

# LEAP FROM CLOUDS

Sensations of Parachute Jumpers in Dropping From Flying Balloons.

The parachute jumper is a comparatively recent product in the profession of ballooning. The first parachute jumper, the first man literally to make the leap from the clouds, was Sam Baldwin, now a successful manufacturer of balloons at Quincy, Ill. Baldwin, his brother and Prof. Van Tassel, three gas balloon men, happened to meet in a Los Angeles hotel in the summer of 1887. Each had a hard-luck story to tell and it was unanimously agreed that the business had gone to the dogs. As a means of resuscitating it and rescuing it from the canine grasp Baldwin suggested the parachute leap. The others did not believe it possible for a man to make the jump and live.

Out of the chaffing came a determination to make the experiment. None of them was willing to offer himself up as a sacrifice, so a bag of sand was substituted. The balloon was sent up from the commons with a long string attached to the parachute rope. When the bag had risen in a height of three-quarters of a mile the cord was pulled and the chute cut loose. It dropped like a log for a hundred feet, then opened and came slowly down to earth. Repeated experiments convinced each that it was a safe trick with a man in place of the bag of sand. Van Tassel then went to 'Frisco to interview the newspapers and get them to send special to Los Angeles, but while he was away the impatient Baldwin experimented himself and Sam made the first jump in history safely and easily.

The Baldwins were quick to realize the money value of being first in the field and they started east to inaugurate the sport there. The greatly incensed Van Tassel broke with them and getting an outfit began making ascents himself.

**Act Drew Immense Crowds.**  
The new act leaped into popular favor at once. The incredible daring of the performance and the seeming fact that it was more than an equal chance that the aeronaut would be dashed to pieces drew immense crowds everywhere the leap was advertised to take place. The man who "rode the bag" could command almost any price he asked. For some time the three balloonists who told each other hard-luck stories in Los Angeles had the field to themselves. Most of the other aeronauts were afraid of it. With four assistants and a pushing manager the Baldwins made a tour around the world. In a year and a half they netted a cool \$100,000 in cash. To this they added big money secured from the managers of many eastern resorts. Five hundred dollars was the fixed charge for one performance.

With the advent of other "riders of the bag," as the technical term of the profession is, prices began to drop.

**Many Jumpers Bring Prices Down.**  
From \$1,000 that was once paid for Fourth of July performances at the big resorts, prices went steadily downward, until \$250 was reached. Still more recruits came, and nowadays the ruling price is from \$25 to \$40, due largely to the presence of many "farmers" in the business, men who use it as a means of making a little side money during the summer. No one has ever compiled an accurate list of the number of men who depend upon the parachute jumping as a means of livelihood, but estimates range from 300 to 500, with no basis of guessing how many local performers there are.

**Startling Novelties Devised.**  
The public craze for novelty, combined with the desire to excel, caused a number of startling innovations. First came the man and a woman, then later the dog was added. First the man and woman rode on the same bar. Later they had separate parachutes, tied to the same bar. When the dog

blank cartridges. The balloon was released in the ordinary manner, and when it reached a proper height the aeronaut exploded his cartridge and "the human cannon ball" dropped into view. Down in an Indiana town an aeronaut with a gas balloon successfully made an ascension with a big farm wagon attached. To add to the realism, the performer sat on the front seat and piled a long whip. Then came the "gang chute." Four men, each with a little chute of his own, went up with the balloon. A big bar like a whiffletree was attached to the balloon. To this the chutes were tied and it was necessary to unloose it. Then came the man riding a bicycle in mid-air. When he left the ground he was pedaling at a great rate. This he kept up as long as he was in sight. It looked very risky, but it wasn't. The machine was tied stoutly to the parachute, with the cut-off rope dangling down within reach, while the rider himself was secured by hidden safety appliances to the wheel.

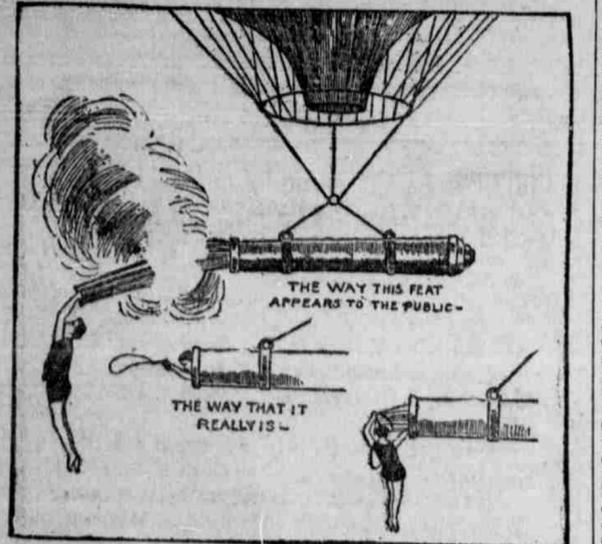
**The Common Act.**  
Later came the man who nred himself out of a cannon in midair. This



