

This is the age of progress, and the true man of the period never comes to a full stop, observes Puck.

Backward cakes are losing favor in the United States. The amount of backward raised is only about one-half of what it was thirty-five years ago, notwithstanding the increase in population.

There is occasional evidence of progress in China, notwithstanding the conservative policy of the empress. A telegraph line was extended inside the walls of the "Forbidden city" for the first time the other day.

Commenting on the idea to abolish the trolley by substituting the horseless vehicle, the New York World says: If the automobile can save the country road from the trolley track it will render life in the country better worth living.

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in a speech the other day said that a great danger to Great Britain was the growing increase in national expenditure, which might lead to much misery among the working classes.

There is one church for every 850 people in the United States. Boston has one for every 1600 of her population and Minneapolis one for every 1054. Twenty-four million people attend church in the United States every Sunday.

You no longer hear about "going to law" or "going to court" or "seeking a will." Nowadays it's "seeking a true interpretation of the will," whatever the name, the hard feeling among the heirs and would-be heirs is just the same.

Forty years ago the railway system was practically unknown in the United States and for that matter in any other country. To-day its ramifications reach every nook and corner not only of America, but every point in the civilized world.

The opening of an American kitchen at the Paris Fair is commendable. Corn is the greatest agricultural product we have, and one in which we have least cause for rivalry. Its value as food ought to be made known to the world as early as possible.

The manager of a company which operates many cotton gins in Japan said a few days ago, while making inquiries in New Orleans, that his company had decided to buy during the coming twelve months not less than 1,000,000 bales of American cotton, which will be shipped to Japan from that city.

Business competition is always sharp, and it is the best man—the most capable—who always wins. An evidence of capability in conducting a business is liberal and purchase compelling advertising, says the Philadelphia Record. The merchant who is the best advertiser is bound to be the most successful.

It is a common facetious remark that more widows marry than single women. In China, however, it is the rule of good society that widows do not remarry. They are not forbidden by law to do so, but they are thought more highly of if they do not. In order to encourage them the government, when they have passed the age of fifty and have not remarried, confers on them a tablet containing a eulogy of their virtues.

It is estimated that at the present rate of consumption there is pine enough in Northern Minnesota to last from thirty-five to forty years. With a reasonable conservation of the forests, the establishment of a Northern Minnesota forest park, and the adoption of forestry, systematically undertaken, as is now proposed, the Northern Minnesota woods should furnish timber and a revenue to the commonwealth for an unlimited time.

Florida State News.

The Democratic State Ticket. For Governor—William S. Jennings. Justice of the Supreme Court—Francis B. Carter. Secretary of State—John L. Crawford.

Attorney General—William R. Lamar. Comptroller—W. H. Reynolds. Treasurer—J. R. Whitfield. Superintendent of Public Instruction—W. N. Sheats. Commissioner of Agriculture—B. E. McLin.

Railroad Commissioner—John L. Morgan. National Committeeman—G. P. Raney. Delegates to National Convention—H. F. McCreary, of Alachua; B. S. Liddell, of Escambia; B. H. Palmer, of Columbia; J. E. Wolfe, of Escambia; Charles Wright, of Hillsboro; J. W. Watson, of Osceola; R. D. McDonald, of Volusia; C. Gibbons, of Duval.

Delegates—M. Jacoby, L. J. Reives, J. McShone, George W. Reynolds, L. Anderson, J. L. Kirkpatrick, F. Walpole, W. A. Filer. Presidential Electors—J. M. Barrs of Duval, John S. Beard of Escambia, W. H. Ellis of Gadsden and M. L. Williams of DeSoto.

Delegates—W. H. Harris of Monroe, S. J. Milburn of Putnam, W. F. Hines of Sumter and Daniel Campbell of Walton.

During the closed season, several of the fishing captains, whose catches are handled by the Florida Fish and Game Company, will take their families on two weeks cruise down the bay. They will go out on the various shares owned by the companies, and enjoy it until the pleasure wears off.

C. W. Carson, well known in transportation circles, and lately clerk in the Clyde steamship office, is in jail in Jacksonville charged with the embezzlement of \$385. It is claimed that before going to New York recently he took cash from the office, replacing the same amount with worthless forged checks for \$300, securing the balance in worthless checks on banks where he had no account. He is held for \$700 bail. Carson was for years Maynard's ticket office and well known to "scalpers."

An ammonia tank exploded at the Sanford ice factory, the past week, letting loose 200 gallons of ammonia. A. C. Doubney, president of the company, and Tracy Lewis, chief engineer, had a narrow escape. All vegetation which the ammonia reached close to the factory was covered with frost. The damages were quickly repaired. As the factory has two separate machines, the supply of ice was not interfered with.

Hon. Frederick S. Morse, agent for the land department of the Florida East Coast Railway, has employed J. S. Fredericks to survey several townships of land west from Little river, and lay it off in ten acre lots. There is a great demand for farming lands there, and buyers are selecting plots as fast as they are staked out.

