ROOM FOR HOME EXPANSION

Half a Billion Acres of the Public Domain Open to Settlement.

SOME FACTS FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES

Extent and Character of Government Land in Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming and the Dakotas—Ample Room to Spread.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—(Special.)—The assertion frequently heard of late in justification of land grabbing in the Orient, that the United States is short on land, is refuted in the strongest manner by statistics compiled and issued in pamphlet form by the Department of Agriculture. The document was prepared by Prof. Max West of the division of statistics. It is an instructive review of the public domain of the United States and the recently acquired territory, and shows there is available an abundance of idle land within the compact boundaries of the republic.

Leaving Alaska and the new island possessions out of the count, there are within the limits of the United States nearly 573,995,000 acres of vacant government land, besides 145,122,000 acres in Indian reservations, forest reserves, national parks, reservoir sites and military reservations. The latter is reserved from settlement, but the former half a billion acres, most of which is productive, furnishes an ample and inviting field for home expansion, home thrift and home enterprise. Prof. West says the public domain of Alaska, a vast area, and the lesser areas of Hawaii, Porto Rico and other new dependencies, will bring the total up to 1,000,000,000 acres. "Future additions to the reservations for permanent forests and reservoir sites will no doubt diminish the area open to settlers, but these additions are likely to be counterbalanced in whole or in part by the opening of Indian and military reservations to settlement. The 1,000,000 acres granted to each of the arid states by the so-called 'Carey act' will still further reduce the amount of land to be obtained by settlers directly from the national government, but doubtless without reducing the total amount of public land available for settlement. At the present rate of disposal to individuals, the vacant lands in the United States proper would last for nearly a century."

The following extracts show the area and character of the public land open for settlement in the transmississippi region:

Character of the Public Lands.

The table below gives approximately the areas of forest and woodland, grazing lands, and desert, composing the public domain in fifteen western states and territories. It is based upon the estimates of Mr. F. H. Newell, which show that of 609,000,000 acres of land vacant in these states and territories in 1894 there were about 166,000,000 acres of forest and woodland, 374,000,000 acres of grazing land, and 69,000,000 acres of desert, or land too barren even for grazing. Making allowance for the forest reserves which have been set aside since that time, and also for some areas which have been opened for settlement, and estimating the probable division of lands entered by settlers between timber and grazing land, the land now unappropriated and unreserved is found to consist of about 124,300,000 acres of forest and woodland and 365,400,004 acres of grazing land, with nearly or quite as much desert land as before.

States and Territories.	Woodla'd and Forest.	Grazing Land.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Arizona*	6,900,000	29,800,000	51,700,000
California* ...	900,000	22,500,000	42,400,000
Colorado	16,500,000	22,200,000	39,700,000
Idaho	24,600,000	19,600,000	44,200,000
Montana	19,800,000	51,800,000	71,600,000
Nebraska	.....	10,500,000	10,500,000
Nevada*	800,000	40,600,000	61,400,000
New Mexico....	8,600,000	46,000,000	54,600,000
North Dakota.	200,000	20,400,000	20,600,000
Oklahoma.	.....	7,000,000	7,000,000
Oregon	19,200,000	16,700,000	35,900,000
So. Dakota*....	.....	12,800,000	12,800,000
Utah*	17,000,000	16,900,000	43,900,000
Washington ..	7,100,000	6,300,000	13,400,000
Wyoming*	8,700,000	35,300,000	49,000,000
Total	124,300,000	365,400,000	558,700,000

* Desert lands are: Arizona, 15,000,000 acres; California, 19,000,000 acres; Nevada, 20,000,000 acres; Utah, 10,000,000 acres; Wyoming, 5,000,000 acres. Total, 69,000,000 acres.

