

# Commoner Comment.

Extracts From W. J. Bryan's Paper.

## Different Kinds of Dollars.

George E. Roberts, director of the mint, in an interview recently, referred to the proposition that a mint be established at Manila. Mr. Roberts said:

"I have heard nothing about the matter since the adjournment of congress, but I know that it is receiving the attention of the war department, which is obtaining all the information possible on the subject. Army officers seem to favor the establishment of a mint at Manila and an effort to substitute American coinage for the Mexican now in general use. There is considerable opposition to this proposition, however, as it is certain that any attempt to push the American dollar and restrict it in gold would precipitate commercial disturbances that might result in disaster. Secretary Gage is opposed to it, and I am inclined to think that this plan will not be adopted."

"Two plans have been proposed. The first of these is to establish a free mint at Manila for the making of a Philippine dollar interchangeable with the Mexican dollar and redeemable at a fixed price in gold. Under this plan producers of silver would sell their product to establishments having trade relations with the east, which would have it coined at Manila and put in circulation. This is the plan adopted by the British government, which coins an Indian dollar which is circulated from the Straits settlement and has so far been successful in competing with the Mexican dollar and the rupee."

"The second plan is to coin a 'token dollar' about the size of the Mexican dollar with enough less silver to prevent it from going to the melting pot or out of the country, interchangeable with the Mexican dollar, and redeemable in gold equally with Mexican coin."

It is rather strange to hear that the war department is considering the establishment of a mint. Surely we are undergoing many changes. Heretofore the treasury department has been charged with affairs relating to our finances; but under the new policy that has sprung up in our "land of the free and the home of the brave" the war department appears to be a mighty institution, wielding enormous powers, and one whose bounds are controlled by "no pent up Utes."

Mr. Roberts thinks it likely that some plan involving the creation of a "Philippine dollar" will be adopted. It will be well to look at this suggestion seriously. The constitution gives congress the right to "coin money, regulate the value thereof and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures." No one heretofore would have dared to claim that congress had the right to make one dollar for one section and another dollar for another section. Under the constitution no one would seriously claim that such a right exists. It will not be surprising, however, if the proposition to create a "Philippine dollar" or a "token dollar" prevails. Authority for this will be found, not in the constitution, but in the decision of the supreme court in the Porto Rican cases. Under that decision congress, the creature of the constitution, has the right to respect to our new possessions, whatever authority it may see fit to exercise entirely regardless of the fundamental law.

When the war department, by and with the consent of the president and Secretary Gage and a few other executive heads, set out to adopt a financial policy for the Philippine Islands, the American people began to obtain a hint of the far-reaching character of the Porto Rican decision.

There are no restraints upon congressional authority in Porto Rico. There are no restraints upon the war power in the Philippine Islands.

If political interests require, the time may yet come when we will have one kind of dollar for the Philippines, another kind of dollar for Porto Rico, an altogether different dollar for Cuba, and a new-fangled dollar for Arizona, and a patent-applied-for dollar for New Mexico, while within the states, which are the masters of these territories, a wholly different dollar will be "current money with the merchant" and this will be a "sound financial system."

Another kind of dollar is as good as every other dollar—on which the "faith" and the "honor" of the nation are preserved, and the "business interests" of the country are subserved.

In response to an invitation from Tammany to submit a sentiment to be read on the 4th of July, Mr. Bryan suggested the following:

"Liberty is not safe without a written constitution, and a constitution to be of value must be strong enough to control every public servant and broad enough to include within its protection every person who acknowledges allegiance to the flag."

When a Chinese bank fails the bank officials are beheaded. When an American bank fails the bank officials are interviewed and express great surprise at the failure. Bank failures are extremely rare in China.

Mr. Hanna told the Ohio republican convention that "this is no time to experiment with the tariff." Certainly not. Not the time for the republican party to experiment with it. The trusts are satisfied and Mr. Hanna knows right here he can get a rich yield of fat when he starts out with the frying pan in the congressional campaign of 1902 and the presidential campaign of 1904.

The chief argument in support of the ship subsidy is that the promoters want the money.

