

It is impossible to borrow trouble without paying usurious interest.

The Buffalo Express says: "Anybody who can ride a bicycle can go to war." Fall in, girls!

A scientific exchange says: "The number of rows on an ear of corn is always even." That's odd.

The Denver Times says: "An Indian chief will sell anything but his blanket." He is completely wrapped up in it.

Apart from other circumstances, that four and a half per cent loan shows the degree of interest England takes in China.

Speaking of the "war spirit," it may as well be admitted that the Kentucky moonshiners are still turning out a good deal of it.

It is said that a French officer has invented a noiseless cannon which is very destructive. Why not introduce it for use on the Fourth of July?

It should be unnecessary to state that the use of the wheel by Chinese women implies more or less of a revolution in that conservative country.

Reformer Charlotte Smith "demands that the Secretary of War shall enlist 80,000 unmarried women at once to fight Spain." Why so many?

It has been discovered that forty-four different muscles are called into play whenever a man says "I'll take the same." It's the same when he smiles.

The United States has no use for the Philippine Islands and no intention of annexing them; but then they might prove a very acceptable present to Japan.

When the surprising figure of over 800,000 is announced as the number of telephones in this country, it's a very plegmatic nature that isn't inclined to exclaim, Hello!

That New Jersey man who has made seven unsuccessful attempts to commit suicide should not despair. Warm weather will soon be here and then he can easily walk out of the State.

An Ohio man has written to the navy department to advise that all American men-of-war be armed with rubber instead of steel. He probably thinks such a cruiser would win in the stretch.

People cry out, "This is an unheroic age" and while they are yet speaking some act of splendid daring. The last of the Boston firemen who lately died in the defense of property, puts them to silence.

It has been discovered that the recent fatal fire in Pittsburgh, which claimed a half-dozen victims, was caused by an explosion of whisky. What sort of stuff do those Pittsburghers drink, anyway?

Americans abroad carry their patriotism with them. Those in London have raised a considerable fund for the survivors of the Maine explosion, and those in Mexico City have started a subscription for a monument to those who were lost.

It is disheartening to read of the conviction for fraud of a youthful scion of a noble English house, whose ancient motto, "Ne vile velis," may be rendered, "Choose nothing base." Gentle birth has its obligations, as the old French proverb reminds us, and one of them certainly must be to keep unstained a name made honorable by generations of worthy ancestors.

One duty of ministers is to say, "Come." "Don't come," is the message of a missionary at Dawson City, and it is given to warn away the multitude dreaming that there is wealth for them in the Yukon district. He is thus preaching physical salvation, for "the country is already overcrowded, and the supply of labor is greater than the demand." Do not forget those two words, "Don't come!"

Occasions like the present fill the crank with unutterable joy. He finds himself translated into his element—that of conceiving fantastic schemes and projects and of startling the country with the novelty of his inventions. He has implicit faith in them, and sees nothing incongruous in their acceptance. A most sanguine individual, he entertains not the slightest misgiving as to the practicability of his suggestions, and he cannot be induced to concede the possibility of failure.

Besides the income tax, there is in Prussia, though not in the rest of Germany, a tax on capital, as upon land and household property. All fortunes under \$300 are exempt from taxation. The minister of finance has just published the results of this "capital tax" for 1897, and these reflect a picture of the financial condition of the well-to-do population of Prussia, exclusive of small capitalists. The aggregate wealth of those liable to taxation amounted to \$3,300,000,000, an increase upon 1896 of more than \$827,000,000. Of this sum \$2,000,000,000 goes to the credit of the towns, the other \$1,300,000,000 to that of the country. Only 5,440 taxpayers possess a fortune of \$50,000, and of these only 1,891 have more than \$100,000. Floating capital totaled \$1,100,

000,000, and landed property, \$1,200,000,000. Of those who possess over \$50,000 1,100 reside in Berlin.

It is all of a piece with the tyrannical French Government that Zola's friends should be punished for their share, however slight, in his recent trial. One would think France had returned to the days when any objectionable person could be clapped into the Bastille, for this beautiful third republic goes the monarchy one better, and out-Herods Herod by punishing a man's defenders. It is hoped that Col. Picquart is not cast down by being placed on the half-pay of lieutenant, and not being permitted to wear a military uniform. His turn will come yet, and though there are no more Bastilles to be destroyed, what now stands for that prison must in time be also overthrown. It is known that states and nations die like everything else in nature, that fashions pass and are reborn once in so many decades, and it may be that the fashion of tyranny is to return by way of Paris. At all events, the spirit that fostered the Commune is rife.

