

occasions placed itself on record as favorable to the export dressed meat trade, and also as favorable to the establishment of a public or central abattoir, where slaughtering could be done under proper inspection, and where it could be carried on with due regard to health and cleanliness. It is presumed that the city could make arrangements with the promoters of the proposed abattoir, so that it could be made to serve the purpose of a public abattoir. On the other hand, it might be claimed that if the city is to expend such a large sum by way of assistance to this industry, it might be better that the city should own the abattoir, and derive the revenue therefrom. A public abattoir, properly conducted, would no doubt pay expenses, if not produce a revenue for the city.

The bonus proposals should receive careful consideration from the citizens before voting upon the same, if a by-law be submitted. The Commercial is opposed to bonusing on general principles, and has repeatedly condemned the custom of granting bonuses in aid of industries, as wrong in principle. In the present case, if advantageous arrangements can be made with the promoters of the enterprise, so that their establishment can be made to serve the purposes of a public abattoir, then it might be desirable to grant them some assistance. The city is in need of the abattoir, and it may be possible to secure it to better advantage in this way than for the city to establish one solely as a civic enterprise.

### Our Unexplored Globe.

The New York Literary Digest says: "We are apt to think that we moderns have very little to do in the way of exploring the globe, and that the recent explorations in Africa have quite put the finishing touch to geographical knowledge, so that he who wishes to set foot on virgin soil must sigh, like Alexander, for another world. Those who entertain such opinions may calm themselves with the thought that no less a portion of the earth's surface than 20,000,000 square miles is yet a fit subject for investigation, and on a large part of this the foot of civilized man has not yet trod. We translate from 'Cosmos' (Paris, June 6) an article that brings this fact out very clearly. It runs as follows:

"At the London Geographical Congress, Mr. Logan Lobley gave a very interesting study of the present state of exploration of the globe. It appears that modern geographers have an immense amount of labor before them to make us acquainted with all parts of the earth. This conclusion will astonish some people, for there is a general impression that almost all regions of the earth are well explored.

"Mr. Lobley reminds us that, in the first place, toward the middle of the sixteenth century, all seas had been traversed by navigators, and that if the maps of the continents were not yet very exact, at least their relative positions and their general configuration were known. Australia itself appears on a French map of 1512 under the name of Great Java. In the course of the sixty years included in the last decade of the fifteenth century and the first half of the sixteenth, a pleiad of navigators had advanced geographic knowledge in a degree that has never been reached in any other period so short. Sebastian d'Elcano had made his first voyage around the world; Vasco de Gama had doubled the Cape of Good Hope; Christopher

Columbus had added the two Americas to the map; the voyages of Cabot, of Magellan, had completed this wonderful list of new discoveries.

"To-day, outside of the polar regions, we must confess that all the seas have been explored, but this is far from being the case with the land. An immense extent is entirely unknown to us; another, still more considerable, has been only imperfectly explored; travelers have traversed it, commerce has exploited some of its products, but good maps of it do not exist. Finally only the least part is well known; geodesy has covered it with a network of triangles, and the maps of it are complete even from a topographical standpoint.

"After the Arctic and Antarctic regions, which have remained inaccessible up to the present time, Africa is the part of the world that is least known to us, notwithstanding the admirable explorations made in this century, which are daily clearing up the map. The earliest explorers, however, could not dream of serious efforts, and many years will pass before the country will be thoroughly explored.

"After Africa, Australia offers the vastest field to the investigation of explorers; we must remember that even its seacoast was not fully explored till 1813. Since that time, at the price of great suffering, it has been crossed from south to north, but no traveler has yet traversed it from east to west.

"In the two Americas, except the extreme northern and southern parts, the continent is known, nevertheless the whole central region of South America, though in great part explored for commercial purposes (for mines, wood, cautchu, etc.), is not exactly mapped.

"To sum up, the yet unexplored parts of the globe cover an area of about 50,000,000 square kilometers (about 20,000,000 square miles), approximately divided thus:

|                         | Square miles. |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Africa .....            | 6,500,000     |
| Australia .....         | 2,000,000     |
| America .....           | 2,000,000     |
| Asia .....              | 200,000       |
| Islands .....           | 400,000       |
| Arctic Regions .....    | 3,600,000     |
| Antarctic Regions ..... | 5,300,000     |

Total .....