A large number of the Commoner's esteemed republican exchanges continue to exhibit an absorbing interest in the reorganization of the democratic party.

It is not strange that men like Downe should find thousands of dupes when there are so many men who still believe that the foreigner pays the tax.

The money bought university degree is very much like the purchased medal of honor.

## BY INJUNCTION.

### HOW LORDS OF THE EARTH MAY HOLD "RIGHTS."

The Laws of the Land Passed Up for the Decisions of Corporation Corrupt Judges—What May Happen in 1902.

It was in 1903 that the Supreme Court of the United States found for the plaintiff in the great case of Simon Magus, against the mayor, Aldermen, etc., of Olathe, Kansas. The case was this: A part of Olathe was built on lands owned by Magus who acquired an enormous fortune by selling them. He laid out streets, granting rights of way, but reserving to himself all other rights in the streets. Nevertheless, the people of Kansas, as the complaint set forth, "wrongfully and maliciously assumed to breathe his air in said streets, and committed other trespasses upon the rights of said Magus in said air."

The court held, following the "Single Tax" case (Taresey vs. The Town of Dover, Superior Court of Kent County, Delaware), that the street was merely for passage.

This finding occasioned greater surprise than the income tax decision of some years past (Pollock vs. Farmers Loan and Trust Company and Hyde vs. Continental Trust Company, 158 U. S. 601), and a rehearing was held. It was urged that the use of the air was necessary to the right of way, and was therefore included in it; but the learned judges pointed out that it was just as necessary to be fed as to breathe, in order to travel; and yet, although food, unlike air, was actually produced from the ground, no one had claimed the right to grow food products on the highway, as an incident to its use.

The court argued with much force that the railroads were also highways, in which the people have special rights (Munn vs. People of Illinois, 94 U. S. Supreme Court). And that cars were necessary to their use, but that it could not be claimed that the right to the use of the roadbed gave a right to the free use of the cars.

It was argued that it was in violation of the right of the people peaceably to assemble as provided in Amendment 1, United States Constitution. But, citing "The Commonwealth vs. Davis" (Massachusetts Law Reports, June, 11897), the court held that by taking the proper steps and paying the fee, any citizen could obtain license to breathe the air in public highways (Same case, 140 Mass., 465).

Laws taxing impingement had been uniformly upheld (Edge et al vs. Robertson Circuit Court E. D. N. Y., 1882), and such laws denied the use not only of the air, but even of access, without payment of the fee. It was further said that the ordinances opening the streets in their turn excluded such use, and that the principle of the ordinance was constitutional. (Dillon's Municipal Corporations, p. 250, 2d ed.)

The decision was quickly followed in the house of lords, the chamber of deputies and the high courts of other countries, and as nearly all landowners have rights in the streets, numerous suits were instituted.

In fact one shyster attorney, the owner of a little plot which was mortgaged for all it was worth, had summonses printed, and, relying upon the principle that every one has a right to sue everyone else, served them upon every person who passed, at the rate of several hundred every day. Next every one failed to answer, and the costs brought him in a pretty fortune. The new doctrine was followed, and injunctions obtained against certain strikers, who breathed the air upon roads belonging to the company, on the principle laid down in Mackall vs. Ratford, 82 F. 41. The court justly said that common property in the air worked very well in primitive times, but so did common property in land. The general experience of mankind, however, had improved upon those plans. "There is no force," said the learned court, "in the strenuous contention of counsel for the defendants that the doctrine of rights in air was new for we find in Blackstone, Book II, Chap. xxvi, Sec. 31, 'Ancient Lights. Thus, too, the benefit of the elements, the light, the air and the water, can only be appropriated by occupancy. If I have an ancient window overlooking my neighbor's ground, he may not erect any blind to obstruct the light.' It follows that easements of wind and even of light, were and still are, allowed in England."

Noris is the decision of the lower court in contravention of the Fifth amendment to the Constitution of the United States, guaranteeing the right of life and liberty, for it is open to any one to become an air lord, just as he might become a land lord.

