

# THE WHEELING WORLD

The slump in bicycle prices taken in connection with the decision to hold cycling shows this winter furnishes abundant evidence of the collapse of what was called the high grade wheel trade. The combination was composed of two-thirds of the leading manufacturers and naturally exerted tremendous influence in the trade. Through the medium of the National Cycle Board of Trade it fixed prices, regulated commissions and put in force uniform guarantees on wheels and tires. The immediate cause of the slump is not far to seek. It may be ascribed to the fact that the market was glutted with high priced wheels, which gave good service for the price, forced down the high grades. Business necessities also hit down restrictions imposed by makers, and limited demand did the rest. Never in the history of cycling was the prospect better for bicycle bottom prices for the best makes of bicycles.

The New York Tribune reports that League of American Wheelmen politicians are actively at work fixing "slates" for the present and for the most prominent candidates for the presidency at the coming election. "The present slate" are Frank Kireker of New Jersey, and T. J. Keenan of Pittsburgh. Herbert Foutz of Indiana is mentioned as a likely candidate for the vice presidency. As for the candidacy of Isaac B. Potter of New York for re-election, nobody is authorized to speak about the matter. Mr. Potter has been as dumb as the proverbial clam regarding his intentions, and even his most intimate friends have been unable to get him to say a word about his intentions. Massachusetts is also quiet regarding her preferences for the presidency. Still, should Massachusetts and New York come out strong for Potter, possibly New Jersey might do the same for Kireker. It is not believed that Kireker would stand in the way of the New York man.

Bicycle racing is still prominently before the minds of the members of the League of American Wheelmen, and each person is being seriously asked as to whether it should or should not be dropped from the affairs of the organization. Chairman Mott is still decidedly against any departure from the present plan of supervision by the league, and President Potter, now that a fight has been opened by the race promoters and riders, has also reached the opinion that the league should control racing. But there is much opposition to this plan, and the next meeting of the delegates, in February, promises to bring forth some interesting things, provided the matter is not settled by that time by outside parties.

The L. A. W. Bulletin, the official organ of the league, argues against further supervision of racing. The league aims, it states, not to promote bicycle racing, but to promote the good of the wheeling public, as to which and its main object should be to secure good riding.

Starting Elliott, ex-president of the League of American Wheelmen and editor of the publication, speaks on the topic in this fashion in the issue of November 4:

"There was a time when a bicycle race was properly regarded as a desirable help to the cause of cycling; when people stopped and looked curiously after a passing bicycle as they do now at a motor-carriage or a dancing bear; when the man who had bicycles to sell must needs find odd, cranky people to sell them to."

"But the time has long since passed when it could be considered of the slightest consequence whether bicycle racing lived or died. In fact, there is much reason for believing that the general tone of cycling would be improved if it were possible to stop bicycle racing altogether."

"The racing man humps his back and puts his head down to lessen his air resistance. You know the result as well as I do. Though I wouldn't be willing to admit that you know it any better than I do."

"Air resistance increases as the square of the velocity, so that the only defensible reason for looking like the connecting link is entirely absent at slow speeds and, at the average speed of the average rider, is of far less consequence than is the healthfulness of keeping himself in the form that God made him."

"If the League of American Wheelmen formally turns the control of racing over to some other body we will be to a certain extent—in the eyes of the public, at least—responsible for the actions of that body."

"I don't believe in placing it on anybody's doorstep—any more than a man who has smothered his cigar would insult another by offering him the butt."

"Let us drop it in the middle of the street, in broad daylight, not knowing who will pick it up and feeling pleased that we don't have to know anything about it."

"Does horse-racing encourage people to ride in horse-drawn carriages?"

"The cock fights stimulate the racing of ordinary poultry?"

"Is the dog fight a guaranty that people will think more of dogs?"

"Does politics, as practiced in some of the large cities, prompt decent people to aspirations along that line?"

"If the game is true, then cycling racing is an advantage to all who have an interest in the legitimate use of the wheel."

"If cycling racing, as now conducted, ought to live, it will live, but it should live on its merits, as other forms of amusement have, and not at the expense of the reputation of the game."

fine and the people friendly and hospitable. At the ruins of Patresco, he obtained an autograph in the porch of Xerox, immediately beneath the following inscription: "Stanley, New York Herald, 1870."

