

The chainless bicycle is here, but alas! the costless wheel isn't.

The aggressive women of America are fighting their way to the front with their clubs.

That candidates run for office arises from the fact that too many others generally want it, to allow any to win in a walk.

The "rubber teeth" the dentists have succeeded in producing may be considered the logical and necessary evolution of the rubberneck.

Regarding the claim that Americans are growing taller, it may be they only seem so, being possibly straightened by circumstances of late.

Men have substantially the same opinion of a girl who smokes cigarettes as the girls would have of a man who sat in a hammock to show his pretty stockings.

It is announced that the anti-kissing crusade recently organized in Boston has collapsed. Of course it had to go; the girls simply set their faces against it and that ended it.

Queen Victoria is said to hold "very pessimistic views" concerning this country. It will be remembered that one of her ancestors entertained the same feeling as early as 1776.

A man in New York has been sent to the penitentiary for stealing an umbrella. This is rather startling; can it be possible that such things are regarded as private property by the courts?

If we correctly understand Mr. Sandow his opinion is that good health does not necessarily accompany great strength. It would not be so exuberantly healthy for Mr. Sandow, perhaps, if everybody were as strong as he is.

There is a great surplus of lawyers and doctors in this country. Chicago has 5,000 lawyers, while all of Germany only has 7,000. France, with forty million people, has only a thousand more lawyers than Chicago alone.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Premier of Canada, said in a recent address to the Montreal Board of Trade that the St. Lawrence is the highway of the continent. He is about to propose joint action of the United States and Canada to deepen the river's channel.

And now comes a scientist who asserts that the human system is full of microbes, and that one is beautiful just as long as one's microbes are in good health. If that's the case, it clearly is a mistake to wage war on these little fellows; better treat them well.

The meanest man in any community is the stingy, penurious pirate who gets the benefits of the advertising and hard work of others who assist in developing a city that directly makes him money and who never helps in the work. They are no better than the dog that tips over a table to get what is on it.

The bicycle was originally a French invention, but American workmanship and ingenuity have so greatly improved and cheapened it that we are supplying the French with a large share of their wheels. Consular reports show that the French Government received last year no less than \$551,000 in tariff duties on American bicycles, while the importations from England amounted to nearly nothing. On the other hand, there is scarcely one French wheel in all America. The American workman knows his business.

Where are the grandmothers of tradition—the snowy-haired, white-capped gentlewomen to whom as children we were taught all deference should be shown? Look about you; she is nowhere visible. Alas, the elixir of youth, or, more properly speaking, an artificial mask of the real bloom and beauty, has tempted the aging woman to assume that which she should gracefully relinquish, and the true grandmotherly type, with soft shawls, fine laces, artistic caps and a heart in tune with the morning of life, though the body bends under the shadows of evening, is gone, more's the pity.

During the short time the arbitration law has been in operation in New Zealand it appears to have worked well. Under the act in question the colony is divided into districts. A board of conciliation, composed of an equal number of workmen and employers, can be constituted in any district, and over this is a special central tribunal which possesses appellate functions and whose decision is final. The arbitration court is presided over by a judge of the Supreme Court of New Zealand and he is assisted by two assessors, similar to the practice in our own Admiralty by the workmen, the other by the employers. The trades unions have power to sue and are liable to be themselves sued, not only the union funds being attachable, but the individual members are responsible to the extent of \$50 each should the common fund fail to cover the liabilities. The penalty of the non-observance of the award is limited to \$500. No strike or lockout has occurred since the act has been in operation.

"It is not everybody who can fall down on his knees," Andrew Lang once said. "Many a young woman knows her own, but not a few husbands."