That's the way many folks are feeling just now, but the end is not yet.—Paso Robles Independent.

When President McKinley was addressing the laboring men at San Francisco and congratulating them upon their prosperity and contentment, one "bravay wage-earner arose and asked, 'What about next week?'

Of course, he was guilty of some discourtesy in thus interrupting a meeting made notable by the presence of the Chief Executive, and his companions beckoned him to be silent. But he could not have asked a more embarrassing question at a Republican meeting. The admiring motion is living in the present—no thought or plan for the future. It might be well for the President to consider the simple question propounded by the California toiler.—Coming Nation.

The Tweed ring stealing from the people of New York was petty larceny compared to the highway robbery of the Republican ring of Pennsylvania. They have donated street railroad franchises in Philadelphia to their henchmen said to be worth \$50,000,000, without any money consideration or reduction of fare. To somewhat show the value, John Wanamaker offered \$2,500,000 for the franchises and Tom Johnson offered, if the franchises were granted to him to reduce the fare to 3 cents and give free transfers. If the Republicans of Philadelphia and the state do not revolt against these highwaymen they deserve to have empty pockets the balance of their lives.

**SOMETHING ABOUT FOOLS.**  
The St. Louis Post-Dispatch has this to say about taxpayers: "The most foolish of all fools is the taxpayer, who through partisan feeling, takes no interest in resistance to public plunderers. The looters in all parties should be turned down."

That the average taxpayer is considerable of a fool is unquestionably true. Otherwise there would be in every political subdivision a system of taxation and revenue in harmony with natural laws, instead of the present scheme, which is not a system at all,

but a senseless, a ridiculous and an iniquitous scheme for "robbing Peter to pay Paul." No man possessing any business sagacity would neglect his own personal affairs as do millions of voters the affairs of civil government—for which every voter is to some degree responsible. In fact, many voters imagine that they themselves are not taxpayers, simply because they pay nothing directly to the tax collector. They never see far enough into the incidence of revenue laws and the workings of civil government to even dream that they are daily being indirectly taxed to help pay other people's taxes; that whenever they buy, trade, travel, eat, employ labor, or do anything else requiring them to pay money or give services, a portion of what they part with goes into the bottomless boot of crooked taxation.

The average voting taxpayer is quite averse to being robbed by a professional highwayman, but if systematic robbery of his earnings is perpetrated under the forms of law, and called taxation, he submits meekly and silently. As things go, the public plunderers selected by the people to manage public affairs have a fat job as any reasonable gang of rascals should wish for.

"The looters in all parties will be turned down" whenever the honest men in all parties arise in their might and turn them down. They have the power to do this, but lack only the moral strength.—Ralph Hoyt.

## SCOUNDRELS TRIUMPHANT.

There was no temptation to Mayor Ashbridge in Mr. Wanamaker's proposition to pay the city of Philadelphia \$2,500,000 for street car franchises which the mayor between two days made haste to sign away without a cent of compensation to the people. Mayor Ashbridge was not acting in the interest of Philadelphia and so Mr. Wanamaker's offer was disdained as unworthy of his consideration.

Philadelphia has fallen very low and she is sinking lower and lower in moral degradation. She is held in contempt by all self-respecting cities at home and abroad. Even corrupt New York and diseased Chicago look down upon her from moral heights and there is no community in all the land so low as to do her reverence. She has reached the state of the sot who has lost all sense of shame. Like an abandoned woman she goes about from an angle that makes the bad look good and the good bad. The only hope now is, that the mayor's monstrous betrayal of his trust will shock the people into new moral life.

It is a hideous commentary upon the morals of the state—for Philadelphia to Pennsylvania is much what Paris is to France. The loss is that of Philadelphia alone perhaps, but the disgrace is to Pennsylvania. The debauchery is a reeking shame to all the people of the great state.

It is not easy to characterize this incomparable scoundrelism. Ordinary language fails in attempting it. But if it shall serve to arouse the sleeping conscience of the Commonwealth to the infamy which Ashbridge has secretly consummated in the face of Wanamaker's munificent offer will not have been in vain.—Johnstown Democrat.

