BRYAN IN AN ODD FIX

SELECTED BY A JAPANESE BOY AS HIS FOSTER FATHER

YOUTH IS ON THE SCENE

Colonel's Domestic Arrangements Upset by the Arrival of the Oriental Lad, Who Is Anxious to Learn American Ways After the Methods of His Mother Country—Silver Leader Accepts the Situation.

LINCOLN, Dec. 11.—Col. William Jennings Bryan is in sore trouble. His present ailment is not political or military, but domestic. Mrs. Bryan shares the colonel's sorrow, and each tenderly sympathizes with the other, while friends sincerely sympathize with both.

The cause of all the trouble in the Bryan household is astounding—nay, almost incredible. It made its appearance a few weeks ago when Col. Bryan was spending a short time at home during his furlough. The colonel one day was sitting in his parlor surrounded by eminent political friends with whom he was discussing grave matters of public concern, when on a sudden the front door was opened from without and a handsome Japanese lad of nineteen, gorgeously attired, entered the room in which sat the politicians.

Bowing with Oriental dignity and grace, the strange visitor made straightway to the leader of the Democracy and handed him a card on which was engraved this:

COUNT ITSU,
SAKURA, JAPAN.

"Father," said the boy, "I am at last here at home. Where is Mother Bryan?"

At first a frown clouded the face of the colonel, but presently the frown gave way to smiles and the smiles to laughter. The colonel welcomed the count and bade him be seated. Thus began the second act in the colonel's serio-comic play. The third act is yet to come, but the second, now being played, is the climacteric act and the most interesting.

DECIDED TO COME HERE.

Having begun this marvelous story in medias res, it is now the proper thing to go back a few laps and begin at the beginning. The scene changes from the prosaic town of Lincoln to the sunny slopes of Shimaso in Japan. There in the picturesque little town of Sakura lived the Count Itsu, young, ambitious and bold. He had passed through the best schools of his country and had gained all the knowledge his native masters could teach him. On every hand he had heard of the great United States and of the American people—of their enterprise, their inventions, their grand liberty, their noble institutions, their big ships and their soldiers and their statesmen. Itsu's mind was made up. He would go to America, master its civilization and then return to Japan and enter the parliament of his country.

Now it would seem that in Japan there is a custom that permits a youth to choose for himself an adopted father and mother. This is a most convenient arrangement for the young people of a country, although it may be a little rough on the adopted parents—as Col. and Mrs. Bryan have found out.

ADOPTS COL. BRYAN.

Itsu decided he would adopt a father and a mother in America as the best and the quickest way of gaining his end. His first thought involved a scheme to take up his residence at the White house, the very center of American institutions, so to speak, but then he remembered that the president had a war on his hands and might not be able to give him the necessary attention.

On second consideration he remembered Col. Bryan, whose fame as a great American leader had crossed the broad Pacific. An American who could poll 5,000,000 votes must be a great man, thought the count, and to Bryan he would go.

But he would write first and notify his father-to-be of the plan. In due time Col. Bryan received the count's letter.

"All I want," wrote young Itsu, "is to have you for my father and to live with you about seven years. By that time I shall understand America."

Now, Col. Bryan answers very few letters, but he lost no time in directly replying to this. He began by assuring the count of his most distinguished consideration and praising highly the young man's good sense and precocity in desiring to know all about free America. It was a noble ambition, an ambition to be encouraged and fostered and helped—but, in the matter of parentage, Col. Bryan did not see—just then—how it could be arranged. There were many difficulties in the way; large difficulties; difficulties he could not enumerate. There were obstacles—in fact, the matter was utterly impossible. Col. Bryan could, in no circumstances, accept the count as an adopted son.

IN BRYAN'S HOUSEHOLD.

Col. Bryan went off to the wars and thought no more of the young Japanese count until a short time ago when Itsu, in propria persona, presented himself to the colonel's astonished eyes. Itsu placed his valise on the floor and announced that he had come to stay seven years.

Count Itsu lost no time after his arrival at the Bryan homestead. He began at once to assist in the housework. A more eager, willing servant was never seen in an American household. Talk about boys who work their way through college! Itsu can give points to any of them. From making fancy cups for the children to washing dishes, the young Japanese will do any personal service anyone in the house desires. He even anticipated wants with a quickness that is really pathetic. In his leisure hours, which are many, he devours the newspapers and digs into Col. Bryan's books, hopelessly trying to find out all about American institutions in a few days. He has even read Col. Bryan's work on the campaign of '06. A book on economics is sweeter than Japanese persimmons to his mental palate.

After a siege of four or five days, in which he bothered Mrs. Bryan with the most pitiable pleadings to be allowed to do some work about the house, that lady surrendered to the eager, handsome, earnest young Oriental. One day she told him, in response to a peculiarly pressing appeal, to go out and sweep the front porch. Itsu took the broom and went out on the spotless floor of the porch.