In the present paper the public domain is briefly described by states and territories (arranged in the order of the extent of public lands in each, except that Kansas is treated with the other western states), with special reference to the amount of public land which can probably be made available for agricultural purposes. In discussing the possibilities of the arid region Mr. Newell's estimates of the available water supply are adopted, but in some cases other estimates are given also for the sake of comparison. It will be observed that estimates made by local engineers are usually, though not in every case, considerably larger than those of Mr. Newell. The other data given are also taken almost wholly from official sources, including state and national publications. It should be borne in mind that the vacant public lands are not wholly unused at the present time, for grazing is permitted upon them without restraint, and thus they furnish sustenance to a vast number of sheep, cattle and horses, but the area of good grazing land belonging to the public domain is in some localities being rapidly diminished by overstocking and too close grazing.

Public Land in Wyoming.

Wyoming contains about 49,035,000 acres of public land open to settlement, besides 8,216,643 acres reserved for various purposes. Of the latter amount, 1,897,000 acres are in the Yellowstone National park, almost an equal amount is in the Wind River Indian reservation and 3,241,760 acres are devoted to forestry.

The vacant public land is valuable chiefly for grazing and timber, and in many places for coal, oil and other mineral products; but there are vast areas which need only irrigation to transform them into very productive farms. The water supply is fairly abundant and well distributed, and is estimated to be sufficient to reclaim 9,000,000 acres. The principal streams available for this purpose are the North Platte river and its tributaries in the southeast, the Green in the southwest the head waters of the Cheyenne in the northeast and the Big Horn and Powder rivers, which rise in the central part of the state and flow northward into Montana. There are still some places where land can be reclaimed without great expense by small ditches, but as these places are more than 6,000 feet above the sea level hay is almost the only important crop that can be depended upon to mature there. The better lands can be reclaimed only by means of reservoirs and large canals, requiring considerable capital; but in the Big Horn basin and elsewhere there are large tracts of public land so situated that the expense of reclamation would be by no means excessive. The best agricultural land in the state is said to be that lying along the Platte river and along the northern border east of the Big Horn mountains. In nearly all cases the ditches thus far constructed water only the bottom lands near the rivers, leaving the upper bench lands, where the soil is even better, to be reclaimed by more extensive works in the future.

The tillable lands of Wyoming lie from 3,500 to 7,000 feet or more above sea level, higher on the whole than the agricultural land of any other state. There are high mountain ranges in the north and west and a few peaks near the southern mountain boundary. The climate has been found to be well adapted to the cultivation of cereals and grasses, while the raising of hardy fruits is also becoming an important industry. There is a lack of railroad facilities in the central and northwestern part of Wyoming, but the Union Pacific railroad traverses the southern part of the state, while the eastern part is served by the Northwestern and Burlington systems and by local lines and the Oregon Short Line enters the southwestern corner.

In North Dakota.

The amount of vacant public land in North Dakota, 20,574,000 acres, is nearly equal to the amount which has been appropriated. There are also more than 3,000,000 acres in Indian reservations. Most of the western half of the state still belongs to the public domain, but in the eastern half the amount of public land diminishes rapidly, and in the valleys of the James and Red rivers, where dry farming is most successful, there is hardly any left. In the western part of the state, where irrigation is most needed, there are only limited areas in which water can be easily secured. The Missouri river is so far below the surface of the arable land and has so slight a fall that its waters can be diverted only with difficulty and at great expense. Some of the Missouri's lesser tributaries, however, especially the short streams flowing from the north, may be made available for irrigation by the construction of storage reservoirs. East of the Missouri river the main dependence is upon artesian wells, which are already in use throughout a large territory for various purposes, and which promise to be of great importance in agriculture. In time much of the public land along the Missouri south of Bismarck will probably be watered in this manner.

The vacant public land is at present of value chiefly for grazing, but it is very fertile for the most part and wherever irrigation is practicable can be made to produce abundant crops of wheat and other cereals, hardy fruits, etc., as well as forage crops. There is a little timber in the Turtle mountain region in the extreme north and deposits of lignite coal are found throughout nearly all the western half of the state.

The public lands in the western part of the state are crossed by the two northern transcontinental railways running nearly east and west, and diagonally by the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie railway.

South Dakota.

