THE OLD TRUNDLE BED.

Oh, the old trundle bed where I slept
when a boy,
What panoplied knight might not covet
the joy?
The glory and peace of that slumber of
mine,
Like a long, gracious rest in the bosom
divine;
The quaint, homely couch, hidden close
from the light,
But daintily drawn from its hiding at
night.
Oh, a nest of delight, from the foot to
the head,
Was the queer little, dear little, old trun-
dle bed.

Oh, the old trundle bed where I wonder-
ing saw
The stars through the window, and list-
ened with awe
To the sigh of the winds as they trem-
blingly crept
Through the trees where the robins so
restlessly slept,
Where I heard the low, murmurous chirp
of the wren,
And the katydid listlessly chirrup again,
Through the maze of the dreams of the
old trundle bed.

Oh, the old trundle bed! Oh, the old
trundle bed!
With its plump little pillow and old-fash-
ioned spread;
Its snowy white sheets and the blankets
above,
Smoothed down and tucked around with
the touches of love;
The voice of my mother to lull me to
sleep
With the old fairy stories my memories
keep
Still fresh as the lillies that bloom o'er
the head
Once bowed o'er my own in the old trun-
dle bed.

—James Whitcomb Riley.

HIS BUSY DAY.

IT WAS my busy day.

A pile of correspondence as daunting to a man's ambition as Pike's Peak or the Eiffel Tower burdened my desk and there was a kink in my temper which I had calculated would require a dinner at Martin's, tete-a-tete with Marguerite, to effectually straighten out. Martin's chef makes a certain pate that puts a man at peace with all the world, while Marguerite is at once soothing and stimulating, like champagne.

At this point my reflections were interrupted by Forsythe, the best fellow in the world, but with an unlucky habit of turning up at the wrong moment. I didn't give him the glad hand exactly, for which I was sorry enough afterward, but he was too preoccupied to notice.

"Oh, I've something to say to you, Austin," he said after a few preliminaries, with the effect of having just remembered something.

"All right," I replied, taking my feet off a chair to shove it toward him, "but make it twenty words if you can. I'm in a rush to-day."

"I can do it quick enough," he went on, with an uneasy laugh. "I just want to ask you if you've any intentions of a matrimonial sort, you know, toward Marguerite."

"The devil you do!" I exclaimed. "It strikes me that's my business."

"Perhaps it is," he said, with an air of wishing to do me every justice, "perhaps it is, but it's mine, too."

"Indeed," I remarked, feeling that I was unanswerable.

"You see, Austin," cried Forsythe, "when you introduced Dillard and me to Marguerite we both thought you were a trifle gone in that direction, and when I found I thought such a lot of her I couldn't live without her I felt that I had no right to ask for her until I found out whether you wanted her yourself."

"Deuced good of you," I commented, stiffly, seeing he had paused for a reply.

"It only seemed fair to give you the first chance," he finished, looking at me in a hurt sort of a way that made me ashamed of myself.

"You're all right, old boy," I hastened to say. "Forgive me; you took me by surprise. But since you ask me I don't mind saying I never had a thought of marrying Marguerite" (which was true enough, and I'd never thought of any one else marrying her either).

"I'm mighty glad of that," cried Forsythe, joyfully.

"No doubt," I said, a trifle dryly; but he hastened on: "I'm going to take her to a picture exhibit this morning, and thought I'd like to ask her then, if you assured me the field was clear. I hope I have your good wishes, Austin."

"Certainly," I said. "Go ahead and try for her, and good luck go with you, old man."

The painful memory of the grip he gave my hand on leaving still lingered with me when Dillard dropped in an hour later. I gave Dillard the other hand.

"Hullo," he cried. "Busy, Austin?"

"Rather," I returned, shortly. Dillard's only occupation in life is spending an income of forty thousand a year, and it's hard to be glad to see a man like that when you've got your own nose down on the grindstone.

"Just a word in your ear and I'm through," he announced. "It's about Marguerite, you know."

"Marguerite!" I exclaimed, "then you've heard——"

"Heard what," he cried. "Are you engaged to her?"

"Certainly not," I answered, with emphasis; "what made you think that?"

"Oh, I thought you rather fancied her and I'm tremendously glad to hear you don't care about her." (I wasn't aware that I'd said that, but I let it pass.) "She and her aunt are going to take lunch with Forsythe and me today, and I thought I might get a chance to try my luck with her then. But as long as you introduced us I thought I ought to give you the first chance."

This sounded familiar—too familiar, in fact.

"Oh, don't mind me," I protested impatiently. "My intentions toward Marguerite are wholly innocuous. Wish you success, Dillard."

I managed to evade his parting handshake, thus saving my fingers a second crushing, and he departed happy.

When I went to lunch and had time to analyze my feelings I found that I resented being forced into posing as a sort of trousered fairy godmother to Marguerite.

