# The Call

SUNDAY.....APRIL 3, 1898

JOHN D. SPRECKELS, Proprietor.

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AMUSEMENTS.

Baldwin—"A Gay Deceiver."
Columbia—"A Naval Cadet."
California—"A Jay in New York."
Alcazar—"The Mummy."
Morosco's—"Ten Nights in a Barroom."
Tivoli—"The Widow O'Brien."
Orpheum—Vaudeville.
The Chutes—The Zoo, Vaudeville and Lion Hunt.
Olympia, corner Mason and Eddy streets—Specialties.
Coursing—Ingleside Coursing Park, this morning.
Coursing—At Union Coursing Park, this afternoon.
Central Park—Baseball.
Recreation Park—Baseball.
California Jockey Club, Oakland—Races to-morrow.

AUCTION SALES.

By G. H. Umbsen—Monday, April 4, Real Estate, at 14 Montgomery street, at 12 o'clock.

## MR. LACEY'S FRANK FRIEND.

A CONSTITUENT of Representative Lacey of Iowa has sent to him for a copy of every obituary to be found among the archives of the House. "I do so love to read about dead Congressmen," explains the person making the request. Perhaps this is a specimen of irony as she irons in Iowa, or it may be that Mr. Lacey's frank friend has a touch of that morbid trait which leads certain natures to the place of mourning, there to find a pleasure such as another would seek at the play.

To the ordinary intelligence the privilege of reading about dead Congressmen does not actively appeal. In fact when a member dies there is apt to be more said concerning him than his importance in the world would justify, and the habit of skipping the long eulogies has been acquired even by the most enthusiastic devourers of the Congressional Record. But there are a few Congressmen who might improve the public service by dropping out of it and getting into a condition to be embalmed in epitaph. Yet these epitaphs would be read without the reader manifesting signs of jubilation or more than a serene content. Lacey could not be blamed for declining to be a purveyor of funeral sweets to a crank.

## AN ISSUE THAT LIVES.

ALTHOUGH the Loud bill designed to make the postoffice self-sustaining has been defeated, and notwithstanding the fact that the postal appropriation bill for the ensuing year has been adopted by the House, the question of postal deficits continues to occupy more attention in the East than any other issue of national legislation except that relating to Cuba and national defense. It seems that the business sense of the country has about made up its mind that something shall be done to place the postoffice on a business basis and will not let the issue die until that has been accomplished.

The Loud plan of putting an end to the deficit by restricting the privilege of second class postage to legitimate newspapers having been defeated, the next plan to be tried is that of those who urge a reduction of the rates paid to railroads for transportation. There are many advocates of this plan outside of Congress and some strong champions of it in that body. It would seem, therefore, as if the plan might be embodied in a bill and brought up for consideration before the Senate follows the House in disposing of the matter for this session.

The Philadelphia City and State, in discussing the cost of transportation, recalls the statement of ex-Postmaster-General Vilas that the Government is "paying for the use of postal cars more than a million dollars a year in excess of what it cost to build the cars," and denounces the rates as "a gigantic thievery." The Springfield Republican declares the scandal of the situation falls upon Congress no less than upon the administration of the Postal Department, which is empowered to make terms with the railroads, and, quoting Senator Gorman, attributes the failure of Congress to make any effort at reform to "the great power of these corporations who control everything, who are so powerful that they make and unmake public men."

Evidence in abundance, and much of it seemingly conclusive, has been advanced from time to time in proof of these assertions. It is somewhat strange, therefore, that no attempt has been made to bring the issue fairly before Congress so that the subject could be discussed on its merits. The argument of excessive railroad rates was used effectively as a weapon to kill the Loud bill, but it was not strong enough to kill the appropriation bill, although the appropriations for transportation were made on the old basis.

It is time to put an end to this sort of juggling on a matter of such importance to the country. The advocates of lower rates should bring in a measure dealing with the issue. They should come forward with a well-defined policy. The postal deficit is a serious evil, but the reported domination of Congress by railroads is a greater evil still if it be true, and it behooves those who claim to be free from that domination to make a straight fight and show their hands at some time before the session closes and the people are called on to pass judgment upon their official acts.

News that Zola is freed will be received everywhere with satisfaction. Perhaps Zola does talk too much, but his excess in this direction is as nothing compared with his habit of writing too much. However, if France did not intend to keep the gentleman in jail it is hard to understand why she made such a show of herself in an endeavor to establish the right to put him there.