For part of the journey through Asia the wheelers were accompanied by an interpreter on horseback, and when out of the way, the path led to speak Hindustani and Chinese well enough to make himself understood.

**WHIST.**  
The scores made at the regular Wednesday evening meeting of the Omaha Whist club are given below. The cards were very carefully played and the gains and losses were small:

Allee and Shea, plus 5.  
Coo and Lawrence, plus 5.  
Burrill and McDowell, plus 4.  
Jordan and Scannell, plus 2.  
Crummer and Sackett, minus 1.  
Shea and Stebbins, minus 2.  
Constock and Meikle, minus 6.  
Hawks and Meikle, minus 7.

The Omaha Whist club has been asked to send representatives to the annual meeting of the Nebraska State Whist association, which will be held at Grand Island this winter, at a date not yet announced. The invitation will doubtless be accepted.

The members of the Omaha Whist club who did not go to Council Bluffs last Saturday evening missed a royal good time. The Bluffs players did everything possible to make it pleasant for their visitors. They served an elegant lunch, and even went so far as to allow themselves to be beaten by an overwhelming score. Every whist player knows that that is the very acme of hospitality. The players sat in the room until late in the evening, and played the same thirty traya, with the following result. The first mentioned players in each case are the Omaha representatives:

Millard and McDowell beat Maloney and Eastland, 13 points.  
Burrill and Sweeney beat Waterman and Treynor, 8 points.  
Scribner and Shipley beat Morgan and Shea, 5 points.  
Coo and Lawrence beat Stubbs and Sims, 7 points.  
Scannell and Burkle beat Eimry and Mayne, 5 points.  
Constock and Meikle beat Wickham and Organ, 4 points.  
Allee and Wilbur beat Stuart and Brungton, 3 points.  
Boulter and Jordan beat Shison and Dodge, 2 points.  
Crummer and Sackett lost to Barstow and Shea, 1 point.  
Garner and Stebbins lost to Cook and Webster, 1 point.

The game of last Saturday evening with Council Bluffs proved to be such a pleasant affair that a movement is on foot to have a monthly contest between the two cities, to be taken part in by the eight players of each club that have the best record for the month.

If you hold five trumps, not including the high card combinations, and your partner calls, you will lead him your fourth best. If he wins the trick and returns another winning card, you will drop to your lowest card, or play a better one than you lead. With some regularity, we will answer this question, and quote a recognized whist authority, justifying his play?

**BUSY ENOUGH BEING A WOMAN.**  
**Failure of the New Woman to Convert Her Old-Fashioned Mother.**

An old woman, who has not kept up with the sex's onward march and has not changed her ideas as to the importance of woman in the scheme of creation, has come to spend the winter with her daughter in New York, reports the Sun. The daughter is in the advance guard of the triumphing host. She belongs to clubs for the study and promotion of anything within sight except domestic activities. The fact that her mother did not belong to a club of any sort was more than she could bear with resignation, and with her usual zeal for promoting, she determined to promote the happiness of her mother by introducing her to the joys of club membership.

She took her to meeting after meeting, but the mother was hard to convert. She couldn't understand Browning and she disapproved of rainy-day skirts and principles, and renaissance sculpture bored her and she rebelled outright against political action. Finally, however, she succumbed to her indomitable daughter and compromised on a reading club in connection with a church guild. She didn't show much enthusiasm and when, in the course of a few weeks, she was elected to write and read papers on "Woman's Influence Upon Church History" she protested tearfully and went home in despair. Her daughter reassured her:

"That won't be any trouble, mother, and it will interest you and stir you up. You get your material together and I'll help you. Now you just take the carriage and go down to the Astor library tomorrow. Get 'Poole's Index' and turn to the heading, 'Woman,' and you'll be sure to find something along your line."

The next morning the mother started for the library with a melancholy look on her usually placid face. Two hours later she came back, and as she walked into the family sitting room her daughter noted a change in her appearance. There was a pink tush in her cheeks, her lips were pressed firmly together, her shoulders were squared, aggressively.

"Did you get your material, mother?"