**MORE SPECTACULAR THAN DANGEROUS.**  
in a row. One by one they were dropped safely to the earth.

**Animals Sent Up.**  
Baboons, roosters, cats and other domestic animals have been among those harnessed to little parachutes and set free to ride down to earth. Others have taken pigeons, ducks, doves and other good fliers and let them loose in midair. Advertising matter was set adrift in the same manner.

The spectacular part of the ascension is to be found in the acrobatic feats while the outfit is mounting heavenward. This is nerve-racking to the spectator, but not disconcerting to the performer. It must be remembered that he feels no sensation of the rush through the air. To him everything appears stationary, save the earth which is dropping away from him. If he holds by one hand he knows, though the crowd doesn't, that the web bandage which grips him by the wrist will hold him secure, and if he hangs head downward he knows that a pair of horses could not pull him away from a trapeze into the corners of which he has planted his toes.



MARVELOUS FEAT OF THE TIN CANNON AND TOY PISTOL.

arrived on the scene he was given a chute of his own. It was tied to the bar, and when the signal came all that was spectacular and taking, but a great deal of a fake. The folded chute was first placed inside a big tube of tin mounted on stanchions and carriage of the same flimsy material, painted black to resemble iron. This was attached to the parachute. Then the performer crawled in. He had concealed in the breast of his leotard, the half coat used by all tumblers and trapeze artists, a pistol, provided with

Withal it is a hard profession. The man who faces danger daily may claim that he becomes so accustomed to its men that he fears it no longer. Externally this may be true, but the nervous system has its limitations, and if the warnings it sometimes sends out are not heeded death may come in a horrible shape.

Thus the ranks are swelled today by the young and daring; depleted tomorrow by the tried and wise. Few men grow old in the profession. They marry and their wives will not hear

to another ascent. They become crippled or frightened into something that promises longer life, even though the price is a humdrum youth.

**H. T. DOBBINS.**  
hunting business at Sabine, last season killed sixty-eight ducks in one hour and twenty minutes, all being wing shots. Ben F. Johnson, county commissioner from that precinct, killed a like number at one discharge of a double-barrelled gun. Henry Townsend killed sixty-three mallards that he got at the discharge of a double-barrelled gun.

**A Smoking Centenarian.**  
How shall one reach the century Mr. Sidney Cooper will attain if he lives till September 26, 1903. Some ten years ago Mr. Cooper, then close upon 90, gave an account of his daily life. He breakfasted at 8, after having done in the summer an hour, in the winter half an hour, in his painting room. His breakfast consisted of oatmeal porridge and bread and about half a pint of milk just warm from his own cow. He had not then tasted a cup of tea or coffee for nearly forty years. After breakfast he worked till lunch time, his lunch consisting of a mutton chop and a glass of that ale, which, as he himself says, taken in moderation gives stamina and power. In those days they were in the early '90s—he went for a walk before his dinner at 6 o'clock, beer again being his only drink. After that he read his newspaper. At 9 o'clock he took his one cigar and at 10 was in bed. This was the everyday tenor of his life, and he remarked that regularity is the secret of longevity.—London Chronicle.

**Presidents of One Name.**  
The accession of Vice-President Roosevelt to the chief magistracy adds



another to the list of presidents who had but one Christian name. Of the twenty-five presidents, but six, the younger Adams, the elder Harrison, Polk, Grant, Hayes and Arthur had two. Mr. Cleveland since the death of ex-President Harrison is the only living ex-president. There have been but three other instances where there was but one surviving. In 1836 when Madison died, John Quincy Adams alone survived; in 1874, when Fillmore died, Andrew Johnson, and in 1886, when Arthur died, Hayes. There have been but two occasions when there was none surviving—during the term of John Adams, when Washington died, and during the second term of Grant in 1875, when Johnson died.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