Of course as long as I had no intentions whatever of asking her to marry me I could hardly be so absurd as to resent some one else doing so. And certainly Forsythe and Dillard had behaved handsomely—no one could have done more.

But to be asked for my consent to Marguerite's nuptials as though I were her elderly uncle or benevolent maiden aunt was a trifle trying.

At 5 o'clock I was on my way to see her. I felt that however unpleasant my new attitude toward her might be, it at least gave me a right to know which one of my friends she had accepted. By the time I reached the car I was sure it was Forsythe; when I alighted at the corner my mind was made up to accept Dillard as her future husband, and when I entered the door I had come to the conclusion that whichever she took she was undoubtedly doing well for herself.

"What, it is you?" cried Marguerite, when I found her in the library.

"Did you expect some one else?' I asked, scanning her closely. She undoubtedly looked happy.

"You were here yesterday," she replied.

"One good turn deserves another," I said. "Besides I've come to congratulate you."

"Well?" she asked and settled down comfortably to listen. Marguerite is very provoking sometimes. She knew I was all at sea.

"Dillard is a man to be proud of," I hazarded, watching her face.

"Are you proud of him?" she inquired, looking up at me with big questioning eyes. After all the role of fairy godmother to Marguerite wasn't so bad, I reflected, that is, if one couldn't be anything else.

"And his fortune——" I went on, ignoring her question.

"Ah, his fortune—are you proud of that, too?" she asked.

Perhaps it wasn't Dillard after all.

"But Forsythe," I said, shifting my ground, "he is a man in a million."

"Yes, he is," said Marguerite reflectively.

"See here," I cried desperately, "which are you going to marry?"

"The man in a million or the man with a million?" she cried with a saucily lifted chin.

"Yes, which is it to be?" I repeated eagerly.

"Suppose," she said, slowly, "suppose I asked your candid, unprejudiced honest advice?"

"Oh, then I suppose I should have to advise you to take them both."

"Yes, I suppose you would," she assented thoughtfully.

"Or else to refuse them both," I added.

"Ah, suppose I had already done that," she said softly.

I felt my breath fail me suddenly.

"Marguerite!" I cried, and a moment later found myself an engaged man.

"By the way," I remarked as we sat waiting for the pate at Martin's that evening, "how were the pictures?"

"Really I've forgotten," said Marguerite with a happy little sigh. "This has been such a busy day.'

"Come to think of it," I replied, "I've had rather a busy day myself."—Chicago Times-Herald.

School Boys as Barometers.

It looked like rain, and naturally he had on a pair of light shoes and carried no umbrella. The car stopped on the far side of Girard avenue and a young lady got in. She bowed, and sat down beside the Saunterer, who recognized in her a school teacher friend.

"What do you think of this beastly weather?" queried he, disgruneedly. "Is it going to rain, or isn't it?"

"I can't tell you to-day," answered the young lady, smiling an acceptance of whatever might come. "If it were a school day, and you were willing to come to school with me, I could tell you in a very few minutes with absolute certainty. It'll sound funny to you, but it's true. I have noticed that you can always tell what the weather is going to do by the children. They're regular barometers. If there's going to be a storm they get restless, and I have the hardest kind of work to control them. Particularly the boys. The girls aren't so bad, but there seems to be some mysterious quality about approaching rain that always affects the former. I've got so now I don't blame them, because I don't believe they can help it. So you see," she concluded, as she got out at Chestnut street, "children have their uses, after all."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Cost of Schools in Cities.

A shortage in the school fund in St. Paul has caused the superintendent of the school system in that city to make a comparison of the cost per pupil with the similar cost in fourteen other cities. On the basis of the figures of attendance the cost in St. Paul is $22.08. Only two other cities show a smaller cost—Kansas City, where the school year is only nine months long and where the cost is $20.07, and Milwaukee, where the salary account alone makes the cost $21.87. Several cities run from $24 to $28, while the cost amounts to $37.80 in Pittsburg and to $40.77 in Denver. The eastern cities have a much higher rate than those in the west, Denver excepted, and there the cost of labor and fuel is excessive. The figures given have to do with the entire school system, but the difference is wider when high schools alone are considered. Boston, with its suburbs, has twelve high schools, for which it pays a per capita rate of $85.40; on a salary basis alone it amounts to $62.19. In St. Paul the total per capita cost in high schools on the basis of average daily attendance is $44.36, and out of this $34.01 is expended for teachers' salaries.—Buffalo Express.

Great Pest in South Africa.

One of the greatest pests of south Africa is the locusts, which descend in swarms each year upon the farms of Natal and the Transvaal. They sometimes fly in such numbers that railroad trains are blocked and are forced to wait until the bodies of the insects are shoveled from the tracks. Last year the government of Cape Colony paid out $8,500 for locusts' eggs, at the rate of 12 cents a pound. As it takes 40,000 eggs to weigh a pound an idea of the enormous number destroyed in this way may be gathered. But the locusts are not an unmixed curse. They are eaten by the natives, who say they make delicious food, and all animals, including horses, are said to be fond of them.