## SUPREME COURT MUSICIANS.

The great jumble of opinions, each differing from the others, handed down by these nine immaculate wise men, show beyond a doubt, to thinking folks, that the "constitution" is truly an "instrument" upon which this trained band of legal musicians can play any kind of tune they see fit, and they can easily play to the taste of seventeen different kinds of audiences. In fact the constitution has ceased to be more than a few pages of words in a dictionary, and this oligarchy of nine men, sitting on the supreme bench, are the lexicographers who give them any definition that pleases them. The real government of the United States has gone out of the hands of the people of Congress and the executive, into the hands of this court, which can write and change the constitutions and laws at their own sweet will. That they can make lightning changes as rapidly as a modern comedian seems almost self-evident from recent decisions, and the question as to whether the supreme court as well as the constitution should not be abolished and the will of the people substituted is a pertinent one, and one that will soon have to be settled.

Displeased at a judge's decision, Alexander H. Stevens once slammed his head down and made considerable of a racket.

"Mr. Stevens," said the judge, "are you trying to show your contempt for this court?"

"No, your honor," said the lawyer, "I am trying to conceal it."

That's the way many folks are feeling just now, but the end is not yet.—Paso Robles Independent.

When President McKinley was addressing the laboring men at San Francisco and congratulating them upon their prosperity and contentment, one "bravay wage-earner arose and asked, 'What about next week?'

Of course, he was guilty of some discourtesy in thus interrupting a meeting made notable by the presence of the Chief Executive, and his companions beckoned him to be silent. But he could not have asked a more embarrassing question at a Republican meeting. The admiring motion is living in the present—no thought or plan for the future. It might be well for the President to consider the simple question propounded by the California toiler.—Coming Nation.

The Tweed ring stealing from the people of New York was petty larceny compared to the highway robbery of the Republican ring of Pennsylvania. They have donated street railroad franchises in Philadelphia to their henchmen said to be worth \$50,000,000, without any money consideration or reduction of fare. To somewhat show the value, John Wanamaker offered \$2,500,000 for the franchises and Tom Johnson offered, if the franchises were granted to him to reduce the fare to 3 cents and give free transfers. If the Republicans of Philadelphia and the state do not revolt against these highwaymen they deserve to have empty pockets the balance of their lives.

**SOMETHING ABOUT FOOLS.**  
The St. Louis Post-Dispatch has this to say about taxpayers: "The most foolish of all fools is the taxpayer, who through partisan feeling, takes no interest in resistance to public plunderers. The looters in all parties should be turned down."

That the average taxpayer is considerable of a fool is unquestionably true. Otherwise there would be in every political subdivision a system of taxation and revenue in harmony with natural laws, instead of the present scheme, which is not a system at all,

## WAGES WANTED ONLY

### PEOPLE ARE NOT SEEKING LIFE WITHOUT WORK.

Altruism in Factories—Give Fair Wages and It Can Get Along Without Charity—How the Employer May Enjoy Title to "Model Shop."

The wage scale having been fairly adjusted, the employer need not worry himself about what altruistic measures he will adopt for the benefit of his employees. Once the interest of the latter in the success of the enterprise becomes established, suggestions regarding methods which will be to the common interest of employer and employe will come fast enough from the men. Conveniences which good men need to do their work well and keep them in prime condition, mentally and physically, are of advantage, and they are bound to come, but they have their time and place of coming, which are after more important things are settled. It must be remembered that kind words and rest rooms and libraries and lectures and other so-called altruistic measures, although excellent in their proper time and place, do not in themselves bring happiness and contentment, for they do not supply food and clothes and house rent and home comforts, and the latter are what men work for. Of such things, therefore, until the proper time arrives the men become suspicious, as they partake of the nature of charity, and honest workmen resent anything of such a nature. The men must be mentally happy and well advanced in modern thought and methods before such things can be introduced.

Nor should an employer allow the announcement to become current that he has a "model shop" when he has made his business a success by adopting the methods outlined above and added such conveniences as he finds are of common advantage to his business and his men. Intelligent workmen are sensitive to being referred to as adjuncts to anything "model."