**Killed Sixty-Eight Ducks at One Shot.**  
The duck shooting season has opened up in this portion of the coast country, says the Galveston Daily News, but the prevalence of mosquitoes is making the sport less attractive than it otherwise would be, and is also deterring the "pot shooters" from spending as much time in the lakes and marshes as they would wish to do. However, the Sabine market is being supplied with ducks, and they are plump and juicy, having fed and fattened in the rice fields along the bayous to the north and west of the city. Several years ago, when driving the mail and passenger stage between Sabine and Galveston, on his return home one afternoon, Joe Marty killed 263 ducks in one of the lakes along the route in two hours and fifteen minutes from the time he began shooting. A. H. Best, who is in the

**Coast Line in Cuba.**  
One of the monthly magazines publishes an article by Edward Marshall, entitled "Covering a War," purporting to show how the papers get the news and what it costs them. He deals principally with Cuba, and in the article occurs this paragraph: "To patrol a coast line as great as that of Cuba (the island is over one hundred miles long), and to know every event of importance within its limits, was an extremely difficult matter." If Mr. Marshall's estimate of the daily cost of the news-getting is as wide of the mark as that of the length of Cuba we shall have to divide his figures by 18, for the coast line is really over 1,800 miles long. To be accurate: The northern coast is 913 and the southern 972 in length.—New York Press.

**Not Much Danger in Ice.**  
The Boston board of health has been considering for some time the question of whether typhoid fever lurks in ice, and is prepared to report that there is little danger. In natural ice the bacteria are thrown out by freezing, and in artificial ice they are killed in sterilizing.

## SLOCKED NEAR MOUNTAIN TOP.

Explorers Brought to a Standstill Near Assiniboine's Summit.

Henry Grier Bryant, traveler and explorer, recently returned from a five weeks' trip in the Canadian Rockies, says the Philadelphia Public Ledger. With Walter Dwight Wilcox, a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of London, who has often traveled and made scientific investigations thereabouts, Mr. Bryant organized an expedition to explore the region around the headwaters of the Elk and Palliser rivers—a district covering about 2,000 square miles, which has remained a blank on the government maps, and, if possible, to make an attempt to ascend Mount Assiniboine, the Matterhorn of the Rockies. The party, consisting of two Swiss guides, three cowboys and fourteen horses, with provisions and supplies, beside Mr. Bryant and Mr. Wilcox, left Banff, a station on the Canadian Pacific, on July 21, and struck through the woods to the south and up the Spray river in the direction of Mount Assiniboine. No one had ever succeeded in reaching the summit of this mountain, which is put down in the government survey as being 12,000 feet high. Every attack on the mountain before had been made from the north, but Mr. Bryant and his party decided to try it from the south, from which direction the ascent was believed to be easier. One of the Swiss guides was kicked by a horse before reaching the foot, and had to be left behind. Picking their way over stretches of snow and rocks and keeping as much as possible under the overhanging ridges, so as to be protected from a possible avalanche the party steadily pushed upward, but were brought to a standstill when only 800 feet from the top by a long traverse of snow, over which it would have been foolhardiness to attempt to pass. The expedition had reached 11,125 feet, however, the highest point ever attained. Mr. Bryant says that it is only a question of time before the summit will be reached, but as their time was limited the party was compelled to give it up.

## COIN SOUVENIRS OF TRAIN.

McKinley's Funeral Car Runs Over Gold Pieces in Pennsylvania.

The desire for souvenirs upon the part of the large crowds lined along the railroad tracks at every point was a distinctive feature of the McKinley funeral train, says the Pittsburgh Post. The most popular of all the methods adopted was the placing of coins on the track so that the train might pass over them, smashing flat the pieces of money as a mark of identification in years to come. This practice was not confined to any particular point or crowd, but was indulged in generally all along the route. The mutilated coins were afterward gathered up by their owners and displayed with much pride. At some stations, according to the train conductors, so many coins were placed on the rails that it caused a slight jar to the cars as they passed over them. Coins of different denominations aggregating at least several hundred dollars were strewn along the track at Union station. Even these relic-hunters seemed to appreciate the occasion and surroundings, and, instead of making a rush for their property as soon as the train had passed, waited until it was out of sight before picking up the crushed coins, and by common mute consent each was allowed to have his or her own without the least quibbling among them. At Roup station a prominent and wealthy resident of the Shadyside district placed a \$10 gold piece upon the rail. The approach of the train started to shake it off, but it managed to remain long enough to have just a small portion of it slipped off as if done by a knife. The owner is quite a collector of souvenirs and oddities, and when he picked up his coin he stated it would occupy the most prominent and conspicuous place in his large collection.

