

bers of the Lancaster county delegation declared that they would not complain if the knife were applied to all institutions and all localities. But the discrimination was made, and now Governor Sheldon is obliged to equalize matters by vetoing items affecting the Kearney, Peru, Grand Island, Beatrice and Omaha institutions. Lancaster county does not suffer now because the appropriations had already been reduced by the senate to the lowest point that could be reached without entailing serious loss.

When Mr. Bryan and Senator Beveridge get around to it they might debate the invasion of state rights involved in national automobile regulation. The beginning of a propaganda for federal control of interstate automobile travel indicates that this will be an issue in congress next winter. A bill has already been introduced to that effect. The states have varying speed regulations, and most of them require the registration of automobiles. This imposes a hardship, or at least an inconvenience on automobile tourists of which frequent complaint is heard.

It now appears that nineteen women were elected to the Finnish diet, about one-sixth of the total number. This was the first election in which the women voted on equal terms with men, and they seem to have employed their right to the full. In fact 55 per cent of the total vote was cast by women. It was a common sight for men and their wives to vote together. No boom in the divorce business is reported by reason of family friction arising from the dual political government in the homes. Nine of the nineteen women elected are socialists, a somewhat higher proportion than the total number of socialists bears to the entire membership.

Governor Sheldon has braced a weak link in the late legislature by vetoing the \$35,000 wolf bounty appropriation. No reason why this appropriation should be made has ever been sustained. The nominal argument has been that it aims at the reduction of the coyotes, but proof has been singularly lacking that wolf bounties have any such effect. It is indeed seriously questioned whether the opposite is not true. Probably the real reason for such appropriations is a desire to have the western counties feel that they are getting their share of the public funds. It is a laudable practice to distribute public benefits equitably. But if the coyote districts have \$35,000 coming there ought to be some other way to spend the money than throwing it away.

To Speaker Cannon's suggestion that the canal will be finished if we have to cut the cable Congressman Tawney adds a criticism of the engineering experts for representing the canal project as an almost impossible engineering feat. It is now claimed that pretty nearly every engineering problem in the Panama canal has been worked out somewhere in the United States; for example there are dams in the United States sustaining as heavy a body of water as the Gatun dam is expected to hold, and there are locks in the Tennessee river not greatly inferior to those required to raise ships from the sea level to the summit behind the Gobin dam. Poultney Bigelow remains about the only "knocker" the canal has left. The deluge of reports seems in fact almost too rosy to be true.

For ten weeks there have been reports almost daily from the Binger Hermann trial at Washington. The evidence described has been of so wide a scope as to obscure the charges on which the ex-congressman, ex-land commissioner, ex-officerholder of various sorts for forty years, is being tried. Hermann's specific offense was the destruction of thirty-five letter press books of the records of the general land office at Washington. It has been the effort of the prosecution to prove that this was done in the effort to cover up his relations with the Oregon land grafters, hence the great amount of light on the subject of land graft that has come out in the course of the trial. In case of his acquittal in the present trial Hermann will have to face four more indictments based on alleged conspiracy to defraud the government in land cases.

Professor Seligman of the department of economics in Columbia university would eliminate women from the teaching staffs of all schools except in the primary grades, on the ground that "the deplorable tendency toward feminization is becoming more pronounced in our public schools." This declaration has caused an undue amount of fluttering among the women teachers of the metropolis and elsewhere. For the present the professor's remarks are purely academic. A public that is groaning over the expense of an inadequately supported school system will not soon appropriate the money needed for the general introduction of the masculine element. The ladies are safe for another generation at least.

Without considering the debatable question of the superiority of men teachers, the women cannot be replaced without an economic revolution.

Unlike Nebraskans, Iowans disagree in their estimates of the work of their late legislature. This is partly due to an earlier disagreement as to what the legislature ought to do, another point of difference from Nebraska. It is partly due, moreover, to the fact that the legislature did not make the clean sweep made by the Nebraska lawmakers. The Iowans enacted an anti-pass law that seems to satisfy everybody but the opponents of any anti-pass law. As much cannot be said for the direct primary law. A statewide direct primary is provided, but as in Illinois it is arranged to throw the nominations into a convention whenever no candidate receives above a given percentage of the total vote. This leaves a fine opening for political manipulation. It will often be possible where there is no candidate with a large lead to bring out enough local candidates to throw the choice into a convention.

