



The farmers national congress met at Oklahoma City, Okla., and elected the following officers: Colonel Benham Cameron, Stageville, N. C., president; first vice president, Joshua Strange, Marion, Ind.; second vice president, A. L. Strayer, Illinois; secretary, George M. Whittaker, Washington, D. C.; treasurer, W. L. Ames, Oregon, Wis.; executive committee, J. C. Wickey, Ocean Springs, Miss. (long term); L. Morrison, Greenville, Pa. (short term). It was decided to leave the selection of the next meeting place to the executive committee.

An Associated Press dispatch from New York says: "The first conviction in the cases on the disclosures in the legislative investigation of insurance affairs in 1905-06 was obtained in the district attorney's office tonight when a jury in the criminal branch of the supreme court found Dr. Walter K. Gillette, formerly vice president of the Mutual Life Insurance company, guilty of perjury in the third degree. The verdict was accompanied with a recommendation for mercy. The maximum penalty for this degree is ten years' imprisonment."

A dispatch from Wheeling, W. Va., follows: "What is said to be the most sweeping injunction ever issued against organized labor was granted at Philippi, W. Va., today by Federal Judge Dayton. The injunction, which is temporary, restrains John Mitchell, president; T. L. Lewis, vice president, and the district officers of the United Mine Workers of America from organizing or interfering in any way with about 1,000 non-union miners employed by the Hitchman Coal company, Glendale Coal company and the Richland Coal company, located in the Wheeling district. A hearing in the case will be held in Parkersburg next month."

A libel suit brought by Von Moltke, a German statesman and on trial at Berlin, resulted in many disclosures of an immoral nature. The trial created a great sensation throughout the empire.

The National Civic Federation in session at Chicago adopted resolutions calling upon congress to appoint a commission for the purpose of investigating the trust question.

The races at St. Louis for the international aeronautic championship cup resulted in a victory for the German entry, the Pommern, sailed by Oscar Erbsloeh. The Pommern landed at Asbury Park, N. J., after

a flight of 876.4 miles. It is claimed that the Pommern would have gone much further had not the Atlantic ocean intervened, compelling the crew to alight. The French balloon L'Isle de France landed near Lakewood, N. J. It was up about forty-five hours. Distance 875 miles. The balloon America landed in Patuxent, Md., covering 715 miles approximately. The German balloon Dusseldorf landed at Little Creek, near Dover, Del., covering approximately 776 miles. The American balloon United States landed near Hamilton, Ont., covering approximately 650 miles. The American balloon St. Louis landed near Westminster, Carroll county, Maryland, covering 865 miles. The German balloon Abercron landed near Manassas, Va., covering 680 miles. The English balloon Lotus II, landed near Sabina, Ohio, covering 360 miles. The French balloon Anjou, landed at Armentius Mines, Va., and made 625 miles.

Washington dispatches say that the fleet of American ships ordered to the Pacific will return to Atlantic waters within ninety days after its arrival on the California coast.

Earthquake shocks in Italy resulted in great destruction of property and in the loss of several hundred lives.

The Allis-Chalmers company at their New York meeting showed a deficit for the year ending June 30, of \$229,816.

THE COST OF LIVING

Mr. Albert Britt, in his discussion of "The Actual Cost of Living," in the Independent, analyzes various reports and statistics and reaches the conclusion that the increase in the living expenses of the people exceeds the increase in their earnings. And, as an introduction to his argument, he mentions the fact that not long ago the Massachusetts bureau of labor statistics said that in 797 stores in Boston 45,482 debtors, or about 7 1/2 per cent of the population of the city, were on the hopeless list, and they owed over half a million dollars. This fact, we think, is of more importance than the statistics which deal exclusively with solvent families. But beyond all statistics and conclusions derived therefrom, the fact is well known to every householder in the country that the cost of living has not only largely increased, but that it continues to increase although labor has apparently reached the high water mark.

Statistics may be juggled to prove

anything. The householder cares nothing about them when his own experience is sufficient to inform him of the trend of the times.

The department of commerce and labor through the bureau of statistics has published interesting data on the question; so has the Massachusetts bureau of labor statistics, but the rule seems to be to observe conditions among the poorer classes of people. They live hard at best. When the price of food, rent and fuel goes up, they simply deny themselves because it is either do that or starve. They suffer their privations without complaint and hope for better conditions which never come to their hopeless surroundings.

The chief pressure of the rising cost of living falls upon the great middle classes—the people who are accustomed to comforts and a modicum of luxury. They find as a rule that taxation increases, that food products soar and that clothing steadily advances in price. Much is said about the extravagant tastes which inevitably develop in periods of prosperity. There may be a bit of truth about that, but it is nevertheless true that hundreds of thousands of families, thrifty and prosperous, simply do without the abundance or quality once enjoyed because the price has gone beyond them and they deny themselves and keep on the safe side.

There are many reasons, of course, for the increasing cost of living. Taxation, trusts and other influences contribute to such conditions of life, but we must not overlook the fact that the pressure is greatest in cities and that the cost usually increases as a city grows. There are yet abundant opportunities in the rural sections of the country to live well and cheaply, but at present the cities seem more attractive to the migrating population than the farms. Food is the most expensive of all the necessities of life and the man who produces his food is not likely to endure the hardships that fall to those who must buy.—Houston Post.

THE REFORMATION

The bishop of London knows the value of making an address bright and entertaining, and he has been treating Toronto, one of his first stopping places during his present American and Canadian tour, to some good stories. Here is one of them:

Talking about settlement work among the poor of London, the bishop said that the wife of a certain man came to him one day and, referring to her husband, said:

"Yes, bishop, he's a very nice man when he isn't drunk."

"So I got him," said the bishop, "into the temperance club, and he joined classes in first aid to the injured. Some weeks later his wife gratefully told me: 'I can't thank you enough, bishop, for what you have done for my husband. He never goes to the public house now, but spends every evening in bandaging the cat.'"—London Tid-Bits.

EDWIN'S EXPLANATION

Edwin, aged three, who fondled his small cat overmuch and unwisely, appeared before his mother one day, his little face guiltily pained and a scratch upon his hand.

"What happened?" she asked. "I bent the kitty a little," he said, briefly.—Youth's Companion.

A GRAVE DANGER

The American Protective Tariff League will take notice that the earthenware manufacturers of William McKinley's former congressional district have declared for reform of the tariff. At the rate at which things are going on the whole, tariff crockery threatens to be knocked into potsherd.—Philadelphia Record.

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PRIMARY PLEDGE

I promise to attend all the primaries of my party to be held between now and the next Democratic National Convention, unless unavoidably prevented, and to use my influence to secure a clear, honest and straightforward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak.

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