"No, I didn't." The tone was crisp and decided. "I got that Index and turned to 'Woman' and I read titles of articles about woman for two solid hours. I didn't find anything about woman in church, but there were women in every line. I'd never known in time, for they were about succumbing to insensibility. Mrs. McIlraith's boots had frozen to her feet and had to be cut away. So badly were her feet injured by the terrible exposure that a surgical operation had to be performed to save them. I'd never seen a woman in privations of the journey. Mrs. McIlraith, who weighed only 94 pounds when she left Chicago, increased to 115 pounds. Her husband lost five pounds of his weight."

The tales told by the intrepid voyagers began to tell. They were the only foreigners who crossed the borders of the province of Hunan and lived to tell the tale. It is a most savage country and forbidden ground to all foreigners. A few months before the McIlraiths accomplished the almost impossible, two expeditions of missionaries attempted to enter, and both were massacred. The Chicagoans had no idea of entering this unsafe place, but found themselves at the gates of Tou Chow, the capital, before they knew where they were. They were captured and marched through the streets and treated as they would be by a mob that pelted them with stones.

The magistrate, astonished by the pluck of the riders, sheltered them against the mob and had them conducted beyond the gates of the city by an escort of 100 soldiers and sailors. The journey was made by boat and occupied twenty-three days.

Having been fortunate enough to escape the wrath of the Tou Chowans Mr. and Mrs. McIlraith discarded the advice of friends not to enter the City of Shashi, and again they were assaulted by a mob. The Japanese consul stopped in and protected them by securing them on a boat in which they sailed to Icheng.

From there the roads were impassable for wheels and McIlraith walked 1,600 miles, while his wife was carried by natives in a chair. They were on the way ninety-two days. Roumania is described by Mr. McIlraith as the paradise for wheelers. The roads are

## METEORIC SHOWER TONIGHT

Constellation Leo Rises at Midnight in a Fiery Spectacle.

PELTES THE EARTH WITH MOLTEN LEGIONS

Course of the Meteor Will Be Marked by Brilliant Pyrotechnics in the Heavens—It Are Awful Inspiring.

The late sojourner on the street tonight, if he happens to look up serenely into the sky in the east, will see the grandest meteoric display of the year. The constellation of Leo rises at midnight, and he swings into view above the horizon and mounts the heavens his path will be marked by a fiery spectacle stupendous in magnitude and dazzling in beauty—the opening assault of the Leonid meteors which besiege the earth in molten legions three times in every century.

The main body of these aerial wanderers will cross the orbit of the earth in November, 1899, but as the host extends over a length of 2,000,000,000 of miles, our sphere comes in contact with them three times before this last has passed the point of intersection.

According to William F. Rigge, professor of astronomy in Creighton college, the display which will be seen tonight will not compare in magnitude or beauty with what would be visible at noon tomorrow if it were possible for us to obscure the sun. At that time the earth will pass through the densest part of the meteoric stream, and the constellation of Leo arises again Monday night the rear files of the train will still be streaming across the point of intersection.

The approach of the shower will be seen tonight while the constellation is still below the horizon. The meteors will shoot upward like skyrocket discharges at a distance and disperse like mist and fog, and later, as the radiant point approaches the zenith, their paths when traced backward will appear to meet like the spokes of a gigantic wheel hung in the sky. The wanderers, coming from the eastward, will enter the atmosphere of the earth with a velocity of forty-four miles per second.

Another Shower Coming.

Another great meteoric shower will occur the night of November 27, and will be caused by the meeting of the earth with the meteors known as the Andromedes, or Biells, which were last seen in a great shower in 1885. At that time a huge ball of molten iron dropping from the sky, buried itself in the ground near Mazapil, in Mexico.

Instead of running to meet the Andromedes meteors, as it does with the Leonids, the earth will move away from them, and it is only on account of their great velocity that they will be seen. The result is that those who have watched the swiftly-flying Leonids will think that they are moving very slow. Another difference will be observed in the colors. While the prevailing hues of the Leonids are blue and green, that of the Andromedes will be red.

Until the year 125 of our era there is reason to believe that the Leonid meteors were free wanderers in open space. Then they encountered the planet Uranus and were diverted into a closer orbit around the sun, intersecting that of the earth.