At the end of half an hour Mrs. Bryan, wondering what was detaining him, proceeded to investigate. Itsu was gone. Pushing her investigations further she found the boy two blocks away vigorously sweeping all the sidewalks and crossings in the neighborhood. He explained that he thought perhaps his American "mother" might wish to walk down the street. After that Mrs. Bryan gave him his own way in everything.

Col. Bryan and his wife are busy trying to evolve some plan of getting rid of Itsu without offending his delicate sensibilities. This important matter has received the attention of former Congressman Towne, of Minnesota; Editor Thomas Patterson, of Denver, and Millard F. Dunlap, of Jacksonville, Ill., recent candidate for Illinois state treasurer on the Democratic ticket, all of whom were visiting Col. Bryan when young Itsu made his debut. Mr. Dunlap is especially interested in the young man. Col. Bryan being unable to remain at home and look after the lad, these friends have undertaken to see that the Japanese lad will miss no opportunity of learning all he can about America and its institutions. He will be placed in some excellent university, probably that of Illinois, at Champaign, where Mr. Dunlap can act as his guardian while "Father" Bryan is away with his regiment.

Count Itsu is independently rich and is a nobleman of Japan. If other noblemen were only blessed with his simplicity, candor and industry, there would not be much credit in anyone being a democrat.

SHIP IN BAD SHAPE.

The Injuries to the Massachusetts More Serious Than Reported.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—The Times tomorrow will say: "It was impossible to ascertain yesterday the full extent of the casualties received by the battleship Massachusetts, which struck a reef or sunken obstruction off Diamond reef, Governor's island, on Saturday, while on her way from the navy yard to the naval anchorage off Tompkinsville, Staten island. It was found, however, that the damage wrought was considerably greater than was at first suspected, and it is believed fully ninety days will be required to put her in shape to go to sea, even if she is not seriously hurt. The vessel now lies at the old coal dock at the navy yard, and the crew was kept busy all through Sunday discharging the ammunition preparatory to pumping her into the dry dock. If it is found she can be floated with safety with the hasty repairs that have been made, she will go into dry dock Monday."

DEFACED THE TOWN.

Spaniards Displayed Their Spite Before Leaving Holguin.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Dec. 11.—Gen. Leonard Wood, military governor of the department of Santiago, has returned from his tour of inspection along the north coast, very well satisfied with the results of his trip. He considers that Col. Hood, of the Second immune regiment, who is in command of Holguin, has done excellent work in the department.

It appears that, when the Spaniards left, they filled the cisterns with filth, rendering it extremely difficult to get water. They killed all the animals they could, leaving the dead bodies in the streets, and burned all the furniture they were unable to remove. In fact, they defaced the town.

Gen. Wood approves, too, all the appointments made by Col. Hood, who apparently has followed Gen. Wood's suggestions as to methods of selection. He found smallpox still very prevalent, but under control and gradually being controlled by Dr. Wood and his assistants.

The condition of the troops is excellent, there not being one case of serious sickness.

Gen. Wood also found Jibara in good condition, with smallpox on the decline.

No little interest attaches to the appointment of a mayor at Mayari. Gen. Wood found three candidates about equally supported, and all with civil lists estimating an average annual expenditure of about $1,000,000. When he had discovered that the revenue was something under $400,000, Gen. Wood asked if there was not some reputable citizen with patriotism enough to give his services for nothing. A merchant promptly responded, and the appointment is acceptable to everybody except the three other candidates. The minor offices were filled at a considerable reduction in salaries, bringing down the expenses of Mayari, which is up the Mayari river, to a point which does not exceed the revenues.

WATER MAIN FLOOD.

Damage of Half a Million Dollars Done at Brooklyn.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—For several hours today an area of twenty blocks in the Twentieth ward in Brooklyn was inundated by raging waters, which washed out the foundations of houses, tore down trolley and telegraph poles, imprisoned people on their houses and nearly drowned some who were caught by the flood. The damage will reach several hundred thousand dollars, the police think $500,000.

The great water main at Hobart street and Central avenue burst at 5 o'clock in the morning. This main is four feet in diameter, and when the pressure became too great the water shot up eight feet in the air, tearing a hole in the pipe itself seven feet in length and a half of its circumference. For the first hour 1,500,000 gallons, it is estimated, rushed through the streets, and there was little dimunition for three hours.

War on Police.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 11.—The resignation of Police Commissioner Ralph Phelps Jr. was demanded today at a mass meeting of representative citizens, held in one of the leading churches. This action is the direct result of recent agitation toward the enforcement of law and abolishment of vice by the Good Law league, of Detroit, and others.

Collision in Oregon.

PENDLETON, Or., Dec. 11.—A rear-end collision occurred today on the Oregon Railway & Navigation company's main line, seventeen miles west of here, between the westbound fast mail and freight train No. 21. Four persons were seriously but not fatally injured.