The details of the terrible heat which prevailed in February in certain colonies of Australia show it to have been one of the most fearful natural visitations of modern times. The water in the wells and streams dried up and large rivers shrank to the size of ditches, miles and miles of farms were burned over, and townships were blotted out by bush fires. The shipping was stopped by the dense clouds of smoke. The fish in the rivers and the cattle and sheep on the plains were destroyed and no one knows how many human beings were lost. The towns and cities were filled with crowds of half-naked and terror-stricken people who had lost everything they had in the world. Following the awful blistering heat came storms and tornadoes which added to the terror and then epidemics began their deadly work. The visitation extended as far south as Melbourne. It will be a long time before Australia will recover from the disaster. The harvests were destroyed, and having no wheat to export the Australians have had to purchase and have been sending their gold to San Francisco for that purpose. The pasturage was also destroyed, which means the loss of the sheep. As it is the great wool producing section of the world, it follows that the price of wool will go up.

The large increase in the consumption of sugar in the world has made the yield of that staple the subject of considerable investigation. The normal yield of sugar in the world is 8,000,000 tons per annum, of which something over half comes from beets. The cane sugar comes chiefly from the West Indies and the island of Java. The growth of the beet-sugar industry in the United States has become a very important item in our domestic trade. In 1888 our product was 2,800 tons; in 1890 it was 12,000 tons; in 1894 it was 20,000 tons, and last year it reached 43,000 tons, and the business is as yet in its infancy. Very much of this increase is due to the bounty paid to sugar producers by the government between July, 1891, and July, 1895. That sugar is as necessary as salt for human food is claimed by medical men, but the amount consumed per capita seems to bear no relation to the actual necessities of the human race. It seems to be a rule that in those countries where the spirit of navigation, commerce, travel and colonization is strong the general consumption of sugar is large, whereas in those countries where such a spirit is not dominant the demand for sugar is diminished. In England, which is clearly first among the maritime nations, the consumption of sugar is 86 pounds per capita annually; in Denmark it is 45; in Holland, 31; in France, 30; in Norway and Sweden, 25; in Russia, 10; in Italy, 7; in Turkey, 7; in Greece, 6; and in Serbia, 4. In the United States the consumption of sugar per capita has very steadily increased for many years. In 1878 the amount was 34 pounds for each individual, in 1881 it was 44 pounds, in 1886 it was 56 pounds, in 1891 it was 66 pounds, but in 1897 it was 61 pounds. It does not seem to make much difference with the use of sugar whether or not a nation produces it, for in Austria, the sugar yield of which is very large, the people use only 19 pounds each, yet in Switzerland, where no sugar at all is produced, the individual consumption is 44 pounds. One would naturally suppose that the two peoples who use the most tea would use substantially the same quantity of sugar, but take England and Russia, the two great tea-drinking peoples of Europe; the one uses 80 pounds of sugar per capita and the other only 10. There is no doubt that a very large proportion of the sugar used by a nation is eaten in the form of confectionery. Candy is used more and more by individuals who have long since ceased to be children, and while a few years ago a candy manufactory was a rare thing, even in this country, the bonbon box filled with sweets is now generally to be found on the table in the sitting-room of the well-to-do family. In cars, on the street and at the theater people are frequently seen with a box of choice confectionery, which they are eating with infinite enjoyment.

The prospect in Indiana and Illinois is improving rapidly, with local exceptions, largely in the southern part of each State, and the present condition is fully up to the average for a series of years. The very low condition heretofore reported for the general average of Missouri does not represent the situation in that State. Improvement has been rapid, and there is now at least an average crop prospect. At this date it would be ridiculous to talk of probable crop results, but it now seems apparent that the 1897 crop will at least enter its period of spring growth with an excellent promise, whatever may befall it later in its history.

The Female Reporter—I am just dying to be original—send me somewhere that no lady reporter has ever gone. The Editor (musingly)—Well, you might go to heaven—The Yellow Book. A man had arrangements made to commit suicide, but growing more desperate got married instead. It's a trying time for a woman when she visits her dressmaker.