The encounter with these meteors in 1833 furnished a spectacle that spread terror broadcast over the whole world. The greatest excitement was among the negro slaves of the south, who believed that the end of the world was at hand. Their masters could not disabuse them of their fears and source of their terror was a building formed a comet, as the Andromedes did in 1872. What the ultimate effect of their repeated encounters with the earth will be can easily be conjectured, as they are every time more widely scattered.

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**Meteor Has An Accident.**  
The Andromeda meteors which are due to the planet Uranus, had a most remarkable, though a brief history, than the Leonids. They are not known to have been seen before 1872. But previous to that time a well known comet traveled their track. Fifty years ago something wonderful happened to another comet, which was named after an asteroid—and when it appeared again in 1859 it came as a double comet, though its parts had been flung hundreds of thousands of miles apart. But when it was next due, in 1872, instead of the twin comets, a host of meteors appeared in the sky, and the planet Uranus was again the meteoric comet again in 1885, when one of them fell in Mexico, and now they are due again. They will not make the pyrotechnical display that the Leonids will because they will not be favored by so modest a speed. It will be a display of fire and light, flooding the heavens with a light that will pale the phosphorescent streaks of the Andromedes.

In viewing a shower of meteors, all of which seem to be pelting the earth with unrelenting fury, the average observer who gazes upon the spectacle with untroubled equanimity is unaware in how simple a manner we are protected from their onslaughts. The air is our armor and it proves almost invulnerable. What the effect of a small meteor striking a human body with diminished velocity would be, is not known. Would such a body, when it meets the atmosphere has a speed of from 60,000 to 250,000 feet per second, blow a man to pieces, or would it incinerate him like a stroke of lightning, as it is itself by the heat of its rush through the air? We can only ask the question while we watch the thousands of such missiles burning themselves to harmless puffs of gas a few miles above our well-protected heads. So of the swarms that filled the air as thick as fireflies during previous manifestations for the moment only one is known to have reached the earth, the Mazapil meteor, and that cannot be definitely said to have belonged to the train from which it seemed to fall.

But there is a peril from the meteors that comes from an extraordinary amount of matter coming from the outer space will be introduced by them into our atmosphere. It will float in invisible clouds above our heads and will gradually sink to our level to be inspired in infinitesimal quantities into the human body. It is known that in arctic regions this dust has been seen sprinkled on the snow in a thin layer of blackness, stretching for miles along the white expanse, and deep sea soundings have shown that the ooze at the ocean's bottom contains quantities of the same matter that have sunk down of the same matter that have reached the earth, the Mazapil meteor, and that cannot be definitely said to have belonged to the train from which it seemed to fall.

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## From the Surgeon General of the French Army.

During long, tedious marches our soldiers and officers found instant relief from fatigue and hardships when using the marvelous tonic, Vin Mariani—it prevents fevers and sickness in the warshy and unhealthy territory.

A. LIBERMANN, M.D.  
Surgeon General French Army.

Marching of English Soldiers:  
From "The London Sketch."

General Sir Evelyn Wood says:  
"Regarding the infantry marching, it was the best seen during my command at Aldershot, or since I was first stationed there 28 years ago. Many officers availed themselves of the tonic and reconstituted properties of the well known Mariani Wine, he most certain as well as the most palatable method of inducing resistance to fatigue."

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Boxes and Cases Already on Hand Indicate that the Collection Will Be Extensive and Valuable from Every Point of View.

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# VIN MARIANI (MARIANI WINE)

is invaluable at this season of the year. when owing to trying climatic changes, the system is especially susceptible to attacks of malaria and la grippe.

MARIANI WINE is especially indicated for General Debility, Weakness from whatever causes, Throat and Lung diseases. Overwork, Profound Depression and Exhaustion, Consumption, Malaria and La Grippe.

MARIANI WINE as a general tonic and invigorant is unequalled. It gives power to the brain—richness to the blood, firmness and elasticity to the muscles and strength to the entire nervous system. Therefore it is described as a promoter of good health and longevity. It contains absolutely no injurious properties, as any conscientious physician or chemist will certify.

