GERMANY SEEKS THE FRIENDSHIP OF UNCLE SAM

Berlin Would Avert Tariff War.

EFFORTS AT CONCILIATION

LOCAL INSPECTIONS OF MEATS TO BE ABOLISHED.

Belief That the Emperor Caused the Acquittal of the American Who Called Him a "Blockhead."

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BERLIN, Dec. 24.—One of the leading subjects discussed throughout the week by the newspapers was the present and future relations between Germany and the United States, more particularly to the commercial side of the question. The correspondent of the Associated Press here has interviewed a high German official who has exceptional sources of information. He said:

"The reports current in the press of both countries on this subject are lamentably inexact. In Washington they seem to have jumped at the conclusion that Germany is on the point of legislating specifically against American agricultural products, and they are 'taking the bull by the horns' in order to forestall us. The fact is there is no such intention here, at least not in Government circles. The meat inspection bill is only on the point of reaching the Bundesrath, which is the first legislative stage. Then it goes to the Reichstag. So it probably will not pass, if at all, until the end of the session next spring. Even then the bill may not be framed to hit the Americans particularly. On the contrary, Mr. White, the United States Embassador at Berlin, has received conditional assurances that the integral feature of the bill will be the abolition of the repeated local inspections of American meats, of which the Americans have complained. The bill provides for a strict inspection, but it will be perfectly fair and will be applied as equally to the domestic trade as to imported meats."

The officials of the United States Embassy generally express the opinion that the German Government sincerely desires to improve its relations with the United States and sees indications pointing to a successful issue of these efforts, though the bills simultaneously introduced in the House of Representatives and in the Senate at Washington foreshadowing retaliation have been received with a great show of indignation by the Government and Government press, while the Liberal, and especially the commercial papers, have unanimously expressed fears that the legislative action on both sides will culminate in a regular tariff war.

The Vorwaerts says: "The greed of the agrarians has disturbed our relations with America for years past. Under pretext of protecting the health of the German people, the importation of American products has been prevented in spite of the treaties."

Continuing, the Vorwaerts demonstrates that German exports of sugar, textiles and wines to the United States are worth 18,000,000 marks, and says:

"As the financially weaker of the two, Germany will undoubtedly be the loser. But the agrarians ignore this. Provided the enhanced food prices flow into their pockets they snap their fingers at the hungry masses."

The Boersen Courier, a leading commercial organ, says: "It is evident that the United States is preparing for a commercial war with Germany, which the German agrarians seem to regard as a trifling matter. We hope the Berlin and Washington governments are more conscious of their responsibility. We fear the German export trade will have to pay the score the Federation of Husbandry has run up."

The agrarians are jubilant at the prospect of a tariff war, which has been their dearest aim for years. A number of insulting articles have been published in their newspapers deriding the United States in every possible way. The Kreuz-Zeitung even throws mud at the American people on account of the recent war and its results, calling the American troops utterly inefficient and saying the Government is corrupt to the core. These utterances, however, are exceptions. The majority of the press is discussing the question calmly and fairly.

The emigration bill introduced in the Reichstag by Professor Hause and Count von Arnim affects the interests of the United States. It advances the policy of "once German, always German," and refuses to any German the right to become a naturalized citizen of any other country. The United States Embassy officials, however, say that if the bill is adopted it cannot override the German-American treaty of 1868, exempting Germans-Americans from such legislation.

The German Cabinet at recent meetings has discussed the question of facilitating imports of Russian petroleum, and it is said from a reliable source that it has been decided to increase the test points and thus exclude inferior grades of American petroleum, provided the Russian Government grants an equivalent.

The result of the trial of Frank Knaak of New York, who was acquitted of the charge of referring to Emperor William as a "blockhead" on the ground that he was in no position to realize his offense, came as a great surprise, even to counsel for the defense, as the testimony was precisely similar to that of the majority of such cases, which have ended in convictions. The presiding Judge, Herr Denso, convicted R. E. Kneebs, the American horseman charged with "ringing" the mare Bethel on the German turf, and sentenced him to nine months' imprisonment and to pay a fine of 1000 marks. Judge Denso is considered to be very severe and learned, and there is the best authority for saying that the acquittal and unusual leniency shown Mr. Knaak were due to a hint from Emperor William that his acquittal, if legally possible, would be appreciated by both his Majesty and the German Government, in view of the present delicate relations between the United States and Germany.