We can not all have a genius for passion; indeed, that genius is, at first, rather unusual, and, secondly, is apt to be confined to a single object. Girls ought not to be educated in a belief in the coup de foudre. Most of them will find some good fellow who is much attached to them, as they will be to him; they will marry, if they have luck, and never think of losing their heart, in the style of Dido of Media. This has always been the prose fact of matrimony, and thus "Hymen peoples every town." If young women wait for the coup de foudre and the handsome knight who comes riding through the forest, they will coil St. Katherine, or lead apes in hell. Novels prove the inadequacy of the ideal. The heroine always meets the unsatisfactory poet, is fitted, meets the solid squire or business man, and finds that "what she had taken for love was," etc.—we all know the formula—and lives happy ever after.

The Palatine, chief of the seven hills of Rome, as having been the site of the dwelling of Romulus, and, under Augustus, the residence of the emperors, is beginning to attract almost as much attention as the Acropolis at Athens on the part of archaeologists, and as but little of the hill has been excavated the promise of "finds" is much greater. Prof. Baccell has devoted himself since 1882 to that part of the Roman Forum immediately under the Palatine, and, as a result, the quarters of the vestal virgins and the Via Nova have been disclosed. The church of St. Maria Liberatrice, which was built out of the temple of Vesta, prevents the complete excavation of the Forum, and the church is an obstacle that at present seems insurmountable. Among other portions of the Palatine that have been unearthed in recent years are the Stadio Palatino and a circular cistern connected with the house of Livia. Eventually it is hoped that the whole of this famous hill, or at least all that part overlooking the Via Triumphalis, will be excavated.

A London statistician has been looking up the records and has made a diagram showing the annual variation in the price of wheat since 1641. The most remarkable fact disclosed by his investigations is that the price rises and falls with great regularity every four years, and he explains that the phenomenon is due to the fact that when the market has been good farmers have planted an increased quantity, thus making a larger supply and forcing prices down again. The average price in 1895 was 23 shillings 1 penny a quarter or 70 cents a bushel, and in 1896 26 shillings 2 pence, or 88 cents a bushel. The highest price ever known for wheat occurred in 1812, when it sold for 126 shillings 6 pence a quarter, or about \$3.85 a bushel. The lowest price was in 1743, when it fell to 22 shillings 1 penny, or 60 cents a bushel, although it should be remembered that the value of money was very much greater in those days than now. Wars in any part of the earth have invariably increased the price of wheat. The most rapid advance ever noted was in 1799, when the carter of Napoleon was at its height. Wheat went from \$2 to \$3.50 a bushel in a few months.

There have been a number of rough attacks by women on the New Woman in the magazines lately. Mrs. Buckler, who took high honors at Cambridge, declares in the North American Review that woman's achievements in literature and art have in two thousand years produced little if anything worth mentioning. She has never written a great history or a great drama, nor achieved distinction in discovery, invention, painting, sculpture, or architecture. At any rate, her achievements have fallen far short of man's. Her success in collegiate fields is exposed to the same criticism. Under the title "The Unquiet Sex," in Scribner's Magazine, Helen Watterson Moody protests against women being thus shut off by themselves. They exhaust each other merely by being together; lavish extravagant friendship on one another, or indulge in excessive admiration for some teacher. When they graduate, their first idea, if they undertake a career, is to prove that they can do a man's work. They neglect those faculties and capacities for which women have constant need, unless they are to be educated or co-educated out of the fashion of marrying and housekeeping. As for herself, she says she would gladly exchange her birthright of Greek and Latin for the ability to make one good mess of pottage. Their health, she declares, is also neglected in college. After graduation a few drift into teaching, fewer still into medicine, literature, and law; but in these pursuits woman has not proved herself remarkable. The next volley, although fired anonymously, has the sanction of Miss Frances Willard, who sends it to the Critic. According to this disseater the main quality of women's college work is an imitation of man's. Women's education is a "fad," to which their health and vigor are sacrificed. Instead of undertaking to develop their own capacities and ambitions, all stress is given to recreate their natures and capacities. The teachers are unmarried women who sacrifice almost everything to books, to the neglect of social training and of refining influences. There is a failure to uphold and foster the ideal of wifehood and womanhood. Subjects particularly adapted to women as mothers, wives, and the guardians of the homes, like sanitation, domestic economy, social science, the science of teaching, are scarcely recognized, and the whole scheme is worked on the old lines that men laid down in medieval times. It is somewhat remarkable that within a few weeks there should have been three of these attacks on women's higher education from members of their own sex.