Ex-Senator Spooner has been a member and ought to know. He says: "It is my conviction that there is not in the world a legislative body more loyal to the public interest, more laborious and painstaking in conserving it or with higher purpose and better practical ability to legislate wisely and in the interest of the whole country than the senate of the United States." Archibald R. Colquhoun has not been a senator, he is not even an American, and therefore might be considered a disinterested judge. In his exhaustive study of "Greater America" published three years ago he says: "The senate, from the point of view of ability, is a body of which any country might be proud; but it is as plutocratic, as much representative of class interests in its own way as the British house of lords is aristocratic and conservative in another. Indeed there are signs of far greater sympathy with the masses about the latter body."

Commercial concerns doing a large mail order business, such as publishers, are making known their desire for a substitute for stamps as letter currency. Despite the fact that the government tries to discourage the use of stamps as legal tender, itself refusing to redeem them, the volume of mail transactions carried on with stamps as currency is far from small. A Boston publisher tells of receiving in one month this year \$4,470.63 in stamps. He could not use them all, and had to sell the rest to brokers at a discount. Taking into account the damaged stamps received his money loss was \$450. This statement was made in a petition to congress for fractional currency to answer the purpose for which stamps are now used as money. To bring back the old "shinplaster" would reduce the post office money order business, and also, which would be a still greater evil to at least one member of congress, would reduce the express company revenues from money order business.

Some months ago Europe laughed itself sick over the exploits of a German hobo who, in a borrowed military uniform, took possession of a town, arrested the mayor and played the general high jinks which German reverence for the uniform made possible. The event was fitly embalmed in comic opera. This feat would not be possible in the United States, but cities all over the country have been captured in a manner not less ridiculous. Pseudo financiers, taking advantage of a general reverence for the trappings of finance, have time without number been allowed to dictate to mayors and aldermen in the name of high finance matters pertaining to public service enterprises. In the case of the Nebraska City gas company the president, secretary and treasurer turns out to be a cashless and well high clothesless adventurer, while innocent bond holders claim the sack. Unfortunately the American extravaganza does not lend itself well to comic opera treatment. The results are anything but funny.

The federal grand jury at Pueblo recently brought in a number of indictments against men engaged in fraudulent mining enterprises, and the move meets with an encouraging amount of support all over Colorado. The amount of money wasted on worthless mining stock every year is known to be fabulous, and every dollar lost in this way amounts to an obstacle to the success of legitimate mining enterprises that need capital for development. The outcome of this agitation will probably be the enactment of laws in all of the mining states making the sale of worthless stocks a matter of considerable difficulty. If the money now invested in fraudulent stocks could be put into legitimate mining development the wealth of the Rocky Mountain states would be increased to a fabulous amount. These commonwealths have probably learned by this time that honesty is more profitable in the end than the other thing, even in the sale of mining stocks.

QUESTION BOX

Please give me the names of cities that get their water supply from snow on the mountains, or that have the best pure, soft water.

Nearly all of the larger cities are supplied with soft water from rivers, as St. Louis and Kansas City, from lakes, as Chicago or Cleveland, or from drainage of a watershed as New York. Los Angeles gets its water from snow topped mountains. In all cases the water is filtered or settled to make it pure.

Who was the author of the short poem beginning, "God give us men?" Please print the poem.

J. G. Holland. The poem:
God, give us men! A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith,
and ready hands;
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will,
Men who have honor,—men who will not lie;
Men who can stand before demagogue,
And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking!
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog
In public duty, and in private thinking;
For while the rabble, with their thumb-worn creeds,
Their large professions and their little deeds—
Mingle in selfish strife, lo! Freedom weep.
Wrong rules the land, and waiting Justice sleeps!

Does a majority of the German people control the government of Germany, or at least the German reichstag? If not, why?

At the recent elections the majority members in the reichstag was elected by 4,962,000 votes, while the minority members represent 5,895,000, a majority of 933,000. This happens because the cities, which are the strength of the minority parties, have fewer representatives in proportion to population than the country districts controlled by the majority parties. The same situation prevails in some American states, notably Rhode Island, which is controlled by rotten boroughs, districts of small population in which a majority of the votes can be bought or otherwise controlled. It sometimes happens, too, that the president of the United States does not receive as many votes as his nearest competitor. This was the case with Presidents Hayes and Harrison.

How does the cost of living compare with a year ago?

Slightly less, according to the index numbers. The following is Dun's table:

	April 1, 1907.	April 1, 1906.
Food	\$51,221	\$49,786
Clothing	19,997	19,125
Metals	17,372	16,927
Miscellaneous	19,305	20,228
Index number	\$107,895	\$106,066

What is the average number of children to a family in the United States? How does this compare with other countries?