Oldest Tree in the World.

The town of Kos, the capital of the small Turkish island of that name lying off the coast of Asia Minor, possesses the oldest tree in the world. Under its shade Hippocrates inculcated his disciples in his methods and views concerning the healing art 2,000 years ago. Tradition carries the age of the tree back to the time of Aesculaplus (of whom Hippocrates was a lineal descendant), which would add some 400 years to its age. A great part of the trunk is built round, and there is a fountain known as Hippocrates' Fountain. The circumference of the trunk is 30 feet, and there are two main lower branches, which are supported by masonry columns.

People speak of the havoc mince pie can work on the stomach, but it is as peaceful as gruel compared with suet pudding.

When men have more money than they need they think they need more than they have.

FARMERS' CORNER

Climate Variations.

The Ohio Farmer, in connection with an article from the experiment station upon wheat growing, prints a map showing the dates for sowing wheat in different sections of the State. There is a variation of a month, or from Sept. 10 in the northern counties to Oct. 10 in a few counties in the extreme South. Some vary in certain places because of change in the elevation. Both Northern Maine and Northern New Hampshire are nearly two months later in seed time and nearly as much earlier in harvest than the southern parts of those States, the one because of the distance north and the other because of the snow-covered mountains. We would suggest that each experiment station should publish a similar map, so that when one takes up a paper and learns that they are plowing in the southern part of the State, or sowing seed, he may feel that he can wait two or four weeks longer before he begins without being behind with his work. Even in so small a State as Massachusetts the difference in planting time owing to climate and soil is considerable, and farm hints for March on Cape Cod would be in season about in April at Amherst where is the experiment station, while if written at the agricultural college for that latitude they would be two or three weeks too late for the sandy soils of Southeastern Massachusetts.—American Cultivator.

Values of Grain for Making Pork.

The director of the Montana experiment station compares the value of different grain foods for pork as follows:

By a combination of grain and leguminous pastures pigs can be grown to a weight of 150 pounds at a cost of 2 cents a pound. Alfalfa, clover, peas, wheat and barley make the best of pig feed. Alfalfa or clover pasture, with a little grain in summer, affords conditions for the cheapest growth and the greatest profit.

Pigs fed on barley or barley and wheat at present market prices will pay for all food consumed when pork is 3½ cents a pound.

The pea, combined with grain, is well adapted to the wants of the growing animal, and will give the greatest gains on the smallest amount of feed.

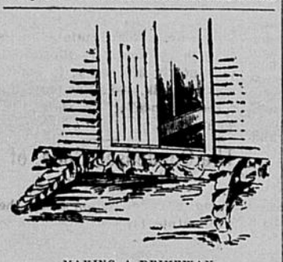
The lot, fed equal parts of barley, wheat and peas made a gain of 1 pound in weight for 4.55 pounds of food when the pigs were between the weights of 117.8 and 209.8.

Pigs make the greatest gains and at a less cost of gain before they reach 200 to 210 pounds in weight.

The quality of pork produced from wheat, barley and peas in the various combinations used is firm and well adapted for the production of hams and bacon, the fat and lean of the meat being well distributed.

Making a Driveway.

Too many entrances to farm buildings are made of planks laid on wooden sleepers. These soon rot out and break



MAKING A DRIVEWAY.

through, while underneath such driveways are the haunts of rats and mice. The best plan to follow is shown in the cut, which is from the Orange Judd Farmer. Lay up two side lines of stone as high as the sill at the building's side, and sloping to the surface of the ground at the proper distance from the building. If flat stones are to be had, no cement is needed. All that remains to be done is to fill in the space between the two lines of stones with earth. Then one has a permanent, inexpensive and altogether satisfactory entrance driveway.

Soil for Strawberries.

We think the soil has the most to do with production of large crops of strawberries and large berries. Sandy soil produces the finest berries, but not the largest or as many per acre. The reason is plain to those who have tested the matter. If you want large crops, select your heavy soil, plow and subsoil deep, then repack the soil just as hard as you possibly can, but do not work while too wet. Strawberry roots will penetrate the hardest soil, and will develop the best fruit buds and produce the finest berries. Constant and very shallow cultivation is best. Sandy soil cannot be packed so hard, hence it will produce fine plants, but not such large crops of fruit.—Western Fruit Grower.

Ensilage for Horses.

As many people have an idea that ensilage is not a good food for horses, we will call attention to the fact that the Virginia Experiment Station has been testing it, and they report that the trouble from is use has arisen from too much having been fed at the beginning, and as the horse likes it he is tempted to eat too much of it, as he might of green grass or clover. This is more apt to be the case when it contains a large amount of corn. When they began by feeding small quantities and increased very gradually in the amount given no injury resulted, and after they were well accustomed to its use they would not eat too heartily of it, even when given opportunity.

Ordinary Seed.

