RESUME OF THE WORK OF THE LAST CONGRESS

Not To Be Blamed So Much For That Which It Failed to Do, But For What It Has Done—A Comprehensive Review.

Many blame the Fifty-fifth congress for that which it has failed to do; we blame it for what it has done. Chosen at the end of a bitter campaign fought on the currency issue, and in which the tariff question was quite overshadowed, many thought that such congress would at once take under consideration the monetary question with a view to remodelling our currency system upon the gold basis, which, in the estimation of the banking cliques who had supplied a goodly part of the sinews of the republican campaign, meant a general retirement of the national currency, greenbacks and treasury notes and a substitution of bank currency, for, it was said, the banks are alone in position to so regulate the exchanges as to protect our gold reserves. Now it must be remembered that we were having no end of trouble with our gold reserves and that the national government was being put to great expense to keep our gold reserves intact and maintain gold payments. Indeed we had been propping up the gold standard by a series of bond issues. Without the support of such props the gold standard would have collapsed.

Such was the situation. All this was vividly before men's minds when the Fifty-fifth congress was chosen. There was unquestionably a great attraction for our gold in Europe—an attraction so strong that it flowed there in great quantities, causing untold anxieties to those who thought that everything would go to rack and ruin in America should gold payments be suspended. The question that welled up in many minds was how to put a stop to this attraction. The wise men in the financial centers answered that the banks had the power, that the government had no power to protect its gold reserve, that the safety of the gold standard demanded that the issue and regulation of our currency be handed over to the banks and the responsibility for the maintenance of the gold standard placed upon them. Men said that the flow of gold from our shores to Europe was due to redundancy of our currency. Said redundancy kept prices too high in America, though, indeed, our producers were inclined to think they were much too low. But too high gold. So said the wise men and further added that the government was powerless to make our redundant currency any the less so and so put down prices. Indeed, even if the government had the power to contract and expand the currency it would not know when to use it, not having its hand on the pulse of trade and commerce. Only the banks were in position to feel such pulse, therefore only the banks were fitted to regulate the volume of our currency and such regulation ought to be given to them. Thus argued the banking and speculative cliques. If the banks had the control over the currency and were responsible for the maintenance of gold payments, it was said, they would have the power to put a stop to the attraction of our gold to Europe and they would have to exercise it. For under such conditions gold would be withdrawn from their vaults and they could not afford to have their gold reserves seriously depleted, so they would have to put a stop to it. And how? By calling in their loans, raising the rate of interest, contracting the currency. Thus would men borrowing money be forced to realize on their property. Thus would prices be forced down, and leading foreigners to purchase more liberally of our goods. This the banks would have to continue forcing until the balance of trade was turned so much in our favor as to stop the flow of gold to Europe or even attract gold to our shores.

REPUBLICAN POSITION ON THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

Such was the theory of the pronounced gold men, such the ground upon which they based their contention for the retirement of our national currency and the substitution of bank notes therefor. Moreover they contended that the republican party was in duty bound to put this plan in force, for the campaign of 1896 was fought on the currency issue, the republican party was pledged to the preservation of the gold standard and the only way to firmly establish our currency upon the gold basis was after the above manner. After this manner did the gold men, especially the democratic allies of the republicans, argue. They were insistent, they reproached the republicans with failure to carry out their pledges, they cannot forgive the Fifty-fifth congress for its failure to take up this matter. But in all fairness were not these pledges rather implied than actual, for the position of the republican party during the campaign of 1896 and on the currency question was distinctively a negative one.

"We will not open the mints to free silver coinage, unless it be by international agreement which we know to be impossible, but which harmless qualifying words we may add to please our western friends." This was the prime pledge of the republican party. It was not to reframe our currency system by canceling the greenbacks and substituting national bank notes, but to keep the mints closed to free silver coinage. True, the party was pledged to preserve the gold standard and the only way to honestly keep this pledge, men said, was to reframe our currency system in this way for this was the way and the only way to firmly establish the gold standard. And the force of this reasoning we admit. Republicans are now coming generally to recognize it, as Secretary Gage has recognized it from the beginning, and the next congress is expected to act upon this theory.

