

The latest Swiss mountain railway project is to connect the Engadine with the Italian lake by a road over the Bernia range.

The man who stole the \$100 microscope from the University of Chicago might have had a curiosity to see what a 100-pound chunk of ice looked like.

Owing to American sanitary work, there was not a single case of yellow fever in Havana at the beginning of April. This had not happened before in the city's history.

Mrs. F. M. Smith of Oakland, Cal., wife of the "borax king," is going to adopt 100 girls and rear them as her own children.

An adjustable wall is made with an ordinary eightpenny nail, with hole in the head, through which passes a curved galvanized wire.

John Pondir, once a power in Wall street and for years one of the "ghosts of the street," died recently in great poverty.

King Edward is understood to hold broad views respecting colonial titles and there has been a suggestion that in the process of unifying the British empire the creation of peerages with such titles attached as "Duke of Quebec," "Earl of Montreal," or "Marquis of Toronto," might be useful.

Clarence Bush went to Harvard university without a dollar, lodged in an attic at a dollar a week, and lived on gruel, milk and water.

The launch of the steamer Celtic at Belfast, Ireland, the other day, still further emphasizes the tendency to increase the dimensions of ocean-going craft.

The new Bishop of London has already given his diocese a glimpse of his sterling democracy. Speaking to an audience of working men at a neighborhood settlement house in Whitechapel, he said that he had often noticed in coffee-houses the sign, "A good pull-up for cabmen."

A witness to ocean solitude recently reached Liverpool. A four-masted vessel, which sailed seven months before from San Francisco, entered the Mersey, since leaving the Golden Gate she has not been spoken.

PROTECTIVE TARIFF.

SIGNS OF ITS RAPID DISINTEGRATION.

The Republican Party is Now Seeking to Adopt a Policy Favorable to Free Trade—Quick Change of Front—The Trust Cure.

Near the close of the last Congress the chairman of the republican congressional committee, J. W. Babcock, introduced a bill to abolish the tariff on iron and steel.

Two or three democrats at the first session of the fifty-sixth Congress had introduced bills repealing all duties on trust articles, but the committee on ways and means never considered them.

If the steel trust is to be legislated against why not the sugar trust, the tin trust and the hundred and one other trusts and combines.

A large majority of the republican senators and representatives have received and are receiving favors from the trusts, combines and corporations.

Then we have the colonial tariff question that must be settled and our new possessions may soon be supplying us with sugar and some kinds of tobacco.

The whole tariff is a complicated but frail structure and like the children's house of cards, a finger or a breath will cause a wreck.

The democratic plan of tariff for revenue will have to be adopted sooner or later.

THE GREAT REVOLUTION.

Humanity is Staggered by Trusts. The opinion of one of the great business men of the country on the economic revolution that has overtaken the United States is most interesting and important, not only for its author's personality and position, but for its intrinsic interest and merit.

That event in the world's history which promises to be most deeply fraught with results to the human race was announced in the New York Journal of Sunday, March 3, 1901, as a three-column advertisement.

This momentous statement did not concern itself with princes or even so-called statesmen. The world on the third day of March, 1901, had ceased to be ruled by such. Trust, there were

marionettes still figuring in congress and as kings, but they were in place simply to carry out the orders of the world's real rulers—those who control the concentrated portion of the money supply.

House of Rothschild and associated industries, one thousand millions. House of Rockefeller and associated banks and industries, eight hundred and fifty millions.

At what consequence the German playing at emperor, or the king who recently read a speech written by ministers under dictation from the world of finance? Even the czar of Russia seems a feeble make-believe in the presence of men who control three thousand millions of dollars and can push the endless buttons which carry their signals into every sort of mercantile house, into every military camp, which cause every court official to stand alert, and can even produce the profoundest movements in the church itself.

The Real Purpose of the Trust. Between the lines of this advertisement, headed "Office of J. P. Morgan & Co." was to be read a proclamation, thus:

"Commercial metropolis of the world, notice to the peoples of all lands and nationalities: "The old competitive system, with its ruinous methods, its countless duplications, its wastefulness of human effort, and its relentless business warfare, is hereby abolished, the change to take effect in part immediately, and in whole as rapidly as the details can hereafter be worked out.

"The four great houses controlling the world's visible supply of money, having this day agreed to act in unison under the scheme of organization outlined by Mr. J. P. Morgan, have invested themselves with the controlling interest in the three great sources by which the public can be taxed—the supply of ores, the working of the same into the raw products, and the transportation of the same.