CROP WORK AHEAD.

WINTER HAS BEEN A BOON TO FARMERS.

Springlike Weather, Following a Mild Term, Proved to Be Beneficial in Almost All Localities—Late Cereal Reports from Various Sections.

Excellent in Promise. Throughout the principal agricultural districts the past winter was remarkable for its mild character. There was little severe or long-continued cold, and the snowfall was light. Following this open winter, spring-like weather was experienced during the greater part of March, so that spring plowing and general farm work is now well advanced, decidedly ahead of recent years.

Oats seeding and corn preparation are far in advance of last year, and, in spite of the interruption occasioned by cold weather and storms during the last week of March, the general farm preparation for the season's work has made unusual progress. Spring wheat seeding began more than a month earlier than last year, with the soil in excellent working order, and, while storms of the past ten days caused an interruption, yet a large enough area has already been planted to mark the season as one remarkably early. Throughout the great central valleys the soil has worked readily, and until the last week in March there were few localities in which wet weather interfered with plowing.

East of the Missouri River winter wheat was sown last fall under peculiarly unfavorable conditions. The long summer and fall drought made plowing difficult, and the proper pulverization of the seed bed almost impossible. Seed was sown in dust, germination was slow and uneven, and first growth small and straggling. Rains came early in November, and a large part of the acreage was seeded after the first of that month, but it was felt that grain sown at that late date gave but a problematical promise at best. From the date of the November rains up to the present time weather conditions have been favorable for the crop. The winter was mild, and, with abundance of moisture, the plant continued to develop through the usual period of hibernation, gathering root strength rather than showing top growth.

The month of March was like April—thirty days ahead of the calendar. Sunshine and showers marked the first three weeks of the month, and the effect upon the brown, stunted wheat fields of the Ohio Valley was remarkable. Brown gave way to green, bare spots were covered, fields marked for plowing began to give promise of possible crop results. The change of the month in the wheat fields between the Allegheny Mountains and the Missouri River, particularly in this central belt, was sufficient to mark the season as one of the most remarkable on record.

West of the Missouri River conditions have favored the crop from seed time up to the present, and rarely have the wheat fields of Kansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska offered so fine a prospect as at the present time. On the Pacific coast, the situation in Oregon and Washington is all that can be desired. In California conditions are variable. In Texas and Arkansas the winter has been all that could be desired for the crop, spring growth has been good, and the general condition is high. In Tennessee and Kentucky improvement during the past thirty days has been rapid. In Ohio the prospect of condition will be decidedly higher than the last State report, but the Ohio average will be the lowest among the important States. The winter and spring in Michigan have been favorable, and the present condition of the crop is good.

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BLAIR STATUE COMPLETE.

Will Be Placed in Michigan Capitol Grounds Next Month. The statue of Gov. Austin Blair, ordered by the Michigan Legislature for the capitol grounds at Lansing, is complete.



STATUE OF AUSTIN BLAIR. The statue of Michigan's war Governor will be placed on the capitol grounds in May, probably on Decoration day.

Proof of Treachery Is Clear. English naval experts say that the report of the American court of inquiry clearly proves that the Maine was wrecked by an external cause, and that Spain must be held responsible for the disaster.

The yacht Mayflower, recently purchased by the Government, has been put in the dry dock at the Brooklyn navy yard to be fitted up as a torpedo boat destroyer.

English tourists report a remarkable demand for American goods in China and Japan.

WORDS OF MENACE TO SPAIN.

War Resolutions Introduced in United States Congress.

By Senator Frye of Maine. Resolved, That the President of the United States be and he is hereby directed and empowered to take such effective steps as in his discretion may be necessary to secure a speedy termination of the hostilities between the government of Spain and the people of Cuba, and the withdrawal of the military and naval forces of Spain from said island, and the complete independence of said people.

By Representative Marsh of Illinois. Resolved, That war be and the same is hereby declared to exist between the government of Spain and her dependencies and the United States and her Territories, and that the President of the United States is hereby authorized to use the whole land and naval force of the United States, including the militia and the naval militia thereof, to carry the same into effect.

By Sen. or Rawlins of Utah. Resolved, That the independence of the republic of Cuba be and the same is hereby recognized, and that against the kingdom of Spain be and the same is hereby declared, and the President is hereby authorized to employ the land and naval forces of the United States of America to wage such war to success.