There are 12,784,000 acres of vacant public land in South Dakota, besides the greater part of the Black Hills forest reserve and a number of large and small Indian reservations, making the total amount of public land a little less than half the area of the state. There is comparatively little public land left east of the Missouri river, though there are few counties which have none at all, and there is little land open to settlement immediately west of the Missouri, except in Stanley county, because the river is bordered most of the way by Indian reservations. In the southeastern corner of the state are several small tracts of swampy grazing land, amounting in the case of Charles Mix county to some thousands of acres. Most of the appropriated land in the western part of the state is along the Cheyenne river and the streams which flow into its southern fork from the Black Hills, and the largest areas of vacant land are in the northwestern corner, in the Bad Lands of the southwest and between the Cheyenne and White rivers. It is thought that by water storage and the use of artesian wells at least 1,000,000 acres of South Dakota lands can be irrigated. There is an extensive and remarkable artesian well area east of the Missouri and recent investigations make it seem probable that this area extends also into the public lands of the western and northwestern portions of the state, in which case the estimate of the irrigable area will need to be considerably increased.

South Dakota is an important cattle-raising and wheat and corn-growing state and does well in the production of flax. A large part of the state lies in the sugar beet belt and fruit-raising also promises to be a very profitable industry. South Dakota is well supplied with railroads in the east and in the Black Hills region, but the portion of the state containing most of the vacant land is not easily accessible.

Public Land in Nebraska.

Rather more than one-fifth of Nebraska, or 10,548,000 acres, is still vacant public land. Nearly all of this is in the north-central and northwestern parts of the state, and consists mainly of a sandy soil, at present valuable only for grazing. There is a little vacant farming land reported in Custer county, near the center of the state, and there is some timber on public land in Dawes and Sioux counties, in the extreme northwest. Mr. Newell estimates that 1,500,000 acres of the semi-arid western part of the state can be reclaimed for agricultural purposes by irrigation; the secretary of the State Board of Irrigation estimates that altogether 6,000,000 acres can be irrigated. The canals already built and under construction are estimated to cover more than 1,000,000 acres.

The principal rivers of Nebraska are the Platte and its tributary, the Loup, which drain the central part of the state; the Niobrara, which flows along the northern boundary, and the Republican in the south. The flow of the Loup and Niobrara is fairly constant throughout the year. There are also many springs and creeks from which water is easily obtainable. There are many artesian wells in Nebraska, but they are most successful in the northeastern part of the state, where there it now little public land. By the use of windmills or other machinery, however, underground water may be obtained for irrigation on a small scale in central and western Nebraska. The alkali in the soil is sometimes troublesome, especially where too much water is used, but in such cases sugar beets can often be grown with much

A Million Acres in Kansas.

In Kansas there are only about 1,060,000 acres of vacant public land, this being but 2 per cent of the total land area, and a much smaller amount than in any other state so far west. It is nearly all in the western end of the state, the eastern half having only a few thousand acres of public land all told, and of poor quality. The vacant land is for the most part broken or rough grazing land, though some agricultural land is reported.

The principal streams of western Kansas are the Arkansas and Cimarron rivers in the south, the headwaters and tributaries of the Republican and Solomon in the north, and between these the Smoky Hill river and its tributary, the Saline. Especially in the extreme west, where irrigation is mose necessary, the streams are either very small or often dry during the summer, and hence are of little value to agriculture without a system of storage. It is evident that water must be obtained very largely from underground by means of pumps, which are already in use in many places, being driven either by wind or by gasoline or steam engines. The underground water is usually found near the surface and seems to be extremely abundant; and in the southwestern part of the state, especially in Meade and Hamilton counties, there are many successful artesian wells. It is probable that this underground supply will ultimately be used throughout western Kansas to irrigate a small area on each farm. Mr. Robert Hay, chief geologist of the United States artesian and underflow investigation, estimated that the underflow in this part of the state was sufficient to irrigate from five to twenty acres in each quarter section, while Mr. W. G. Russell, an assistant hydrographer for the United States geological survey in charge of the Kansas measuring stations, relies upon the rivers to water about twenty-eight acres to a section. The president of the State Board of Irrigation Survey and Experiment estimates that altogether about one-sixth of western Kansas is irrigable; Prof. Haworth of the Kansas State university calculates that from all sources more than half the total area of the state can be irrigated. Mr. Newell's estimate allows nothing for Kansas, so that whatever area is found to be irrigable must be added to his total of 74,000,000 acres.