"The business public will perceive at a glance that it will not be properly safe for any individual or known collection of individuals to arrogate to themselves the right to antagonize the organization this day created; and notice is hereby given that these commercial territories must not be trespassed upon or invaded without expectation that the full authority vested in the organization will be exercised.

"The houses engaged in bringing about this organization in the interests of the world's economy, have taken to themselves such increments as has seemed proper on view of the important character of the service rendered.

"Further, the houses of the world will please take notice that, owing to the immense sums of money now in the hands of the organization, it will be possible to force speculation. The Rothschild, Rockefeller, Morgan and Carnegie, representing the united metal and transportation interests, leaves no room for competition, and any attempt in this direction will be met with the fate which should attach to an effort to return to the methods of barbarism.

"Finally, it is our intention ultimately to take in hand the smaller industries and organize them upon a scientific basis calculated to reduce the waste of human effort to a minimum."

SOUNDS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

New Brand of Freedom. Toledo Bee: The freedom the Republican party is giving to the people of Cuba is the kind you don't read about in the Declaration of Independence, even if you read between the lines.

One Kansas Danger Avoided. Kansas City Times: Mr. McKinley has selected a good season for his western tour. At the time he passes through the state there will be no danger of a Kansas corn-stalk falling across the track and wrecking the train.

Tax on Franchises and Incomes. Philadelphia Record: There seems to be a growing opinion, not confined to the membership of any one party, that the ultimate reliance of the government must be on a tax on incomes and franchises and that a law could be so framed as to avoid constitutional objections.

Unreasonable Demands on China. Washington Post: Let China be made to pay the expenses of those who actually went to the deliverance of the foreigners—that and nothing more. We trust that our government will persist in this just and righteous course.

APPALLING FACTS.

OUR TENANT FARMERS HAVE INCREASED.

Landlordism in Agricultural Districts of America as Shown by L. G. Powers, Chief Statistician Division of Agriculture, U. S. Census Bureau.

The interest aroused in the subject of farm tenure by the census statistics of 1880 and 1890 will without doubt be increased by those of 1900. No formal reports for the latter year have been given to the public as yet, but the census authorities have published sufficient facts to enable one familiar with farm tenure to make a fairly correct forecast of the conditions existing in the nation.

The number of farm schedules is 5,786,907, which is two to four per cent in excess of the actual number of farms that will be tabulated. The number of farms in 1900 will, therefore, somewhat exceed 5,700,000. In 1890 the census reported 4,564,691 farms and 4,767,179 farm families.

In the north Atlantic states—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania—the farms in 1880 numbered 696,129, and in 1890, 658,569. In the latter year the farm families numbered 660,407; in 1900 the farms are, approximately, 670,000. The figures quoted make it clear that the number of farms in these states, and hence the number of families of farm proprietors—that is, of owners and tenants—has not suffered diminution in the last ten years; but while the number of families in these two classes did not become less, the total rural population, including also the families of wage laborers, in nearly all of the states decreased.

The settlement of Oklahoma, Indian Territory and the newer parts of Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana, according to the testimony of farm schedules, adds over 250,000 farms, carved out of the public or unused domain.

Such a decrease indicates a shifting of farm population. Some families have moved from the country to the city and some have left their native states for other sections of the nation. These removals also have been accompanied by an economic readjustment among the families remaining. The net result of that readjustment is the rise of a number of families from the position of wage earners in 1890 to that of farm owners or tenants in 1900. Of those thus rising, it is certain that a larger actual and relative number have become farm tenants than have attained to the more independent position of farm owners.

In the south Atlantic states—Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida—the schedules returned indicate the existence in 1900 of substantially 950,000 to 960,000 farms. The corresponding number of farms in 1890 was 749,600. At the same time 772,596 farm families were reported.

The number of farms increased in ten years between 190,000 and 210,000, or from 24 to 27 per cent. Exclusive of cities of 25,000 and over, the population of these states increased in the ten years only 18 per cent; but since 1890 the population in the smaller cities and towns has increased relatively much faster than the agricultural population proper. The percentage of increase of that population cannot exceed 12.

These facts make it certain that the increase in the number of farms has been much greater relatively than that of the population engaged in tilling them. The farm proprietors, owners and tenants as reported have, therefore, increased faster than the farm families. They have been recruited in part from the ranks of former families of wage earners. Among the farm families of the south, however, fewer relatively than in the north have risen or are rising from wage service to farm ownership, and hence there must be a large relative increase of tenant-operated farms.