Orlando has made an enviable reputation for the many miles of clayed streets and substantial sidewalks already laid, but, to keep it current, the authorities have had many streets re-laid within the last few months.

The Democratic gubernatorial nominee, Judge Jennings, who is a native of Illinois, was born March 24, 1863, and removed to Florida in 1886, and was admitted to the Florida bar in Brooksville in May, 1886, and has since continued the practice of his profession with marked success.

Few men in the state have been more conspicuously honored by the community than Judge Jennings, who has been circuit court commissioner, county judge, alderman, president of the Brooksville town council, and chairman of the local board of school trustees. In 1893 he was elected a member of the legislature, and was also sent to Tallahassee two years later, when he was elected speaker of the house of representatives. In 1896 he was made a presidential elector, and two years later was chairman of the Democratic state convention.

Robert J. Bannerman, manager of the Santa Maria tobacco plantation of the Gadsden County Syndicate, has cut from a six-acre field, grown under cheese cloth and irrigated, without fertilizers, a stalk eight feet long, which was placed on exhibition at the Tallahassee National Bank. This tobacco was set out April 26 and cut June 20, and is a fair sample of the entire field. The stalk contains 32 leaves, and not a bug hole can be found in one of them. The tobacco is of the Sumatra variety, and experts estimate that the crop will yield 1,300 pounds per acre.

The most important features of the Democratic platform adopted at the state convention in Jacksonville are as follows:

"We most heartily and enthusiastically indorse the declarations of principles embodied in the platform adopted by the national convention of our party at Chicago in 1896.

"We most heartily and enthusiastically indorse the fearless stand taken by the great, true and brave leader and friend of the people, Col. William J. Bryan, on the great questions of principles and of national policy which have arisen since the adoption of the Chicago platform.

"The enormous growth and influence of the power of the trusts challenges the attention of the people, chokes the prosperity of the masses of the people, threatens the integrity and permanency of our institutions, and next to imperialism, presents the most vital question which must be settled at the coming election.

"We favor the reduction of the tariff to a revenue basis, and the putting upon the free list of all articles the prices of which are fixed by trusts or monopolies.

"We demand a prompt repeal of all the war taxes and a return to Democratic principles of economy in governmental expenditures.

"We favor a graduated income tax, so levied as to produce a large part of the revenues now raised by taxation, which falls heaviest on the poorer classes.

"We favor the free, unlimited and independent coinage of both silver and gold at a ratio of 16 to 1. We oppose the delegation to national banks of power to issue money based upon the credit of the United States. We maintain that currency issued by the United States government is quite as good as national bank currency based on United States bonds, and directly saved to the people the interest now paid on the national banks on government bonds.

"We sympathize with the patriotic attempt of the brave Boers to defend themselves and their republican form of government against the criminal aggressions of the monarchical government which first instigated the notorious Jameson raid, and later sought in vain for a decent pretext upon which to institute a war of conquest for the possession of gold mines lying within the territory of a weaker power.

"We favor the prompt construction, fortification and maintenance of the Nicaragua canal by the United States government, independent of the cooperation or consent of any European government.

"We urge the amendment of the constitution of the United States, so as to provide for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people.

"In state affairs, we declare in favor of the most liberal support and development of the public school system, pointing with pride to the record made and insisting upon an energetic advance in the same direction.

"We favor a liberal policy toward the Florida state troops and the Florida naval militia, and the encouragement of our citizen-soldiers in their patriotic service.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN

Ostrich Feathers. Ostrich feathers, which have been resting for a time, are to be seen again chiefly in black and white and may become popular later in the season.

A Popular Accomplishment. Broad work in water colors is a popular accomplishment of the moment. The side of the brush is used rather than the point, making effect rather than detail paramount. Flower designs are particularly satisfactory made by this process.

A Meritorious Fad. The wearing of miniatures is a fad which has merits which all fads do not possess. It is a charming way of carrying a likeness of some dearly remembered relative or friend, and one happens to be rich in these beautiful gems of art, one can have a never-tiring array of decorative baubles. There is a delicacy about miniature pendants which appeals to the refined taste. And when the fashion for wearing them passes, why then they may go to the wall, not in a sense of desuetude, but merely in an alternative usefulness.

Kind-Hearted Mrs. Kroger. A pretty story is told illustrating the kind-heartedness of Mme. Kruger, the wife of grim old Oom Paul. It having been decided to place a statue to the President of the South African Republic at Johannesburg, the completed design was submitted to his wife for her criticism. She was satisfied with the work, but after a little hesitation asked timidly if she might make a suggestion. Following a prompt assent, she requested that a depression might be made in the top of the head of the statue, that could be kept filled with water, in order that the birds might drink. The suggestion was heeded, and the statue in the market place serves a kindly purpose as well as adorns a public square.—Harper's Bazar.