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SPECIAL NOTICE—All endorsements cited in our advertisements are absolutely true. The originals are on file and will be cheerfully submitted to the inspection of any and all persons applying.

REWARD—Mariani Wine contains absolutely no injurious properties. It benefits all and injures none. A reward of \$500 is offered for information leading to the person or persons who have furnished statements calculated to injure the well established reputation of "VIN MARIANI." MARIANI & CO.

To those who will kindly write to MARIANI & Co., 32 West 15th St., New York City, will be sent, free, book containing portraits and autographs of Emperors, Princes, Cardinals, Archbishops and other illustrious names.

Paris—41 Boulevard Haussmann; London—83 Mortimer St.; Montreal—28-30 Hospital St.

Board of Women Managers. It is a printed volume, "Weimar, 1803," and is allegorical, showing portraits of leading learned men and women of that time, gathered at Weimar, which was considered the Athens of Germany at that period.

The figure of Neptune from the pillar in the fountain in the Court of Honor and the statue of "Winged Victory" from the Art gallery have been donated to the library and will be placed in the art rooms.

SECRETS OF SNAKE CHARMING.  
Facts Which Are Only Tricks of the Trade.

A few days ago, relates the New York Times, there appeared in one of the daily papers a wonderful story of a snake which was charmed by the strains of a Jew's-harp. The story was to the effect that a countryman, meeting a dangerous reptile in a road, was horrified at seeing the creature prepare to attack him. Being an enthusiastic collector of snakes, he immediately struck up the tune, "St. Patrick's Day in the Morning," which either paralyzed the serpent with astonishment or sent a series of sentimental chills down its undulating vertebrae. At any rate, it discarded all hostile intentions and became motionless, while the countryman mercilessly ground its head into the dust.

This is an example of the many "snake stories" which appear constantly before the eyes of credulous humanity. It originates, like all of its kind, from superstitious fears. The familiar exhibitions of the East Indian fakirs, during which the deadly cobra is made to "dance" to the music of a flute, have led many to believe that these creatures are extremely sensitive to the sound of music. But exhibitions of this character are only tricks practiced by the clever Hindoo and the cobra, instead of being in a quiescent, charmed condition, as it waves its body to and fro, is really in a fit of intense anger.

Not long ago a large cobra was in the possession of Dr. Joseph P. Thompson of the United States army. This reptile was purchased by Dr. Thompson in South Africa. It was then in the possession of some professional snake charmers. After it had left their hands it was made to go through a lively performance without the accompaniment of the weird music of the fakir.

The operation of making the cobra dance is very simple. The reptile has the characteristic habit of elevating the forward part of the body from the ground when annoyed, spreading its neck or hood, and glaring fiercely at the object of its anger. When in this position its keen eyes watch eagerly for a chance to deliver a deadly blow, observing every movement of the object or person in front of it. If one moves, no matter how slightly, there is a corresponding nervous movement on the part of the snake. Here the entire secret of the snake dance is explained. When the Hindoo opens the snake basket the cobra rises continuously to their peculiar position of defiance. He now commands the snakes to dance, at the same time beginning a lively tune upon his flute and awaiting his body to side in time to the music. The nervous cobra follow every motion of the supposed charmer. They are not dancing to the music, but, intensely angered, are seeking to revenge themselves upon their human captor.

The snake-charming act of the Spaniards, with the giant boas and pythons at the circus, is even more simple. The large snakes used in these exhibitions are, in the first place, of a harmless nature. Secondly, they are most inoffensive in their habits. The only boa will lift for hours, or days, motionless in its cage, and when suddenly awakened from a long nap is utterly indifferent to what is going on around it. After a few weeks in captivity these huge reptiles become very tame and seem to enjoy being handled by one familiar with their movements. The chief requisites of a "snake-charmer" are great deliberation and sufficient nerve to handle a ten-foot boa or anaconda without the slightest hesitation. A nervous movement is apt to annoy the serpent, and cause it to bite, while if treated gently and handled with movements corresponding to its sluggish habits, it evinces the utmost good nature.

Accounts have been published of large snakes coiling themselves about the object of their annoyance and demonstrating in an exceedingly uncomfortable, if not dangerous, manner the power of their scaly bodies. This characteristic is popularly supposed to be commonly resorted to by the "boa constrictor," but the idea is purely erroneous and originates from an aversion to the serpent race from which have sprung innumerable fallacies and superstitions.