If the Queen Regent of Spain gets scared away from that troubled land by the Carlists she ought to come to this country, where she would be received with courtesy and treated to the attentions due a lady of rank.

Peace is so blessed a thing that the country is willing to devote its army and navy to the securing of it.

## THE BORDERLAND OF STRIFE.

UNLESS events shall as by a miracle be changed in the aspect they now present to human judgment, this country and Spain will soon be engaged in deadly strife. Of the outcome America has nothing to fear. That its quarrel is just gives it triple strength, and aside from the moral phase of the contention its material resources are vastly greater than those of its foe. In sentiment it is united. That the national honor must be maintained is a statement over which there is no tendency to haggle, and the national honor is at stake.

It will be satisfactory to the people of this country to know that the final resolution to strike a blow at the arrogance of an ancient and decaying monarchy is based upon the murder of our seamen, for this, despite any diplomatic expression, is the real explanation. When the Maine went down it carried with it the hope of Spain. The mine which wrecked the ship was destined to hurl the Castilian from power in the western hemisphere, and its reverberations may yet change a dynasty. Still, for some reason, there was for a time an effort to dismiss this unexampled exhibition of treachery as a minor incident. The people refused to have it dismissed, and no sounding phrases can blind them to the truth.

If, when the battle-ship was sent to the bottom, Spain had offered condolence, if she had denounced the perpetrators as assassins and hunted them out, the event which is to lead to war might have opened a way to peace. In sympathy there is at least the beginning of friendship. But from the first Spain assumed the attitude of defiant guilt. A calm and impartial investigation proved that the responsibility rested upon her, and though the actual deed may have been that of an unauthorized enthusiast, Spain voluntarily took the position of an accessory, and with the brazenness of the hardened criminal has refused to listen to reason, has been dead to all the impulses of humanity and fairness. Now the penalty be upon her, and if in fire and blood she reap a dread harvest, history will record that it was of her own sowing.

While there was hope of honorable peace no paper of influence, no man of standing, urged the President or Congress to extreme measures. But this hope vanished when there was an attempt to have the Maine incident thrust aside as trivial. Had such a course been permitted no American ship but would have been the safe target of any country with a fancied grievance, and the American flag, instead of being a protection to those beneath it, would have been an invitation for the heaping of indignity upon subjects to whom its shadow should be, and shall be, a shield.

Even if the ostensible ground for war be that Cuba's chains have long enough bound her to oppression, the real ground is the destruction of the Maine. Only for this the United States could not have interfered; only for this it would not have been moved by a concerted desire to interfere. Cuba has fought long and well and vainly. There is no way of telling how much longer she might have struggled. But a new and greater power takes the burden from her. She may think that contemplation of her bravery and suffering caused it. It is not so. In the bleaching bones of the Maine, in the graves of our murdered men, she may read the true story of her own salvation.

## SPAIN'S TORPEDO FLOTILLA.

IF the administration has made any mistake in its conduct of the diplomatic controversy precipitated by the blowing up of the battle-ship Maine in Havana harbor it has been in permitting the Spanish torpedo flotilla to start for the West India Islands.

The arrival of the torpedo flotilla at the probable seat of battle would place Spain upon a war footing on this side of the Atlantic. Although Spain did nothing but send her men-of-war into her own waters, the dispatch of these boats from the home country was a distinctly hostile act. The purpose of Spain may not have been to irritate the people of the United States, but her action in transferring so formidable a fleet at a time when relations were so strained can be considered from no other standpoint than that she has been determined from the start to precipitate a conflict. Certainly the presence of this torpedo flotilla near Cuba could do nothing toward promoting peace. The American people are too numerous and their resources too great for such a presence to frighten them. In other words, the Spanish Government blunders when it thinks that the Americans can be bulldozed.

The dispatch of the flotilla may, however, prove that President McKinley has all along made a mistake in attempting to reach peaceful conclusions with the "Dons." If a war shall now come, as seems extremely probable, these torpedo boats will inflict a great deal of damage upon the American fleets. It is the opinion of naval experts that Spain is now as strong in Cuban waters as we are. If that be the case the impending conflict will be simply a test of fighting qualities. If the Spanish can throw as much vigor into the management of their ships as they have thrown into their diplomacy they will be likely to put up a rather strong fight.