Much time is lost in the spring by waiting for plants and seeds. Orders for seeds should be sent in before January is over. Make out the list of the varieties desired and give plain directions, to avoid mistakes. Every spring there are many who are delayed in their work by ordering plants and seeds just at the time they are wanted, and as seedmen are then crowded with orders they are forced to disappoint many who could have gotten their seeds by ordering early.

Farm Prices.

Farms are higher priced now than they were a year ago in many locations, and are very likely destined to advance in price as business grows more brisk and prices of other things are going up. We remember how it was between 1861 and 1865. With wool at $1 a pound or more, flour at $18 a barrel ,and wheat in proportion, pork 10 cents a pound, butter 40 to 50 cents a pound, and hay $40 to $50 a ton, it seemed as if money could be made in farming. Some succeeded in doing so. We know farmers whose yearly sales were more in some of those years than their farms were valued at before the war. We knew others who bought at high prices about the close of the war, and found that as prices of farm produce went down they could not sell enough to pay the interest on the mortgage, and lost all they had. But farmers were not the only ones who made money when prices went up, or lost money when they went down. Manufacturers found themselves unable to sell their finished products for as much as they had paid or agreed to pay for their raw material. There is a lesson in this for farmers. If there is a boom and a season of high prices for farm products, do not get excited over it, with the expectation that it will last forever. Do not contract obligations that cannot be met if prices go back to last year's rates.—Exchange.

Dressing Geese.

To kill geese, have a place where you can hang them with the head down, and then stick a sharp knife through the neck close to the head, and let them bleed. This causes the meat to be very clear and white. After they are through bleeding roll them up, one at a time, in three or four thicknesses of blanket, and put them into a boiler of hot water, letting them remain there about one minute, afterward lay them where they will drain for about ten minutes more, and pick them. They will then pick very easily. It is the steam that causes the feathers to loosen. It is an everlasting job to dry-pick geese, and this is a sure process. The entrails should be immediately removed, the head cut off, and the skin neatly drawn over the neck and tied. Afterward place them where they will keep cool, but not freeze.

Fodder-Bag for Horses.

A London firm is introducing a new fodder-bag for horses. To those who have at heart the comfort of their equine servants the features of this patent bag will appeal. The accompanying illustration represents it in use, and a glance at the details will help to a proper understanding of the merits of this new invention. The bag, which is made of canvas, is provided with two straps, one suspending it from the horse's head behind the ears, and the other drawing back its lower half toward the collar. The lower end of the bag retains the bulk of the corn, even when the bottom is raised, as in the illustration, and as the animal eats so the fodder falls down gradually until the supply is exhausted. The horse cannot, therefore, breathe in the same quantity of corn and thus contaminate it, as when an ordinary bag is used, hence the spoiling of food, which is a common cause why so much of it is thrown out, does not occur.

Floor Space in Poultry House.

More room is required in the poultry house in winter than in summer, because during the warm season the fowls can go outside, only requiring sufficient room for roosting, but in winter they need room for scratching when the snow is on the ground. It is the space on the floor that is required and not on the roost, for when a hen fixes herself on the roost she will be quiet until morning, but during the day she should be kept busy. Ten fowls in a poultry house 10 feet square (making 100 square feet) are sufficient, but most persons endeavor to double or even treble that number, and the consequence is that they keep too many fowls in proportion to the area of floor space.—The Poultry Keeper.

Wheat Farming.

A Nebraska paper tells of a man who bought a farm there, upon which there was a mortgage of $700. He did not make much money the first year, but he sowed eighty acres of wheat the next year. It was a poor year for wheat and the stand was so poor that he thought he would not harvest it. He returned to his old home, and left the farm and the mortgage to fight it out as they pleased. The wheat ripened, fell to the ground and seeded it well. There was a fine crop, and as some one was kind enough to write about it to him, he went back, harvested it and sold it for enough to pay the mortgage and all his other debts. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again."—American Cultivator.

Ground Stock Feed.

Grinding the corn and cob does not add much to the ration, but the ground cob serves to dilute the grain and increase the bulk, which makes the combination better than the ground grain alone. When used with ground oats and bran it is an excellent food, and it may be used with cut straw or hay. All grain foods when ground will give better results if fed with bulky materials, and the conditions of the animals will be improved when both kinds are fed together.

Dairy Competition.

The farmer who does not improve his stock cannot compete in the market with his progressive neighbor. The butter from a cow which produces ten pounds a week can be sold at 20 cents per pound and give a larger profit than the butter from a cow giving only five pounds a week, and sold at 30 cents per pound. The use of choice cows reduces the number in the herd and saves labor, allowing also more room, while inferior cows compel the dairyman to keep more cows than he should in order to make a profit.

A Will and a Way.

Several years ago an effort was made to collect all the chimney sweepers in the city of Dublin, for the purpose of education. Among others came a little fellow who was asked if he knew his letters.

"Oh, yes, sir," was the reply.

"Do you spell?"

"Oh, yes, sir," was again the answer.

"Do you read?"