There is something wrong with the woman who talks only when she has something to say.

FOR A LONG CAMPAIGN

THE COMMITTEE PROPOSES AN EARLY CONVENTION.

Would Nominate a Presidential Candidate Next April for the Race in 1900 Call Outlines the Leading Issues for Which Populists Contend.

To Meet in St. Louis. The executive committee of the national organization committee appointed by the Nashville conference held a meeting at the LaCade Hotel, St. Louis, and practically issued a call for a national convention in April, 1898, at which time a Presidential candidate will probably be nominated for the campaign of 1900. This committee meeting was enthusiastic and thoroughly Populistic in every sense of the word. There were no contentions nor selfish bickerings and after comparing notes from all parts of the country, fully realizing that the general dissatisfaction caused by last year's fusion would result in absolute destruction of the party unless measures were taken to rally the scattered forces, they issued a call which should call together every patriotic worker in the cause.

The general complaint was that of dissatisfaction and lack of educational work growing out of the last campaign. Fusion, as admitted, was the great obstacle to advancement, and it is found to be absolutely impossible to convince any great numbers that there will be no further dealings with the politicians. It was proposed that Chairman Butler and the national committee be invited to join the committee in a call for a national convention in 1900. A subcommittee was appointed to draft the plan and when it returned with the following report it was adopted without a dissenting vote:

The Call. Recognizing the importance of immediate, united and aggressive work to secure the lining up of all reform forces for the approaching campaign, we, the national organization committee of the People's party, hereby call a meeting of said committee at the LaCade Hotel, St. Louis, Mo., for Jan. 12, 1898, and respectfully invite the national committee of the People's party to meet with us in conference on the above date, appealing to their patriotism and sense of duty to aid us in restoring our party organization to its once splendid estate.

Feeling it due to the members of the People's party to outline the objects of this call, we submit the following recommendation: First—The holding of a national nominating convention on the first Wednesday in April, 1898. Second—The holding of State conventions in third week of March, 1898, for the purpose of selecting delegates to the national convention. Third—That the nomination of Congressmen be delayed until after the holding of the national convention. Fourth—That the platform on which the contest for 1898 and 1900 be waged should embody the following propositions:

- 1. Absolute paper money based upon every commodity and resource of the nation, a full legal tender, and receivable for all dues public and private in the United States. 2. Free coinage of gold and silver at the present legal ratio; the coin debts of the United States payable in either at the option of the government. 3. All money to be issued by the national government only, and pay out direct to the people, for services rendered, or to be loaned to them at low rate of interest on safe security, and without the intervention of national or private banks, provided that the volume of the currency shall not exceed \$50 per capita. 4. Government ownership and operation of railroads, telegraph and telephone lines. 5. Opposition to alien ownership and the holding of land for speculative purposes. 6. Opposition to court made law. 7. Opposition to trusts. 8. We especially recommend the initiative and referendum and the imperative mandate.

MILTON PARK, Chairman. W. S. MORGAN, Secretary. People's Party National Organization Committee.

Failures Increase. Though no mention is made in the leading dailies about the alarming increase in failures since the inauguration of McKinley, the fact still exists that we are in the midst of a cyclone of financial and business destruction. Bradstreet and Dun both are keeping tab on the conditions, and their reports show that during the past week there were forty-six more failures than were reported for the same week last year. Not a paper comes from the press but shows a general crash in business houses all over the country. Their frequency has, to a large extent, allayed alarm, and vampire-like, lulled the people into quiet, while the work of destruction is augmented with each succeeding day.—Dallas Mercury.