But this reasoning did not impress itself upon the leading republican members of the Fifty-fifth congress or else they did not judge it politic to accept it. At any rate they did not act upon this currency theory. Then, too, President McKinley was most lukewarm and indirect in pressing it. Consequently the whole matter was shunned as the easiest way of getting rid of a troublesome question. Besides, trade conditions have been such as to make possible the temporary banishing of the subject. Three years of bumper crops in America and three years of on the whole deficient crops in the rest of the world have opened the way to a vast expansion of our export trade and a building up of trade balances in our favor so great as not only to enable us to pay all our current debts, but to attract gold to our shores. So of late we have had no trouble with our currency system. But, complains the gold democratic and kindred press, we are quite improvident. We are letting slip opportunities to put our house in order; others will come again to find us unprepared. The sun shines and there is no need to men our leaky roof; the rainy days falls, we have need of a sound roof, but only at great expense can the holes be patched, and therefore unprepared they must go. And so have the plaints of wrath been poured out upon the Fifty-fifth congress.

Thus in the matter of reforming our currency system the Fifty-fifth congress showed no constructive ability or, perhaps, we should say, no inclination to undertake the job. Be it here said moreover that republicans in that congress were far from agreeing at first that any reforming of our currency system was required or desirable. Leading republicans, and among them Mr. Dingley, had declared that the root of our currency troubles lay in deficiency of revenues. Upon this same key had Mr. McKinley played during the campaign, and it was on this key that one of the chief arraignments of Mr. Cleveland's administration was strung. Of the greenbacks as an endless chain drawing gold out of the treasury Mr. Cleveland had spoken. Republicans rejoined that the treasury deficits set the endless chain in motion, that its working depended upon treasury deficiencies. The treasury borrows gold, said Mr. Cleveland, redeems greenbacks and at once pays out such greenbacks to again become available for presentation for redemption in gold. So is there an endless chain. There is redemption without payment. But, said the republican leaders, increase revenues until the deficit in monthly receipts is made up and the chain will be broken. For then there would be nothing for which to pay out the greenbacks redeemed with gold and such grenebacks or their equivalent in some other kind of currency would lie piled up in the treasury after redemption—be withdrawn from circulation. If this had been the situation, said these republican leaders, the bond issues that Mr. Cleveland made would have served to permanently contract the currency, cured its redundancy and stopped the demand for gold for export. And thus would one bond issue perhaps have served to do what four failed to do because of the treasury deficits.

So it was argued that after all the currency question was a revenue question, and so the republicans of the Fifty-fifth congress resolved to treat it. As the months have passed a disposition to treat it otherwise, treat it by direction and not indirection, retire the greenbacks from circulation not in the haphazard way of piling them up in the treasury, a way which can give no assurance of the permanence of their retirement, but by cancelling and destroying them, has sprung up, and this disposition has grown into a determination. But we have to pick up the thread where the Fifty-fifth congress took it up.

THE SPECIAL SESSION.

Almost the first act of President McKinley was to call this congress in special session to build higher the tariff and provide for meeting the treasury deficits, and so solve the currency question by cutting the endless chain. In the middle of March, 1897, it met, and for four months struggled with the problem. It was the policy of the republican leaders to hold down congress during the special session to the consideration of this one subject. To this end the house, after sending up a tariff bill to the senate, waited upon its oars in inaction, perfunctorily meeting every third day only to go through the form of adjourning. This was kept up for the better part of three months until the senate had passed the bill.

The senate also gave some time to the discussion of Cuban affairs, passing a resolution recognizing the insurgents as belligerents, of which resolution, however, the house, or rather the leaders of the house, refused to take any notice. Aside from passing the bill all the house did was to pass a few belated appropriation bills that the preceding congress had failed to act upon.

THE DINGLEY TARIFF AS A PROTECTOR OF MONOPOLY.

But as to the tariff. For six weeks the senate committee on finance considered it, for six weeks it was before the senate. The aims, at least the avowed aims, of its framers and champions were two. First, to increase the revenues so as to meet expenditures, and second, to extend protection so as to better secure to American producers our home markets. But the tariff passed was far from what a protective tariff ought to be. It was a tariff protective of monopoly, not aimed to encourage domestic competition. No trust was forgotten. Over the sugar schedule the fight, perhaps, was hottest. The outcome was to increase the differential duty on refined sugar, that is the duty in excess of the duty imposed on the raw sugar entering into the production of the refined and so increase the protection extended to the Sugar Trust. And in such case such protective duty but enables the monopoly to put up the price for its product and so lay tribute on the general public. It serves no other purpose. But the Dingley tariff is full of such duties, so full that it may fairly be said to be a monopoly, not a protective, tariff.