"Oh, yes, sir."

"And what book did you learn from?"

"Oh, I never had a book in my life, sir."

"And who was your schoolmaster?"

"I never was at school."

Here was a singular case; a boy could read and spell without a book or master! But what was the fact? Why, another little sweep, a little older than himself, had taught him to read by showing him the letters over the shop doors which they passed as they went through the city. His teacher, then, was another little sweep like himself, and his books the signboards on the houses. What may not be done by trying? "Where there is a will there is a way."—The Myrtle.

Of all virtues magnanimity is the rarest; there are a hundred persons of merit for one who willingly acknowledges it in another.—Hazlitt.

To know how to dissemble is the knowledge of kings.—Richelieu.

POLITICS OF THE DAY

GAGE AND STANDARD OIL BANK.

On July 2 last the government sold to the Standard Oil National City Bank the old Custom-House property at Wall and William streets for $3,265,000. The sale was made under provisions of a special act of Congress providing that the purchaser of the old Custom-House should permit the government to continue to occupy it until the new Custom-House was ready for occupancy, the government to pay as tenant of the old building 4 per cent. upon the purchase price, or about $130,600 a year. The day after the sale James Stillman, President of the National City Bank, went to Washington, taking with him a certified check, drawn on his own bank, for $3,225,350—all but $40,000 of the full price agreed upon. This check Mr. Stillman personally handed to Secretary Gage, who immediately handed it back to President Stillman to be deposited without interest in the National City Bank.

In other words, none of the three and a quarter millions of dollars which the National City Standard Oil Bank paid the government for the United States Custom-House six months ago has ever for one hour passed out of the bank's control. The bank has had not only the use of the money every day since to loan out at interest for its own profit, but it has at the same time been receiving rent from the government for the Custom-House. The old proverb that one cannot eat a cake and keep it is thus set at defiance, for the National City Bank owns the Custom-House and yet retains the money it paid for the Custom-House.

Secretary Gage has never turned the proceedings into the Treasury, as required by section 4 of chapter 337, under the terms of which the sale was made.

The $40,000 "held back" was for another purpose. The deeds of the Custom-House are still in the Treasury Department at Washington. The title to the property has not therefore passed to the National City Bank, and the city of New York can collect no taxes upon the land, as it is nominally government property, although the National City Bank owns and receives rent for it. The $40,000 held back was therefore merely a legal excuse for not proving the title, and for evading taxation.

The law authorizing the sale of this property was as follows:

Chapter No. 337, Section No. 4—That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized and directed to sell at public or private sale, to the highest bidder, after due advertisement, but for not less than $3,000,000, the present Custom-House property in the city of New York, bounded by Wall, William and Hanover streets and Exchange place, and to deposit the proceeds of the sale, after the payment of the usual incidental expenses, in the United States Treasury as miscellaneous receipts derived from the sale of government property.

Section 3,617, Revised Statutes—The gross amount of all moneys received from whatever source for the use of the United States, except as otherwise provided for in the next section, shall be paid by the officer or agent receiving the same into the Treasury at as early a date as possible.

3,618, Revised Statutes—All proceeds of sales of old material, condemned stores, supplies or other property of any kind shall be deposited and covered into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts on account of "proceeds of government property," and shall not be withdrawn or applied except in consequence of a subsequent appropriation made by law.

These facts are admitted by Secretary Gage's subordinates as to the deposit of the check in the National City Bank. The only defense is (first by Supervising Architect Taylor of the Treasury) that the money was "covered into the Treasury," in the language of the law, when it was placed in the government depository, the Standard Oil Bank.

Chief Daskan, of the public money division, said vouchers showing the money had been received by the government were in his possession.

"The money," said he, "very likely was never covered into the Treasury, but deposited in some one of the government depository banks."

He did not know why the property was still being recorded as in the government's possession and thus kept off the city tax books. "That," he said, "was not the government's business. It was for the New York Tax Department."

Four transactions of the government with the National City Bank have netted the favored institution these profits:

PROFITS.

Profit on Union Pacific—Payments of $33,000,000 in part distributed among the United States depositories by National City Bank, but the greater part retained by the National City Bank on deposit.	$ 350,000
Profit on "financing" the payment of the $20,000,000 indemnity to Spain—estimated	300,000
Profit on Custom House Deal—Interest on $3,265,000 for 180 days, at 6 per cent., $96,337; rent from United States Treasury Department for 180 days at 4 per cent., $64,224; city taxes saved for 180 days, $36,000	196,561
Annual interest on internal Revenue receipts and other Government deposits in the City Bank, now $17,000,000, an increase of $4,000,000 since Dec. 2, when the last report of the bank was published	1,020,000
Total estimated profit to the National City Bank from Government favors shown since Secretary Gage entered the Cabinet	1,862,337
Capital stock of the National City Bank, $1,000,000; percentage of profit from Government favors on the capital	186 per cent.

—New York World.

Bryan's Chances.