Bryan Will Resign.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 11.—Gen. Keifer who is in command of the remaining troops of the Seventh army corps since Gen. Lee's departure for Cuba, tonight confirmed the rumor of Col. W. J. Bran's resignation of his command.

Ethical Union Adjourns.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 11.—The meetings of the American Ethical union came to a close after a discussion today of "The mission of the Ethical movement," under various branches, and the oft repeated lecture of Prof. Felix Adler, on "The Indispensable Faith," tonight.

Spanish Finances.

MADRID, Dec. 11.—The Bank of Spain report for the week ended yesterday shows: Gold in hand, unchanged; silver in hand, increased 7,652,000 pesetas; notes in circulation, decrease 904,000 pesetas.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

NILES, Mich., Dec. 11.—James Shaw, the only surviving member of the state legislature of 1847, when Detroit was the capital of Michigan, died last night, aged 86.

LONDON, Dec. 11.—Sir William Victor Anderson, director general of the Royal organ factories, and part inventor of cordite, died today, in his 67th year.

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 11.—Sir Thomas Upington, premier of Cape Colony from 1884 to 1888, died today, in his 54th year.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Dec. 11.—Homer Murray Washburn, vice president and manager of the Continental Wall Paper company, which a little over a year ago absorbed seventy mills of the country, died suddenly in his home in this city today of Bright's disease, aged 52 years.

The Balmy South.

Winter tourist tickets on sale at St. Paul and Minneapolis offices of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, as follows:

Augusta, Ga., and return	$56.30
Savannah, Ga., and return	60.40
Thomasville, Ga., and return	60.40
Jacksonville, Fla., and return	63.40
Pensacola, Fla., and return	50.60
St. Augustine, Fla., and return	66.30
Mobile, Ala., and return	48.60
New Orleans, La., and return	53.40
Galveston, Tex., and return	55.00
San Antonio, Tex., and return	54.45

Cheap rates, both one way and round trip, to all California points.

For details call at City Ticket Office, 365 Robert street, or address J. T. Conley, Assistant General Passenger Agent, St. Paul, Minn.

WAR TALK IS COMING

WHOLE SUBJECT LIKELY TO BE PRECIPITATED IN CONGRESS THIS WEEK

HULL ARMY BILL IN HOUSE

It Will Afford Opportunity to Open Debate Covering the Entire Range of the Conduct of the War, While in the Senate the Urgent Deficiency Bill Will Serve the Same Purpose.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The course of proceedings this week in the senate will depend upon the disposition of the Nicaragua canal bill. It is Senator Morgan's intention to call up this measure Monday, and he has expressed the hope that he will secure action at the Monday session. Few of his most sanguine co-workers agree with him in this opinion, and the best indication is that, unless an agreement can be reached for a postponment, several days, at least, will be consumed in its consideration. The opponents of the measure will ask its supporters to defer consideration until after the holidays, and they will give as their reason for this request that the report of the government commission appointed to investigate the feasibility of the canal has not yet been made, urging the importance of the information it will furnish before taking action on so important a measure. If the bill is taken up in earnest it will consume the greater part of the senate's time until finally disposed of.

Another subject on the calendar is the anti-scalping bill, which Senator Cullom has informed the senate he will seek to get up at an early day, but he will meet with opposition if he makes the effort and he is not likely to succeed thus early in the season.

The programme for Monday is the bill providing for the registry of foreign built ships, but if the Nicaragua bill should be taken up the registry bill would not be allowed to consume too much time. Senator Morrill has given notice of a motion Tuesday to consider the bill providing for the purchase of a site for a building for the United States supreme court, but the proceedings with reference to this measure will be confined to a speech by the Vermont senator.

The urgent army deficiency bill will receive attention early in the week. The committee on appropriations will meet Monday, and it is not believed that more than one meeting on the bill will be necessary. Senator Allen, chairman of the committee, therefore hopes to get the bill up for consideration on Tuesday. It is expected that the army bill will be used as a pretext for the discussion of the Spanish war, and the fear of such a course has not entirely subsided.

ARMY DEBATE EXPECTED.

The Whole Question May Be Precipitated by the Hull Bill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—Beyond the first three days there is no programme mapped out for the house this week. Tomorrow will be devoted, under the rules, to the consideration of business relating to the District of Columbia, and on Tuesday the District of Columbia appropriation bill will be taken up. This is in pursuance of the determination of the leaders to give the appropriation bills the right of way whenever one is ready. There is nothing in the district bill this year to atract opposition, and unless the unexpected happens the bill ought to pass Tuesday or Wednesday at the latest. The appropriations subcommittee on pensions will commence work on the pension appropriation bill on Wednesday, but it can hardly be ready before next week. It is confidently expected, however, that it will be passed before the holidays.