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There is no excuse for most people being sick. There's a medicine that will cure them. A medicine that goes right to the roots of the causes of nearly all sickness. The name of this good medicine is Dr. Dix Tonic Tablets. They put vitality into weak bodies—make people strong, quiet the nerves, restore ambition, drive headache away, give you an appetite, sweeten the stomach and breath, and forever remove the thousand and one distressing ills.

Does this seem impossible? If you stop and consider that nearly every disease, no matter what the name by which it is called, comes from the kidneys, impure blood and disordered liver, it will be plain to you.

Dr. Dix Tonic Tablets, first of all, aid the kidneys. Next they purify the blood, getting into every big and little vein in the body, driving all impurities out of the system. Finally they regulate the liver perfectly, making it perform all its functions exactly as nature intended. In doing these three things, it removes the cause of nearly all the ills of men and women.

If you are suffering from excesses of any kind—overwork, intemperance, etc.—If you are tired and don't know what in the world ails you—if you are dizzy, weak and food lies badly in the stomach—if you belch, feel nervous, have hot and cold spells alternately your life is in danger, but Dr. Dix Tonic Tablets will quickly put you on your feet again. No difference what you think your disease may be—no difference what the doctors call it, this medicine is what you need. Ten minutes after you take the first tablet you'll feel better. Dr. Dix Tonic Tablets are for sale by all druggists at 50 cents a box. But we want to introduce them to every reader of this paper, many of whom need such a remedy. For a limited time the proprietors, Hayes & Coon, 845 Hull Building, Detroit, Mich., will send a trial package free by mail to all who will send their name and address (enough to convince the most skeptical of their great merit.)

Send at once and be well and happy again. Tell your friends and neighbors about this most liberal offer.

A DRINK OF BRANDY.

By CY WARMAN.

"D——n the Yankees!" said the gray major, shaking his hand that was dripping with blood. He had just ordered a retreat and the dust-colored column was retreating sullenly. The major had fought at the front coming up, cheering his men on to the charge, but now, going back, he blushed not to be seen at the rear. He sat his horse going down the valley with an expression of bitter disappointment upon his face, and hatred for his triumphant adversary filling his breast. He glanced back up the gentle slope, down which his men had charged awhile ago, and saw them toiling up the hill again, bearing their dead and wounded and staining the stones with their young blood.

The column of blue was steadily advancing. At the head rode the blue general who had turned the flank of the grays as a tin sword turns when driven against a stone wall.

"D——n the Yankees," was all the gray major could say, and then driving the spurs into the flanks of his horse he galloped away after his command. At the top of the hill he halted his shattered band and offered battle, for the hill was hard to climb and he hoped to punish the blue general as he came on. Seeing the great advantage they held, the gray column took new courage and fought desperately. Steadily forward the blue general led his men, drunk with the thought of a victory that was three-fourths gained. Many there were who went down that slope, but the rest pushed on and up until the gray column began to waver. The desperate but thoroughly beaten men looked appealingly to the gray major and at last, seeing the utter hopelessness of further resistance, he ordered aonther retreat. Now, as at the foot of the hill, the dauntless leader sat gazing with mingled hatred and admiration at the stout figure at the head of the blues. And as he looked a bullet came whirring up the hill and pierced the breast of the gray major. He sank upon the neck of his faithful horse and then rolled helplessly to the earth.

The blue general, having paused with his field glass to his face, saw the brave major fall, but when he reached the summit of the hill he observed that the officer had fallen a little to one side of the road, his good horse remaining where the rider had gone down.

Summoning his own surgeon, the general bade him see what could be done for his fallen foe. The doctor dismounted and examined the wounded man. He lifted the major's head. "D——n the Yankees," said the major.

