

POWER OF WHEELMEN

HAVE BUILT A MODEL ROADWAY IN INDIANA.

The Great Work Achieved by Levying a Five Dollar Assessment on Each Owner of a Bicycle — A Worthy Example.

(Special Letter.)



THE most picturesque bicycle path in the United States was recently opened in Indianapolis with elaborate ceremony. Two months ago the Wheelway league of this city was incorporated for the purpose of building a bicycle path to be open to the public. It was capitalized at \$10,000, and the riders of the city were asked to take stock at \$5 a share. Subscriptions came in quite rapidly, and by the middle of May work had begun on the first section of the path, which occupies what was once the towpath of the old Indiana canal. This path had not been used for many years, and when work began on it it was little more than a mere levee, with a rank growth of trees and shrubs on one side and the slow running waters of the canal on the other. The canal is on the east side of the path, which gives the full benefit of the shade of the trees during the afternoon.

The path extends to a suburb ten miles distant. All of this is so well shaded that except early in the afternoon a rider can scarcely get a glimpse of the sun after 12 o'clock. The path varies in length, conforming to the top of the levee, but is not less than eight feet wide at any place, and in some places as much as twelve feet. The levee was first dressed off with a road scraper and then a coat of gravel, slightly mixed with earth, was well packed with a heavy roller. On top of this was rolled a thin coating of cinders and sand mixed, making as smooth a coat as could be desired and one that has no suction to cling to the tire.

At many places along the path rustic seats have been placed, and at one point, where there are two very fine springs, there are a number of long rustic benches, and a bicycle track that can accommodate nearly 100 wheels.

The towpath section of the path is all that is finished, but the directors of the Wheelway league will begin work this week on the second section, which will extend across the hills and valleys to Fall Creek, a distance of about six miles. It will then follow the north bank of that stream back to the city, making about twenty-four miles in all. Thus all but about six miles of the path will be on the banks of water courses. It is for that reason that it is claimed to be the most picturesque path in the United States.

But that is not all that makes it a pleasant place for riders. One mile from the beginning of the path is Armstrong's park, a popular place of amusement. It contains one of the open-air summer theaters of the city. Every night in the week there is a drama presented at this park, and picnics fill it during the day. Four miles further north is the most popular resort near the city—Fairview park—a place owned and maintained by the Citizens' Street Car Company. It is on the east bank of the canal, and the bicycle path is on the west bank, making the path the best route for bicyclers to take to get to the park. This is a beautiful wooded park of more than 200 acres, with hills and dells, the hills rising abruptly from the canal bank. Fully 10,000 people visit this park every Sunday, and between 3,000 and 4,000 every other day during the entire summer.

Five miles further out on the path is the suburb of Broad Ripple, where the suburban street car company maintains a park only a little smaller than Fairview. It is here that the bicycle race track is located, and it is this park that is the Mecca of cyclists. It is at the end of the path so far as built now. Two miles out the path will pass through Hammond's park, a private picnic ground, where a large dam in the creek gives deep water for boating purposes for more than a mile. The path will have a right of way through the park.

The formal opening of the path was the occasion of the opening of the four-lap bicycle track at Broad Ripple. The



A BIT OF THE PATH.

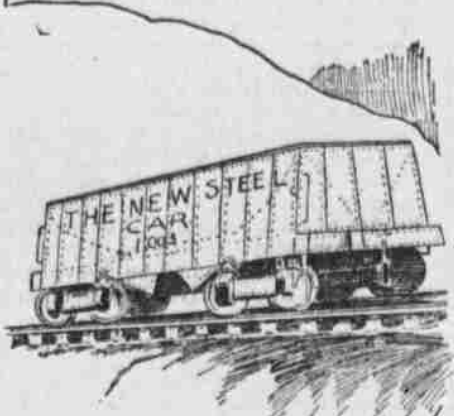
First races, entirely amateur, were held on that track. There was nothing in particular to show that it was the opening of the path, although it was so termed, for there has scarcely been a time since work was begun that it has been closed. The only formality was the dedication of the path to the public by the directors. The towpath is owned by the Indianapolis Water Company, which gave the league the right to use it as long as it kept it in repair. To those contemplating building such a path it might be of interest to know how the guards are made to keep out cattle and at the same time not obstruct the free passage of bicycles. At each road crossing there is a gate which is usually kept locked, but may be opened under guard on occasions of parades or big days. At the side of the gate there is a pit about three by four feet and two feet deep. There is an oak frame set in this pit and across it on a level with the top is a row of

two-inch gas pipes set two inches apart. This can be crossed with a bicycle without any trouble and is scarcely perceptible in the matter of vibration, but effectually keeps out all kinds of stock.