The Emperor and his family will spend the holidays at the Stadtschloss at Potsdam. The elder Princes have arrived there from the military academy at Ploen. His Majesty, in order to celebrate his formal occupation of the estate at Codinen, recently bequeathed to him, has ordered a liberal spread to be given to the poor and to the children on the estate on Christmas.

The Minister of Education, Dr. Bosse, has evoked a chorus of condemnation from all sides by ordering disciplinary proceedings to be taken at the Berlin University against the well-known Dr. Delbruck, for the latter's scathing criticisms of the expulsion of Danes from North Schleswig in public writing. Dr. Delbruck has since received uproarious ovations from the students and from the Legislature halls. The Munich Allegemeine Zeitung, which otherwise is in complete harmony with the Government, expresses the general feeling of detestation of the Government interference, saying:

"We are indignant, not because we agree with the professor's views of the evictions, but because the German universities must remain the guardians of free speech. Even in times of the wildest reaction, truth and love of truth have found in the German universities their city of refuge, and whoever attempts to drive them forth with a police bludgeon desecrates consecrated ground."

The Conservative Post described Dr. Bosse's action as "retrograde and senseless." Professors of the university intend to issue a vehement and unanimous protest.

Dr. Delbruck belongs to the Conservative party. Crown Prince Frederick intrusted him with the instruction of Prince Waldemar, and the doctor received the unprecedented honor, after the battle of Gravelotte, of being called out of the ranks and created an officer on the field of battle.

The latest measure against the Schleswigers is the Governor's decree commanding parents to recall children who have been sent to schools in Denmark. It is expected that the parents will defy the Governor and thus cause a crisis.

ENGLAND'S GREATEST MEN.

They Spring From the Middle Classes Rather Than the Nobility.

On looking into the antecedents of our eminent men many interesting discoveries come to light, and of these the clearest conclusions are that the intellectual giants, of our day at any rate, come from the middle classes, and that a son rarely distinguishes himself in the same direction as his father.

These rules have exceptions, of course. Three of our English Judges—Lord Justice Vaughan-Williams, Sir Walter Phillimore and Mr. Justice Channell — have all followed their fathers' footsteps to the bench.

Two of our bishops, Salisbury and Chichester, are sons of bishops, and Lord Roberts has only gone a step higher than his father, who was a distinguished general and a G. C. B.

The aristocracy, too, has made some useful contributions to our roll of great men. Our bench of bishops includes a baron's son in the Bishop of Peterborough, the son of an earl in his Lordship of Lichfield and the son of a marquis in Lord Alwyne Compton, Bishop of Ely.

The navy has its distinguished sons of noble families in Earl Clanwilliam, the Hon. Sir Henry Keppel, Lord John Hay and Admiral Fremantle.

The army and the law, in their topmost strata, owe little to the aristocracy, while it has no part at all in our leading men of letters.

The bar has a fair percentage of titled members, but the bench is chiefly recruited from the middle classes, and from nearly every representative grade of them.

Of the two living men who have sat on the woolsack Lord Halsbury is the son of a doctor of laws and Lord Herschell of a dissenting minister.

Sir Francis Jeune is a bishop's son, and Sir Walter Phillimore's father was a baronet. Our remaining Judges come without exception from the professional and business classes or are sons of country gentlemen or courtesy esquires.

Sir Joseph Chitty is the son of a barrister, Lord Russell of an Irish gentleman, the Master of the Rolls of a professor of botany, Mr. Justice Bigham of a Liverpool merchant, Sir Gainsford Bruce of a schoolmaster, Mr. Justice Kennedy of an inspector of schools and Mr. Justice Wright of a Somerset rector.

In the army the story is the same. Lord Wolseley's father was a major, Sir Evelyn Wood's a clergyman (and baronet), General Harrison's also a parson, Sir John Lintorn Simmons' a captain of artillery, while Generals Sir George White Markham, Sir Charles Wilson, Sir Redvers Buller and many others of our best-known soldiers are the sons of country gentlemen.

Of our archbishops Dr. Temple of Canterbury is the son of a major and Dr. Maclagan of York of an army doctor, both of our archbishops, strangely enough, having a military origin.