"Don't swear," said the doctor, and then the major opened his eyes and gazed about. His glance rested upon the kindly face of the blue general and he immediately extended his hand. The blue general dismounted and gave his hand to the unfortunate major, and some words of commendation for his bravery. Then he gave the major some very fine brandy, and the major being of the south knew that it was fine and was very grateful to the general for it, and for the attention of the blue surgeon.

"Good-bye," said the general, mounting, "I must hurry on."

"Good-bye, my gallant general. Good luck to you—but—d——n the Yankees."

II.

Just thirty years later the blue general was made commander of the United States soldiers stationed at San Antonio, Tex. He had grown gray in the service of his country and the gentle woman who had begun in her girlhood to be a soldier's wife had grown gray beside him. Their children were men and women making places for themselves in the world and presenting them with interesting grandchildren.

In a little while the hero of Grassy Hill and the charming woman who had walked through a score and a half of years at his side, won the hearts of the people of Texas, which had been of the south, but was now of the great and glorious west, where there is neither north nor south.

Many men who had fought against the blue general had come to know him personally and to respect him. If now and then they brooded over the past they blessed the blue general and all his house.

One day while the general's grandchildren were driving in a pony cart, a horse drawing a delivery wagon, got away from the driver and went flying down the street.

The boys in the pony cart were turning slowly, their cart hanging crosswise of the street. They were talking and laughing, utterly unconscious of the danger they were in. A man who wore a slouch hat and had about him the air of an army officer, saw the horse coming down the street, and saw the danger the children were in.

Without a moment's hesitation he put himself in the middle of the road, between the children and the runaway horse.

The horse seemed to be blind with fright, but as he neared the man he swerved slightly, so that the wagon missed the cart, but it caught the man and rolled him over and over in the dusty road.

The general, who was walking in the avenue, saw it all and hurried to the man.

"You are a very brave man," said he, "and I am unable to express to you my appreciation of what you have done."

"Oh, don't mention it, general," said the man. "I was deeply in your debt for that excellent brandy you gave me on Grassy Hill."

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THE BEST SALVE in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Kuhn & Co.

LABOR AND INDUSTRY.

Cramps' shipyards at Philadelphia now employ 5,000 men.

American exports of manufactured goods now average $1,000,000 a day.

The daily shipments of oil from the Indiana field amount to 36,111 barrels, and the runs from the wells, 9,364 barrels.

Preparations for the erection of the $15,000,000 steel plant which is to be located at Stony Point, near Buffalo, N. Y., are in active progress.

The recent advance in wages, equivalent to about 20 per cent, enables the street car men of Pittsburg, Pa., to now earn $2.50 a day of twelve hours.

During the month of April the American Federation of Labor issued thirty-three charters aside from the charters issued by its affiliated national unions.

The printers in the government printing office at Washington will receive an increase in wages of 10 cents per hour, the increase to begin with the next fiscal year.

During the first week of May over 2,000 new members were added to the Tobacco Workers' National union. One union tobacco firm in Brooklyn, N. Y., used 2,000,000 blue labels in the month of April.

The largest tin plate factory in the world, the Shenango mill at New Castle, Pa., is to be operated in its entirety by electricity as soon as the necessary machinery can be installed. The motors will be used in all parts of the plant.

J. R. Sovereign, ex-grand master workman of the Knights of Labor, now publishing a labor paper in Idaho, was refused a seat as delegate from a "workingmen's union" of Gem, Idaho, at the session of the Western Federation of Labor at Salt Lake City.

Contracts have been awarded to a Pennsylvania firm for the construction of six steel bridges on the line of the Transsiberian railway—making in all eighteen bridges which this company has undertaken for the same project.

At Schweinfurt, Bavaria, is one of the largest of the world's manufactories for bicycle ball bearings. The two factories there, belonging to one firm, turn out annually 2,000,000 gross of these little steel balls, and employ 600 men, working for a day of ten hours' duration.

The magnitude of the Carnegie Steel company's operations may be understood from the statement that in 1898 the company made 17 per cent of the pigiron produced in the United States, 36 per cent of the product of Pennsylvania and 66 per cent of the product of Allegheny county. They manufactured 22 per cent of the Bessemer steel production of the United States and 42 per cent of the like product of Pennsylvania.