But of course there can be no question as to the final result. An effete and bankrupt nation like Spain cannot continue a naval struggle against a nation like the United States any great length of time.

## SOME PENALTY FOR SLAUGHTER.

INSPIRING the suit brought by the widow of Lieutenant Burke against his slayer is such an evident justice that there can be no harm in commenting upon a matter yet to be adjudicated by the proper tribunal. So often has a murderer been allowed to escape that every step tending to express disapproval of his act is certain to be applauded.

A man cherishing the homicidal tendency, and certain to be hanged for permitting it to lead him to the act of crime, would repress the impulse and remain with hands unstained. If assured in advance that even if not dropped through the gallows trap he would spend the balance of his days in prison, he might curb his desires and ultimately die a free man, succumbing to old age, his neighbors not suspecting how close he had been to the shedding of blood.

Yet the man who killed Burke seems to have been so constituted that gold to him is more than life or liberty. There could be no penalty more certain to awaken in him such shred of conscience as he may possess than one prescribing that he forfeit to those whom he deprived of support the hoard he spent years in collecting. In the abstract the contention of the widow seems unassailable, and in the particular case under consideration the conditions are especially against the assassin. He cannot plead even the shadow of justification. Of course by establishing an allegation of insanity he would render invalid any claim Mrs. Burke might bring, as well as save his neck, either contingency one much to be regretted by the public.

None of the cameras taking pictures in Cuba seems to have got a snap-shot at the "serene contentment" of which the truthful Blanco writes.

## THE INTERSTATE CONVENTION.

FROM the readiness with which Governors of various States of the Great West have agreed to co-operate in the project, and from the cordial approval with which it has been almost universally received in all parts of this State, it is evident the proposed celebration of the semi-centennial of the admission of California to statehood will be carried to a splendid success if the right impulse is given to the movement before the present ardor fails and the sanguine hopes of the people are weakened by postponements and delays.

The enterprise, having been virtually launched, should be kept moving from this time on. The sooner definite plans are adopted the better. The project will gain in strength by acquiring a well-defined form and purpose. There will be a greater readiness on the part of men of energy and influence to assist in the undertaking when they can see more clearly the good that is to be accomplished by it and wherein they can aid it. For all these reasons some action in the direction of formulating a programme for the enterprise should be prepared for at once and adopted as soon as possible.

The first definite step to be taken is necessarily that of calling the proposed interstate convention to consider the project. Nothing in the way of plans can be permanently decided upon until that convention meets, for the convention will have the deciding voice as to the place of holding the exposition and the time when it shall be opened. It is therefore a matter of considerable importance to have the convention assemble at an early date, and to this object the committee having the enterprise in charge should direct their attention without delay.

One reason why the convention should assemble as speedily as is consistent with a good attendance from all the Western States is the desirability of getting the enterprise well under way before next winter so that appropriations may be obtained for it at that time from the Legislature and from Congress. For the purpose of getting a Congressional appropriation it seems indeed that prompt action is imperative. Philadelphia has already asked for an appropriation for an exposition in 1899, and a movement has been started in New York to ask for a grant of money to that city for one in 1901. If we delay in putting forward our claims some other city may precede us in asking an appropriation for 1900, and then our chances of obtaining a grant will be greatly diminished.

While it is by no means certain that the proposed convention will select San Francisco as the place for holding the exposition, it is to this city that the whole West looks for leadership in the movement. It is here the convention should assemble. The committee appointed by Mayor Phelan should therefore arrange for it and hasten its coming as far as possible. The whole enterprise, in fact, is now waiting on the convention, and delay, if prolonged to excess, will impair the enthusiasm upon which the movement largely depends for success.

## THE TAX-PAYING CLASS.

WHEN Benjamin Harrison on Washington's birthday delivered in Chicago his address on the evils of tax-shirking by the rich and uttered his famous warning that this country cannot continue half taxed and half untaxed his statement of facts was generally accepted as correct, and on that basis his conclusions were widely approved and commended.

It appears, however, that there was at least one man in the nation who did not accept the statement of the ex-President. This was W. W. Baldwin of Burlington, Iowa. Not having any data ready to his hand by which to refute the premises of the eminent orator, he set about gathering them from the tax-rolls of his own city, and has recently made public the results of his search in an array of statistics which show that in Burlington, at any rate, it is not the so-called poor people, but the rich, or at least the well-to-do, who pay nearly the entire cost of the municipal government.