Opportunity will not be wanted here for a long time, to the explorers who wish to undertake their part of the immense task that must be achieved by humanity before it knows its own world."

### Where Illiteracy Comes From.

(On several occasions attention has been directed to the three bills before the present Congress, all proceeding along the same line, to place restrictions on immigration into this country. The bills were introduced by Mr. Lodge in the Senate, and by Representatives McCain and Bartholdt in the House, and they severally provided for the exclusion of all males between the ages of sixteen and sixty years who cannot read or write the English or any other language. They were finally merged into one bill which should have passed; but it obtained yesterday the position of advantage, giving it precedence over all other bills next session during the morning hour.

Mr. Bartholdt of Missouri, whose name will probably always be associated with the measure more than either of its other two authors, by reason of the greater interest he has taken in it and the superior knowledge of the subject he has shown, has compiled a table which will give a good idea where the bill will strike most heavily—what the nationalities are which will be most seriously affected by it. Here is the table:

| Nationalities.                   | Percentage of illiterates. |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Portugal .....                   | 67.55                      |
| Italy .....                      | 52.93                      |
| Galicia and Bukowina .....       | 45.68                      |
| Poland .....                     | 39.82                      |
| Hungary .....                    | 37.69                      |
| Russia (proper) .....            | 35.42                      |
| Other Austria .....              | 32.70                      |
| Greece .....                     | 25.18                      |
| Roumania .....                   | 17.75                      |
| Belgium .....                    | 15.22                      |
| Turkey in Europe .....           | 11.79                      |
| Wales .....                      | 10.43                      |
| Bohemia and Moravia .....        | 8.98                       |
| Spain .....                      | 8.71                       |
| Ireland .....                    | 7.27                       |
| Finland .....                    | 5.53                       |
| France (including Corsica) ..... | 3.50                       |
| England .....                    | 3.49                       |
| Netherlands .....                | 3.33                       |
| Scotland .....                   | 2.63                       |
| Germany .....                    | 2.49                       |
| Norway .....                     | 1.02                       |
| Sweden .....                     | .71                        |
| Switzerland .....                | .50                        |
| Denmark .....                    | .49                        |

This is quite an interesting table, and exhibits a range of illiteracy among the nationalities who send some of their people here which is very striking. It was generally supposed that the Poles, Russians, Austrians and Italians were the most illiterate, but this table shows that while the nationalities named are well to the front in the matter of illiteracy, they are all easily whipped by the Portuguese immigrants, 57 per cent of whom can neither read nor write. Greece with 25 per cent of illiteracy makes a much worse showing than Turkey with 11.79 per cent. Belgium's illiteracy is four times as great as that of its southern neighbor, France; while Finland does not have one-tenth part of the illiteracy that its eastern neighbor and suzerain, Russia, has.

But the Bartholdt bill, when passed, will not have great terrors for the Scandinavians or the Switzers, for the table shows that they are the least illiterate of all nationalities, Norway having only 10 illiterate persons in 1000, Sweden 7, Switzerland 6, and Denmark 5. Between Denmark which sends us 5 illiterate persons in 1000, and Portugal which sends us 673 illiterates in 1000, there is a graduated scale of ignorance whose dimensions, as far as we are concerned, the Bartholdt bill will do much to curtail. New Orleans Times-Democrat.

### Grain and Milling.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: "The market is still very unsettled for rolled oats, the sale being reported of 1 car delivered here this week at \$1.30 per bag, said to be one of the finest brands on the market. In fact, however, the lowest price reported is \$1.25 per bbl.; but \$2.80 to \$2.90 are considered fair market values for good brands. These figures are for car lots, 20c to 25c being added for smaller quantities. A dealer stated that the market for rolled oats is too unsettled to give exact values, as one sale in car lots is a criterion for the next."

A new information has been laid against Beech & O'Brien, option brokers, of Winnipeg, and the case is proceeding. The information is sworn to by Dr. Bergman, of Winnipeg. A large number of grain men have been examined, as to the nature of option dealing, etc.

Angus McLeod, of the Albion hotel, at Tagelora Prairie, has decided to give up his business. Mrs. Bell, of Whitewood, has purchased the house and will take charge the first of April.