A protective tariff ought to conserve the interests of consumers as well as producers. If it does not do this it is a failure. The theory of a true protective tariff is that by encouraging the development of our natural resources and stimulating competition it will bring down and not lift prices. Further, it is calculated to secure to the producer of raw materials, of food stoffs and textiles, better prices for their products by offering them nearer markets and so cutting down the expense of marketing. But the Dingley tariff is not built on this theory. It is not built to encourage competition, for it extends its protection to monopoly. And this condition is not accidental. Particular care was taken that it should be extended. When an amendment was offered in the senate providing for the suspension of the protective duty on any product on proof that the production or distribution of such product was monopolized by a trust or combine, the facts to be determined by judicial procedure at the instance of any one concerned before a United States court, such amendment was voted down. Thus the republicans of the senate went on record as desirous of building a monopoly tariff while affairs were so dextrously managed in the house that the presentation of such an amendment and the making of such straight record was avoided.

And since this tariff has been on the statute books the forming of trusts and combines has been going on at an ever accelerating speed. "While all the industries are making great progress," says the New York Tribune, "the industry of stock manufacture easily surpasses all others. Men talk of production reaching a million tons of pig iron worth $13,000,000 in a month, or the manufacture of 50,000,000 pounds of wool monthly into cloth worth $15,000,000 or more, but what is this compared with the creation of $1,100,000,000 of industrial stocks and bonds in two months?" For this is the record for the first two months of 1899. And in the whole year of 1898 the capital of the industrial trusts formed was but $215,000,000 and this was a larger creation than the year before.

Thus does the creation of trusts increase at an ever accelerating rate and has since the passing of the Dingley tariff. But to lay the forming of such trusts at the door of that tariff would not be fair. The true foundation of the prosperity of such trusts is not tariff discrimination at the customs houses but discrimination in their favor in the matter of railroad rate tariffs, and the great temptation to their forming at the present time is that in the present state of the stock markets it offers a way for the disposal of industrial plants at more than value. For be it understood that the creation of trusts with an aggregate capital of $1,100,000,000 in two months does not mean that property of such value has been turned over to such trusts, much less thatany such sum of money has been paid into the trust treasuries. It probably means that properties of perhaps half such value have been handed over to the trusts, that in exchange therefor the original holders have received securities, two dollars of securities for one dollar's worth of property, and if they can sell such securities, and the market in its present speculative fever offers the opportunity, they have sold their property for double value.

Such, then, are the great stimulants to the creation of trusts and they have nothing to do with the Dingley tariff. But if the tariff had been amended so that the forming of trusts would be followed by a removal of all tariff protection from the products thereof such tariff would have constituted a hindrance to their forming. But it was as a monopoly tariff that it was built and as a monopoly tariff it has not failed.

MAKING WAR.