According to Mr. Baldwin the city of Burlington, by a census taken in 1895, had a population of 25,246, of whom 13,990 were adults, 6849 being men, and of these 6653 were voters. The records show that the general taxes of the city were paid by 4,038 persons, of whom 839 were women. Thus more than half of the voters paid no tax at all, and out of the whole number of adults more than two-thirds, or over 71 per cent, paid no tax.

Among the taxpayers there were 1896 whose property was valued at less than $300 each, and whose aggregate taxes amounted to less than 10 per cent of the whole amount raised. Thus it appears that about 14 per cent of the adult population pay virtually the whole amount of municipal taxes. Even among these, moreover, the taxation is very unevenly divided. The twenty-two largest taxpayers, together with three national banks and six corporations, pay fully one-third of the whole amount, and the remainder is paid by some 2000 citizens who represent the prosperous well-to-do business men of the community.

Mr. Baldwin claims that Burlington may be taken as a fairly representative American city and that the conditions there are not widely different from those in other cities of the country. He therefore maintains that three-fourths of the adult urban population of the United States pay no taxes, and that these include all that can be called poor. Hence he concludes that the dictum of General Harrison was not founded upon truth and that the conclusions drawn from his statement of facts were unwarranted.

The argument, of which we have given but a summary, is a good one, but it does not fairly meet the point to which it was addressed. Mr. Harrison did not say that men of moderate wealth like the good citizens of Burlington do not pay their share of taxes, nor did his words carry any such implication. His charge was directed against the giant corporations, monopolies and plutocrats of the larger cities of the Union. If Mr. Baldwin will transfer the scene of his studies from Burlington to Chicago and find on the records there that the greater millionaires pay in proportion to their wealth as much as the average citizen of means, he will have refuted Mr. Harrison, but not until then. In the meantime, however, he has made an interesting study of municipal taxation in an average American community, and for that he merits the thanks of all who are interested in such subjects.

When Sherman shall retire to make way for Harrison as Secretary of State the heavens will fall with that dull, sickening thud which has been so extensively advertised.

It will be interesting to notice how the practice of putting in bids for public work after the work has been performed will strike the Grand Jury's sense of propriety.

There was a somber feature to the report that Steve Brodie, the Bowery hoodlum, had died. It came in the form of a distressingly authentic denial.

## WITH ENTIRE FRANKNESS.

By HENRY JAMES.

Verbum Sap does not seem to understand that my farewell to him last week was extended in the spirit of sincerity. After having been given more space than he is worth, he has written again. He must send in his name and photograph before he can work me for a single additional line.

* * * *

"Some Philosophy of the Hermetics" has been sent to me. It is a volume fairly reeking with mysticism. One espies the symbol on its cover, and picks it up with awe. I have read the book and must confess that it conveys nothing to me save that the Hermetics must have something the matter with them. Their philosophy presents every aspect of having been dreamed in a lunatic asylum. It is an emotion, not clearly defined. It is a gasp of the eager theorist as he strains after the unattainable. Needless to say, he doesn't get it, and there are in this book evidences of the fact that his disappointment is considerable. He asks us all to share this, and we cannot; we are gross. We recognize that the difficulty of grabbing the unattainable is a serious matter, yet having other things to bother us, let the unattainable slide. Yes, we are gross. But before attempting to criticize the book I intend to read it again. Its title page announces that there are those "who will see, and seeing will perceive." Perhaps I may be educated up to a place among them and learn to repent of to-day's frivolity. At present I believe the "Philosophy" but a record of vague impressions, such impressions as a vision of the day or night may leave, too dim and fading to be portrayed, too delicate to be transmitted to the senses through the medium of cold type. Every mind seems to catch glimpses of lives it has known or is to know, and feels yearnings it can neither analyze nor account for. In ordinary cases this leads to the writing of poetry, in which love and dove are sure to poise at the ends of two lines, while gloom and tomb are almost certain elements. In the case of an Hermetic, however, the effect is different.

* * * *

There must be a reason for unloading poetry upon me. I wake up in the night wondering what it is and wondering also if the reason is good why some of the poetry is not. Here is Cecil Vere with a song of spring. I would not depreciate the beauteous season when birds begin to carol and the little buds to venture forth. Neither would I depreciate the soulfulness of the singer. I hasten to assure Cecil, however, that spring is an annual occurrence, and really nothing to get excited about. Let it be made clear again that I approach a poem with modesty, realizing that failure to discern its merits may be a personal weakness. Yet I will go so far as to say that Cecil would be wise and kind were she to warble soft and low until her muse shall be a little steadier on its wings and feet. For instance:

And the vi'let's breath, and the vi'let's breath
Brings a feeling most divine;
Nature, unto death, nature, unto death
I will be thine.