The sooner a cough or cold is cured without harm to the sufferer the better. One Minute Cough Cure quickly cures. Why suffer when such a cough cure is within reach? It is pleasant to the taste.

Another momento is a picture from the Boys' and Girls' building, donated by the

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**OVER A MILLION**

Dr. Hilton's Specific No. 3 is the first remedy ever offered to the public to cure a Cold, the Grip and PREVENT PNEUMONIA, and it is the ONLY remedy today that can do it. It was first advertised January, 1891. Since then over a million bottles have been sold. What better testimonial as to the efficacy of this remedy could we have? If your druggist doesn't have it send \$3.00 in P. O. stamps or money order to DR. HILTON, Lowell, Mass., and receive a bottle by return mail.

**Try Dr. Hilton's Specific No. 3.**

**It Cures a Cold, The Grip and PREVENTS Pneumonia.**

## JOPLIN WRITES FROM MANILA

Former Omaha Railroad Man Now in the Quartermaster Department.

MOSQUITOES AN IRRESPRESSIBLE ENEMY

He Finds Life in the Philippines Mixed with Pleasures as Well as Annoying Inconveniences.

General Freight Agent Wood of the Union Pacific railroad has received an interesting letter from Joseph S. Joplin, connected with the general freight office of the company in this city for the last eleven years, and now stationed at Manila with Quartermaster Samuel R. Jones. The following are a few extracts from the letter:

"At Cavite we had good quarters, with many of the comforts of home and conveniences that make life worth living. Later we were transferred to Camp Dewey, some seven miles distant, and about five miles from Manila. There our luxurious quarters of Cavite changed into tents, and our canvas-bottomed beds were exchanged for bamboo banks. Instead of admiring the rain fall from a second-story window, we found our selves floating about in a foot of water. It had been my belief that I had seen what is termed rain, but since our arrival here I have become convinced they were but showery showers. Rain coats were useless, and dusty streets in a moment became running streams. The mosquitoes in Cavite were terrible, not only at night, but during the day, and while we did not have them to worry us in camp they were replaced by frogs, which seemed to be everywhere around my tent every night."

"The change of location made necessary the movement of supplies, which, with limited facilities, gave us a difficult proposition. We had not the Union Pacific railroad, but had to resort to casks for transportation across the bay, and to bull carts and carromats by land. We were also confronted with obstacles in the way of high seas and poor landings, finally being forced to land supplies at Bacor and Paranaque, south of camp by two and eight miles respectively, and to haul for those distances over roads the like of which I never saw before, rather I should say 'in roads,' for the mud rarely was less than half deep. With all the discomforts, we value the experience, and have enjoyed it. There was ever a certain anticipation and excitement that I must not forget to mention a very pretty fountain. It is a very attractive place, but is not to be considered in connection with the governor's palace and many of the homes of foreign representatives here. The street cars run directly in front and the street is lighted with electricity. Here the entire secret of the Luneta is a beautiful driveway, along the water front, and every evening at sunset the aristocracy in their fine turnouts can be seen here in all their glory. Even we, behind what we, of course, consider the finest team on the island, have been guilty of mingling with the swell people. The sunsets are grand and the breakfast very gay always fresh and delightful. While it is warm, and I reckon always is, yet I have often thought of you all in Omaha, during the heated months you all passed and wished you might enjoy with us the coolness of the nights."

"With greater signs of civilization Manila and this land would be good places in which to live, and I presume it will now become the duty of the American people to enlighten this ignorant and down-trodden race."

"In my rambles a few days since I ran across a railroad station that was as silent as a grave, and the movements of the child trains to run after reaching territory in their possession, so the affair, which, from appearances, did not amount to a great deal, has shut down. Shortly I expect to be elected president of the corporation, but as yet I have not secured the necessary votes. I think under some circumstances one could be very contented here. I feel as though the United States of America is a pretty good place after all, and would not weep many tears were we ordered back on the Newport tomorrow. The vacation I thought would be of short duration has lengthened into a few days of fun, and I am wondering if my friends have not forgotten me. One of