It is possible that Chairman Hull, of the military affairs committee, will be able to bring in the army reorganization bill as soon as the district appropriation is out of the way. He is exceedingly anxious to get the bill into the house at the earliest possible moment, as he is particularly solicitous that it should pass the house before the holidays. If it should follow the District bill, a very interesting debate will be precipitated. The future policy of the government is ordained in the bill for the increase of the standing army, and the whole subject will be opened up. The Democrats are divided upon the question of reorganizing the regular army, but how far the opposition will go in antagonism to the bill it is impossible to forecast.

Last week, in discussing the urgency deficiency bill, Mr. De Armond, of Missouri, one of the leaders, evaded a direct answer when the question was put fairly to him by Mr. Cannon, chairman of the appropriations committee. If the army bill does not come up, the various committees under the call will probably be allowed to clear up business which they have on the calendar.

EDUCATING THE INDIAN.

First Official Report on the Subject From a Woman.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—Miss Reel, superintendent of Indian schools, in her annual report, makes a strong plea for the industrial feature of educational work among the Indians. Miss Reel, who was formerly land commissioner as well as superintendent of public instruction for the state of Wyoming, is the first woman who has been at the head of the department of Indian school service. In her report she says:

The government has not as yet adopted compulsory measures for the education of the Indian children, and the fact is that the dark-skinned sons of the forests do not take to education very readily. Some reservations withhold the rations until the parents place their children in the schools, and so strong is the opposition to this, in many cases, that they have held out against it until their families were on the verge of starvation. But this feeling is not general, and during the past year the attendance percentage was very fair.

In the reservation schools the work is divided between the hours of study and industrial duties. The girls are taught, aside from the common school branches, to become good housekeepers, and the boys farming and the ordinary industrial arts. These schools have graduated a large number of their pupils, of whom but comparatively few have returned to their old manner of living, while the great majority are making good citizens. There is still, however, room for improvement, and the aims of the young Indian must be made higher; he must be brought into touch and kept in contact with our civilization. Where tribes of Indians have been surrounded by a good class of white settlers the debasing effects of camp life have been ended. The placing of Indian boys and girls at such institutions of learning—although for a few months only—the girls instructed in branches of housekeeping, the boys in farming, stockraising, etc.—has met with abundant success at Carlisle, where the plan originated.

Monthly Imports.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The monthly statement of imports into the United States for the month of November, made by the bureau of statistics shows that during that month the imports of wool amounted to $647,384, as against $1,052,384 for November, 1897. During the same month the imports of tea aggregated $816,066, as against $1,685,040 for November last year, both showing a material decrease. The imports of sugar, however, increased from $2,275,307 in November, 1897, to $3,637,495, or about 60 per cent.

PORTO RICO PROBLEM

ADMINISTRATION OF THE ISLAND A HARD NUT FOR THE PRESIDENT

GUARD FOR TAX COLLECTORS

Natives Do Not Take Kindly to the Present Internal Revenue Scheme—Currency and Taxation Questions Must Be Met in the Near Future—Trade Balance in Favor of the Island Only Apparent.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—Assistant Secretary Vanderlip, in his second informal report of his observations in Porto Rico, says that the history of the currency situation there is about this:

The island, some twenty-five years ago, was using American currency. At the time of the emancipation the Spanish governor found the value of silver declining, and he discovered it would be profitable to make payment in Mexican dollars, and in that way the currency was brought to a silver basis. The heavy payments for crops made a redundant currency, and a great deal of it was shipped away. Eventually the government decided on a coinage for the island making a further profit by decreasing the silver in the peso. The silver in the peso is .900 fine. The Spanish government gave this new peso a certain redeemability by offering to redeem it at the Bank of Spain at Madrid at .95 in gold, and these coins have been redeemed at that rate, although comparatively few of them have been carried back to Spain.

The American commanders report a condition that must be taken into account, in the ownership of most of the plantations. They are nearly all owned by Spaniards, a great many of them by Spaniards residing in Spain. This has resulted, instead of an apparent balance of trade considerably in favor of the island, in a real balance against the island. The island after a number of years has raised a crop of sugar at an extremely low cost for labor. The sugar has been sold abroad, and practically the whole return for it has remained abroad and created no demand for exchange. About the only thing that has been imported is a little calico, and, while the trade returns show a large excess of exports, the value of those exports never returns in any form.

RATE OF EXCHANGE.

When the American troops landed it was thought an easy temporary solution of the situation to fix the rate of exchange as between American dollars and pesos at two for one. That worked satisfactorily for a little while, but the exchange dealers soon found that they could make a more profitable rate of exchange, and the ratio fixed therefore became ineffective and inoperative. The settlement of the question lies between two extremes, on the one hand the fixing of value of the peso at the exact value of the bullion, and on the other giving it an equivalent gold value equal to the nominal redeemable rate of .95, which the Spanish government fixed.