An attempt to advertise an enterprise by proclaiming that philanthropic principles dominate its management may be effective for a time, but men lose respect for such philanthropy and its projectors. There is no philanthropy about it; it is pure business. Nor should a manager announce to his men or to the public that he incorporates advanced ideas in his system of management "because it pays." No advantage can be gained by such a course. It will, in fact, be found that it does not pay. He should no more aim at making such a statement than at saying that he keeps his own hands and face clean or changes his linen daily "because it pays."—H. F. J. Porter in Cassier's Magazine.

## PRICE OF FODDER.

"I see," said the head of the firm, "that you have an article in one of the magazines this month, entitled 'How to Live on Four Dollars a Week.'"

"Yes," said the young man in a hesitating sort of way.

"You seem to have demonstrated in a thoroughly reasonable way the practicability of making four dollars cover one's legitimate weekly necessities," said his employer, "and, comparing argument with those of others who have written on the same subject, I presume you are expecting that your article will take the first prize."

"I congratulate you," his employer continued. "It's a good article; I read it with great interest. And, by the way, I've been troubled a good deal lately. I've felt that it must be mighty hard for you to get along on what I was paying you, and I've been wondering how I could work things around so as to give you more without increasing the running expenses of the concern."

"Yes," the young writer answered, with a hopeful reflection.

"But it's all right, I see," the old gentleman went on. "You can live on four dollars a week and that leaves you six dollars to have fun with or save, as you please. So there's a load off my mind. Say, if you write any more articles along this line, tell me about them, will you? I'd like to read 'em. It's a great staff. When the secretary of the Engineers and Business Men's Protective Association suggested the raising of a fund to offer prizes in the leading magazines for essays on 'How to Live on Four Dollars a Week,' and said that large employers of labor might save two or three times what they subscribed to the fund by reading these essays and satisfying themselves that there was no necessity of paying big salaries, I thought he was wrong. But you've convinced me and proven him right, my boy," said the old capitalist, as he smilingly bowed the prize-essay writer out of his private office.—Mixed Stocks.

## LOW WOOL PRICES.

From the Helena Independent: This explanation of the low price of wool (that it is the result of the use of cotton in making cloth) throws no light on the action of the beneficent Dingley law, which was given to the wool growers with a whoop and a guaranty that it would keep up the price of wool and make the wool growers prosperous. It was asserted that the Wilson-Gorman law was the cause of the low price of wool during its existence. The protectionists refused to admit that there was or could be any other cause. They asserted that Dingley protection for wool would raise the price of wool and keep the price up. When the great Australian drought killed more than 20,000,000 sheep the protectionists refused to mention it, claiming that the high price of wool in Europe as well as in America, was due to the Dingley law.

Secretary Hedges now tells us that the predicted good effects of the Dingley law on the price of wool are interfered with by the wicked manufacturer of the East, who are "diluting" wool goods with cotton. Why not amend the Dingley law so as to prohibit these manufacturers from "diluting" in this way and thus interfering with the beneficent effects of the law?

Secretary Hedges tells the Record that the "low price of wool will also affect the character of the sheep business materially." Yet the Dingley law reigns, though its guaranty is im-

paired. But why not put the wool card higher? Mr. Hedges tells us that the present low price of wool under the price-raising Dingley law "will drive the sheep men to raising sheep more for the mutton than for the wool they bear." But why don't the sheep men move on Congress and demand a higher tariff? Possibly the tariff isn't high enough.

If the sheep men are driven, under the Dingley law, to raising sheep more for mutton than for wool, will the price of sheep fall? Mr. Hedges leaves it to infer that it will not, for he is of the advancing price of beef. If a higher price of beef causes a higher price of mutton, will the protectionists forget all about it and claim that the higher price of mutton is due to the Dingley law?

## SLAVERY IN PENNSYLVANIA.

The North American has presented a faithful picture of some of the conditions prevailing in the anthracite coal district the contemplation of which should make Pennsylvania ashamed that it has been necessary for the miners to ask for relief at the hands of the legislature.