The annual meetings of the various cotton mills in the vicinity of Greenville, S. C., are about over and they show unprecedented profits. For instance, the American Spinning company, capital $125,000, shows net profit of $37,000; the Piedmont mills, over $125,000; the Huguenot mills, $63,000, and others in like proportion. Now while these profits seem large, the profit for the current year will be much larger. The Poe mill, which made $24,000 for twelve months last year, is now making $6,000 per month net.

An increase in wages for 7,500 men was the result of the annual prescription scale conference between the American Flint Glass Workers' association and the Association of Flint and Lime Glass Manufacturers at Pittsburg. Of this number 1,500 skilled workmen will receive an increase of 10 per cent and 6,000 unskilled hands an advance in proportion. The advance will restore to the men the wages they received in 1892 and 1893.

THEN HE GAVE THE MAJOR SOME VERY FINE BRANDY.

IN THE WHEELING WORLD

OMAHA, May 26.—To the —— Club: It gives us great pleasure to extend a cordial invitaton to the —— to join us at our picnic to be given June 11 at Sarpy Mills. We have made most extensive preparations for entertaining a large crowd and everything will be done for the comfort of our guests. Music, dancing, boating, racing, a ball game and all kinds of athletic sports and pastimes will be indulged in. Ladies and unattached wheelmen will be especially welcome, and if you decide to accept you will greatly oblige our entertainment committee by advising us before June 4 about what number of riders you will bring, and we also would suggest you call a club run for that day with the object in view of reaching picnic grounds about 11 a. m. Hoping to have you with us, we are, yours fraternally,

OMAHA WHEEL CLUB.
H. S. MUNTEFERING, Captain.

The above letter has been mailed to all the prominent wheel clubs in this vicinity and it is hoped that all of them will accept. All unattached wheelmen and cyclists looking for a pleasant day should not miss this opportunity, as they will be made welcome in the well known Omaha Wheel club manner. The arrangements are progressing rapidly and everything seems to be working beautifully. A good time and a rare lot of fun are assured and all that is needed is a fine day. Several matches are in the air as the following indicates:

Challenge to Otto Mielke and Tom E. Mickel: I hereby challenge you to a shooting match for the championship of the "Little Triangle" club of last summer's fame, the match to take place at the Omaha Wheel club picnic. I understand that you two gentlemen are not satisfied with the elegant lessons I gave you last year and would like to go against me again. I believe that I can come nearer ringing the bell with my eyes shut than you can with your lamps burning 100-candle power. I leave all the terms and stipulations to you and hereby post 25 cents with the sporting editor of The Bee as a forfeit and to bind the match. Yours truly,

H. S. MUNTEFERING.

Everything seems to point to a lively scorch this morning. Captain Muntefering has called this for the special benefit of the fast riders in the club and will be disappointed if they do not turn out. It is understood of course that there will be no scorching inside the city limits, but it will be otherwise in the country. In the afternoon a nice, pleasant ride will be taken to Bellevue and Fort Crook and an easy pace maintained.

Otto tried to throw one of his friends a few nights ago by the novel method of running into his rear wheel with his own front one. When Otto had picked himself up he immediately "squared" himself with the crowd and they brushed his clothes off for him.

The rainy weather has knocked club runs into a cocked hat the last month and all the attention of the boys has been given to arranging to make a huge success of their picnic, which it undoubtedly will be.

One of the most prominent racing men of this country and an esteemed member of the Omaha Wheel club "went and done it" Wednesday. In the evening the club had a very nice little smoker on Mrr. Mierstein and drank to him and his wife with much fervor. Many expressions of good will and hopes for his future success in life were spoken. George has the best wishes of all his clubmates and they all joined in his favorite yell, "Will we work for 50 cents a day?" before the evening was over.