## Great Bets in History.

Lord George Bentinck, in 1843, in betting on his horse Gaper, for the Derby, stood to win £150,000 (\$720,000), but saved himself upon Cotherstone, and netted £30,000 (\$144,000). At another time a bet of £90,000 (\$422,000) against £30,000 (\$144,000) was booked between old Lord Glasgow and Lord George Bentinck. The Marquis of Hastings bet and lost £103,000 (\$494,400) on the Hermit's Derby. Bell & Co. of Wall street, in August, 1900, had \$250,000 placed in their hands to bet on President McKinley's re-election, at odds of 2½ to 1. Their offer was absorbed in fractions. Lord Dudley bet £24,000 to £8,000 on Pader in a race at Ascot with a bookmaker named Morris Peter was beaten. A syndicate headed by a man named Lambert won £90,000 on Don Juan in the Cesarewitch at Newmarket in 1833.—New York Herald.

## Electricians' Gloves.

The Electric Laboratory of Paris has been carrying out recently a series of experiments bearing on the insulating qualities of electricians' gloves. As a result the members having the matter in charge have arrived at the conclusion that insulating gloves cannot be considered as affording efficient protection against the dangers connected with high-tension currents, and state that in their judgment it would be better to prescribe their use altogether rather than to rely upon their efficiency in contact with dangerous connections. It is prudent, they say to consider them useful only for working with those parts already insulated from the lines, such for example as the non-metallic hands of switch-Philadelpia Times.

## A CAREFUL ANALYSIS

CONGRESSMAN TONGUE ON TARIFF REVISION.

It Should Only Be Undertaken After a Deliberate and Exhaustive Examination of Existing Facts and Conditions—The Present Industrial Situation.

Congressman Tongue of Oregon takes a comprehensive view of the present industrial situation and sketches the relation of the Tariff thereto with a firm hand. As to one phase of the current attempts at Tariff agitation he makes a frank statement. If everything that Mr. Babcock and some others claim is true he would concede the remedy they demand, but—Mr. Tongue makes his proposition entirely contingent upon a most careful and thorough analysis. "If," he says, "a careful examination should prove" no less than five different specifications to be true, then he would remove the Tariff from the industries or articles in question. His closing caution and wise requirement of certainty.

The investigation named as a prerequisite is now being carried on, and it will be as thorough and exact as possible. It is believed that the demand heretofore made for the repeal of certain duties on the ground of their being inoperative except to enable American manufacturers to get higher prices at home than abroad was premature and hasty, and that a cool and exhaustive examination of the whole subject will make such repeal obviously unnecessary. The conclusion of the inquiry should be awaited before any action should be taken.

"I certainly do not believe that it would be wise for Congress at the coming session to enter upon anything like a general revision of the present Tariff. As a whole, both in producing needed revenue and in stimulating the industrial interests of the country, the Dingley Tariff law has been unusually successful. Our exports surpass all previous records and are still growing larger. With consumption stimulated to the highest point, we are purchasing from foreign nations less of food products, especially such as our own farmers can successfully raise, than we purchased during those years of terrible depression following the passage of the Wilson-Gorman law. A greatly increased demand for these is supplied wholly from our own farms, ranges, dairies, orchards and gardens.

"Our present trade balance is enabling us to cancel our obligations to foreign nations, and its continuance for a few years will make us the creditor nation of the world. Labor is well paid and fully employed. We should not lightly imperil these advantages or endanger the prosperity we now enjoy. To enter now upon a general revision of the Tariff, to attempt to remodel and rebuild our industrial system would itself create alarm, resulting in a general shortening up of production, lessening the demand for labor and supplies and general unrest and alarm. It would be better to bear with slight inconveniences rather than to rush blindly upon untold disaster. We must not attribute all higher prices to sinister influences. Six years ago the crying evil was "low prices." When all are eagerly striving to secure higher prices in the presence of phenomenally increased demand, we must expect that there will be increase in the price of the production of others, as well as of our own, of the things we consume as well as those we produce. We must not expect to buy cheap unless we expect to sell cheap and work cheap.

"But if a careful examination should prove, what is so often alleged, that there are Tariffs upon products not needed for either revenue or protection; that the industries producing these goods are capable of withstanding all foreign competition, that they are outstripping all foreign competitors in their own domain, and rapidly capturing the markets of the world, and that these Tariffs serve no purpose except to enable the corporations controlling these products to extort unreasonable prices from the home consumer while selling cheaper abroad then they should be repealed at once. This should be done, not to destroy, but to preserve protection. They form no part of a Protective system. They give plausibility to the argument that a Protective Tariff fosters trusts. They are the enemies, not the friends, of Protection. If we do not get rid of such Tariffs there is grave danger that the people, unmindful of past experiences, stirred to madness by appeals to prejudice against great wealth, may arise in their might, guided by anger more than by wisdom, as in 1892, and destroy the whole Protective policy.