"An army officer, with whom I talked," says Mr. Vanderlip, "is in favor of an immediate forced substitution of our currency for the present Porto Rican currency and thinks this might be done by military order fixing the rate of exchange. The question is, what rate should be fixed. It is not believed the average rate of exchange for a series of years should be taken. Exchange dealers have controlled the situation with little reference to the actual balance of trade. It would be a hardship on the debtor for the United States to have the peso too high and the debtor class is the whole working population of the island. There is a great amount of small debts. No one seems to work without the spur of a debt behind him, and to compel the repayment of these debts in a coinage more valuable than that in which they were contracted would be a great hardship. It is believed by some that to undervalue the peso, gauged by the average exchange rate, would work much less hardship and would really come very near being just. It would enable the small merchants to more easily meet their obligations and would, if the exact bullion value was taken as a basis, still offer ample profit to the money lenders, for they have oppressed the borrowers by an ingenious variety of methods.

SPANISH BANK ISSUES.

"It was suggested to me that with reference to the issues of the Spanish bank they might be redeemed in our money at the same rate of exchange which we fix on the peso. If that rate is low, then the bank can better attempt the redemption. The volume of the currency is reported to be smaller than is generally estimated. While the original currency was from 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 pesos, it is thought by some that there may now not be more than 4,000,000 to be exchanged.

"Attempts are now being made to collect internal taxes, but at present armed guards have to be sent with the collector. The scheme of taxation is something like this: The central government levied on the municipalities (a municipality covers not only a city but a district) a certain amount that must be collected for the support of the government. The municipality needs further sums for local expenditure. The scheme of taxation by which this total amount of taxation was collected varies in the different municipalities. It is quite the reverse from our internal revenue taxes, for little if anything is laid on the manufacturer of spirits and tobacco. The best opinion is that the judicious introduction of our internal revenue system and the abandonment of the Spanish system would be wise. The raising of taxes on spirits would be a popular movement, and the abandonment of other forms of taxes would give the new scheme further popularity. It is thought by some that for the present we are collecting too much revenue, for the reason that up to this time there has been practically no expenditure."

There has been a great deal of disturbance and destruction of property in Aguidala, the province at the northwest corner of the island, and in Mayaguez. It is thought that half a million dollars' worth of property has been destroyed, and that practically nothing can be realized.

Hudson Bay Disappearing.

Hudson bay will, in the course of a few centuries become dry land, the rise of its surface being more remarkable than any other portion of the earth. Beaches covered with driftwood are found twenty to seventy feet above the bay, and the old harbors have become very shallow.

Origin of Card Marks.

The marks on playing cards are said to have their origin in a symbolic representation of four different classes of society. Hearts represent the clergy, spades the nobility (derived from the Italian word "spads," meaning sword), clubs the serfs, and diamonds the citizens.

HOLIDAY EXCURSION RATES TO THE EAST

Via "The Milwaukee."

Tickets on sale Dec. 15th to 28th inclusive, limited to Jan. 31st, 1899.

New York and return	$44.50
Boston and return	$45.00
Montreal and return	$31.50
Portland, Me., and return	$45.00

Other points in proportion.

Tickets sold at these rates will be accepted on the "PIONEER LIMITED"—The Only Perfect Train.

Apply to "THE MILWAUKEE" agents in St. Paul or Minneapolis, or address J. T. Conley, Assistant General Passenger Agent, St. Paul, Minn.

MAINE MONUMENT.

Iron Fence Enclosing Resting Place of Victims Dedicated.

KEY WEST, Fla., Dec. 11.—The dedication this afternoon of a handsome iron fence, enclosing a plot in the city cemetery, in which rest the bodies of victims who were killed in the explosion of the battleship Maine as well as four men from the Winslow, one from the Marblehead, one from the Dixie, one from the Yankee, as well as others killed in the rebellion, drew the greatest crowd ever witnessed here. The fence was purchased by public subscription.

MAKING NO TRUCE.

Kaiser Does Not Propose to Be Caught Napping by the Czar.

BERLIN, Dec. 11.—Emperor William today received the recently elected members of the reichstag. In the course of a general conversation, he said that, although Germany was on a peaceful and friendly footing with all the powers, the international situation required great attention, "as, indeed, every layman can see for himself." Therefore, his majesty urged, it was necessary to carry out the proposed perfecting of the army.

TO SEIZE SAMOANS.

Powers Said to Have Consented to Occupation by Germany.

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The Berlin correspondent of the Standard says: "It is rumored here that the three powers concerned have agreed to a German occupation of the Samoan islands beginning with Upola."

FATAL BROOKLYN BLAZE.