By Senator Allen of Nebraska. Resolved, That the republic of Cuba now and hereinafter maintained by force of arms, is hereby recognized by the United States of America, as a separate and independent nation. That the United States shall immediately intervene and put an end to the war now being waged on the island of Cuba, and shall secure and release from imprisonment the people there concentrated for the purpose of starvation and extermination.

By Senator Foraker of Ohio. Resolved, That the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be, free and independent. That the government of the United States hereby recognizes the republic of Cuba as the lawful and legitimate government of that island. That the war Spain is waging against Cuba is so destructive of the commercial and property interests of the United States, and so cruel, barbarous, and inhuman in its character as to make it the duty of the United States to demand, and the government of the United States does hereby demand that she at once withdraw her land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters. That the President of the United States be and he is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to use, if necessary, the entire land and naval forces of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect.

EARTHQUAKE CAUSES PANIC.

Residents of San Francisco Frightened by Seismic Shocks.

Residents of San Francisco and neighboring cities were much excited over the earthquake which shook the city and vicinity just before midnight Wednesday. The vibrations continued fifteen seconds after the shock was felt and many persons were thrown into a panic. Buildings trembled on their foundations, telegraph and telephone wires were broken and numberless panes of glass were broken during the short space of time the shock was felt. Several hours elapsed before the fears of the panic-stricken populace were quieted and the streets cleared. Severe shocks were felt at Sacramento, San Jose, Merced, Stockton and Santa Cruz. The shock was confined to northern California. Vallejo and Mare Island suffered much damage, the loss at the navy yard being estimated at not less than \$25,000. The naval hospital was wrecked and the Government sawmill thrown down. In the town of Vallejo, just across the channel, the loss runs into the thousands. At the University of California in Berkeley the seismograph at the students' observatory in Berkeley showed that the shock lasted between thirty and forty seconds. The general direction of the vibration was from east to west. The instrument showed that the shock was heavy in a small area.

LEE'S LIFE THREATENED.

Warned in Two Days of Five Distinct Plots to Assassinate Him.

Havana advices say that Consul General Lee was warned Sunday and Monday of five distinct plots against his life. It was reported to him that many of the rabid Weyerites are determined to kill him and that all sorts of plans have been evolved to accomplish that purpose.

Gen. Lee professes to place but little credence in the many reports that reach him of threats against him, but it is noted that he is more closely guarded than ever by the Government. The latest story to reach the consul was that he would be poisoned by a bribed employe of his hotel. To this Gen. Lee replied by asking the newspaper correspondents who sit near him at meal time, in case he is suddenly taken ill, first to shoot his waiter and then to run for a stomach pump.

Marix Says It Was a Mine.

Lieutenant Commander Marix, judge advocate of the board of inquiry into the Maine disaster, on being released from the path of secrecy in relation to the blowing up of the battleship, had this to say: "We know that the Maine was blown up by a mine as surely as a physician knows a man was poisoned when he finds him suffering from the effects of poison."

FIRST ARTESIAN WELLS.

Uncle Sam's Attempt to Get Water in the State of Texas.

Artesian wells are now pouring a never-ending flood of subterranean water upon the earth's surface in nearly every State located within the well-defined limits of the artesian well basins of this continent. From British America to the Rio Grande the busy drill has penetrated the varied strata in search of water lying under a pressure sufficient to raise it to the light of day. In some localities, notably in Utah, a flow has been secured at a depth of less than 400 feet. In other places thousands of dollars have been expended in boring 3,000 or even 4,000 feet toward the center of the earth without results.

The average depth at which water is secured seems to be about 1,400 feet, and such a well under ordinary circumstances costs between \$2,500 and \$3,000. This is with the improved machinery and transportation facilities of modern days. Deprived of these, well-boring becomes expensive to the point of impracticability.

Uncle Sam dug a well himself many years ago in the Panhandle of Texas. It is the first attempt on record to secure an artesian flow in the Lone Star State. It was only 700 feet deep, and no water ever came to the surface from it. Since then there have been hundreds of artesian wells bored in Texas which threw fine streams of water, and the pioneer hole has been forgotten by all except a few old-time frontiersmen who went on this peaceful mission into a country which was far from peaceful owing to the anti-civilization creed of the roaming Comanche Indians.