Dr. Kennion of Bath and Wells is the son of a Harrogate physician, the Bishop of Ripon of a Liverpool incumbent, Dr. Stubbs of Oxford of a Yorkshire solicitor, the Bishop of Truro of a Yorkshire manufacturer and the Bishop of Carlisle is the son of a canon of Manchester, all these five bishops thus springing from two northern counties.

The father of Dr. Jayne of Chester was a magistrate, Dr. Ryle's of Liverpool a Macclesfield member of Parliament, the fathers of the Bishops of Worcester, Gloucester and Lincoln were all clergymen and the Bishop of Manchester, like the quintet above, comes from the north and is the son of a Sheffield gentleman.

Among our leading politicians we naturally find many wearers of titles, but many of our ablest statesmen spring from the middle social stratum.

Mr. Chaplin is a parson's son, Sir H. H. Fowler and Lord Herschell come from the "manse," Mr. Chamberlain from commerce, Mr. John Morley from medicine and Mr. Arnold Morley from a city warehouse.

Mr. Long and Mr. Balfour spring from the squirearchy, Sir William Harcourt from the church, Mr. Asquith from business, Mr. Bryce from the law and Mr. Sidney Buxton from the House of Commons.

It is in the world of writers, however, that we find the greatest diversity of origin. Mr. Blackmore is a clergyman's son, as also are Mr. Anthony Hope and Mr. Cutcliffe Hyne, while Mr. John Davidson, the poet, is the son of a minister.

Mr. Marion Crawford is a sculptor's son, Mr. Herbert Spencer the son of a schoolmaster, Dr. Conan Doyle of an artist, Mr. Rider Haggard of a barrister and Norfolk squire, Sir Edwin Arnold of a Sussex magistrate, Mr. "Ian Maclaren" of a civil servant, Mr. Kipling of a gentleman in the Indian educational service, Mr. Clark Russell of a singer and composer and Mr. William Watson, the poet, is a farmer's son.—London Mail.

Decorated Dogs.

To the casual and unsuspecting observer of dogs the canines of Frankford present a very fantastic and incongruous appearance. In this quiet suburban section there are roaming at large dogs whose hairy coats are tinted with the colors of the rainbow and whose general effect puts the most daring of poster creations to shame. If the citizens of that locality were to hold a dog show they could exhibit such a variety of parti-colored canines as would eclipse entirely the swell functions of Germantown and Chestnut Hill. How the Frankford bowwows came by their bizarre appearance is a mystery which many indignant owners of dogs would like to solve. Some unknown person, who apparently has access to a dye factory, has taken upon himself the task of relieving the awful monotony of dog flesh in the neighborhood, and playfully dips a poor little cur into a vat of dye so that one-half of the body is colored a bright and unmistakable pink or green, as the case may be. This unknown artist takes the greatest pains in his color combinations, and if pink and black are not exactly harmonious the effect is at least startling. As there are many dye works in Frankford, the dog owners are at a loss as to whom to suspect; but woe betide this canine decorator when he is captured.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Stratekut—Doctor, do you believe that smoking cigarettes ever made any one crazy?

Doctor—I'm not so sure about that, but I suspect that craziness has caused a good many people to take to cigarettes.—Boston Transcript.

Alterations made on furniture and pianos, with or without removal. J. Noonan, 1017-1023 Mission.

GREED FOR MONEY CAUSED A YOUTH TO MURDER HIS FATHER

Young John Henry Collins Convicted for Committing a Most Appalling Crime at Topeka.

TOPEKA, Kans., Dec. 24.—"Guilty of murder in the first degree," was the verdict returned at 9 o'clock to-night in the case of young John Henry Collins, charged with the murder of his father, James S. Collins, a prominent real estate and insurance agent of Topeka, who was shot as he lay asleep in bed early one morning in May last.

John Henry Collins, the convicted man, was a student in the Kansas State University and a licensed lay reader of the leading Protestant Episcopal church of Topeka. The motive of the crime was found in the youth's greed for money which would come to him upon the death of his father. The elder Collins carried $26,000 life insurance, and it was provided that of this amount $6500 should go to the son.

The young student was enamored of Miss Frances Babcock of Lawrence, whose family is considered wealthy, and the trial developed the fact that Collins had lived beyond his allowance at Lawrence; that he had contracted numerous bills at the university town which he could not pay, and that he had planned to join the Babcocks when they went to spend the summer at an Atlantic Coast resort.