In the United States the average is three. In other countries: Persia 10, Canada 9, Ecuador 8.1, Madagascar 7.8, Russia, Finland 7, Italy, Serbia, Hungary, Central and South America (Columbia, Panama, Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru) 6.8 and 6.7, England, Turkey, Bulgaria, Greece, China, India, Abyssinia, Mexico 6, Uruguay 5.6, Rumania, Holland, Sweden, Ireland, Hayti and Brazil 5, Germany, Spain, Scotland, Cuba and the Argentine Republic 4.5, Denmark, Austria 4, Norway, Japan and Corea 3.5, and France 3.

What is the cause of plums puffing up to large size and then drying up on the tree?

The cause is a fungus disease variously known as plum pockets or plum bladders. The botanical name is exoascus pruni. It is treated by spraying and destroying affected fruits.

Explain what is meant by the block system on railways.

A system of working railway traffic, according to which the line is divided into sections of a mile or more, with a signal and telegraphic connection at the end of each section; the principle of the system being that no train is allowed to leave any section till the next succeeding section is entirely clear, so that between two successive trains there is preserved not merely a definite interval of time, but also a definite interval of space. The system thus defined is called "absolute." In the so-called "permissive" system, a second train is allowed to enter a section that is not clear with orders to proceed cautiously.

I wish you would send or publish Bayard Taylor's poem, "The Song of the Camp."

"Give us a song," the soldiers cried,
The outer trenches guarding,
When the heated guns of the camps allied
Grew weary of bombarding.

The dark Redan in silent scoff,
Lay grim and threatening under;
And the tawny mound of the Malakoff
No longer belched its thunder.

There was a pause. A guardsman said:
"We storm the forts tomorrow;
Sing while we may, another day
Will bring enough of sorrow."

They lay along the battery's side
Below the smoking cannon;
Brave hearts, from Severn and from Clyde
And from the banks of Shannon.

They sang of love, and not of fame;
Forgot was Britain's glory;
Each heart recalled a different name,
But all sang "Annie Laurie."

Voice after voice caught up the song
Unto its tender passion
Rose like an anthem, rich and strong—
Their battle-eve confession.

Dear girl, her name he dared not speak,
But as the song grew louder,
Something upon the soldier's cheek
Washed off the stains of power.

Beyond the darkening ocean burned
The bloody sunset's embers,
While Crimean valleys learned
How English love remembers.

And once again a fire of hell
Rained on the Russian quarters,
With scream of shot and burst of shell,
And bellowing of the mortars.

And Irish Nora's eyes are dim,
For a singer, dumb and gory;
And English Mary mourns for him
Who sang of Annie Laurie.

Sleep, soldiers! Still in honored rest
Your truth and honor wearing;
The bravest are the tenderest—
The loving are the daring.

Please give the date of Arbor day in the different states.

Colorado	April 19
Idaho	April 29
Illinois	April 26
Iowa	April 27
Massachusetts	April 27
Michigan	April 26
Minnesota	April 26
Missouri	April 6
Montana	May 14
Nebraska	April 22
New York	May 3
North Dakota	May 3
Oklahoma	April 12
Oregon	April 12
Ohio	April 12
Pennsylvania	April 19
Rhode Island	May 10
South Dakota	May 26
Utah	April 15
West Virginia	April 19
Wisconsin	May 10

What is the effect on the teeth or tobacco chewing?

People do not agree on this point. Anything that exercises the teeth tends in that respect to be good for them, and so the tobacco chewer may have an advantage over the non-tobacco chewer, though not over the gum chewer. On the other hand it is claimed that tobacco injures the gums, sometimes causing them to shrink.

What is the national debt of the United States and of the other great powers?

The United States bureau of statistics gives the debts of twenty-three nations as follows:

Argentina	\$ 479,765,266
Austria-Hungary	1,107,464,025
Belgium	544,662,979
Brazil	510,093,328
Chile	107,394,151
China	573,140,000
Denmark	66,632,849
France	5,856,703,503
Germany and German states	3,296,470,400
Great Britain	3,885,196,233
Italy	2,560,605,000
Japan	1,250,000,000
Mexico	175,945,345
Netherlands	463,150,904
Norway	70,376,355
Portugal	819,886,580
Russia (before the late war)	3,414,061,734
(Now over four billions.)	
Spain	2,061,389,972
Sweden	92,833,326
Switzerland	17,400,567
Turkey	724,135,400
United States	925,011,637
Venezuela	49,325,641

Please explain the value of a shekel?

An official of the United States mine once answered this question as follows:

The shekel was originally a weight. The first form in which money was used by the Jews, and by all other nations of which we have any knowledge, was the pieces without any regular shape or any marks or devices upon them. Precious metals passed by weight. Thus it is said of