That Monetary Commission. The monetary commission has been in session at Washington bearing "evidence." The commission is unofficial, being merely a creature of the moneyed interests, yet what it says will probably go through the House and may possibly squeeze through the Senate. Those who make or send statements to the committee pretty uniformly agree that the greenbacks and treasury notes should be burned up. A large issue of bonds issues also to be a favorite idea among them. It is

proposed generally to let the banks issue the paper money up to a certain amount. Then if their squeezing the life out of industry threatens to bring ruin on themselves, they are to be permitted to issue a lot more money at a tax of 5 per cent. Banks don't like to pay interest and hence it is presumed that as soon as the danger to the banks is over, the extra issue will be promptly retired in order to avoid the 5 per cent. The commission pretends to be seeking proper currency reform—but the real object is how to enable the moneyed interests to more rapidly and more effectually plunder the masses of the people. We suggest to them the financial planks of the Omaha platform as a remedy—banks of issue abolished, money volume speedily increased to \$50 per capita, government loans to the people at 2 per cent; postal savings banks.—Missouri World.

"Reputation." Reputation has now a new definition from the gold edge. It now means an obedience to law.

The law of the land is nothing to the money power. The law gives the treasury an option to redeem greenbacks in either silver or gold, but the wishes of bondholders and money grabbers are paramount to the law. The endless chain was created by a disregard of the law. It is the easiest thing in the world to break the chain. Simply obey the law.

Secretary Sherman in 1878, when in the height of his mental powers, and in the position of Secretary of the Treasury, told the finance committee how to break the endless chain. His advice was to obey the law.

In discussing the question, Sherman said: "Our mere right to pay in silver would deter a great many people from presenting notes for redemption who would readily do so if they could get the lighter and more portable coin in exchange. Besides, gold coin can be exported, while silver coin could not be exported, because its market value is less than its coin value."

As the Cincinnati Enquirer very truly says: "There is no reputation in that and no 'anarchy.' It is 'sound money doctrine' from the great 'sound money' apostle, John Sherman."

There is no popular demand for the retirement of the greenbacks. The people are satisfied with this medium of exchange. It carries with it no burden of interest, and it is just as good as gold anywhere in the United States. Nobody wants to destroy the greenbacks except the organized members of the gold clique. It is alleged that the President is opposed to this demand. He will do well to maintain his position, for should he yield to the pressure of the money power he will find himself exposed to the just criticism of the people whose rights he has sworn to protect.

Government by Wall Street. It is alleged by those who claim to be in a position to know that if the President "had his own way" he would take radical steps in the Cuban matter.

Why is it that the President of the United States cannot have his own way? What malevolent influence prevents the chief magistrate of this nation from expressing his personal views on great questions of momentous import?

Unfortunately for McKinley and most unfortunately for the people, the present occupant of the White House was placed in his high position by the money power, and the money power demands obedience to its dictates. Wall street does not want independence for Cuba, and therefore holds the President in check.

Secretary Sherman, who was supported by Wall street when he was Senator and when he was Secretary of the Treasury, is now made the victim of its attacks, and the stories of his resignation are alleged to have been started in the street.

But Sherman says he will not resign, and if he goes out of the cabinet he will have to be forced out. If the Secretary of State had the power he would bring the Cuban matter to a crisis at once, and no doubt his position on this question is the cause of the attacks made on him. The President is placed in a very embarrassing position, and sooner or later there is bound to be an explosion in the cabinet which will shake the country.—Chicago Dispatch.

In Debt to Europe. It is easy to understand why England is so anxious to keep the United States on a gold basis.

Every security of this country held in England is appreciating in value with the appreciation of gold. This is an unearned increment, and makes it just that much more difficult for the people of this country to pay their debts.

No one can tell exactly how large is the amount of American securities held abroad, but it is certain, with the balance of trade in favor of this country to the extent of \$143,867,000, that over \$19,000,000 of gold had to be exported to square the account. This proves that the debt abroad was far in excess of the balance of trade.