STEEL CARS.

Another Mark of Progress in Railroad Equipment.

At last steel cars have been made. For years they have been regarded as the coming car, but owing to the high price of steel they were not thought to be economically possible until the twentieth century. A great steel company, in order to show under the present conditions the possibilities of steel in this direction, has constructed two cars of this material which are the first of their kind. As the picture shows, they are of simple construction, being "built up" of plate girders. They are to be exhibited around the country to railroad men, and if the idea takes, they will be constructed on a large scale in the fall. While the cost of a steel car will usually be more than that of a wooden one, sufficient experience has already been acquired to warrant the statement that on a commercial basis these cars can be constructed at a cost not to exceed that per ton of carrying capacity of wooden cars, and with a safety factor in favor of steel. They



CAR OF THE FUTURE.

have been tested with a load of wet sand and pig iron weighing one hundred and twenty-five thousand pounds. The use of steel will not be confined to freight cars. It is intended in the near future to build passenger cars of steel throughout, and thus do away with the danger of splintering in railroad collisions.

AMERICAN PATENT SYSTEM.

Its First Fifty Years and What Has Been Accomplished.

The semi-centennial of its own publication which the Scientific American commemorates is practically a celebration also of the first fifty years of the American patent system, says an exchange. The system had indeed existed from the early days of the republic. But in those early days few patents were granted, and it was not until 1845 that the American nation began to be noted for its inventive powers. As the Scientific American points out, up to the end of the year 1845 only 3,873 patents had been issued by the patent office of the United States. When the year 1895 closed the number was 531,619, a wonderful tribute to the inventive genius of the American people, because out of this great number comparatively few were issued to foreigners. "The largeness of the number is a tribute to the far-sighted liberality of the patent statutes, originally established by our forefathers in the days when the individual counted for far more than in the present day of fierce competition and wealthy combinations of capitalists. Even in those days it was recognized that the individual inventor required the fostering protection of the law, and it was known that the best possible policy for the country was to grant him this protection for the enrichment of others and for the good of the country at large."

But, though few patents were granted in the early days, there is no doubt it was the privation of those days in sparsely settled regions that fostered and developed the inventive faculty which has become the birthright of the American people. A farmer, separated many miles, perhaps, from the blacksmith shop, with absolutely no machine shop within reach, with carpenters and other tradesmen few and far between, learned to do everything himself, and it was unquestionable in these early days the farmers of America displayed a high order of constructive and mechanical skill and a quick adaptation to circumstances that have now imprinted themselves upon the entire American people. To-day the farmer has complicated machinery to take care of, and he does it successfully; small repairs he executes himself, and in him is found the true material that inventors are made of.

Paper Telegraph Poles.

Paper telegraph poles are the latest development of the art of making paper useful. These poles are made of paper pulp, in which borax, tallow, etc., are mixed in small quantities. The pulp is cast in a mold, with a core in the center forming a hollow rod of the desired length, the cross pieces being held by key-shaped wooden pieces driven in on either side of the pole. The paper poles are said to be lighter and stronger than those of wood, and to be unaffected by sun, rain, dampness or any of the other causes which shorten the life of a wooden pole.

A Lucky Lift.

"It's strange that Jane Goldie should fancy that Tom Branscombe. I hear they are engaged." "Yes, she admires him for his strength." "I didn't know he had any strength?" "She thinks he has. She saw him raise a car window at the frat attempt."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A "DRUNK" VILLAGE.

LADY HENRY SOMERSET TO RESCUE INEBRIATE.

A Town Is Being Laid Out for the Treatment of Female Patients—Not to Be Treated as Outcasts—Outdoor Work for Them.

(London Letter.)



NEW departure in temperance work has been entered upon by Lady Henry Somerset, who is almost as well known in America as in England. This work consists of the construction and maintenance of a village of cottages for inebriate women patients.

The scheme is a sensible and practicable one. Though I do not entirely agree with Lady Somerset in all her schemes, which she intends for good, this new work of hers is a noble one, and will result in many benefits. Every State in the Union should adopt her plan, and have a rural settlement, where patients suffering from the habit of intemperance could be under judicious and intelligent medical care, and be given plenty of work to do in the open air. There is nothing like sending a man to bed real tired to help his recovery from the disease of alcoholism. Lady Somerset's attention was called, some years ago, to a wretched woman who had been arrested for drunkenness about a hundred times. She tried to reform her by sending her to a home in the country, and, though she failed in this case, she made up her mind that the plan would be a good one for drunken women generally. So she put her thoughts into action.