When congress met in regular session in December, 1897, war was anticipated by few. The president and the republican leaders in congress were opposed to the taking of any effective steps towards securing the independence of Cuba. And though sympathy for Cubans was strong on the republican side of the house, as well as on the democratic, there was no indication of any breaking away from party lines on the part of the republicans. As the days passed and the horrors being perpetrated in Cuba were spread before the American people with greater accuracy and detail the demand that congress take some action to put a stop to what amounted to a diabolical plan for exterminating the people of Cuba gathered force. Still, the president held back. He seemed to harbor some plan by which, with the full consent and approval of Spain, we might intervene in Cuba, put a stop to the hostilities, disarm the insurgents, put down the rebellion and set up some sort of an autonomist government under Spanish sovereignty. Then came the blowing up of the Maine. The American people maintained much self-control, there was no indiscriminate demand for the wreaking of vengeance, if we should go to war it would be on higher ground than that, be for the liberation of a people, be for the upliftment of downtrodden humanity. But the disaster to the Maine turned all eyes upon Cuba, it turned a searchlight upon conditions there, and with the full knowledge of such conditions came the insistent demand that Spain should be obliged to surrender a sovereignty she had so abused. Thus did the sinking of the Maine make war inevitable; let us hope made Cuba free that over the graves of the heroes of the Maine may be reared an imperishable monument, more imperishable than sculptured granite: "They died that Cuba might be free." Then congress voted a defense fund of fifty millions. But still the president held back, hoped that something short of Cuban independence might suffice. But congress knew nothing short of this would suffice, the whole country demanded this and nothing less. And under this pressure party lines held no longer, congress broke away from the president, it refused to follow him in any equivocal course. He asked for authority to intervene in Cuba, use the forces of the United States to pacify the island and establish a stable government. Did this indicate an intent of the president to strike a middle course, to lay out the form of an autonomous government, of an agreement for the suspension of hostilities and then, if need be, use the forces of the United States to require Spanish and Cubans to accept such government? Congress was in no humor to blindly follow the president, if the president would not declare explicitly what he meant, what he proposed to do, it would declare what the country proposed he should do. And so congress explicitly declared that the United States should intervene in Cuba to put an end to Spanish rule and make Cuba a free and independent state.

HOW THE PROBLEM OR RAISING WAR FUNDS WAS SOLVED.

Everyone knew the passing of such resolution meant war. It was meant to mean war, and was promptly accepted as such. But congress duly followed it with a formal declaration. War thus precipitated, congress lost no time in authorizing the president to enlist an army under provisions of acts previously passed, to build the military machine to carry out the will of congress and in appropriating money for its support. This done, congress turned its attention to the problem of raising money to meet the expenditures it authorized. And then congress could no longer work in harmony. Republicans were bent on raising the needed funds by selling bonds and by raising and imposing taxes of the kind that rest more heavily upon the poor than the rich. Democrats, on the other hand, opposed the issue of bonds, they favored an issue of greenbacks, the coinage of the seigniorage on the silver in the treasury and the imposition of such taxes as would fall on men in proportion to their means rather than their needs. Thus they brought forward a proposition to tax the gross receipts of corporations, which would have been a crude, an indirect income tax.

The republicans finally had their way. Bonds to the amount of $400,000,000 and certificates of indebtedness without any specific limit, but never an amount in excess of $100,000,000 to be outstanding at any one time, were authorized. Under the authority to issue bonds $200,000,000 were sold, and the waring having ceased the power to issue the remaining $200,000,000 has by the terms of the authorizing act and by that cessation lapsed. The power to issue certificates of indebtedness and which amounted to authority to anticipate the collection of revenues to an amount of $100,000,000, was not availed of, but under the terms of the war act does not lause, is continuous. Aside from this congress provided for the raising by additional taxation of about $120,000,000 a year. To raise this the beer taxes were doubled, the tobacco taxes increased by 50 per cent, a tax placed on proprietary articles of all kinds, patent medicines, etc., and a customs duty of 10 cents a pound put upon tea. These taxes, which are largely per capita taxes, being taxes on general consumption, aggregate about three-fourths of the war taxes. The balance of the war taxes, stamp taxes on deeds and stocks and sundry documents and an inheritance tax are of a juster kind, falling upon men in accordance with their means.

THE COST OF IMPERIALISM.

Such is the record of the Fifty-fifth congress, made during its first two sessions. The record it made in its last and third, the ratification of the peace treaty, the making of provisions for an increase of the army to 100,000 men, the passage of the navy personnel bill, the passing of the different appropriation bills, to say nothing of the record of its negative results, of its failures, is too recent to need recalling. It remains but to make further note of one part of the record of this somewhat remarkable but mediocre congress—remarkable in having inaugurated, quite innocently it may be, a new departure in national policy leading us on to what we fear will be costly, not remunerative, fields, and from which withdrawal, after we awaken from our day dreams to a realization of the sad reality, as in time we must, a realization that we have been extending our dominion, building an empire in pursuit of a false god, will be most difficult. And these costly fields that before our enamoured eyes appear to glisten with gold, with opportunities of profit—it is their cost that we desire to make further note.