It is estimated that the amount of United States bonds held in Europe reaches the enormous sum of \$300,000,000. This demands an annual exportation of \$12,000,000 in interest. Add to this over one thousand million of municipal and State bonds, and it is no cause for wonder that England is so desirous of holding this country to the gold standard.

How can the United States expect to transfer the balance to the right side of the ledger so long as it sends abroad \$100,000,000 annually in interest, and American tourists spend half that amount in the old world each year?



A Bank Greenhouse.

Where the "lay" of the land is favorable, a very convenient greenhouse or forcing house can be constructed after the plan shown in the accompanying illustration. The basement is carried into the bank only far enough to give room for a heating apparatus and the storing of necessary fuel. The greenhouse floor is partly below the surface, the walls here, as well as in the case of the basement, being laid up with

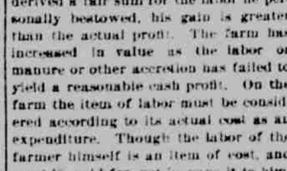


THE BANK GREENHOUSE.

rough field stones. The entrance is at the further end, steps down from the doorway to the greenhouse floor being provided. Such a building will be exceedingly warm in winter, not only because of the earth bank, but because heat can be generated and sent to the farm above much more readily than it can be generated upon and diffused over a single floor.—American Agriculturist.

Farm Economy. Profits on the farm are much greater when the averages for several years are compared, as each year must bear its proportion of expense, and a failure to secure a profit this year may not be a loss, because there may be a corresponding reduction of expense next year. Nor must we overlook the advantage of the opportunity offered the farmer of selling his own labor in the form of some product. Where a farmer makes only a small profit, but has derived a fair sum for the labor he personally bestowed, his gain is greater than the actual profit. The farm has increased in value as the labor or manure or other accretion has failed to yield a reasonable cash profit. On the farm the item of labor must be considered according to its actual cost as an expenditure. Though the labor of the farmer himself is an item of cost, and must be paid for, yet he pays it to himself, and it really is profit because of the employment secured by him on the farm. For that reason a small farm, or a small flock or herd, will always pay more, in proportion to expense incurred, than larger areas or an increase of stock.—Orange Homes.

A Winter Feed Cooker. Warm mash is desirable for fowls and hogs in winter. To cook the food with but little labor, take half a barrel and set it in a grocery box, filling in



CHEAP FEED COOKER.

about it with chaff. Make two covers, one to fit inside the barrel, the other to shut tightly down over the box. Put in the meal and wet it soft with one or more pails of boiling water. Do this at night and close tightly. The mass will cook all night long and be nice and warm for feeding in the morning.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Sparrows Destroying Grapes. It is becoming extremely difficult near cities to grow and ripen grapes, because of the attacks of sparrows on this fruit so soon as it begins to color. Fortunately this pest does not go far from cities and large villages, where it finds plenty of feed scattered in the streets, and where the warmth from city houses affords it partial shelter. But we have learned enough about the habits of the sparrow to know that it is a pest that should be destroyed wherever seen. In England thousands of boys are employed to watch grain fields and drive the sparrows away. But even after all this care millions of dollars' worth of grain is destroyed by them every year.—Exchange.

No Alderneys. Farmers and dairymen are not as particular in making known their goods in a manner to impress the fact that they thoroughly understand their calling. "Alderney milk" is a frequent sign on milk wagons, says the Philadelphia Record, yet there is no such article as there is not in Alderney cow in the United States. "Durham" cattle is used for designating the stockhorse, although the term is one that does not now apply to any particular breed.

Halt for Apple Orchards. While it is well understood that salt is not a manure, it is a good solvent of other minerals that where they are

let in the soil it may always be used with advantage. We have often advised farmers to apply both potash and phosphate to apple orchards. But if this is done every year it is probable that some of these minerals revert to an insoluble condition. Whenever the apple trees set full for bearing it will pay while giving the usual annual dressing of potash and phosphate to add some salt to it, which will be much cheaper and probably more effective than supplying directly the minerals which the salt will indirectly furnish.—Exchange.