The plan of being nature's unto death and even later is a hard one to get away from. It was all arranged before the earliest song-burst fell upon the ears of the new-created. But why leave an "o" out of violets? Why eliminate a particular superfluous foot and leave a lot more just as superfluous? Better eliminate 'em all and use the blank paper which would remain to inscribe with a resolution of reform. I do not wish to hurt Cecil's feelings. At some period a girl is apt to think herself stirred by the spirit of poesy. She generally survives it and a few words of plain advice have been known to hasten the process of recovery.

* * * *

A peculiar person, whose excuse for getting into print must be left to the puzzle editor, accuses me of imitating Bierce. Anybody writing a personal column for a Californian paper must expect from time to time to writhe and perspire bloodily under a similar accusation, unless, as the peculiar person hereinbefore mentioned, safe-guarded by his own stupidity. Among certain scribes there exists a provincial ignorance best concealed while they remain at their level, reporting the current dog-fight or calling some citizen from his bed to ask if it is true he had stolen a partner's money and contemplated eloping with the servant girl. But when these rise higher, and essay to think, they cannot even understand that they have nothing to think with. It becomes a duty and a subdued pleasure to discourage them. Years before I had the honor of knowing there was a Bierce on earth, I wrote for an Eastern paper as now for this. Reward was largely in knowing the work attracted the attention of people with brains. But it also attracted the inevitable ass, who, rearing on his hind legs and clearing his throat of hampering hayseed, brayed that I was imitating somebody or another. Thank heaven he never went so far as to intimate that I was imitating him. The local brayer is simply possessed of the notion that Bierce is the only writer there is or has any right to be. His meager knowledge does not permit him to be aware of facts plain enough to persons endowed with sense.

* * * *

It would be thought from Bismarck's latest remarks that his neuralgia had taken a turn for the worse. He says, in the language of diplomacy, that the diplomats of the United States are jays, and that the affairs of Spain are being conducted by a lot of polished knaves. Not only does this give an inkling as to the physical condition of the prince, but calls to mind that the only real diplomatist is an elderly German now out of a job.

* * * *

Several days ago the papers had accounts of the marriage of a man named Oswald to his niece. Even with the iniquitous habit of employing a tugboat and the three-mile line to defy the law and decent usages it is not often there has been an offense so flagrant as this. I have been expecting to see some mention of Oswald's arrest as well as that of the woman and the person who officiated at the mock wedding. If anything of the kind has appeared I overlooked it. The statutes on this particular point are clear. If this precious trio go unpunished they are bigger than the law, a condition for which, unhappily, a long array of precedents may be cited.

* * * *

I am unprepared to think with Mr. Vining that the power sustaining him against the clamor of a wicked people for decent street-car service is faith. To the unbiased observer it manifests more of the symptoms of gall.

* * * *

One friendly critic has found fault with me for not mentioning Ambrose Bierce in a recent article touching upon the merits of the two Bret Hartes, the one of the West and the long ago, and the one of England and the present. The occasion did not seem to me to require it. The reputation of Bierce is secure. In the field he has chosen Bierce is without a peer. He has the power to make the shadows he creates quiver with horror, to portray the passion of fear as no other has done it. Under the spell of his imaginings the nerves creep and sleep flees away. There may be question as to the utility of employing so strange a gift, yet if it must be asked as to the work of Bierce so also must it of that of Poe, De Quincey and De Maupassant. What he may or may not do in the newspapers is of little consequence. Good or bad, in an hour it is forgotten. At its best it displays weakness of which there is never a hint in his books.

* * * *

Comes forward by post another sample of the trouble I am delighted to share with friends. The signature is withheld because it happens to be the writer's real name. This verse is the first of a number, and by dropping it and the several coming after, the pome would be notably improved. I leave the justice of this verdict to readers:

What color's conceded the fairest on earth?
Our flag.
In liberty's cause came forth souls of true worth,
And with travail for freedom was brought to its birth,
Our flag.

