

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

# Royal Baking Powder

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of existing conditions can be removed. The fact is that Lincoln is the natural center of distribution for the Burlington railroad and that company could not make it otherwise without overturning its own economic arrangements. This is a fortunate fact for Lincoln, but the railroad company, inasmuch as it did not locate Lincoln is not to blame for it. What appears to be worrying Omaha is that some of the jobbers of that city are beginning to realize that Lincoln's facilities for distribution are vastly superior to those of Omaha. The fact that some of the Omaha shippers are openly saying that Lincoln is the most advantageous shipping point in the west is doing much to alarm the papers in that city. Many of these wholesalers have costly plants located in Omaha which they would be slow to abandon, but if the war now being waged against the railroads of the state and the Burlington in particular, cannot be made efficient in overcoming existing natural conditions it may be found necessary for some of them to pull up stakes and come to this city or see themselves supplanted in the patronage of the state by newcomers who have no fealty to Omaha to prevent their locating where the facilities and advantages are the best." Omaha is all right in some respects. It is convenient to Bellevue and Gretna and South Omaha.

### THE BICYCLE EPIDEMIC.

The bicycle epidemic is sweeping over the whole country. It is estimated that during the coming summer the votaries of the wheel in New York city alone will number over 200,000. In many cities the bicycle has inaugurated a serious rivalry with the street car, and in Denver the effect has been so unmistakable that the local street railway company has had to cut the wages of its employes in order to meet the great reduction in its income. The daily receipts of the car lines have never been so low, and that the drop is caused entirely by the introduction of bicycles is beyond a doubt. On wet days, when the wheels cannot be ridden, the receipts per car invariably run up to over \$30 per day. As soon as the streets dry off the receipts drop down fully one-half. Formerly the large crowd of invalids and pleasure seekers, which is constantly pouring into Denver, would take the cars out to the suburbs for their daily outing; now the wheel is used instead. It is estimated that during the past year 4,000 wheels have been sold in the city by the local dealers, besides the large number shipped in by individuals. The estimate of 10,000 wheels in use is probably extremely low. Each of these wheels will take out of the pocket of the street railway company some 20 or 30 cents a day. Taking the low estimate of 20 cents a day for the 10,000 wheels, the amount would reach \$2,000 a day, or \$730,000 a year. The contingency which has presented itself in such definite shape in Denver will have to be met by street car companies in many other cities, and instead of being abated this source of deprivation of revenue is likely to become more formidable, especially during the summer months. The use of the bicycle has apparently but just begun to fairly take hold on the popular fancy, and it is prophesied that before long the majority of people will just as soon think of doing business without their bicycles as their watches.

### NOTES AND COMMENT.

L. H. Bickford, whoever he may be, has written and the Town Topics Publishing company has published, in "Tales From Town Topics," one of those modern absurdities, the epigrammatic novel. It is called "A Very Remarkable Girl." Epigrammatic novels are a good deal like cucumbers in January. They are very much forced. And the unnatural novels are, if anything, even more unsatisfactory than the unnatural cucumbers. After reading such literary inanities as "A Very Remarkable Girl," and "A Green Carnation," I am never quite sure whether the author in writing the book, was trying to make a fool of himself or of his prospective readers. I am frank to say that I do not know whether Mr. Bickford was serious or witty when he wrote his novel for the last volume of "Tales From Town Topics."—So much of current humor is so terribly serious, and the serious writing is so often funny. At a venture I opine that the story was intended solely as a satire. It is interesting in just one respect, in that it illustrates the flippant tendency in things literary. "A Very Remarkable Girl" bears the same relation to the literary world that "The Passing Show," which was recently produced in Lincoln, does to the stage. It flings its little darts at books and the people who make them just as "The Passing Show" satirizes the plays and players. The book is, in places, as coarse as the show. It is fully as trivial. For curiosity's sake I append some of the sayings from the book:

"My name is Brown. I have two other names in addition. They are really of little consequence, although they would look well on the cover of Lippincott's, where they run to such things."

"I admire the Indian because I do not know him, just as I admire Henry Guy Carleton."

"I wonder who established the custom of inviting gentlemen to afternoon teas. Can it be the result of an unnatural perusal of the books written by William Dean Howells? He is responsible for many of the social eccentricities. Aside from Silas Lapham, there can possibly be nothing more tedious than an afternoon tea."

"An oath, to me, is very like the accent of Madame Moggjeska—it chills me and rings in my ears."

"To drink punch before nine o'clock is like hearing the De Reszkes in Sunday concert."

"There is but one really clever man in America, and that is not myself. How sublime to feel oneself to be as clever as Frank Stockton! Sometimes I think he doesn't realize how entirely clever he is. And yet what an awful responsibility to know that one has made people laugh; that one is so superior to the present Mr. Clemens and the late Mr. Billings."

"If we are not to talk of literature let us gossip of Richard Harding Davis."

"There is nothing absolutely stupid excepting the New England novels and the holiday stories in Harper's."

"After I read a book—I merely refer to Mr. Laurence Hutton's review of it and at once know whether I have spent the time profitably or not."

"Frequently I have material to spare.

This fashion into plays imitating Mr. Clyde Fitch, who as you probably know, makes use of his surplus material in plays for works of fiction." "Mr. Fitch, the gentleman who assisted Mr. Mansfield in writing 'Beau Brummel?'" "Yes, Mr. Fitch suggested the hat."

"I have been told that during the periods when Mr. Boyesen is not writing magazine articles, there is an appreciative falling off in suicides."

"There is I believe, something called pastoral pleasure—I refer you to poems by Richard Watson Gilder,—but this, I imagine, would be supreme torture."

"Presently we will be talking of angels, and that will remind me of Elizabeth Stuart Phelps-Ward."

"To me it has always seemed a piece of folly that Charles Dudley Warner never went in for gastronomic literature. He has a way of dishing up rarebit thoughts in a form I greatly relish."

"For myself I never read dramatic criticisms. I enjoy the plays too greatly to do so, and I have such a tender regard for actors that it grieves me to be told that they do not know how to act."

"Whenever the newspapers tell me not to go to a play, I invariably go. In that way I am certain to enjoy the best of what is called art."

"And how did Diggory like the west?" "Not at all; he said it resembled Bret Harte in no particular and that the only thing suggested by his visit was to increase his admiration for the superior imagination of Mary Hallock Foote. He gave his literary impressions to my ranch hands. He asked to be shown the Helen Hunt Jackson Indians and wanted to know if was true that Anna

Fuller occupied Pikes Peak signal station in winter."

Julia Magruder's novel "The Princess Sonia" makes rapid progress in the June Century. It was inevitable from the first that Martha's brother and the princess should be in some way connected, and the reader is not surprised to learn that they had been married. The story holds its interest, tho' this last installment is a trifle too intense.

There are some bicycle articles in the June Scribner with illustrations by Gibson. The artist's bicycle girl is, of course, just like all his other girls.

Not the least interesting of the articles in the Review of Reviews for June is the one on the men and women who make up the newspapers of Chicago.

### IT'S RAINED.

It's rained es sure es shootin'  
It jest came down caflootin'  
It we' th' ground fer miles aroun'  
An' th' drouth jest went a scootin'.

An' now th' corn is growin'  
An' it makes th' fines' showin'.  
Th' farmers laugh, an' talk an' chaff  
An' th' city men keep blowin'.

Th' hull derved state's a boomin'  
Th' very weeds er bloomin'  
An' one an' all, we see this fall,  
A high old time a loomin'.

WILLIAM REED DUNROY.

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