Six People Missing, Two of Them Known to Be Dead.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—By a fierce fire, which occurred tonight in a flat house at 134 Prospect place, Brooklyn, two persons met death, and the firemen are searching the ruins for more bodies. The house was occupied by five families, and a boys' club had rooms in the basement. It is supposed that in some way the boys accidentally set the place on fire, as the flames were first discovered coming from the basement. At 1 o'clock six persons were reported missing, two of whom were known to be dead. The dead are:

JOSEPH NOBLETT AND HIS WIFE.

The missing are: A. Frank and wife, brother and child.

TARPON FISHING.

Hooking a Big Fellow an Experience Not Easily Forgotten.

From Collier's Weekly.

Provided the aspiring tarpon slayer is prepared to expend anywhere from $20 to $50 or more he may supply himself with an excellent outfit through any respectable dealer. It goes without saying that no relly conscientious disciple of Isaak Walton will be content to order his outfit off-handed, leaving everything to the dealer, thereby sacrificing the exquisite satisfaction of making his own selections. Yet such is the spirit of the age that not a few of our gilded youth are prime to order their fishing tackle as they do their trousers—by the dozen—and leave all details to the tailor. Let such go their way; they will probably catch no tarpon.

The apporved rod for this sport is seven to nine feet long, fitted with a large multiplying click reel that will hold some 200 yards of 15 to 21 thread linen line. Tastes differ regarding the hooks, but the best authorities favor something not far from 10-0 in size, forged and ringed. The Dublin bend Limerick is a favorite with some successful fishers.

The snell, the connecting link between the hook and the line, offered the most difficult problem. I should say rather that the tarpon jaws were so constructed that the snell must be built to order in order to circumvent them. These jaws, be it known, have overlapping side plates which are in effect quite efficient shears. They will cut anything not made of metal that has body enough to effer resistance. Naturally a chain was the first resort, but the minute Sir Tarpon closed upon a chain he knew it, and ejected it forthwith, bait and all, for his mouth is conveniently paved throughout with bone plates upon which no hook has the least hold.

At last the ingenious device was hit upon of using a snell made of several strands of rather soft-laid cotton line, dyed some dark color, so as to be inconspicuous when wet. When the jaw shears close upon this it spreads apart into separate strands and becomes too thin to cut. Sir Tarpon perceives nothing wrong, so the portion of mullet covering the hook continues its downward course, taking up the clack of the long snell as it goes (the snell should be 24 to 28 inches long) and pursues his way rejoicing until a suddent wrench at an inward locality, not provided with armor plates tells him that he is hooked, and then the fun begins.

His first act is to throw himself bodily out of water, wih his huge jaws wide open, and jerk his head violently from side to side. If the bait is not completely gorged he will often force it out. But if the hook secures a hold the effort is vain, and the struggle of skill against energy goes on.

Again and again, sometimes a score of times, the fish leaps from the water to shake himself free. Miles upon miles he swims, doubling upon his course, circling, sulking, until he often tires out his would-be captor, who is glad to hand the rod over to his boatman for a rest. Such a confession of weakness is, however, so humiliating to a true fisherman that if he has any "sand" in his composition he will fight it out to a victorious finish or an honorable defeat.

Such an experience is not easily forgotten, and the fastidious coquettishness of the tarpon in the matter of taking bait renders it nearly certain that to the average fisherman killing a tarpon will not become tedious through frequent repetitions. Far more likely is it that his patience will give out after a few days under a tropical sun upon a breathless sea, and he will never experience the thrill of the silver king's break for liberty.

The tarpon season in Florida waters begins in March and improves throughout the summer, the best of it coming long after most visitors have fled northward to escape the heat with its attendant pests.

As a table fish the tarpon is not a great success, though with such sauces as a French chef knows how to prepare it is not altogether to be despised when nothing better can be had. As a staple article of food, however, it has its uses along the Florida beaches, for there the native fishermen spear the magnificent fellows, scrape off their silver scales with a hoe, cut their persons up in long strips and dry them in the sun for provision when other "hog and hominy" fail.

Town of Churches.

The town in England best provided with places of worship is the ancient one of Rochdale, where there are 145 churches and chapels. Fifty belong to the Church of England and ninety-five to the non-conformists.

Keeping Dogs Quiet.

When a dog barks at night in Japan the owner is arrested and sentenced to work for a year for the neighbors whose slumbers may have been disturbed.

Hebrews Have No Rights.

In Spain Hebrews are not permitted to erect and maintain houses of worship. They have no civil rights and exist in the kingdom only as aliens.

AT AUSTIN TOMORROW

STATE DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION WILL OPEN ITS TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

MUCH INTEREST IS SHOWN

It Promises to Be the Best Meeting in the History of the Association Thus Far—Other News of Interest to the Raisers of Dairy Stock—Notes of the Dairymen.