When Lady Somerset determined upon her special work for inebriate women, she looked about for a suitable site, far from the presence of spirituous liquors, and where there were good sanitary conditions. She finally selected one hundred and eighty acres of land in the town of Duxhurst, high ground, with excellent drainage, and a good water supply, and there laid out her village.

It has been plotted in an irregular fashion, with winding streets and lanes, laid at varying angles, with open places and public grounds at frequent intervals, which will, in accordance with the projected plans, receive ornamentation in the way of trees, shrubbery and fountains.

On this tract of land she is erecting scattered cottages for her patients. They are very simple in construction, following primitive lines, and being thatched according to the ancient rural fashion. Each cottage will accommodate six patients, and will be surrounded by a small garden for the raising of vegetables and the cultivation of flowers. The inmates of each cottage will keep house and attend to the garden work.

These inmates will not be treated as outcasts or criminals, but as patients suffering from a disease to cure which is the purpose of the resident physicians of the village.

Besides the cottage homes, the village will contain a hospital, a chapel, a building for public meetings, an office building, and a general laundry. All of these will be well and neatly constructed, but without any attempt at display.

Exercise for mind and muscle, with plenty of out of door life, and absence of temptation to drink, is the best medicine for an inebriate," says Lady Somerset. Believing this, and being firmly convinced that nothing could be worse for habitual drunkards than the sedentary employment usually assigned to them in reformatory homes, she has planned for plenty of outdoor work, with employment and entertainment for the mind.

Provision is being made for light agricultural work, directed principally in



LADY SOMERSET.

the line of raising vegetables on small pieces of land assigned to each patient. There will be poultry raising, with the care of eggs in their preservation for shipping. Bee keeping, with preparation of honey for the market, will also be provided for. The dairy work will furnish much employment, for, besides the milking and bottling of the product, butter and cheese making will be included. Then the laundry work will be quite a factor in the village economy. Besides these there will be a needle and fancy work department, together with opportunity for literary employment and recreation.

On this provision for varied employment which keeps the mind and body occupied with pleasant surroundings away from temptation to use alcoholic drink, Lady Somerset relies for the desired results. Lady Somerset says she will give

much personal attention to the selection of her patients, will receive them as fast as accommodations are provided, and will be governed by the determined purpose to do the greatest possible good.

To insure a feeling of independence and for the preservation of self-respect, each patient will be charged \$1.25 per week, and will be credited by the amount of work which she performs. All that is earned by each patient over and above the cost of her maintenance will be paid to her when she is cured and discharged from the village.

THIRTEEN YEARS AS A SLAVE.

Adventures of an Italian Priest in the Soudan.

Father Paolo Rossignoli, who, after a long series of almost incredible adventures and thirteen years' slavery in the Soudan, succeeded in miraculously escaping from the hands of the caliph, has been received by the pope before returning to Africa to the scene of his former painful sufferings, says the Pall Mall Gazette. He is a strong, broad, well built man, tanned a deep brown by the African sun, and wears a full beard, which is rapidly turning white from the sufferings he has gone through.

Father Rossignoli was a priest of the Austrian mission of El Obeid, in the Kordofan, and went through the horrors of the four and a half months' siege until January, 1883, when he was taken prisoner. It would be impossible to describe all he suffered for thirteen long years, until assisted to escape by the Englishman, Maj. Wingate Bey and Mgr. Sogaro, archbishop of the Soudan.

"So you are really returning to Africa?" I said to him the day before he left.

"Oh, yes, and I go back with pleasure, as Africa is for me now a second fatherland. I feel that my work is there; and, besides, think of all the prisoners, less fortunate than myself, whom I left behind and whom I must do my utmost to deliver."

"Are there still many?"

"About fifty, including five Italians."

"Are there no Englishmen?"

"No; all of them died long ago."

Among those still alive are twelve Syrians, ten Jews from Smyrna, some Greeks and Swiss, a few Germans and one Austrian, a certain Niefelt, who is the most learned and intelligent person now in the hands of the Soudanese. He was a banker at Assouan, and three or four years after the fall of Khartoum he led an expedition to the center of the Soudan, his purpose being to help the Kabbabish tribe on the other side of the Dongola against the mahdi. The latter, informed in time of his plans, surprised the expedition, defeated it completely, the men being mostly killed or taken prisoners, among the latter the leader Niefelt, who was condemned to death. The rope had already been passed around his neck to hang him, when he was asked: "How do you die? As a Christian or a Mussulman?" Niefelt answered quickly: "I die a Mussulman."