In the "Black Belt." The percentage of farms operated by tenants, which was 36.1 in 1880, rose to 38.5 in 1890, will doubtless be found to have increased still more in 1900. In that year it will probably exceed 45. This great relative estimated increase in farm tenants is predicted upon the number of farm schedules and the population. Many of the 200,000 additional farms in these states are unquestionably small plots cultivated by the members of the families of wage-earners, and used by them as homes. Others are small tracts of land, without buildings, titled by unmarried men or women who work as wage earners a portion of the year. If this is not the case then we have a substantial elevation in ten years of over 100,000 farm fam-

ilies to positions materially above those held by them in 1890. It is hardly probable that such a number of negro families have realized such a great advance. But, after making due allowance for the small tracts of land of the character mentioned, it is almost certain that the final figures of the census will show a substantial raise of a large number of former wage earners to a higher industrial station in life, and one of the most prominent indices of this social uplift is the relative increase of tenant-operated farms.

Among the Prairie Farmers. In the north central states—Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota—there were reported in 1890 1,978,659 farm families and 1,923,822 farms. Judging from the schedules the corresponding number of farms in 1900 is substantially 2,190,000 to 2,200,000. More than one-half of the increase of from 200,000 to 275,000 is found in the newly settled parts of the various states, in which the increase keeps pace more or less closely with the reported increase of farms. The remainder of these added farms are located in the older settled sections, in which the rural population increases more slowly, or is stationary or decreasing in number. There will, therefore, in these north central states be a greater actual increase of owners than of tenants, and not the reverse, as was the case in the South Atlantic divisions.

The increase of farm owners is largely confined to the newer sections. In the older settled portions a different situation exists. There the relative changes in the population and number of farms give evidence of the uplifting of at least a few families from the position of wage laborers to that of tenants, and hence a relative increase of tenant-operated farms, the same as in the two specified divisions of states. In 1890 the percentage of tenant-operated farms in the twelve states was 20.5, and in 1880 it was 23.4. The data of population and the number of farms give evidence of a percentage in 1900 of more than 26.

Where Growth is Rapid. The settlement of Oklahoma, Indian Territory and the newer parts of Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana, according to the testimony of farm schedules, adds over 250,000 farms, carved out of the public or unused domain. The schedules also give evidence of a still greater number of new farms in the other south central states—Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi—produced by the subdivision of the older plantations. In 1890 the farms in the south central states numbered 1,086,772, and the farm families 1,185,922. In 1900 the farms will approximate 1,659,000.

A very large proportion of the farms operated by white men in the Indian Territory and on the Indian reservations of Oklahoma will be additions to the tenant-operated class, since it is very difficult for such men in this section to become owners. With the exception of the changes due to this anomalous condition of farms on Indian lands, the situation so far as it relates to farm tenure in the south central states, is intermediate between that described in detail for the south Atlantic and north central states. The percentage of tenant-operated farms was 36.2 in 1880, 38.4 in 1890, and will probably be over 45 in 1900.

Farms of the Far West. The farms reported in the western states—Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California—numbered in 1890, 145,878, while the farm families numbered 169,585. The schedules reported indicate the probable existence in the same section in 1900 of 245,000, or an increase in ten years of from 75,000 to 100,000 new farms, all carved out of the public domain. The growth of rural population in these states has nearly kept pace with the increase in farms, and hence we can in general predict that there will be no great change in the relative number of those operated by tenants. The percentage of such farms in 1880 was 14, and in 1890, with the settlement of 62,155 new farms, it was only 12.1. In the same year the percentage of farm tenant families was 18.9. With the large reported increase in the number of farms in 1900 the relative number of tenant-operated farms cannot be greater than 20, and will not be less than 13 per cent. The data of farm population available are not exact enough to make a more definite estimate.

Summing up the foregoing estimates, the conclusion is reached that of the 940,000 to 1,140,000 farms that were added in the last ten years, substantially one-half will be tenant operated. This will be an increase of from 40 to 50 per cent, or nearly twice the increase per cent of the population for the nation, four times that of the purely agricultural population, and twice that of the farms operated by their owners.

Greatest Increase Recorded. It is an actual and relative increase of tenant-operated farms that has never been equalled since statistics have been collected upon the subject, and yet this unprecedented increase is predicted on the basis of facts that show not a degradation of the rural population, but an uplifting that has raised not less than 100,000 families from the position of wage earners to the proprietorship of large tracts of tillable land.

The man who spends his money like water is supposed to liquidate his debts.

LITTLE.

FORMIDABLE FLEET OF BATTLESHIPS BUILT.