That William J. Bryan's chances for election to the Presidency in 1900 are excellent cannot be doubted, although the Republicans are boasting that McKinley has a "sure thing."

It is a significant fact that 34,000 votes cast in the right States in 1896 for Bryan would have made him President. A slight change of ballots in four Southern States would have defeated McKinley. This being the case, the present incumbent of the White House is far from having a "sure thing."

Bryan secured one of the Kentucky electors and McKinley got the other twelve by a plurality not exceeding 281 votes. The other three States of the South were carried by McKinley by a plurality vote of 3,837 in Delaware, 11,487 in West Virginia and 32,232 in Maryland. California gave McKinley eight out of the seventeen electoral votes by a plurality of only 1,022, while Indiana gave the Republican candidate a plurality of 18,181.

This makes a total of about 34,000, which changed for Bryan would have made him President.

Circumstances have changed greatly in Bryan's favor since 1896. The Republicans have made blunders, have broken faith and are on the defensive.

Imperialism has become an issue; the trusts have aroused vast hostility among the people, financial panics are threatened through Republican mismanagement. McKinley represents the millionaires and the aristocrats, Bryan represents the people; therefore his chances for election in 1900 are bright and the McKinley "sure thing" is becoming an empty boast.—Chicago Democrat.

McKinleyism as a Luxury.

That the election of William McKinley has proved an expensive experiment, amounting to a luxury nor of any benefit to a free people, is demonstrated every day. If the country has not been plunged into the worst financial distress it ever experienced is due to the good luck of famine, increase of demand for American productions, quality of workmanship and various other causes not connected with anything Mr. McKinley has ever advocated or brought to us any more than a comet is the cause of the measles. In fact every act of his administration has been in direct violation of the public welfare and for the advantage of special interests and private concerns. Our burden of taxation is now so heavy that the public treasury is overladen with the people's money, and there is no way devised to get rid of it other than to turn it over to the same speculators that put McKinley in office. Here is the official record, and it is a very bad showing for any administration to give the people in justification of its retention in power.

The treasury deficit in three years of McKinley is:

1897	$18,034,000
1898	38,048,000
1899	88,897,000

The Government revenues by years during McKinley's administration, have been:

1897	$847,721,000
1898	402,321,000
1899	517,216,000
Total	$1,269,258,000

The administration has spent during its term these vast sums:

1897	$365,775,000
1898	443,368,000
1899	605,093,000
Total	$1,414,536,000
Deficit for three years	144,978,000

In the revenue received are included $383,000,000 from bonds, Pacific railroads and war revenue, which are extraordinary revenues. Lacking these, the deficit would have reached $532,978,000, a sum greater than for any three years during the life of the nation except the civil war.

The total debt in 1896 was $1,769,940,323. Now it is $1,991,927,323. Our annual interest has increased by $4,409,438. In 1896 our public debt was $25 per capita. Now it is $29 per capita.

There is not much comfort in this showing, and had it been a Democratic administration that brought such a financial climax upon the country the Republicans would have riven the country asunder in their denunciations. If three years of Republican misgovernment can effect such stupendous results, its capacity for further mischief in five more years will be perceived by a generation to come in the burdens placed upon their necks.

The Ship Bounty Robbery.

Grosvenor, of Ohio, is now the chairman of the committee on merchant marine in the House. Thus all things work for the good of the country—to wit., the trusts. Hopkins, of Illinois, showed signs of opposition to the Hanna-Payne subsidy scheme, and, says the Kansas City Times: "For this opposition the boss demanded his head from the cuckoo Speaker of the House and the command has been obeyed." "This marine bounty bill," continues the Times, "is as bald a holdup of the tax payers as was ever perpetrated since the Republican party became the champion of class legislation and the promoter of public robbery. It proposes to put into the pockets of the Standard Oil Trust, which is running lines of American-registered tank steamers to European and South American ports, and to a lot of other owners of second and third class ocean vessels, and to the Cramps and other members of the ship-building combine, a mileage and tonnage bounty of several million dollars a year, and aggregating, during the period the Hanna-Payne bill is made operative, about $400,000,000—under pretense of building up an American merchant marine.

"Every farmer, every merchant, tradesman, mechanic, real estate owner and professional man and wage earner in the land will be forced to pay this blackmail to the syndicated ship owners, who have ordered their political agents in Washington to consummate this scheme of legalized piracy.

"All that is needed to build up our merchant marine to a degree of expansion, commensurate with the shipping needs of our exporting merchants and manufacturers, is to repeal the archaic and obstructive navigation laws which the Republicans years ago placed upon our statute books, thereby playing into the hands of foreign shipping interests, and permit Americans to buy ships wherever they can buy them cheapest, and sail them under the American flag. But this rational and business-like development will never be promoted so long as the party of blunder now in power has charge of the law-making and executive functions of the Federal government."

Profit on Other People's Money.