When the war fever grabbed the country by the back hair, a year ago, considerable loud talk was heard about the bicycle as a vehicle of patriotism and liberty. Figures and pictures and a deluge of words were turned loose to show its value as an accessory of modern war, particular emphasis being given to the fact of its employment in the French and German armies. Didn't Lieutenant Moss and a company of regulars ride and push from Missoula, Mont., to St. Louis? Why not equip similarly the advance guard of the Cuban invading army and quickly rescue the oppressed from hated tyranny? "Easy as rolling off a log," declared the hot boys. Suiting action to words, some one started the story that 10,000 bicyclers offered their services for the holy cause. Nothing came of the patriotic tender. The war went on, and, strange to say, was fought to a finish without the aid and comfort of the silent wheel.

But the army has not wholly ignored the possibilities of the wheel nor discarded its usefulness. Peace brings the triumph which war refused. The laurel wreaths of victory deck the handlebars, lovingly placed there by the Salvation army. Members of the fighting corps in New York City have decided to mount the wheel and chase Old Harry to his lair. The event has inspired a poet to immortalize the evolution in these picturesque verses:

If a sweet Salvation sister
Overtakes you on a wheel,
Pray don't think her smiles of greeting
A desire to flirt reveal:
Don't imagine, if she cycles
On beside you, O vain man,
'Tis that pretty lassie's purpose
In your heart a flame to fan!

If her voice seems to caress you
And tears glisten in her eyes,
Pray don't jump to rash conclusions!
Don't be silly and surmise
She's in love with you! Don't fancy,
Tho' in you she reached her goal,
'Twas your heart that she was after—
She was scorching for your soul!

C. W. Mears, editor of the Cycling Gazette of Cleveland and until recently one of the pillars of the League of American Wheelmen, has become decidedly cold toward his former associates. Mr. Mears thought he was the right man for chairman of the league racing board. But the ruling powers thought otherwise and dumped his hopes outside the breastworks. To what extent the fall cooled his ardor is not for the laity to say. That he is very frosty is evident from this extract from a late number of the Gazette:

"Every indication points to the early loss by the League of American Wheelmen of its control over the sport of cycle racing and nothing short of a miracle can prevent the overwhelming defeat of the grand old wheeling organization. A succession of errors on the part of the racing board, a stupendous blunder by the executive committee and the covert hostility toward the league of the International Cyclists' association promise shortly to result in the absolute divorce of racing from L. A. W. affairs.

"This is a surprising statement coming as it does from a staunch supporter of everything that the league stands for and represents, but it is no less sincere because astonishing. The friendship that prompted us in the past to advocate the league and its interests, now impels up to make the frank acknowledgment that during the present year the racing board has proved neither its power nor its right to control the sport, and to point out to those league workers who have not kept in touch with the racing affairs that there is hardly one chance in a thousand, under Gerlach's administration, of the league's ultimate victory over outlaws.

"Various events lead us to this conclusion."

President Keenan of the League of American Wheelmen sailed for Eurone last week to attend the meeting of delegates to be held in London and which is considered one of the most important gatherings of cyclists of recent years. The organization was partially perfected last year, but owing to the non-attendance of some of the countries interested, it was deemed advisable to postpone the final organization until this year, when the Cyclists' Touring club of England invited delegates to meet in London.

The plan as outlined now is to so perfect the organization that there will be a perfect reciprocity of privileges for all affiliated wheelmen in the countries of England, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Norway, Sweden, the United States, Canada and Mexico. These privileges will include the exchange of discounts at hotels, the supplying of information by local officials, the use of road maps and guides, and, in fact, any of the privileges of the organization in which a tourist a member of any of the other organizations may be riding.

It is thought this will be the most important alliance of wheelmen ever perfected, as it appeals to the greatest class of cyclists—those who enjoy the pastime purely for the touring and general outdoor riding it affords them. It will be particularly advantageous to members of the League of American Wheelmen, as the large majority of tourists come from this country.