"So his life was saved, but he was left for years in chains until he gave proof of his ability, and he was then used by the caliph to manufacture saltpeter and gunpowder. He also endeavored to make dies for coins, and designed a beautiful tomb for the mahdi, which the caliph, however, did not approve of, considering it too European and fearing that if executed Niefelt would acquire a certain importance in the eyes of the Soudanese."

Passing to speak of the situation in the Soudan, Father Rossignoli said that according to the latest news received by him it is most unhappy, because of the fearful misery, dreadful anarchy and widespread corruption. "It is something heartrending!" exclaimed the missionary. "It seems really that the hand of God is striking and exterminating that people, on whom lie so many sins. England could now easily reconquer the Soudan, especially as a large portion of the inhabitants there would favor it, to escape from the tyranny of the caliph."

"There is, in fact, a party strong enough which wishes the intervention of Egyptians, English or Italians, or any stranger, in fact, to end the horrors of which they are the victims and witnesses. This party is becoming so important that the caliph some time ago had all the so-called coffee houses demolished in which they were accustomed to meet and threatened them with a general massacre. However, it is my opinion that England will not reconquer the Soudan until her occupation of Egypt is permanent and until she needs no pretext to justify her presence on the Nile. After the recent defeats on the Red sea side the Soudanese have a holy terror of the Italians also, and their most terrible curse is: 'May you be struck by an Italian ball.'"

His Offense Overlooked.

Ex-D. C. Commissioner—"I want the best room you have. Do you know who I am?" Arizona Clerk—"Wall, I don't know ez I do, partner." Ex-D. C. Commissioner (pompously)—"Sir, I was once a commissioner of the District of Columbia." Arizona Clerk—"Oh, that's all right, tenderfoot. We never bring up a man's past ag'in' him here."—Washington Times.

In the Summer.

In the spring the young man's fancy turns to Gladys, Nell or Nancy. So the poet sings. But 'tis summer when the maiden Most with little loves is laden. These she flings Forth like hawk and bids them then Strike the fluttering hearts of men. —Illustrated Bits.

IT IS A MODEL ASYLUM

WISCONSIN STATE INSTITUTION FOR THE INSANE.

Efforts Made to Cure Every Case Brought There—It Is Therefore Conducted on a Widely Different Plan from Other Retreats.

(Oshkosh Letter.)



HAT is known as the Wisconsin system of caring for the insane is attracting the attention of physicians, philanthropists and people engaged in the care of dependent classes throughout the country. The ordinary method of caring for the insane consists in building large establishments which contain from 500 to 2,500 inmates. It is very common in many states to have asylums that hold 1,200 and 1,500 patients. In these great asylums the acute and chronic are mingled to a greater or less extent. It often happens that there are patients in these asylums who have been inmates for twenty years. It was formerly supposed that the mingling of the acute and chronic insane was beneficial from a psychological point of view. It is

now not generally believed that the mingling of the acute and chronic insane benefits either class. It is not generally believed that locking up a man who has been insane for a short time only with one who has been insane a long time has any remedial influence upon either one. The Wisconsin idea is to abandon these mammoth institutions and to keep the chronic insane, the majority of whom are incurable, away from the more recent cases.

There are in Wisconsin twenty-two county asylums for the chronic insane, which are scattered throughout the state, and two state institutions for the treatment of the recent cases of insanity. One of these institutions, the Northern Hospital for the Insane, is located near this city. At this institution a number of modifications of former methods of treatment have recently been introduced, and a vigorous effort is being made to make this institution a genuine hospital, leaving out all asylum features, a true hospital being a curative institution and an asylum merely a house of refuge.

The writer recently visited this institution and was shown over the establishment by Dr. W. A. Gordon, the new superintendent. Among many other improvements made during the last year has been the introduction of a congenial dining-room, where patients take their meals in one large room, instead of in the wards, as in former days. Two Turkish bathrooms, one for the men, and one for the women, have also been put into the institution. Patients are no longer washed in the old-fashioned tub baths, but are given scrub and shower baths and are rendered fresh and cleanly by being placed upon a table and scrubbed after the manner adopted by all Turkish baths.