The President of the First National Bank of Indianapolis, on retiring after fourteen years' service, thus congratulates his fellow magnates:

"I congratulate the officers and stockholders of our enterprise. The bank has been in operation fourteen years under my control, with a capital stock of $500,000. In the meantime it has voluntarily returned $500,000 of capital stock back to the stockholders, besides paying them in dividends $1,496,250, part of which is in gold, and I now turn it over to you with its capital unimpaired and $327,000 of undivided earnings on hand. To this may be added the premium of United States bonds at present prices, amounting to $36,000, besides quite a large amount for lost or destroyed bills."

It does not appear that any of them shook hands with the depositors, and when this particular bank is multiplied by five thousand other banks, all congratulating one another, it does seem as if the depositors deserve a word of praise.

Wordsworth gave the world a volume of poetry at 23, and some of its lines were much better than any he wrote afterward.

GOVERNOR OF IOWA.

L. M. SHAW ENTERS UPON HIS SECOND TERM.

Elaborate Ceremonies in Connection with the Inauguration—Address of Re-elected Executive Has an Anti-Trust Flavor—Other Matters.

At Des Moines Gov. Leslie M. Shaw was on Thursday inducted into his second term of office with the most elaborate ceremonies ever accorded any chief executive in Iowa. The inaugural ceremonies were held in the new Auditorium and were witnessed by 4,000 people. Both houses of the Legislature met in joint convention at the State capitol building and were taken in carriages to the Auditorium. The Governor and party, consisting of his staff, State officers, Supreme Court and other dignitaries, preceded the Legislature in the procession, and the parade was headed by Troop A, Iowa National Guard, and the Lincoln Hussars in full uniform.

Lieut. Gov. Milliman presided at the inaugural ceremonies. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Charles T. Granger administered the oath of office to both the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor. Many prominent State officials were present, and three ex-Governors, Drake, Larrabee and Jackson. At the left of the Governor on the stage sat two centenarians, Noah B. Bacon of Des Moines and William Zimmer of Clinton, both born in 1788. Edward Enthwistle, 85 years old, and first railroad engineer on Stevenson's engine, the Rocket, sat beside them. All three were present at the express invitation of Gov. Shaw. In his address he referred to the history that has transpired in their lifetime, calling forth much applause. The Governor's address was received with great favor throughout.

Gov. Shaw reviewed the events between his last appearance before an Iowa General Assembly and the present, and referred at length to the previous epochs in history. Then he took up the progress of Iowa and urged the improvement of the highways of the State. Continuing, he said:

"There is one other subject which to ignore in an address on themes of public policy would be considered bad manners. I refer, of course, to the question of trusts. Advanced civilization, improved opportunities and great achievements have been accompanied with some ills to which all former generations were strangers. There is no good that is not matched with evil. There is no height without a corresponding depth. The marvelous wealth that has been accumulated in recent years throughout Christendom has not tended to an equalization of either comforts or luxuries. The distance which separates the grossly rich from the wretchedly poor has increased as human opportunities have multiplied.

"The evil, gentlemen, as I discern it, consists in monopoly. I think those who contended at the trust convention in Chicago last fall that trust and monopoly should be treated as synonymous terms were correct. I have yet to find the first man who has a word to say in extenuation or defense of monopolies. Gentlemen of the Twenty-eighth General Assembly, let it be your duty to crush every one within your reach, and the people of this State will call you blessed, and the people of every other State will take notice of your wisdom and will follow the course you shall have marked out.

"I hope I may be excused from indulging in any extended or detailed description of the pernicious effects of monopolies. This has been done so frequently that we may, I think, safely ask the defendant at this time to waive arraignment and the reading of the indictment. When the robins and jays are devouring my cherries I do not care to listen to my children's graphic amplification of the havoc they are producing. 'Go and drive them off.'

"Many methods have been suggested for dealing with trusts and combinations, but many of them, I think, would open doors as dangerous as the ones through which have come these admitted evils. A Governor of a great State, a learned, and I am convinced a conscientious man, not long ago said he would forbid the sale of monopoly produced goods within his State. Many in his audience cheered. If this be wise, gentlemen, and it can be accomplished, I hope it will be done in Iowa."

RIV R RUNS UPHILL.

Drought Has Made the Mississippi a Salt Water Stream.

In consequence of the prolonged drouth and a deficiency of more than one-half in the rainfall for the year the Mississippi river has changed its course, is now running up stream to St. Louis and has become a salt water stream. This has occurred before, but very rarely, and has never been quite as bad as it is now. The tide is felt plainly at New Orleans, and even as far north as the mouth of the Red river, 250 miles from the Passes. The water is so brackish in front of the city that it is not available for the many purposes in which it is ordinarily used.