Ready for Sea Conflicts—Able to Protect Home Interests with the Squadron Assembling with Pomp and Circumstance in Far East.

One of the most notable surprises of recent years has been the rise of Japan from a condition considered to be hardly civilized to the position of one of the great powers of the world. In part this is due to the admirable organization of her army and the exploits of her navy in the war with China. The Japanese fleet was handled with an audacity and skill that startled professional observers all over the world. The want of a sufficiently numerous fleet prevented Japan from retaining the fruits of victory, but her government at once set to work to create a navy adequate for the purposes of Japanese policy. The result is seen in the splendid squadron which Japan will soon have assembled in the far east. At the battle of the Yalu, Sept. 17, 1894, which disposed of the Chinese squadron, the Japanese had 11 vessels aggregating 36,264 tons, against 12 Chinese ships of 34,975 tons and four torpedo boats. The Chinese squadron comprised two armorclads, the Chen-Yuen and Ting-Yuen, of 7,430 tons each, superior to any individual vessel of the Japanese squadron, the largest ships in the fleet were three of 4,300 tons; the Matsu-shima, the flagship, the Itsuku-shima, and the Hashidate. Their inferiority in armor protection was compensated for by their formidable armament, but they were not able to venture into close quarters with the two Chinese ironclads, and the Matsu-shima was so badly damaged that the Japanese admiral had to transfer his flag during the action to the Hashidate. The net result of the fighting was that four of the Chinese ships were sunk and several captured, and three Japanese vessels were more or less seriously injured. In the less than seven years that have elapsed since then the Japanese navy has made enormous strides. Its first line is now composed of six battleships, including four of the most powerful of their class afloat. They are the Shiki-shima, Hatsuse, Asahi, and Misaka of 14,900 tons and 14,500 horse power, with speed of 18.5 knots. The only thing that can be said against them is that they are furnished with the now condemned Belleville boilers. The other two battleships are the Yashima and Fuji-Yama of 12,500 tons, 14,100 horse-power, and 19 knots speed. The six belong to the English majestic class, but are more modern and have many improvements. They form a compact squadron in themselves superior to that of any other power in the far eastern seas. The armored cruisers number six and belong to one class in size, being of 9,850 tons, 19,000 horse-power, and 22.67 knots speed. Four of them, like the four great battleships, were built in England, the other two coming from Germany and France. The two latter have Belleville boilers. They all maneuver with great facility, and are little inferior in fighting value to battleships. The protected cruisers number 13, ranging from 2,700 to 4,800 tons, with horse-power of from 4,100 to 15,000, and from 16.5 to 23 knots speed. Four are of the newest designs, and with their speed and armament form a valuable complement of the preceding armored cruiser squadron. Two, the Takasago and Yushima, are of English build, and the latter by the rapidity of her fire did great execution among the Chinese ships at the Yalu. The other two, the Kasagi and Chitose, are of American construction. Of the other protected cruisers the only ones of European build are the Izumi, formerly the Chilean Esmeralda, constructed in England, and the Sai-yen, built in Germany and captured from the Chinese at the same time as the Chen-Yuen, coast defense ship, renamed the Chin-yen. The Japanese have also a numerous destroyer and torpedo-boat flotilla of the most modern build, the destroyers being 12 in number. Their gunboats and unprotected cruisers are now, of course, behind the age and fit only for coast guard and customs service among the islands. The great feature of the Japanese fighting fleet is the equipment of the heavier rapid-fire guns in each ship. This is the result of the lesson of the Yalu, where the victory was largely due to the shower of projectiles thrown into the Chinese ships. In the event of Japan's finding herself at war with one of the European powers it is questionable whether any of the squadrons now in the far east could make head against the fleet the Japanese have created since 1894.—Chicago Journal.

Trade in Jack Rabbits. A notable and growing industry in Nebraska is the trade in jack rabbits, which are frozen for shipment to the east, where they are sold at fancy prices as Belgian hares. Farmers' boys in the state earn many dollars during the winter in pursuing this game, which they sell to the packers for about \$1.50 a dozen. The price is small, but the supply is ample, and the farmers do themselves a double service by riding their lands of what often becomes a pest. The extent of the industry is indicated by the shipments, which are in car-load lots.

Made Insane by Reading Novels. Frank Fleetwood, the 20-year-old son of Jacob Fleetwood of Tipton, Ind., has become mentally deranged from the effects of reading novels. A few days since, he became violent and drove his parents from the house. It is said he read over 1,000 novels.