Before the war $450,000,000 covered our total annual expenditures in our national capacity—expenditures of the postal service inclusive. Now we have to prepare for making expenditures of $700,000,000. This is the first cost of our new fields that to our eyes, enamoured of conquest, seem to glisten with gold, but that we cannot occupy save at the cost of national degradation. Every bit of wealth we may wring from an enslaved people, from a people to whom we say ye are not fit to govern yourselves, ye know not how to labor so as to produce most wealth and therefore it is our duty to teach ye how to labor and our right to take the added fruits of your toil, will be wealth bought at the cost of liberty. And such wealth, wealth accumulated by despoiling alien peoples, wealth centered in a few hands and tending to create a governing oligarchy, we cannot afford to gain.

But it is of the national expenditures incurred in taking these distant fields that we would make note. The Fifty-fifth congress at its second session, that is its first regular session, appropriated $893,000,000. This money was appropriated for use during the present fiscal year. Much was specifically appropriated to meet expenses during the first half of the year only, and much so appropriated was not used. But with the expiration of such period such unexpended appropriations became unavailable. Before the moneys thereunder appropriated could be used they had to be appropriated anew. So, tho' congress at its second session appropriated $893,000,000, it is not likely that the total actual expenditures for the present fiscal year will exceed $750,000,000. And for use in the next fiscal year this congress at its last session appropriated $673,000,000. But some of the appropriations made will not suffice to meet the expenditures that will be incurred under authority given by this congress. To meet such excess of expenditures deficiency appropriation bills will have to be passed by the next congress. Of course some of the appropriations made will not be all used, but that our total national expenditures for the fiscal year beginning July 1 next will foot up to $700,000,000 appears to be certain. Such may be considered the cost of our government if we rest content with the present extension of our colonial empire. And if we reach out further, take a slice of China to help England take another piece and generally strut around with a chip on our shoulder inviting trouble, seeking the chances to despoil weaker peoples and entering into rivalry with stronger peoples for that poor privilege, a privilege that many empires have fought for and won, but in so doing sown the seeds of their own decay, dug their own graves, our expenditures will grow far beyond $700,000,000 a year—grow far faster than our wealth.—The American.

THE ERA OF TRUSTS.

Troy Standard: So many trusts have been formed under the laws of New Jersey that it is really surprising in view of its facilities that that state has as yet no mosquito net trust.

St. Louis Republic: When the plowman homeward wends his weary way these evenings it may intensify that tired feeling to realize that the weight of his burden is about to be increased by the formation of a $60,000,000 plow trust.

Detroit Free Press: By one swift move of the Tobacco trust there are 250 of Detroit's working people thrown out of employment. Let any good-hearted citizen start a factory for the purpose of giving these same people like work and he would be financially crushed for his philanthropic effort. Trusts are more rapidly approaching absolutism in the industrial field than ever before, yet equal rights to all is a cardinal principle in our scheme of government.

Cleveland Plain Dealer: The formation of these great industrial combinations is, therefore, not a matter which concerns only those engaged in the business, or the investing public, nor is it a mere question of price and wage. It concerns every person in the United States, for it threatens to involve the honesty and security of our political institutions. The question of trusts and combines, no matter what name these combinations may take to evade the law, will inevitably become at no distant day the overshadowing political issue, upon which a new alignment of parties may perhaps be made.

Bryan in the South.

Birmingham, Ala.—(Special)—William J. Bryan spent one day in Birmingham and was given an enthusiastic reception by all of the citizens. Not only the citizens of Birmingham alone, but many from neighboring cities and towns came to hear the great leader talk on the curren issues of the day.

"What the Lord's supper is to the Christian, so a Jefferson banquet is to the democrat. Just as a good Christian would revolt at having the sacrament administered by an infidel, so a good democrat objects to a Jeffersonian banquet presided over by Perry Belmont," was the epigrammatical way in which Mr. Bryan referred to the much-talked-of banquet which Mr. Belmont and his followers are to give in New York next month.

Mr. Bryan was taken in a special train all over the Birmingham district and he enjoyed greatly being shown its wonderful industrial development. A public reception was given him in the Morris hotel. At the auditorium he addressed an audience of over 4,000 people. He spoke for exactly three hours and was given marked attention.

An official call has been issued by the officers of the United Mine Workers of America, calling upon the membership to observe as a holiday April 1 in commemoration of the eight-hour day by holding public meetings and otherwise demonstrating their appreciation of this, their greatest victory.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

To glaze pastry, brush over with yolk of egg just before putting in the oven.