The primary cause is the drouth. The lower Mississippi, like the Nile, has very few tributaries pouring into it, the policy of the early settlers being to cut off the tributaries by dikes built across the mouths where they join the great river. As a consequence, the river depends largely upon the flood above and upon the rainfall along its course. If the rainfall is small the water poured in it by the Ohio, Missouri and upper Mississippi becomes largely exhausted by evaporation in the long trip to the gulf. The river is always low during a dry season; and this has been the driest season on record. Again, the gulf tides have been phenomenally high this season, and have forced the salt water up the river against the sluggish and weak current. The tides have been supplemented by strong winds, which have blown the salt water up several feet.

Proud of Her Feet.

That is a very pretty and characteristic little story of Rosa Bonheur. She had very few physical advantages from nature, but she had one, and she knew it. Mr. Goodall, R. A., who in the early days of his career painted a portrait of Rosa Bonheur, recalls that, before he commenced to work, she said: "Mr. Goodall, you must put in my boots, for I have a small foot." So the boots were painted and the great painter's pride in her little foot satisfied.

Hammers Driven by Air.

Penumatic hammers, driven by compressed air, are now generally used instead of hand labor for chipping and cleaning iron and steel castings and billets so as to free them from any defects which would injure the finished forms into which they are to be rolled or drawn. This hammer will do the work of three men. The same principle has been applied in the ship yard for calking, in which the tool can be worked very fast, doing the work of five or six men.

Duluth-Superior Harbor.

Four million seven hundred thousand cubic yards is, in round numbers, the amount of material that has been removed from Duluth-Superior harbor under the continuous contract in the season of 1899.

Trouble Ahead.

Mrs. W.—Did your stenographer address those "at-home" cards of mine to the list I gave you?

"Yes, but she made a slight error. She sent them to a list of our creditors."—Life.

STATE CAPITAL DES MOINES CHAT.

The State dairy commissioner, B. P. Norton, has completed the tabulation of the returns from the railway companies of the State showing the amount of butter shipped out of the State during the past year. The table gives the amounts from each county during 1898 and 1899. The counties showing the largest figures for the year are: Buchanan, 3,369,220 pounds; Bremer, 3,037,085; Clayton, 3,019,480; Chickasaw, 3,003,538; Jones, 3,192,254; Butler, 2,618,803; Delaware, 2,849,490; Dubuque, 2,399,321; Fayette, 2,690,952; Kossuth, 2,043,190; Palo Alto, 2,560,580; Woodbury, 2,292,265. The following counties each shipped more than one million pounds: Allamakee, Audubon, Blackhawk, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Cerro Gordo, Clinton, Greene, Hamilton, Hardin, Howard, Humboldt, Jackson, Linn, Mitchell, Sac, Story, Union, Winnebago, Winneshiek, Worth and Wright. The total for the State aggregates 91,683,184 pounds.

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Judge Kinne of the State board of control has filed reports on conditions found by him at the county buildings of Muscatine and Tama counties with reference to the care of the insane. Tama County's asylum was not found in bad condition, the principal criticism made by the examiner being the lack of sufficient help, which prevented the insane from having proper exercise and care. There is no night watchman or attendant. There are no amusements, but religious worship once a month. The report deals kindly with the Tama institution. But the criticisms of Muscatine County are strongly denunciatory.

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The accountants of the Governor and Auditor of State have checked up with State Treasurer Herriott for the quarter of 1898, ending Dec. 30. The Iowa State treasury entered upon a new year with substantial balances in all of the accounts. The accounts with the State funds are as follows:

General revenue balance	$566,970 35
State University tax	29,121 58
Morrill endowment	12,500 00
College interest fund	9,528 48
Endowment fund cash balance	152,603 96
Endowment fund bonds	431,688 57

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Members of the Legislature declare there is little doubt of the passage of the proposed resolution for a constitutional amendment to substitute biennial for annual State elections in Iowa. It passed the last Legislature almost without opposition. If it becomes part of the constitution, it will extend by one year the terms of the present Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State superintendent, one railroad commissioner and of Representatives, county treasurers, sheriffs, county superintendents, coroners and surveyors who are now serving.

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George E. Delavan, fish commissioner, has filed his biennial report with the Governor. The report shows that fourteen car loads of black bass, wall-eyed pike, croppies, silver bass, sun fish and channel catfish have been placed in the rivers and lakes of Iowa during the season. The commissioner finds it much easier from year to year to enforce the fish and game laws of the State, especially since the stocking of the rivers and lakes by means of the fish car began.

Short State Items.

The C., B. & Q. will expend $2,000,000 on improvements to its lines in Iowa this season.

The I. M. & N. W. Railway is building a big bridge across the Beaver at Parkersburg.

An unknown man committed suicide by hanging himself in a lodging house in Des Moines.

Four hundred and fifty patients were treated at St. Francis hospital at Burlington last year.

J. C. Scripps, a prominent man at DeSoto, suddenly expired while sitting in his chair reading.

John F. Hogan, an Iowa man, has been installed as a compositor in the government printing office.

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Whitfield claims to have the largest Sunday school in Iowa.

Fire caused a damage of more than $10,000 to the dry goods stock of McCullough Bros. at Clinton.

The Willm