

## ASKING FOR TOO MUCH.

Now comes the New York *Mail and Express* with the suggestion that the railroads, during the World's Fair, enrich themselves while enriching mankind by putting the show within the reach of all possible visitors. The plan proposed is for the roads to fix a minimum rate for which a train of 500 passengers can be taken from Gotham to Chicago, and the paper quoted thinks this need not exceed one dollar per capita. It is urged that inasmuch as the proposed train would form a separate classification from any now existing, it would in no wise interfere with existing arrangements nor open the way for rate demoralization.

All of which is very fine, but the truly good editor of the *M. and E.* ought to know if he does not that railroads are neither built nor run that way; that their stockholders are not in the business for the sake of conferring boons upon mankind, but, as Colonel Ellerbeck once expressed it, for the purpose of declaring dividends, and there would not be much of the latter in sight as the result of a dollar rate for a thousand mile ride. Of course, the roads will make a reduction, but it will only be to such extent as is likely to bring the receipts up to or above the normal through the increased patronage. Don't apply to railway corporations for public charities or any other kind, because you will not only lose your time and labor, but be burdened with the humiliation of refusal besides!

A good many people in this corner of the Republic would be awfully well pleased if they could get the corporate highways to be just, let alone charitable; this class is a very respectable one, embracing nearly every merchant or dealer of any kind in the country. They have petitioned, remonstrated, supplicated, everything but prostrated themselves, but the heavy weight of charges which amount in some cases to petit and in others to grand larceny (from a business point of view) is still upon them. Nobody here asks for a dollar or even a ten dollar rate to Chicago; what all do ask for and ought to have is a tariff schedule that will enable both the railways and themselves to realize something upon shipments; and if so modest a demand hangs fire so long, how much time will a request like that of Colonel Shepard be likely to consume in acquiring a propulsive movement!

## BISMARCK'S PERTINACITY.

Prince Bismarck is one of those men who forget very slowly and who ever keep in mind the classical injunction, *nulla vestigia retrorsa*; that is, the exercise of the crab in proceeding backward is not one of their weaknesses. In his opposition to the Emperor, which was never more pronounced than now, he has of late been invoking the aid of the press, being determined that if possible the German people shall view the situation through the same kind of spectacles that he employs.

The ground most recently taken by the Chancellor, which the Boston *Herald* pronounces well calculated to

efface all suggestions of personality, is that "the Roman Catholics of Germany are acquiring altogether too much political importance, and this in consequence of the fact that the Emperor, finding it necessary to secure a parliamentary majority, has granted concession after concession to them in consideration of their support of the various measures he has advanced." Prince Bismarck, says the authority quoted, affirms that the way to offset this is to have a parliamentary coalition formed among the representatives of the stalwart, right thinking German people, who, by commanding a majority in the Reichstag, can overthrow the Roman Catholic plots, and compel the Emperor to rule in accordance with parliamentary methods. If the ex-Chancellor were a man wedded to the notions of consistency, he would realize so keenly the personal change of front involved in his present pretensions that he would not have the face to put them forward; for he is now trying to undo and reverse the theories and practices of imperial control and parliamentary management for which he, more than anyone else, is responsible.

It should be remembered that it was Bismarck who made concessions to the Catholics for the same reason that many politicians nearer home do similar things—to get their votes, and the record further shows that he has repeatedly presented how impossible it was to maintain parliamentary government in Germany. The vacillating course of the once leading and controlling mind in the councils of the empire stands out in strong and strange contrast with the deportment of the young ruler, who, however much he may have rendered himself liable to criticism for alleged arrogance and self-sufficiency, has nevertheless under all trials preserved his equanimity and maintained his dignity throughout. To the impartial mind it looks very much as though Bismarck were gnawing a file and had so far outgrown his judgment as to be unconscious of it.

## A NEW INDUSTRY.

A brand new industry is about to be created in the most northwesterly corner of our public domain, and if Congress were in session it would be a good scheme to call its attention to the matter, to the end that those who engage in such business might be salaried officers of the government. There are not enough places to go around yet, and whenever so excellent an opportunity for creating a few more, and that, too, where they are likely to be needed, is developed, it should not be ignored.

A dispatch yesterday briefly announced the shipment of a herd of reindeer to Alaska for the use and sustenance of the aborigines there. As the latter never used the animals, and in most cases never even saw one, they will have to be taught and this necessitates teachers—"teacher of reindeer utility to the Rij adams," by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, would do for one appointive position; and then he would have to have numerous assistants—"keeper of the national reindeer," "herder of Federal reindeer,"

and so on. While ameliorating the condition and cultivating the mentality of the dusky citizens of Oonalaska, why not, in patriotic fashion, do something for ourselves at the same time?

## SUICIDE CLUBS.

Occasionally the reading public is shocked by the announcement that some member of a suicide club has complied with the edict thereof by taking his own life. Such items are not so very frequent, but they come along with tolerable regularity, albeit they lose none of their grossness nor generally objectionable features to the well balanced mind by reason of that.

There are two or three of these repulsive organizations in this country if report may be believed. One is at Bridgeport, Conn., one each in Philadelphia and Chicago, and perhaps one in New York, though there is no certainty regarding either of them excepting the first, the existence of which seems well authenticated.

A Boston paper thinks the talk about these clubs in our country "is to be accepted with several grains of allowance. The taking of one's own life is seldom done in a freak of eccentricity. Human nature is so constituted that nothing but insanity or the strongest dread of disgraceful exposure drives men to it. The idea of suicide finds refuge otherwise only in the weakest brains, and, fortunately, such brains are usually accompanied by a cowardly temperament which leads the victims of this tendency to fear to carry out self-murder." But it remains a notorious fact that there have been several victims of the clubs spoken of, men who, with a perverted sense of honor, have obeyed the behest of the clan and kept the compact made with it by destroying themselves in the manner agreed upon. Perhaps the reason committing magistrates, grand juries and officers of the law do not make an effort to reach the inner workings of these loathsome organizations and make a few examples, is for some such reason as that outlined in the extract—they are afraid of being laughed at or accused of imitating Sancho Panza by tilting at a windmill; but organized murder under the auspices of the suicide club is a reality all the same.

EVERY DAY proves the wisdom of the choice which made terra cotta the prevailing color of the World's Fair buildings at Chicago. Even the drinking water harmonizes with the prevailing hue.

THE POPULATION of Jerusalem is said to have increased in six years from 30,000 to 80,000 inhabitants. The greater part of these are Jews who have taken refuge in the Holy City on account of the persecutions of their race in Russia and elsewhere.

RUMOR SAYS that Tippu Tib, the celebrated Arabian merchant in Africa, known from H. M. Stanley's description of his travels in the interior of the Dark Continent, intends paying a visit to Europe. He wants to see England and Belgium particularly.