The diet of the patients has been materially changed from former times. Strong tea and coffee are no longer given, but in their place large quantities of milk are used. Patients are accorded a greater variety of vegetable diet and not so much meat as formerly. Every week there is a picnic, where good music is furnished, and dancing is indulged in. Refreshments are served after. The popular magazines of the day are much more liberally supplied than heretofore. Bus rides are used to a large extent, and are supposed to have a helpful influence. The disposal of the sewage has been materially altered. Considerable attention has been given to promoting the comfort of the employees. A separate dining-room has been fitted for them, also a reception-room for their special benefit. Injunctions of oil and massage treatment have been introduced and form a prominent feature in the treatment of the insane. A very humane feature is the leaving of the doors of the patients unlocked at night, and the night force has been increased, so that the ancient

method of locking a patient in his room for the night no longer obtains. In the old days the attendants shaved the patients in the wards. A barber shop has been opened up in the basement, where skillful tonsorial artists attend to the wants of the household. A most recent departure is the introduction of a hospital school, where arithmetic, geography, writing, spelling and United States history are taught. Think of insane patients going to school, and apparently not only acquiring benefit from the commingling and the arousing of thought, but actually enjoying it. A professional teacher is employed, a regular program gone through with, and the results thus far obtained give assurance that this may form the basis of a revolution in insane hospital management. Each day, too, in the main dining-room, which also constitutes the auditorium of the institution, literary and musical exercises are had, being participated in generally, or at least listened to by the patients. Dr. Gordon, who for years has made mental phenomena a study, believes that if he can divert the minds of his patients from the morbid, visionary and unreal images and subjects that now fill them the battle is won. Therefore, his whole struggle is along that line. It is only fair to him to say that he has accomplished wonders in his short incumbency. In all his efforts he is ably seconded by his wife, an estimable and handsome woman, whose natural kindness prompts her

to many noble and alleviating acts among the fortunate-unfortunates at the Wisconsin Northern Hospital shelters.

FOR THE MINISTRY.

The Staff That Good Men Are Said to Be Made Of.

Lobly had a troubled look when he called on the minister that day and asked for a few minutes' conversation, says the Detroit Free Press.

"What can I do for you, Brother Lobly?" asked the parson, in sympathetic tone.

"It's about that boy Robbie of mine. I'm afraid he's incorrigible, though he's kind-hearted and seems overwhelmed with remorse when he has done anything wrong."

"There is always hope for a boy of that disposition, Brother Lobly."

"I hope so, but I'm pretty well discouraged. Last week I went up to the island with Mrs. Lobly and left him at home with his little brother. They put in part of the time playing blind man's bluff and Willie ran into a stand, hurting one of his teeth. Robbie at once made an examination and told Willie that if the tooth was not pulled lockjaw would set in. Robbie got an old pair of pinchers and after a great struggle extracted the tooth, a fine front one. His only excuse was that he proposes to be a dentist some day."

"Did you punish him, Mr. Lobly?" "Severely. One evening he came home from school and had his report. Everything was good but his deportment, and I asked him what was the matter with that? He replied that he had a habit of putting his foot on the railing when in class and that the teacher always gave him a mark for that. I saw her and found it was true, but the young rascal had told her that it was hereditary and that it was the way his father always stood in front of a bar. Think of that and I never go near a saloon. Again—"

"No use of further details, Brother Lobly. I know your son better already than you do. I was just such a boy. You must get his energies turned in the right direction and then bring him up for the ministry. He will make a mighty worker in the vineyard."

"Well, parson, if that is the kind of material they make preachers of it's a puzzle to me why there are not more men in the pulpit than in the body of the church."

Fish Eating His Meadow Grass.

A rancher, whose place is on the bottom along the Willamette slough, below Holbrook station, was in the city yesterday to find out whether he had any recourse against the United States fish commission for introducing carp into the rivers in this section. He says these fish are destroying his meadows by eating his grass and grubbing up the roots. As the water overflows his meadow the carp follow it up in thousands, the small ones, weighing about three pounds, pushing their way up where the water is only three inches or so in depth and clearing off all vegetation, so that when the water recedes he will have mud flats in the place of meadows. He says that while looking at the fish eating his grass on Sunday he got so mad that he took off his shoes and stockings and went out into the shallow water and attacked them with a hoe. He slashed a lot of them in two, but when the drove became alarmed and made for deep water they bumped against his shins and came near knocking him off his feet, and his ankles are all black and blue from the thumping he got. As for driving the carp away, he says he might as well have tried to sweep back the rise of the Columbia with a broom.—Morning Oregonian.



SUPT. W. A. GORDON.

corded a greater variety of vegetable diet and not so much meat as formerly. Every week there is a picnic, where good music is furnished, and dancing is indulged in. Refreshments are served after. The popular magazines of the day are much more liberally supplied than heretofore. Bus rides are used to a large extent, and are supposed to have a helpful influence. The disposal of the sewage has been materially altered. Considerable attention has been given to promoting the comfort of the employees. A separate dining-room has been fitted for them, also a reception-room for their special benefit. Injunctions of oil and massage treatment have been introduced and form a prominent feature in the treatment of the insane. A very humane feature is the leaving of the doors of the patients unlocked at night, and the night force has been increased, so that the ancient