To destroy moss on trees, paint with whitewash made of quicklime and wood ashes.

To make a good fish sauce, take some plain, thick, melted butter and add a teaspoonful of mushroom ketchup with the same quantity of pickled walnut, chopped finely.

Rings set with valuable stones should always be taken off when washing the hands, for the constant soaping discolors the gems, and also in many cases loosens htem from their setting.

To keep a kettle clean put a clean oyster shell or a large marble inside. These attract all particles of earth and stone with which the water is impregnated, and thus save the inside of the kettle from becoming coated with them.

A delicious orange drink is made as follows: Slice three oranges and a lemon into a jug with two ounces of sugar candy. Pour over this a quart of boiling water; stir at intervals till cold. This will make an excellent drink for your children at a small cost.

To keep the baby's little crocheted or knitted bootees on his restless feet fasten them with small safety pins to his stockings. These in turn being fastened in the same way to the napkin, and this to the band, keeps all in place.

If you find your salt in the salt bag as hard as the proverbial "nether millstone," don't attempt to pulverize it with the hammer or potato masher, but, lifting the bag a foot or two from the table, drop it down solidly several times, turning it from side to side until the contents are again reduced to crystals.

To perfectly cook pork chops put in the pan a tablespoonful of lard, and when hot lay in the chops and then keep them turning constantly; reduce the heat as soon as they are browned on each side, and cook slowly until thoroughly done. Do not salt them until just before serving.

Onions boiled in milk and eaten in the form of a soup are an excellent remedy for a cold if taken just before retiring, while onion poultices are invaluable in all cases of internal inflammation, as well as in attacks of sore throat, bronchitis and pneumonia.

Lovers of whipped cream—and they are many—will rejoice in the statement that this delicious froth is more easily digested than is plain cream. So let there be whipped cream for the strawberries and the chocolate and the puddings. Whipped cream will cover, sometimes, a multitude of sins. Strawberries which are small and in appearance somewhat inferior, can be served advantageously in a large bowl with an abundance of sweetened whipped cream upon them.

When the hands are very dirty it is better to rub them thoroughly with cold cream before washing them. Then wash in warm water, using pure soap and a nail brush, rinse in cool water and dry thoroughly on a soft towel. Two-thirds of all women dry the hands very imperfectly, and then wonder why the skin is rough. A few drops of a good hand lotion should be rubbed all over the hands and allowed to dry in after they have been in water for some time, as so many housekeepers' hands must be so often, and always at night. The hands should not be exposed to cold air for some time after they have been washed.

FEMININE PERSONALS.

An International Congress of women is to be held in London in June.

Boston has a school for the training of nursemaids. Applicants must be between 18 and 30 years of age and must agree to wear a uniform.

Mme. Nevada, the prima donna, who was a Miss Wixom of Nevada, and is now Mrs. Palmer, is a god-daughter of Mrs. Mackay.

Mrs. Rudyard Kipling, who was Miss Carolyn Balestier and a sister of Wolcott Balestier, was born in Rochester, N. Y., where her family lived many years before moving to Brattleboro, Vt.

An American girl, Miss Burdlett by name, hopes to make a good thing out of the coming Paris exposition. She has bought the Pompeiian house built about forty years ago by Prince Jerome Napoleon. The house is on the Cours la Reine, and Miss Burdlett proposes to transform it into tea and refreshment rooms for weary sightseers.

Lavinia Dempsey, the rich New York woman who incurred some ridicule at the time she was crowned "queen of the Holland Dames," has written a play called "Neutral Ground," and at her own expense will produce it at a Broadway theater. She will personally superintend rehealsal and presentations, and the proceeds, if any, will go to charity.

Miss Christine Bradley, daughter odf the governor of Kentucky, who christened the battleship Kentucky, and who is still in her teens, is studying law under her father's direction and hopes when his term expires to become his law partner. The governor is tired of politics, and when he goes out of office, in less than a year, will leave Kentucky and open an office in New York, Cincinnati or Los Angeles.