There can be no fault found with the sentiment, which, so far as it can be discerned among the wreck of words and punctuation, is distinctly patriotic. The expression of it lacks coherency, leaving too much to be guessed at. I do not favor the publication of the entire pome, but there might be a use for it. Let some of our rabid-fire Congressmen commit it to memory, spout it through a megaphone pointed in the direction of the Spanish flotilla and the torpedo-boats will whirl around with so short a turn that they may break their own backs.

* * * *

It is not a duty imposed upon me to try cases which have been through the courts. Therefore, the fact that Dr. Hall has been acquitted again is merely recorded here, despite my impulse to add an expression of belief that he ought to have been hanged long ago. It may be that Hall is an angel of light, on earth for the purpose of doing good works. At any rate, there must be some reason for the consideration shown him. When he desires acquittal it is only necessary for him to assist a patient to leave this world of woe. Then he is tried, his guilt made manifest, and released. I am inclined to believe that these experiences which to some doctors would be disagreeable awaken within the bosom of Hall an emotion of pleasure.

* * * *

With every passing day I grow more confident that woman's right to be treated as a sane and sensible entity cannot be reasonably disputed. When a man has had a mother, and perhaps acquired a wife, or vainly sought one, it is not easy to see why he should desire to pose as a superior creature. He knows the bluff is palpable. There is no sense in treating women as though they were incapable of behaving themselves, or in making the stupid pretense that because a lady or a group of ladies may have the joy of being without a male escort, they lack thereby any element of respectability. I notice in a certain restaurant to which people resort after the theater to lunch and listen to music, that women unescorted of gentleman or gent are sent into side rooms, curtained off from the main hall. The unattached gentleman or gent goes where he pleases, and if he choose to tag the ladies into their exile under the pavement, there is nothing to hinder. Now, why is all this nonsense? Surely if it is for the protection of the ladies it is a failure. They would, in the main hall, be far safer from the ogling of impertinent snips who are given to this form of insulting attention than in a side room cut off from general observation. I believe a woman has just the same right in a restaurant that a man has, and that any other view of the case is an affront to her. Observation has led me to think she has a habit of conducting herself with the utmost propriety. At least, if the boss of the place is determined to keep up this fool distinction, he ought to allot to the ladies an apartment as well lighted and ventilated and of as good acoustic properties as the one from which they are banished. And if the men who visit the restaurant in question are not fit for ladies to associate with in the casual contact of elbows, in the full glare of electric lights, it is time to yell for the police and close up the concern as dangerous to the morals of the community.

* * * *

With a pessimism almost unnecessary some people are already counting the pension list to arise from the war with Spain. They seem to take for granted that because the Government has been robbed once, it will be taken in again. This is hardly giving the legislative branch of the concern credit for intelligence. Indeed, as soon as Spain shall have been given a lesson in manners, would be a good time for purging the pension roll of fraud. This task would not be a hard one; it would be objectionable to no honest pensioner and it would not reflect discredit on the old soldier. To the pension he draws he is more than welcome. By publishing the list alone, a great reform would be worked. There are rich men receiving pay they do not need for services never rendered, who would be ashamed to see themselves in print as treasury vampires, and there are thousands of lesser swindlers for whom exposure would make easy the path to the penitentiary.

* * * *

The policemen accused of cowardice have shown some courage in sticking to the force when there was nothing in the way of their resigning and starting a milk route, or something more in keeping with their lamb-like natures. As policemen they are obliged to carry weapons and come in contact with people of morose disposition.

## FIGURES FOR FARMERS.

One of the strongest appeals made in support of the silver issue was that its adoption meant improvement in all farm productions. The absurdity of the claim has been demonstrated time and again, but never so conclusively as by a statistician who recently has investigated in detail the course of silver and farm products in the twenty-one months since the adoption of the silver proposition by the Democratic convention at Chicago in 1896, and finds that in practically every case farm products have advanced at about as rapid a rate as silver has fallen meanwhile. The following table shows that while silver fell from 69.2 cents per ounce on July 10, 1896, to 54.3 cents on March 10, 1898, wheat advanced from 63.5 cents to $1 02; pork advanced from $7 75 per barrel to $10 75; wool from 17 cents to 27½ cents, and other articles of farm production in about the same proportion:

| | Wheat, No. 2, Red. | Mess Pork, per bbl. | Wool, Ohio, per lb. | Silver, per ounce. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| July 10, 1896..... | 63.5 | 7.75 | 17.0 | 69.2 |
| September 26, 1896. | 74.5 | 8.25 | 18.0 | 66.0 |
| November 1, 1896. | 85.0 | 8.50 | 19.0 | 65.6 |
| April 17, 1897..... | 96.5 | 8.75 | 21.5 | 62.5 |
| September 26, 1897. | 100.5 | 9.50 | 26.5 | 57.4 |
| December 18, 1897. | 102.2 | 9.00 | 27.5 | 56.6 |
| February 25, 1898. | 104.2 | 10.75 | 27.7 | 55.6 |
| March 10, 1898.... | 105.5 | 10.75 | 28.0 | 54.3 |

If these figures could be brought to the attention of all the farmers in the land, the effect could not be otherwise than beneficial.—Albany Journal.

## THE FIGHTING RACE.

Joseph I. C. Clarke in New York Sun.

"Read out the names!" and Burke sat back,
And Kelly dropped his head,
While Shea—they call him Scholar Jack—
Went down the list of the dead.
Officers, seamen, gunners, marines,
The crews of the gig and yawl,
The bearded man and the lad in his teens,
Carpenters, coal-passers—all.
Then, knocking the ashes from out his pipe,
Said Burke in an offhand way:
"We're all in that dead men's list, by Cripe!
Kelly and Burke and Shea."
"Well, here's to the Maine, and I'm sorry for Spain,"
Said Kelly and Burke and Shea.

"Wherever there's Kellys there's trouble," said Burke.
"Wherever fighting's the game,
Or a spice of danger in grown man's work,"
Said Kelly, "you'll find my name."
"And do we fall short," said Burke, getting mad,
"When it's touch and go for life?"
Said Shea: "It's thirty odd years, bedad,
Since I charged to drum and fife
Up Marye's Heights, and my old canteen
Stopped a rebel ball on its way.
There were blossoms of blood on our sprigs of green—
Kelly and Burke and Shea—
And the dead didn't brag," "Well, here's to the flag!"
Said Kelly and Burke and Shea.

"I wish 'twas in Ireland, for there's the place,"
Said Burke, "that we'd die by right,
In the cradle of our soldier race,
After one good stand-up fight.
My grandfather fell on Vinegar Hill,
And fighting was not his trade;
But his rusty pike's in the cabin still,
With Hessian blood on the blade."
"Aye, aye," said Kelly, "the pikes were great
When the word was 'clear the way!'
We were thick on the roll in ninety-eight—
Kelly and Burke and Shea."
"Well, here's to the pike and the sword and the like!"
Said Kelly and Burke and Shea.

And Shea, the scholar, with rising joy,
Said: "We were at Ramillies,
We left our bones at Fontenoy
And up in the Pyrenees,
Before Dunkirk, on Landen's plain,
Cremona, Lille and Ghent,
We're all over Austria, France and Spain,
Wherever they pitched a tent.
We've died for England from Waterloo
To Egypt and Dhargai;
And still there's enough for a corps or crew,
Kelly and Burke and Shea."
"Well, here is to good honest fighting blood!"
Said Kelly and Burke and Shea.

"Oh, the fighting races don't die out,
If they seldom die in bed,
For love is first in their hearts, no doubt,"
Said Burke; then Kelly said:
"When Michael, the Irish Archangel, stands
The angel with the sword,
And the battle-dead from a hundred lands
Are ranged in one big horde,
Our line, that for Gabriel's trumpet waits,
Will stretch three deep that day,
From Jehosaphat to the Golden Gates—
Kelly and Burke and Shea."
"Well, here's thank God for the race and the sod!"
Said Kelly and Burke and Shea.

## FIGHTING BY MACHINERY.

Warfare, like manufacturing, has degenerated into machine work. The preparations for a real or apparent danger of war make this conspicuous. The great battleships are fighting machines not constructed to kill human beings but to attack and destroy or disable other fighting machines like themselves. To man such fighting engines requires a small force, and a battle with a modern ordnance does not of necessity involve great carnage. This was exemplified in the Japanese-Chinese conflict. In fact, nations settle their contentions by a mere comparison of strength with that of their antagonist—a quick estimate of their own fighting machines, their armor and armament, their speed and coal capacity. A like estimate of the enemy, a footing of figures and the battle is postponed by one or the other belligerent to enable further preparation and augmentation of the enginery of modern warfare.—Chicago Record.

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