"But such a step should be taken only after the most careful examination of the probable effect of the action contemplated. We should be certain that the industries affected could successfully withstand foreign competition, that we were not destroying important enterprises while attempting to destroy monopolies, that we were not merely changing masters and entrusting a foreign trust upon the ruins of domestic trusts. We should first be sure of the facts, and the search for these should be thorough and exhaustive. The facts fully known, the action taken should be cautious, temperate, but firm and effective. Sincerely yours, Thos. H. Tongue, M. C., 1st District, Oregon."

## Cheap Ocean Freight.

Consular Agent Harris, at Elbenstock, Germany, in a report on the German importations of grain from the United States and Russia, says that

"the only thing which will enable the United States in the future successfully to compete with Russia in the grain markets of Germany will be cheaper ocean freights." That is a statement that comes from other representatives of the United States; in Europe, in speaking of our exports of coal to that continent. But cheaper ocean freight rates depend entirely on the creation of an American ocean merchant marine, and that in turn depends entirely on the passage of a shipping bill by Congress. The farmers, coal miners, and everybody else will be benefited by such legislation.—Philadelphia Press.

## NEW YORK CUSTOMS FRAUDS.

The frauds recently unearthed in the appraiser's office at New York are believed to have robbed the government of nearly \$1,000,000. For months it has been noticed that certain importers of Japanese wash silks in New York could sell these goods below what would be the legitimate cost if the duties were paid. Chicago importers suspect dishonesty on the part of their New York rivals and set a trap to convict the guilty parties. This measure of self-protection has resulted in stopping a conspiracy of fraud which was cheating the government out of enormous sums annually.

The Chicago merchants believed there were dishonest officials in the appraiser's office at New York who were in collusion with dishonest importers in that city. To test their theory they refused to pay the duty on thirty cases of silk in the Chicago custom house and had them reshipped to New York on some pretext, with the result that the whole system of fraud has since been unearthed. The dishonest practices in this case are the more inexcusable because there is no opportunity for error as to the amount of the duties. The customs charges on silks are levied according to the weight of the goods in pounds. There is no excuse for a clerk who makes an under-valuation of goods subject to specific duties by the pound or yard. When goods are taxed on the ad valorem basis the importer may be tempted to undervalue his goods in order to reduce the duty, and the appraiser may be deceived. Frauds of that kind are frequent and hard to get at, but the silk frauds are more daring and unusual.—Chicago Tribune.

## JOHN BULL'S NIGHTMARE.



## COFFEE PROTECTION.

Action of municipal governments in Porto Rico in levying prohibitory excise taxes upon imported coffee is an expedient that, if adopted at all the ports of the island, might afford a local solution of a problem that will receive the attention of congress at its next session. But it is doubtful whether similar local legislation could meet the demand of Hawaii for protection for its home coffee growers. Under the decision of the supreme court, congress would have power to enact duties upon any imports into these territorial possessions. The problem suggests an interesting illustration of the theory of a protective tariff. Coffee enters the United States free, because we do not raise the bean ourselves. But now we have acquired islands where coffee-growing is a profitable industry, threatened by a cheaper foreign product. There is a direct invitation to apply locally the benefit of protection.—New York Mail and Express.

## Silent Free-Woolers.

Woolen mills are crowded with orders, even the smaller concerns participating, and the wool market is steady, despite weakness abroad.—From R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review, August 31.

At the east the features are the heavy demand for wool at firm prices at New York, Philadelphia and Boston, and the expansion in dry goods demand at those same cities.—From Bradstreet's weekly review, August 31.

It has taken longer for the wool and woollen market to recover from the injury of free trade than other industries, but now, despite the low prices abroad, our wool market is firm and steady and the outlook for the woollen trade is better than for years. The free woolers are very silent these days.

## Unsafe Guides.

A man or a party that takes up any aim that promises popularity, irrespective of its truth or wisdom, drops it when defeated and seizes upon the next phantasm discovered, is too flighty and insincere to be a safe guide for sensible people, anxious that no cruel blunders be made in the conduct of their public affairs.

## What They Want.

Anti-Tariff papers used to say that a Tariff would build up no industries. Now they say it has caused our industries to grow so big that it ought to be taken away, so they can grow small again and not be so powerful.