Jess Harper of Lawrence and Johnson Jordon of Topeka, two of the most notorious negroes in Kansas, were important witnesses against the youth. They swore that, working through Jess Harper, Collins had hired Johnson Jordon to assassinate his father. The negroes, after securing money and valuables from the youth, refused to carry out their contract, and then, according to their testimony, Collins boasted that he would "do the job" himself.

He came to Topeka from Lawrence, pleading sickness, retired at the usual hour and according to the theory of the State, arose before daylight and shot his father as the latter lay asleep in bed.

One of the youth's first acts after the murder was to run to a telegraph office and dispatch a message to Miss Babcock, in which he said: "Father is dead; tell nothing."

The investigations of the detectives developed the information that Collins had told Miss Babcock wild stories about his father's life being threatened by negroes. They also produced numerous letters which Collins had written to the negro whom he had hired to kill his father; in fact, the story of the negroes was corroborated in every detail and they even produced the watch and diamonds which Collins had given them as a pledge for the money which he promised to pay when he should realize upon his father's life insurance.

Miss Babcock was among the witnesses for the State, and told of the wild stories which Collins had related to her about the threatened assassination of his father.

Mrs. Collins, the youth's stepmother, who lay beside her husband when he was shot, has from first to last urged the innocence of her stepson, and in all her testimony there was not one word which would implicate the youth.

The jury which returned the verdict of guilty deliberated about five hours. But one ballot was taken, the verdict being unanimous from the first.

A LOCAL SHERLOCK HOLMES.

How He Told Who Had Last Used the Public Telephone.

"The last man who used this 'phone," said a New Orleans Sherlock Holmes, preparing to wrestle with the instrument in an up-town public station, "was a short, little fellow in a deuce of a hurry, smoking a cigarette. He asked for the I. C. freight office, was told they were busy and repeated his request five times, getting madder at each call. Meanwhile his cigarette went out and after vainly searching for a match—"

"Hold on there!" exclaimed a friend who had accompanied him to the booth. "What kind of a fairy story are you giving me, anyhow?"

"No fairy story at all," replied the amateur sleuth blandly. "I was merely stating a few facts."

"But how the dickens did you ascertain them?"

"Plain as A B, C, my boy. To begin with, the adjustable mouthpiece of the instrument is pulled down, as you see, to its fullest extent, indicating clearly that the last user was very much undersized. Isn't that evident?"

"Ye-e-e-es, I guess so; but how about the rest?"

"Well, look at that ledge and you will observe five charred spots and an equal number of small piles of tobacco ash. What do you infer? Why, obviously, that the gentleman was smoking and laid down his cigarette each time he called. The piles of ash are still undisturbed, showing they were recently deposited, and they are very small, proving plainly that the intervals of calling were brief. My logical conclusion was that the 'phone he wanted happened to be busy, and I looked instinctively for a memorandum of its number, which most men make under such circumstances. I found it, as I anticipated, on top of the box, scrawled in pencil, and recognized the number of the freight office. Such memoranda are almost always rubbed out by the sleeve of the next customer, and as this one is still fresh and bright, it is fair to presume it was made by the last man in the booth—otherwise the short chap with the cigarette. Moreover, a freight office 'phone is usually busy at this hour, so the clews interlock and sustain one another. Not so, my dear boy?"

"But the matches?"

"Oh! I deduce the match incident from those fresh toothpicks on the floor. When a man in a hurry searches for a match he invariably finds quantities of toothpicks. I would—"

"Are you through with that 'phone?" asked a short, stout stranger appearing suddenly at the door and vigorously puffing a cigarette, "because if you are I—"

"Certainly, sir," said the analyst, smiling. "I think you will find the freight office disengaged at present."

"Well, I'll be hanged!" said the friend.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

SWISS "TRADE IN FOREIGNERS."

One is irresistibly reminded of the "chocolate soldier" in G. Bernard Shaw's amusing play, "Arms and the Man," when one reads a just issued return of the annual "trade in foreigners" in Switzerland. The return only deals with the trade for 1897, and it shows that in that year twenty new hotels, with an aggregate of 750 beds, were constructed, which, with additions to hotels already existing, went to swell the number of available beds in hotels from 80,000 to 90,000. It is estimated that the visitors number about 600,000, a very considerable increment to a country numbering some 3,000,000. Eighteen per cent are Swiss—oddly enough; 16 per cent English, 34 per cent German, 12 per cent French, 8 per cent United States of America, and other countries 12 per cent. Their total expenditure is estimated at £12,000,000.—London Chronicle.

Showered the Wrong Couple.

A couple of Ann Arbor young ladies played a joke on a strange couple on an Ann Arbor passenger train the other day which was not intended for them. A young Scio couple were married and it was desired to shower them with rice. The two Ann Arbor girls were told that the Scio couple intended to fool them by not taking the train at this city, but would probably drive to Hamburg and take the train there. So when the train arrived at this city the young ladies, armed with big bags of rice, boarded it and asked the conductor if a young married couple had got on at Hamburg and if so where they were sitting. The conductor had seen a newly married couple who lived at Hamburg get on the train and he gave the desired information. The Hamburg couple were looking unutterable things at each other when the young ladies stole up behind them, and, without looking at their faces broke the bags of rice over them, literally showering them. Imagine the surprise, consternation and dismay of the Hamburg couple and of the young ladies, who fled as they saw the faces of the newly married. The Scio couple escaped.—Argus Democrat.

SOME LADIES WILL SMOKE.

French Law for a Russian Countess Who Despised Railway Rules.

"No smoking allowed" will now have to be affixed on the carriage compartment of railway trains allotted to ladies only. This, at least, must be done if the companies mean to obviate the recurrence of such scenes as that witnessed yesterday at the station of the Orleans Ceinture line. Mlle. Viron, 42 years old, and a lady who turned out to be an authentic Russian Countess were sitting together in a first-class compartment marked "dames seules," on their way to Vincennes. They were unknown to each other, and did not talk for some time, but when they did break the silence the language used on both sides was deplorable. The Russian Countess lit a thick cigarette and soon filled the compartment with smoke, which caused Mlle. Viron to cough, and then to exclaim, in a snappish manner, "I wish you would leave off smoking, please; you see that it inconveniences me, and it is not allowed in this carriage, which is marked "Ladies only." The Muscovite Countess smoked on with greater vigor, and remarked that, as there was no notice in or outside the carriage to prevent those who liked tobacco from indulging in it, she was determined to finish her cigarette.

Mlle. Viron protested with all her might against the action of the Countess, and called her a drolesse, or bad lot, whereupon the Muscovite lady, utterly unmindful of the Franco-Russian alliance and its exigencies, struck her co-traveler twice in the face. When the train stopped at the Orleans Ceinture station Mlle. Viron, considerably damaged about the features, and wearing her hat in a manner which seemed to denote that she had been in a collision of some sort, emerged from the train, sought out the stationmaster, and lodged a formal complaint with that official against the Russian Countess. The latter was instantly called upon to throw away her cigarette, as smoking in a "ladies only" compartment was contrary to all railway rules and regulations. The Countess only puffed more vigorously, sent spirals of smoke into the faces of the stationmaster and the guard, and told them that they had no case against her, as they had not put a notice forbidding indulgence in pipes, cigars or cigarettes on the compartment reserved for her sex. The refractory fumeuse, as the station officials called her, is to be proceeded against by Mlle. Viron and the Orleans company.—London Telegraph.

Wages in a Silver Country.

The scarcity of labor all over the republic is becoming a serious question to the railroad companies that are building new lines and extending old ones, and the contractors are getting very anxious, as there is no relief in sight. All the roads in the republic are complaining of the scarcity of labor and one or two have been compelled to stop work completely, as they had no men to go on with construction. The International is feeling the scarcity in a marked degree and work on their branch to Monterey is being greatly delayed. The National is also experiencing difficulty in securing men on its Uruapan extension, and the Central cannot get enough men for its Tampico division, which is undergoing extensive repairs and betterments.

The average amount paid per day for men is 75 cents, though in a number of places $1 per day is offered and paid whenever men can be got to accept the price. The rate can be appreciated when it is known that any number of men can be got to work on farms and haciendas at 25 cents per day, and the same men will not work on a railroad for less than $1 per day. The reason is that in the latter position they are required to work hard and steady.—Mexican Financier.

WHO LOVED HIM.

"Somebody loves me!" he softly cooed. "And can oo guess who somebody is?"

She raised her great gray eyes until their glance rested full upon his beaming countenance.

"Oo!" she answered, with all the confidence of a trusting heart, intuitively aware of the basic sentiment that actuates all mankind.—Detroit Journal.

MEDICINES THAT ARE NOT TAXABLE

Includes All But "Patent" Concoctions.

COLLECTORS' INSTRUCTIONS

DESIGNATIONS BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICE.

Preparations Not Advertised as Cures for Specific Diseases Are Exempt Under the Terms of the War-Tax Act.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue to-day promulgated for the guidance of collectors the opinion of Assistant Attorney General Boyd in regard to the taxability of medical preparations under schedule B of the act of June 13, 1898. Later on the following existing regulations will be amended to conform therewith. In the course of his opinion Mr. Boyd says:

To draw the distinction more clearly between medicinal articles or preparations which I hold to be taxable under the provisions of the law and those that are not, I will call attention to a class of preparations or medicines, samples of which have been filed with me for examination, and which, in my opinion, are not taxable. They are articles which are put up in bottles, phials or other packages, more particularly for the use of physicians and pharmacists. They are such articles as anti-stretococic serum, anti-tetanic serum, anti-diphtheritic serum and many others of like character.

The articles are not put up in the manner or style of patent, trademark or proprietary medicines in general, nor are they advertised to the public upon package or otherwise as specifics or remedies for particular diseases, or claiming special merit.

The names upon the bottles, phials, or other packages containing these preparations are simply medicinal or pharmaceutical designations used to indicate the class of medicines to which they belong, and are for the guidance of physicians, druggists and pharmacists, through whom they are dealt out to consumers as prepared prescriptions.

These articles have the technical medical name upon the bottle or upon the package and also the formula by which they are prepared. There is no exclusive proprietor or proprietary right claimed in them, but any pharmacist or manufacturing druggist has the right to make them after the formula given and there is no retail price or value stated on the bottle or on the package containing them.

It might make the distinction still more plain to say that the class of medicines which, in my opinion, are taxable under the provisions of the law are such as I have described above, which go to the consumer in the unbroken package in which they are put up by the proprietor, manufacturer or compounder, with name, disease and directions for use, without the intervention or a prescription of a physician or pharmacist; while, on the other hand, the provisions of the act do not reach such medicinal articles or preparations as are put up under pharmaceutical or classifying names for the use of physicians in their practice or of pharmacists or druggists in their trade.

Calomel is a medicine article already compounded (I believe) from a formula from mercury, sulphuric acid, chloride of sodium and distilled water. It is a well-known remedy for certain diseases and special merit is claimed for it in the treatment of diseases like bilious fevers, hepatis, jaundice, bilious and painter's colic and other affections attended by congestion of the portal system or torpidity of the hepatic function.

The medicinal article is put up in quantities by the manufacturers after the prescribed formula and is sold to physicians, pharmacists and druggists, and the latter in turn prescribe it for the afflicted and deal it out in quantities to suit the emergency.

Now, calomel is not taxable under the provisions of the war revenue act, when it does not come within the description of articles declared to be subject to tax under the provisions of the act. In the first place, it is not put up in the manner or style of patent trademark or proprietary medicines in general, and in the second place, it is not advertised on the package in which it is put up, as contemplated by the act, and even if the manufacturer or compounder were to be put on the additional words "anti-bilious" or "anti-hepatitos," it would, in my opinion, only have the effect to designate more particularly the class of medicines to which it belongs and not to advertise it as a specific or remedy for particular diseases.

I have given this illustration and used the name of a well known medicinal article to make the distinction which I have attempted to draw the more easily understood.

AN AUTOMATIC RACING JUDGE.

Machine for Marking Wheels in the Order of Their Crossing a Line.

It is rarely that a cycle race meeting is carried through without dissatisfaction arising in some heat or final with the verdict of the judge. Given a hard-fought finish, in which two or more men cross the tape within inches of each other, and it is difficult, indeed, for the most skillful and reliable judge to arrive at a decision which will not be questioned by some one; not often, however, by the riders, for in cycling the judge's verdict is final, like the umpire's in cricket. Still, the liability to error is undoubted, and a promising effort to put an end to it is worthy of notice. A. Laidlaw Baird, an Australian wheelman, has devised a machine which seems to solve the problem effectually, in a manner which is both simple and ingenious. His apparatus was exhibited yesterday afternoon at the Portman rooms, Baker street. The place of the tape on the track is taken by a slot about two inches wide. In this slot five strips or leaves of metal—aluminum is used in Australia—stand on edge. They are graduated so that the fifth, counting in the direction in which the riders are moving, rises slightly higher than the fourth, and that than the third, and so on. When in operation in the last lap they are raised by simple mechanism so that the fifth is about five-eighths of an inch above the surface of the track, and the rest in proportion. The five leaves are fresh painted with enamel.

The first wheel that crosses receives on the tire an impression of the five strips, and its passage causes the fifth strip to fall out of action. The second wheel is marked by the remaining four strips, the third by the three, and so on. When the riders pull up the wheels are examined and the one having five bars on the tire is obviously the winner, and the second man's tire will bear four bars. But if the rear wheel of the first man's machine has crossed the "automatic judge" before the front wheel of the second man, it will have four bars, and the latter will have three. Only in the rare case of five front wheels crossing the "judge" before one rear wheel does so would a "place" be marked at the dropping of each leaf. It will be seen, therefore, that it is the relation of the number of bars on the front tires to each other that decides the position. Thus the winner might have five bars, the second man three and the third one. The enamel marks do not become obliterated for a considerable time, even in wet weather. This machine would seem to afford a highly efficient settlement of a troublesome question. It has been tried on cycle tracks in Sydney, and a large number of prominent Australian racing men have given their opinion in its favor. The mechanism is very simple, and there seems no reason to believe that it will be liable to get out of order. It may easily be fitted, and when it is not required may readily be covered over and removed, so that it presents no obstruction to the use of the track.—From the London Telegraph.

PASSING PLEASANTRIES.

DANGERS OF SCIENCE.

The "lady" professor suddenly reached forward and deftly plucked a long, light hair from her husband's coat.

"Wretch," she cried, "whose is this?"

"One of your own," he answered, stoutly.

"We will see," she haughtily observed, and speedily vanished through a door labeled "laboratory." For an hour or more the sound of clinking tubes and glasses was faintly heard through the heavy partition.

Then the door suddenly opened and the "lady" professor stood on the threshold.

"Villain!" she cried. "It was bleached."

But he was gone.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

WHAT IT LACKED.

Sculptor—Why do you object to this bust of your husband, madam?

Widow—It doesn't seem natural.

Sculptor—You have admitted that it looks like him.

Widow—Yes, the features are all right; but there's no use talking, that statue will never remind me of my dear, dead and gone husband in the world. It's too quiet. My husband had St. Vitus' dance.—New York Weekly.

WHOM SHE KNEW.

"Do you know any one in these parts?" queried a lawyer of one Mrs. Schultz, who was a witness in a trial at Pratt. Mrs. Schultz dropped her eyes, plucked nervously at her shawl for a moment and then blushingly responded:

"Sheriff Keyes over there used to be my beau before either of us were married."

Whereupon the court hammered vigorously to bring the audience to order.—Kansas City Journal.

HE WAS RIGHT.

"It was a pitch battle," he said.

"'Pitched,' you mean," she corrected.

"I don't mean anything of the kind," he replied. "I mean 'pitch.' It was a fight between tars."—Chicago Post.

HIGH OLD TIMES.

Tommy—Didn't the ancients have pretty high times?

His Father—Why, my son?

Tommy—The book says they set their watches on the hilltops. — Jewelers' Weekly.

NOT NECESSARY.

"If Wiggins called you a liar you ought to make him prove it."

"What good would that do?"—Chicago Record.

Proper Price of Bicycles.

When Sir J. Wolfe Barry's paper on London streets and traffic appears in the Journal of the Society of Arts it will be found to contain glad tidings for cyclists. This is the passage: "The present price of bicycles will not, I suppose, rule very long, and we shall see these admirable machines made at prices which now seem unattainably cheap. The weight of a bicycle is so small that the value of the material, except the india-rubber tires, cannot be serious. And if all the parts of a good machine-made watch can be manufactured and put together and sold for less than £1, the manufacture and putting together of a bicycle ought not to cost more. If we add the cost of the steel and the india-rubber, it surely seems not too sanguine to suppose that a few years hence bicycles will be sold at about a fourth of their present price."—London News.

Light and Profit From Garbage Cremation.

Accounts for the first twelve months' working of the combined dust destructor and electric light undertaking in Shoreditch show, says this week's London, a gross profit of nearly £6000. The Electric Light Committee estimate that the saving on the dust destructor, as compared with the old method of disposing of refuse, was £1253, and they conclude that the net profit and saving on the dust destructor and lighting combined has been, for the twelve months, £2679. It should be borne in mind that during the first three months, when the work done was small, there was a loss of £500, and that the vestry has reduced the price of current by 33 per cent during the year.—London Telegraph.

BARS RELIGIOUS GARB IN SCHOOLS

Ruling Made by a State Superintendent.

POUGHKEEPSIE CASE DECIDED

CITY MUST PURCHASE SCHOOL PROPERTY.

Cannot Rent Buildings of Various Church Denominations as Has Been Done Heretofore.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 24.—State Superintendent Skinner has decided the appeal of Edward Weiser against the Board of Education of the city of Poughkeepsie in favor of the appellant. The appeal is from the action of the Board of Education in the rental of school buildings for permanent use by the Board of Education and the employment as teachers of persons who wear the distinctive dress or garb of a religious order.

The Board of Education of the city of Poughkeepsie since 1843 has been renting of various church denominations and individuals school buildings in which they conduct public schools of that city. It has neglected to equip its school system with sufficient accommodations owned by the city for the children desiring to attend the school thereof and the result has been that on the first day of September last upward of 1000 of the school children in that city were compelled to alternate in their attendance and were able to receive but two and one-fourth hours' instruction each day. Superintendent Skinner holds that union of interests is no longer desirable nor for the best interests of the schools of the city, and is against the letter and spirit of the constitution. The public school system must be conducted in a democratic and Catholic spirit that Jew and Catholic and Protestant alike shall find therein absolutely no cause for complaint as to the exercise, directly or indirectly, of any denominational indulgence.

The Superintendent also rules that it is the duty of the Board of Education to require teachers employed by them to discontinue in the public school room the use of distinguishing dress or garb of any religious order.

The effect of the decision is that the plan long in operation in that city must be discontinued and all villages and school districts must own the property in which their schools are conducted, except in cases of temporary emergency, which are provided for by this school law.

Adopting a Safe Plan.

A minister of Winfield, Kan., thinking he was as "active as he ever was," jumped from a moving train and came pretty near killing himself. To a reporter who interviewed him he said: "Now, when we try to convince one that we are as active as we were we do it wholly with our mouth, which seems to have lost none of its natural flexibility."

RINGING in the Ears, Noises in the Head, Prematureness, Failing or Lost Manhood cured by the Celebrated Remedy Treatment, HUDYAN. Write for Circulars Free.

Hudyan Remedy Treatment Sometimes Cures in 30 Days.

Read these symptoms, and if you have many of them you need the certain cure, the Great Hudyan Remedy Treatment. This remarkable discovery has made the name and the fortunes of the Hudsonian doctors of the Hudson Medical Institute.

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Nervous Debility. This affliction destroys ambition, organic strength, energy and hope. Following are some of the symptoms:

Do you feel weak?
Have you cold feet?
Have you backache?
Do you shun society?
Are you losing flesh?
Do you sleep poorly?
Are you low-spirited?
Are your eyes sunken?
Do you have hot flashes?
Is your memory impaired?
Have you no manly vigor?
Have you no vital energy?
Do you have sick headache?
Is there nausea after eating?
Do your hands or feet sweat?
Is there a lack of sexual desire?
Has the brightness left your eyes?
Do you feel that you are unfit to marry?

Failing Manhood. When your manhood begins to go you will twitch and show signs of premature weakness. Following are some of the symptoms:

Do your facial nerves twitch?
Are you all run down?
Spots before your eyes?
Do the muscles twitch?
Have you pains in small of back?
Have you pains on each side of backbone?
Have you pains in head?
Have you shooting pains?
Do you feel fatigued?
Are you weary?
Does your head swim?
Do your knees knock?
Does your hand tremble?
Is there a ropy sediment in the water?
Do you suffer from night losses?

If you are in this condition you should learn all about the Great Hudyan Remedy Treatment. It is sure to cure. It cures as certainly as you use it. No one else can give you Hudyan but the doctors of Hudson Medical Institute.

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