Feeding the Work Horse.

In feeding the working horse I would feed corn and oats, equal parts, either ground or whole, and if convenient change from marsh hay to clover. Corn meal should not be fed without some diluent. The bran of oats is sufficient to prevent it becoming a pasty mass in the stomach. If meal is not mixed with ground oats or with bran, it should be fed with dampened cut hay or cut sheaf oats. With a ration of corn, oats and timothy hay or marsh hay, either bran or oil meal or sprouts should be added, say six pounds of bran a day, or if oil meal two pounds a day, or three to five pounds of sprouts. If fed in the ear, corn may be fed three times a day, with oats and bran added at noon and night, with less corn. A good day's food for a 1,200 pound horse is 14 pounds of hay, 19 pounds of corn meal, 6 pounds of oats and 6 of bran. In place of bran one may use two pounds of oil meal. If he feeds clover hay he does not need either bran or oil meal. Corn should never be omitted from the ration of a horse at hard work, just as meat is essential in the food for laboring men. I once knew a teamster hauling gravel to say that ten ears of corn at a feed (thirty ears a day) did not keep his horses up. He was told to quit counting corn, and feed with a scoop shovel. This he did, and stopped losing flesh. This was, of course, in the severest kind of work, long continued.—Rural New Yorker.

Cures a Horse's Rheumatism.

Horses troubled with rheumatism have been treated successfully with Turkish baths. Trainer Patterson gave Hamburg one a few weeks ago and the king of 2-year-olds came out of the bath as supple as a youngster. The



TAKING A TURKISH BATH.

rheumatism had disappeared. He subsequently led his field under the wire.

Early Pigs Best.

Wherever a farmer has warm basement stables it is easy to make a hog-pen in one corner and use it for the breeding sows. Everyone admits that pigs dropped early in March will prove much more valuable than those born a month or two later. It is some extra trouble to keep them warm, and they will also need extra feeding for both sows and pigs while the cold weather continues. But when the warm days come the early pigs that have a run in pasture and plenty of milk will be far better fitted for heavy corn feeding than will the late spring pigs. There is often a difference of 50 to 75 pounds in hogs fed just the same, and whose only difference is that the heavier were born four to six weeks earlier than the others.

Keep Good Animals.

There is more profit in keeping a few good animals than to have the stable occupied with those that give no return for their keep. There are two duties devolving upon farmers which are seldom fulfilled. One is to thin off the fruit from a tree and the other is to cut out the inferior animals. When the herd is thinned out the cost of food is lessened and less labor is required. Every year the herd or flock should be improved and the least profitable animals disposed of, so as to increase production and reduce the cost.

Stick to a Good Horse.

When you have a good horse stick to him. He may not be fast, he may not be completely sound, but he does all you need of a horse, is safe and healthy. Why change if some jockey with a more showy horse does offer to trade? You know nothing of the other horse, and do know your own is fully honest. The chances are that the man who deals in horses knows more about them than you do and that you will make nothing by the transaction and will in all probability lose. He is in the business for what he can get out of it.

Beef and Butter Breeds.

If a beef breed of cattle is preferred make beef production a specialty, and not look upon cows of such breeds to be perfect as producers of milk and butter. There may be a few good butter cows among the beef-producing breeds, but where a certain article is desired it should be the prime object. If milk and butter are specialties the breeds used should be those that excel in those products. Too many good points cannot be had in cows. Each cow will excel in one line only, and should be made to do duty where the most profitable.

Quince on a Thorn.

A case is reported of a quince bush grafted upon common thorn and uncultivated which has borne regular crops of fruit for over forty years. If this be a fact it is a suggestive one, as the quince on its own roots is usually short lived. Horticulturists should be tempted to try so simple and easy an experiment.