It is a reproach to an American commonwealth that any portion of its population could be made the victims of a system of industrial slavery that violates the principles of its organic law and is in every aspect, worse than feudalism.

The depths of human misery are sounded by the toilers in the mines. No serf was ever more absolutely at the mercy of his master than is many a miner in Pennsylvania, who is the perpetual debtor of the company store.

This miner must work for such wages as the operator sees fit to pay, and he must pay such prices for what he consumes as the operator sees fit to exact. By a system of accounts that is fraudulent on its face, the prices are made to consume the wages, and revolt against the robbery means starvation for the miner and his family. There are families in the anthracite district who have toiled for ten years at the hardest work done by human beings and never received a dollar in cash.

No more consideration is given to the needs of these toilers, beyond such as may be necessary to keep them alive while they are able to work, than is given to the wants of wild animals. The mules that haul ore are treated more humanely than are the men who mine it. No adequate precautions against loss of life or limb are taken, if expense be involved, because no capital is invested in human life, and death and suffering cost nothing to the company. Laws enacted to make murderous negligence expensive to corporations are nullified by subordination of those appointed to enforce them. Human life is held more cheaply in this State than in any other. It is in a tree, and murdered his wife and child. Then coming to a realization of what he had done he determined to end it all by taking his own life. Not wishing to leave anything to his wife's relatives, against whom it is very bitter, he sought to decrease his property by killing his wife, and placing his wagon, buggy and harness where it would be burned, he set fire to the house. He then went to bed and ended the tragedy by shooting himself.

After their marriage certificate was voided on the grindstone. It is supposed that he left it there to prevent its being used.

## General Crop Summary.

The past week was hot and dry, and the mean temperature averaged 70 degrees above normal. The rainfall, however, was reported. The hot, dry weather was very unfavorable for all growing crops. Thrashing of winter wheat has made good progress and the crop is generally good. Spring wheat and oats have ripened too rapidly in northern counties, and the yield will generally be reduced. Early ducked corn is beginning to tassel in northern counties and has been considerably damaged by the drought; later wheat corn is standing the drought but corn generally has deteriorated in condition during the past week. Corn is small and late and most of the crop has not tasseled, and with rain would recover largely from the lack of the dry weather. However, Pennsylvania farmers who are trying to raise French walnuts, feared that their products would be reduced.

## "FREE AND INDEPENDENT"

"Till a man is independent he is not free. The man who is in danger of being taken care of by the state is not a free man, and the country which does not guard him against this danger or does not insure him the means of a livelihood is not a free country, though it may be the freest country that is. Liberty and poverty are incompatible, and if poverty is extreme, liberty is impossible. The unrest which we call labor troubles is nothing more or less than an endeavor for the liberty which the working class are disposed of.—William Dean Howells.

Edison, the inventor, says a dispatch has become tired of inventing things to make others rich, and proposes to place his last invention on the market and reap the harvest himself. Edison is a poor man, compared to the men who have made fortunes from his brain. Still, this is the best system on earth, and under it a man of genius gets a full reward for his efforts. For instance, Otto Mergenthaler, the inventor of the Linotype, died almost in poverty, while the men who swindled him out of the wonderful device he perfected, rolled in wealth.

Senator Beveridge, the most rampant expansionist in Congress, is on the way to Russia, ostensibly to study commercial conditions in that country. In view of Mr. Beveridge's well-known notions on the subject, it is not unfair to suspect that the real purpose of his visit concerns the ultimate annexation of the czar's dominions to our already growing property. Of one thing at least we may be quite sure, with regard to the Senator's travels, somebody else pays the freight.—Monitor.

## RUSSIA'S FORESTS.

Protection as Stringent as if Instituted for Persons.