It was in 1857 that this attempt was made, as the United States Government thought it advisable to have a water supply for an army post on the staked plains. An elaborate expedition was fitted out under Captain Polk, who subsequently became a general. Equipped with the best well-boring apparatus available at that time, a formidable wagon train, a force of mechanics and a guard of cavalry, the expedition started from one of the posts near the Gulf Coast. An apparently suitable location was selected and the work begun. Unfortunately for the Government, however, the geological survey had not yet reached that section of the country, and the well-boring was purely experimental. After going down 700 feet and failing to strike flowing water, the scheme was abandoned and the expedition returned to the place from which it came. This was the first attempt ever made in Texas to dig an artesian well, and it cost the Government over \$100,000.—Kansas City Star

Heroism of the Police. Hon. Theodore Roosevelt writes an article on "The Roll of Honor of the New York Police," for the Century. Mr. Roosevelt says: "I doubt if the average citizen, especially the average stay-at-home citizen, realizes how often the man of the night-stick is called upon to display qualities which in a soldier would be called heroic. His feats in saving life or in arresting dangerous criminals, alone or at night, attract no special attention when mentioned in the newspapers, but they often imply just as much courage as those of the man who captures an enemy's flag in battle, or plants his own flag on a hostile parapet. The men of the New York police force represent all the different creeds and different race origins that go to the make-up of our stock; but they all become good Americans who pay no heed to differences of creed and race, for otherwise they would be useless. The police occupy positions of great importance. They not merely preserve order, the first essential of both liberty and civilization, but to a large portion of our population they stand as the embodiment as well as the representative of the law of the land. To the average dweller in a tenement-house district, especially if born abroad, the policeman is in his own person all that there is of government; he is judge, executive, and legislature, constitution and town meeting. His power and influence are great. For any vice or shortcoming he should be sternly punished, but for gallantry and good conduct he should receive prompt and generous recognition."

The Origin of a Tennyson Poem. Tennyson's poem of "St. Telemachus" originated thus: Lord Tennyson, one day when Dean Farrar was talking with him, asked him to suggest the subject of a poem. After thinking a moment he suggested the story of St. Telemachus leaping down into the amphitheater, and, by his self-devoted martyrdom, putting an end forever to the hideous butcheries of the gladiatorial games, a scene which Dean Farrar has described in his "Gathering Clouds," and which is the subject of the famous picture, "The Gladiators." To his surprise, Tennyson had never heard the story, and was much struck with it. He asked the dean to send him, when he returned, all the authorities on the subject. That was easily done, for it rests on the single authority of the Greek ecclesiastical historian Theodoret. The dean sent him the passage in the original Greek, and he clothed it in the magnificent poem, which may be read in almost his latest volume, "The Death of Oenone, and Other Poems."—The Bookman.

It is surprising how well a man can live at a boarding house for three dollars and a half a week, and how little thirty-five dollars a week will get him when keeping house. After a woman has been married a few years, she is an unusual woman if she isn't posted on all the new medicines. Our idea of a thoroughbred, is a man willing to get drunk twice in one day.

News of Minor Note.

Orin W. Brereton, aged 25 years and married, was killed by falling into a mining shaft at Cripple Creek, Colo.

Judge Campbell of San Francisco has decided that a cat is not a domestic animal and cannot, therefore, be claimed as the property of any one.

William Johnson of Claremore, I. T., shot and killed United States Marshal Arnold and was himself killed by Deputy Busey, while resisting arrest.

Capt. Sobral, Spain's late naval attaché at Washington, who has plans of the United States coast defenses, has been appointed on the staff of the admiralty.

In accordance with the wishes of Farmer Appleby of Hempstead, N. Y., his widow caused his remains to be cremated and scattered the ashes over the fields.

The winter's gold output of the Klondike is estimated at \$9,000,000, which will be sent down the Yukon by the first steamer after the opening of navigation.

Miss M. C. Stone of Roxbury, Mass., has made up her mind to possess some Klondike gold. She has arranged to go with a party of twenty-four men, and they expect to start about the middle of April in a schooner around the horn. Provisions for two years will be taken.

There is a movement on foot to organize a stock company in Houston, Texas, for the purpose of making that place a tobacco market, to serve as an outlet for the heavy crops of that State. Three thousand acres will be planted in Harris and the counties immediately surrounding Houston.