The Mothers' Congress expects a boom in its membership owing to the exjerience of Mrs. Dubois of South Dakota. Last year Mrs. Dubois attended the congress, but she was then unmarried. While in Washington she met Senator Dubois and a romance began which ended in a wedding. One of this year's delegates proposed that mothers bring their unmarried daughters to future meetings and form them into a junior branch of the congress.

Mrs. Archibald little, an English woman, who lived in western China for eleven years, says there is a growing sentiment against the practice of crippling the women's feet. While she was there they held drawing room meetings to discuss the subject, and about 200 of the best families in Chun King and 1,500 families in the adjoining district agreed to discourage the custom. Men are responsible for the practice, for the first question they ask in regard to a possible fiancee is about the size of her foot.

The late Empress of Austria did very many things which appeal to the unconventionality of American women more than they did to the formalists by whom she was surrounded. At the first state dinner after her marriage she horrified the court women by taking off her gloves. One of them remonstrated because it was a deviation from the rules. But the empress promptly settled that objection by saying that the deviation should henceforth be the rule. The court women had another blow when the empress insisted on wearing a pair of boots a month or more. The rules had required an empress to wear her shoes only once. "Just think," said an American girl, "of being always in a state of breaking in a new pair of shoes! No wonder the poor woman rebelled."

VALUE OF EGGS.

Eggs can be used as a substitute for paste or mucilage to seal a letter or a jar of jelly.

The white of an egg will allay the smart of a burn if bound upon it immediately, excluding the air.

Half a dozen eggs given immediately after an emetic will render corrosive sublimate harmless.

The white of an egg beaten and swallowed will dislodge a fish bone from the throat.

When a mistard plaster is mixed with the white of an egg, instead of water, no blister will follow its application.

The shells of the eggs should be saved at this season for Easter decoration.

In testing eggs remember that a good egg will sink and a bad egg will swim; if it is difficult to remember which is which, just stop to think that a fresh egg sinks because of the water in its own composition.

Another test of a thoroughly fresh egg is the distinctness with which the yolk may be seen when the egg is held up to the light.

COOKING IN CUBA.

Frying pan and coffee pot are the only kitchen cooking utensils known to native Cuban housewives. Roasts are unknown; even stews are rare. Soup is as uncommon as in a New England farmhouse. This is the more strange, as most Southern Europeans make great use of soups.

Cuba is a hot place, which may account for the fact that no native will eat fat meat, though it is commonly fried in lard.

The common vegetables are yams, okra, rice and bananas.

FEATHERS IN MEN'S HATS.

If you chance to see a small feather showing from the bow of the ribbon band around a man's hat these days it does not necessarily follow that the wearer hails from the country.

This is the up-to-date fad among hat manufacturers, and they say that the idea is going with a swing. Young, middle-aged and old men appear to favor the feather, and many of the representative producers are using the feather in order that their names will become identified with the exterior of hats, and thus the feather will serve as an advertisement.

LEMON ICE.

Put three pints of water into a saucepan with one quart of cutloaf sugar and let it simmer over a slow fire until it is reduced to a generous quart of syrup. When cold, add the strained juice of five lemons and the whites of four eggs beaten to a stiff froth. If the syrup seems very thick a little water may be added. Stir the ingredients well together and pour into freezer to be treated like ice cream.

FRILLS OF FASHION.

Shirt waist pins in gold and silver, studded with semi-precious stones, are shown.

Shell combs, the edges of which are set with colored stones of different kinds, are popular.

Wide-striped silks covered with polka dots are made up in shirt waists, and so are large plaids.

Light silks and thin French materials of silk crepe or some fleecy material, are found in hat trimmings.

An exquisitely wrought brooch in the shape of a dragon fly has its wings studded with brilliants and emeralds. An opal serves for the back.

Polka dots are everywhere—on our parasols, in the millinery and scattered over the new dress goods, in all colors and sizes, woven in or embroidered, as the case may be.

In cipient bustles are worn with the newest spring costumes and toilets. In cases of extreme slenderness they seem imperative, when the dominating sheath-skirt models are adopted.

Picturesque hats of chip and leghorn are to be worn. In big hats there are strings and the hat itself is bent down into all sorts of shapes, as they are most becoming to the wearer.

Many of the new silk shirt waists are made in the true Garibaldi style with no yoke at the back, a few plaits at the belt and tucks forming a partial yoke on either side of the box plait in front.