Accidents due to defective material in forks and fork crowns were numerous last year, but they are on the decline now, as makers generally have strengthened their machines at these points. There is, however, another weak point that is being more and more frequently heard about. This is the handle bars. According to newspaper reports in different parts of the country mishaps caused by the breaking of handle bars are more common than those due to any other single condition. In the last few years handle bars have been stronger than they were formerly and the immunity from accidents resulting from their breaking has perhaps led makers to believe that bars are unnecessarily stout. A fall due to a broken handle bar and one caused by a defective fork crown are about on a par as the most dangerous that could happen through a break and machines on which the bars prove defective suffer more damage to reputation than a thousand handle bars would pay for. There is less excuse for defective handle bars than for defective fork crowns because the brazing work on the bars is done so that the workman can see what he is doing, which is not the case with the point of the fork stem and fork crown. A trade paper, speaking about handle bars, declares that some makers have come to regard them as good subjects in which to utilize inferior material, and cites the case of one maker of adjustable bars who, to cheapen his cost of production, has substituted a casting for a forging at a certain vital place. This, if true, marks a deplorable tendency and one that will react severely upon the makers, as did the production of weak fork sides and fork stems. It will be better to lock the stable door before the horse goes, however, and for their own prosperity, as well as the safety of riders, makers should spare no expense in turning out handle bars strong enough to withstand the severest test. In hill climbing, scorching or touring over rough roads, handle bars are called upon to stand big strains, and there should be a large factor of safety in them. It is probable that the accidents reported involved mostly low-grade machines, but it is not always so.

Buffalo is a noted bicycle town. Every summer day on which there is no rain from 50,000 to 60,000 wheels are ridden. Every day on which the rain falls steadily from morning to evening the receipts of the street car lines are increased from $800 to $1,200. There is one wheel to every eight men, women and children, including the poorest Poles and Italians. The wheel is the common means of locomotion for 100,000 persons, so dealers in bicycles figure.

There are about 180 dealers in bicycles and sundries, nearly 100 repair shops and nearly 100 small shops and stores in which bicycles are sold exclusively. There are more men dealing in bicycles than in drugs or bread. More men are mending wheels than are shoeing horses and repairing wagons and other vehicles.

Everybody rides a wheel. Laborers go to work in the morning with picks and shovels over their shoulders while they push the pedals. Clerks, lawyers, doctors, business men, shop men, boys and girls ride the bicycle to and from work morning and night and in the ordinary course of business. Doctors find them faster than horses and less troublesome.

One of Buffalo's familiar signs that strikes the stranger is, "Do not lean bicycles against this building." Few stores or business houses are without a bicycle rack in front for their customers and a bicycle storeroom in the building for employes. Bicycles are checked at the theaters and at the churches. Those churches which do not check wheels have a room for them and many have been advertising in their regular newspaper notices of services, "Wheels checked free," or "Free storeroom for wheels." Some have gone so far as to advertise, "Wheelmen welcome."

Bicyclers who have caught the high gear fever may profitably consider the fate of Edward Sanford, president of the Monitor Cycle club of Brooklyn, who dropped dead as the result of attempting to ride a ninety-one-gear machine in the teeth of a strong wind. There are a whole lot of wheelmen—and wheelwomen—in every town who are courting the same fate. The big sprocket and high gear are the most dangerous of all the fads that have been taken up by cyclists, though the low frame craze is nearly as idiotic. Not one man in a thousand is physically equal to the task of riding a gear above eighty, and most of them would be better off with seventy-two or sixty-eight.

It is noticeable this season, observes the New York Sun, that in the majority of the new bicycles the spokes are not tied. Riders who have been in the habit of having wheels in which the spokes are tied in pairs by soldering or a piece of wire sometimes show a disposition to shy away from those in which the spokes are not clasped two by two because they do not understand. They fancy that the wheel may not be as strong when the spokes are left free. This is a mistake, for the question of tying or not tying the spokes has been a mooted one with mechanics and makers for years, the field being equally divided for a time, and the appearance of the majority of wheels with spokes untied means only that the greater number have gradually been converted to the belief that the wheels are better so. The actual difference to the rider would never be known to him unless he was posted and something occurred in the way of accident to point out the difference. The argument in favor of tying the spokes has been that it increased the stiffness of the wheel and it rendered it less likely to be twisted out of true in turning the wheel on a sandy road, but a stiff wheel has its disadvantages, and those who leave the spokes free ridicule the idea of making a stiff wheel in which the spokes will break instead of springing.

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