Russia has elaborated a system for the protection of her forests as stringent in its provisions as if it were instituted for the protection of human beings, which in reality it is. Only so much wood may be cut down annually in each locality as will be compensated for by the growth of the remaining trees, and all the clearings made are immediately replenished by young plants. Even private owners of forests are not permitted to cut down their trees except under government inspection. No absolute ownership in trees is now recognized, in fact, but that of the state. As a matter of fact, a very large part of the Russian forests belong entirely to the state. The largest private, or rather semi-private, proprietor is the administration of the imperial appanages, which possesses numerous estates, the revenues from which are devoted exclusively to the support of the members of the Russian imperial family. The total area of these estates is a good deal over twenty million acres. Being situated in the most diverse districts, an extraordinary variety of sub-tropical and temperate natural productions is cultivated, including sugar, tobacco, cotton, wine, tea, fruit, roses, as well as grain of every kind. The principal culture, however, at any rate in extent, is timber, forests, covering nearly fifteen million acres of the total. In the exploitation of these forests the greatest care has to be given.—Pearson's Magazine for June.

## STEALS LIVE HONEY BEES.

Georgia Thief Got Away with a Novel Bit of Plunder.

The thief is not very choosy about what he steals these days. Not very many months ago the Macon Telegraph related an instance where somebody had stolen a red-hot stove from the kitchen of a Walnut street residence while supper was being cooked. Now comes a man who stole four beehives in which were a myriad of the little stingers. It is well known that a professional chicken thief has a language by which he can persuade the barnyard fowls to keep a deadly silence at night while he picks over the lot of them and invades into a sack those in which his fancy becomes fixed, but it is rather surprising to hear that any man can understand the language by which they must not sting him as he lifts a busy hive to his shoulder in the dead hour of the night and marches across country with it. This is what has been done, however. In a neighborhood through which Ross street runs a bee farm was robbed night before last and four big hives were carried so far that the thieves have not yet found their way back to their old homes. It is said that when bees went to go to any place they rise in the air in a circle around until they find the proper direction, and then make what is commonly known as a "bee line," and fly straight to the place than which they could fly.

## Scots Had an Eye to Business.

The medieval university differed in many respects from our idea of a modern university. It was primarily a school of teachers and scholars, formed by common protection and mutual aid, made was a republic of letters, whose members were exempt from all services and contributions, and they had all a common procedure in courts of law. The teaching function was often secondary and often entirely overlooked. The medieval university from the beginning, however, emphasized the teaching function and created an atmosphere of academic rather than civil or military. The early curriculum was, but fully abreast of the age, comprising in the main, philosophy, history, canon and civil law. All involved in Latin and the writing of Latin dissertations was the daily bread of the student—a straight and unwieldy way of learning.—Scribner's Theyazine.

## Mond's Decline in British Agriculture.

Days' agricultural returns for 1900, just published, show that the decline of British agriculture still pursues its painful course. The area under corn crops in Great Britain, which a generation ago, reached 8,700,000 acres, has fallen to 3,350,000 acres; that is to say it is now one-quarter of what it was. The area under green crops has also fallen almost as heavily while only the acreage laid down in grass and clover shows an increase. In horses, cattle, sheep and pigs, there is a slight advance in the period, but not such as to keep pace with the increase in population or to compensate for the diminished corn production. The England which used to grow her own corn and to feed herself is becoming each year more dependent upon importations.

## Prize Fencer of Italy.

One of the most remarkable swordsmen of the day in Italy, one of those Old World nations in which the knowledge of fencing not only is an accomplishment, but a prime necessity of life, is 12-year-old Signor Attilio Monferro. This lad has just won the national fencing tournament in Bologna. His antagonists were the most celebrated fencers in Italy, including Sartori, whose assistant Attilio used to be. Now the former employer, who was a prize winner in his day, is beaten by a mere boy.

## Widowhood in Sumatra.

In Sumatra the wind decides the length of time a widow should remain single. Just after her husband's death she plants a flagstaff at her door, upon which a flag is raised. While the flag remains untopped by the wind the etiquette of Sumatra forbids her to marry, but at the first rent, however tiny, she can lay aside her weeds, assume her most bewitching smile and accept the first man who presents himself.

## Mountain of the Monks.

In the "Mountain of the Monks," on the coast of Macedonia, there are twenty monasteries. The place is sacred to the male sex, and no woman is allowed to cross its borders.