New Kind of Skirt. A new model which promises to be a success is a skirt that opens to show a panel on each side—a panel so broad at the bottom that the front breadth of the skirt hangs like a long, loose tab. This skirt is prettiest when made long behind. A wool veiling of old China blue, dotted with white, is made in this way. The under-skirt which appears as the side panels is of white mousseline de soie, finely shirred, except at the bottom, where the thin material forms a flounce. The wool skirt is edged all about by a line of black cloth embroidered with gold, one of the fashionable trimmings of this season. The bodice is nearly covered by a bertha collar of white lace finished by a frill of mousseline de soie that is headed by a band of black and gold.

Mrs. James G. Blaine is collecting her husband's letters for publication in a biography. There is a total of 3518 English women who have taken a university course since 1880. By the bequest of Miss Anna H. Man, Providence, R. I., is to come into possession of about \$200,000 for the maintenance of Roger Williams Park.

One of Queen Victoria's most cherished souvenirs of her visit to Ireland is a large bouquet presented her by the Countess of Limerick on behalf of those Irish women whose husbands are at the front in South Africa.

Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, who has done so much for the University of California, is, in appearance, rather a fragile woman. She is often worn out by her ceaseless activity and unwillingly delegates her work for assistants.

Miss Ida Bennett Miller, the first woman who ever sat in a territorial political convention, is the daughter of a wealthy stock farmer. She has Choctaw blood in her veins and held a place by proxy at the recent Republican Convention for the election of national delegates at Purcell, I. T.

In La Grange, Ill., two hundred women voted and elected their school ticket. Mrs. Slotherwer and Miss Mary Scare are on the School Board at Warren. In Mt. Vernon six women have been placed on the Library Board. There are three women among the twelve trustees of the State University.

A woman was elected Treasurer of Fairplay at the recent municipal elections in Colorado. Another one was chosen Town Treasurer of Como, and another was elected Town Clerk of Creeds. In Silverton women were chosen Treasurer and Clerk, both on the Citizens' ticket; the Democrats elected all the other officers.

An international club for women artists has been started in Europe. It is to have as its object the opportunity of enabling women artists of various countries to become known not only locally but internationally.

It is to have branches and secretaries in London, Paris and other cities, and periodical exhibitions will be held.

The late Lady John Scott Spottiswoode, the author of "Annie Laurie," was an ardent Conservative. She opposed the substitution of coal for heat and slates for thatch on her Berwickshire estate, and made her coachman ride postillion, regarding a box driver as an odious innovation derogatory to the dignity of a Scottish gentlewoman.



Dotted organdy sprinkled with small embroidered floral sprays is among the new all-overs. Gold braid gives a pretty touch to many of the new gowns. It is only a touch at the belt, collar or yoke.

The pretty little three-cornered hats in fine straw, trimmed with white and pompons, are to be seen for children. There are shorter coats of fancy silk which reach only to the knees, but they have the same style of flowing sleeves.

Yachting suits of dark-blue chevrot made with a bolero jacket and trimmed with gold braid are very fetching when worn with a blouse of ecru linen lawn embroidered in red or yellow and blue.

Shirtwaist sets with belt-buckles to match are in oxidized silver set with rhinestones. A favorite design is a medallion head, which is repeated in the small stud, and set round with the glittering stones.

A new English skirt just touches the ground at the back, is less sloped on its front and side gores, and is some inches fuller all around the upper portion than any of the skirt models in vogue for seasons past.

French cashmere, a very light weight of ladies' cloth, and fine French flannel in soft powder pink, make pretty house blouses. They are elaborately braided in white soutache, and fastened with small round pearl buttons.

"Black diamond kid" is the novelty of the hour. It is a substitute for patent leather, is softer, more serviceable, and is said not to crack. This material will be used for high as well as for low shoes. Tan shoes will be worn in the country. The latest shade is gull russet.

The prettiest things in handkerchiefs are those in pale lavender. Some of them are beautiful. One in roses, with purple pink shades and a deep border tingeing on magenta, is lovely. Others of simpler designs are stylish. The handkerchiefs are sold for belts, stocks and vests.

One of the most satisfactory skirt models for making up light aberswoods for summer wear is cut in circular shape, with plain panel front, medium wide side plait and a shapely box-plait at the back. The plait flare gracefully around the bottom of the skirt, which is cut with a slight dip.

Little dressing sacks, morning jackets, or whatever one chooses to call them, in white are trimmed with bands in color, showing a little flower design. People who have heirlooms in the way of clothes may have children's aprons which belonged to their mothers—possibly to their grandmothers—trimmed in this way.

The new piques are attractive both in quality and coloring, and in the shades blue, old rose, brown, tan and pink are notably fine. They can be found in dots, stripes and checks, in bright colors and in black and white. They are generally built on severe lines and are trimmed with stitched bands of the same or a contrasting material.

