."—Philadelphia Press.

No Doubt Possible.

Clara—And are you sure that he married her for her money?

Clarice—Absolutely; I've seen her.—Town Topics.

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