The twenty-first annual meeting of the Minnesota State Dairymen's association will convene in Austin tomorrow, and will continue in session for three days. Assistant Commissioner Lawrence, of the state dairy and food commission, and a large number of dairymen in St. Paul and Minneapolis will be in attendance, and it is expected that the little city of Austin will be called on to entertain a large number of guests from all parts of the state. At the present time the outlook is that the meeting will be the banner event in the history of the association. An entertaining and instructive programme has been arranged and will be finished off with a banquet tendered the visiting delegates by the citizens of Austin.

The following is the programme that will be rendered in detail:

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1:30 p. m.—
Meeting called to order by the president.
Prayer, Rev. W. H. Hormal.
Address of welcome, F. J. Crane, mayor of Austin.
Response, C. L. Smith, state dairy and food department.
Annual address by president, J. Mathieson.
Secretary's report, Robert Crickmore.
Treasurer's report, Clement Halvorson.
Appointing committees on by-laws, constitution, resolutions, etc.
Address, F. W. Kimball, Austin.
7:30 p. m.—
Ladies' Auxiliary meeting.
Wednesday, Dec. 14, 9 a. m.—
"Chapter on Cheese," Mr. Schembri, St. Paul.
"Growing Fodder for Dairy Cows," Prof. T. Shaw, school of agriculture.
"Comparative Milk-Producing Value of Fodder and Grains," Prof. H. Snyder.
"Here and There," Mrs. J. H. McRostie, Owatonna.
"Progress in Dairying," H. C. Carpenter, Hancock.
"An Agricultural Experience," J. N. Scott, Austin.
1:30 p. m.—
Announcing of scores.
"Care of Milk From Time of Milking Until Fed to Calf," O. Flaten.
Address, R. A. Pierson, assistant chief dairy division, Washington.
Address, J. A. Lawrence, assistant dairy commissioner.
Reports of committees.
Election of officers.
"Scraps From Our Dairy Records," Prof. T. L. Haecker.
"Flavors in Butter and Cheese," W. S. Eberman, state chemist.
7:30 p. m.—
"My Experience in Farming," Mrs. M. L. Holmes, Owatonna.
"Now and Then," E. G. Potter.
Address, S. M. Owen.
Address, W. M. Liggett.
Address, Mrs. Meredith.
Buttermakers' and Creamery Men's Day—Thursday, Dec. 15—9 a. m.—
"My Hobbies," Joseph Wild.
"Creamery Refrigerators and Refrigeration," B. D. White.
Address, I. Paul, president National Buttermakers' association.
"How to Deal With Patrons Furnishing Poor Milk," J. K. Bennett.
"How to Manage a Creamery," O. Weber.
1:30 p. m.—
Address, O. G. Gregg.
"Making Cheese in the Northwest," W. L. Chappell.
"Triple Alliance of Feed, Breed and Care," A. W. Trowe.
"Butter at Omaha," J. A. Harris.
"Some Mistakes Made by Creameries," C. D. Belden.
"What I Know About Dairying," August Samuelson.
Banquet by the citizens of Austin.

Two hundred and twenty-five dollars is to be divided pro rata among all scores above ninety-four, provided that no person winning special premiums valued at $15 or more shall be entitled to any share of pro rata fund.

Second—Dairy butter, $50 divided pro rata to those scoring above eighty-five.

Third—Cheese, $25, divded $12.50, $7.50 and $5.

Wells & Richardson company will give to the creamery buttermaker scoring highest with W. & R. color a solid gold medal suitably engraved with winner's score and name. They will also give $10 in cash to the creamery buttermaker scoring second highest with W. & R. color. They will give to the dairyman scoring highest a $1 can of butter color; should he score highest of all the dairy butter, they will give an additional premium of $5 in cash.

The Genesee Salt company will give to the buttermaker whose tub scores highest, salted with Genesee salt, a pure diamond stud valued at $35.

The woman's auxiliary will hold its meeting on the first evening of the association. This branch of the work was organized, as its name signifies, as a helper, not so much of the association as to the women, who ought to be benefited equally with their husbands at every meeting. Mrs. Viola K. Wilcot, vice president, and Mrs. George G. Short, secretary, have issued a general invitation to the women of the state to attend.

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The Martin County Dairymen's association will hold its fifth regular meeting at the opera house in Fairmont, Tuesday, Dec. 20, commencing at 10 o'clock a. m. Arrangements are being made to make this meeting one of the most interesting ever held, as the following programme gives ample evidence:

Programme—
"Man at the Weighcan," Mr. Ladd, of Lake Belt creamery.
"Butter Making," O. M. Warner, of Welcome creamery.
"Milk Testing," J. J. Brunner, of Rutland creamery.
"Care of Creamery Machinery," H. N. Slater, of Tenhassen creamery.
"Butter Scoring," Prof. T. L. Haecker, of state experimental farm.
Basket Dinner—
At 1 p. m.—Music by Fairmont band.
Lecture on Dairying—Prof. T. L. Haecker.
Vocal Music—Quartette.
"Feeds and Feeding for Dairy Cattle," L. F. Hall, of Fraser, graduate of state agricultural school.
"Ventilation of Dairy Barns," R. L. Bradburn, of Amber Lake creamery.
"Farming Methods in the North and South," Edward K. Slater, of Tenhassen creamery.
"Creamery Management," Bert Ells, of Sherburn creamery.
Question Box—Questions to be answered by Prof. Haecker.

There will be five barrels of Genesee salt given to the buttermaker who brings the best package of butter, providing every creamery in the county brings one. The butter will be scored by points.

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The annual meeting of the National Dairymen's association, which will be held in Sioux Falls the first of the year, promises to be the biggest event in the history of dairying in this country. There is a great demand for room for exhibiting butter-making machinery and supplies during the convention. In a dispatch from Sioux Falls, Secretary Sudendorf, who has charge of all the advance preparations, states that he has applications in already for twice as much floor space as he has to offer. He says he will be able to accommodate all concerned, but will not be able to give them as much space as desired. For instance, several exhibitors have asked for a forty by twenty-foot space. In each instance the amount of space has been cut in two, and in some instances even less space has been allowed.

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The following from the Sioux Falls Press gives the substance of Prof. T. L. Haecker's address before the South Dakota State Dairymen's association, which held a three days' session in Sioux Falls last week:

Prof. T. L. Haecker, of the Minnesota experimental station, was introduced to the audience and gave an informal talk on the feeding of the cow.

The speaker declared that Minnesota, one of the foremost dairying states of the country, secured poor results, due almost entirely to the stupidity of the farmers in feeding their cows.

On the experimental farm he had tested the milk-producing capacities of different breeds of cattle and had found that the method of feeding had more to do with bringing about profitable results than anything else.

Prof. Haecker brought with him a number of charts and pictures of certain cows which are in the herd at the experimental station, and with these he illustrated his points in a manner which made them clear to his hearers. He said that he aimed to give feed which assisted in the manufacture of milk and butter and declared that many farmers fed their cows great quantities of flesh-producing foods and then wondered why the animal failed to give large quantities of milk. He read records which he kept of the herd during the years 1895 and 1896, dividing the herd into two groups—the spare cattle and the fleshy breed. He showed that the spare cattle produced almost twice as much butter as did the beefy cows, and also established the fact that the light feeders did much better than the ca

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The speaker read many interesting figures showing the results of experiments made at the farm and then devoted the remainder of his time to answering questions propounded by his hearers.

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The Buttermakers and Creamery Managers' association will meet in Dassel the first Thursday in January and the farmers in the vicinity of that city have been invited to attend the meeting. It is expected that there will be a large number of people present, and that the meeting will prove profitable to all that atten
out saying, as an inter
gramme of lectures and
concerning the various bra
dairy business, has been

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J. H. Smith, of Nash
gives the following as t
three Jersey cows for t
years:

Pounds of butter made	2,332
Value of butter	$280 25
Value of calves sold	103 00

Making a total of $383.25, or $63.80 per cow each year.

The milk was separated
ville creamery, and the t
ways very good. If there
investment in the world
have paid Mr. Smith b
on the time and money
should like to know what
Herald.

* * *

The stockholders of the Oak Glen creamery held a meeting in Martin's hall, in Owatonna, Saturday, Dec. 3, to consider the matter of paying up the indebtedness of the creamery and to transact such other business as might come up. A new board was elected to serve until the annual meeting, which takes place next February. The gentlemen chosen to serve on this board are as follows: President, Herman Eaker; secretary, Frank Martin; directors, Nels Rae, Hans Nelson, Frank Huberman; treasurer, Martin Nelson. The amount of $1,311 was raised to liquidate the debt which has been incurred in previous years. This amount is more than sufficient to pay off all the incumbrance which now rests on the creamery, and the balance will be used for the purchase of new machinery, if it is decided to operate the plant again. A meeting of the newly elected board will be held today for the purpose of arranging the affairs of the creamery, and they will at that time issue a call to the stockholders and patrons to meet and arrange for the purchase of machinery and the reopening of the plant.

Special Excursion to California.

The Chicago Great Western Railway is making arrangements to run a special excursion from St. Paul and Minneapolis to California points on Dec. 13, at very low rates. This excursion will be in the nature of a special party excursion, as ample accommodations will be provided and every effort made to make this trip interesting and comfortable to all. Through first-class tourist car will be used and, while the accommodations are first-class in every respect, the berth rate will be exceedingly low—only $6 from St. Paul or Minneapolis to Los Angeles. Attention is called to the fact that a berth is sufficiently large to comfortably accommodate two persons. The route will be via Kansas City and the A., T. & S. F. railway through Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico and