"THESE IDLE DAYS."

I have read from the great book of nature,
How the seasons unceasingly roll;
And where myriads of stars are unfolded
By night, on the heaven's wide scroll.
I have learned that their law is to labor,
Inaction would wreck the great plan
That holds worlds upon worlds in their orbits,
And governs the frail life of man.

There is never a night in the summer,
So still but the dew dripping air
Is keen with the singing of insects
At work in some cool grassy lair;
And the day, rising bright-eyed and rosy,
From the depths of the green eastern sea,
When it trails down the western horizon,
Will be morning on some distant lea.

When winter lies chilling around us,
Each snowbound, and skies sullen gray,
In the heart of the trees, gaunt and leafless,
There's a song of the sunshine of May;
And the flowers that drooped in the autumn,
Are waiting to grow up anew,
When the springtime shall smile a bright welcome
To brooklets and grasses and dew.

So these days that seem clouded by waiting
With listless and sad folded hands,
While all of life's brightest endeavor
Has fled with time's vanishing sands,
May be only some wise preparation
For a part in the infinite plan
That has governed the worlds since creation,
And considers the brief life of man.
—Boston Globe.

The Trick Was Exposed.

I WAS a young man possessed of sufficient means to enable me to live at my ease, when suddenly there came a blow which scattered my prosperity to the winds and forced me to labor in the general struggle of gaining a living.

Securing a clerkship in the house of a creditor of our late firm, my first care was to look up a less expensive boarding house. I inserted an advertisement in several city papers, asking for reasonable board in a strictly private family, and received a multitude of answers by next post. Out of this motley installment of epistles, there was but one which pleased me, and I decided to answer that one in person immediately.

Grace Kingsley was the name of the favored landlady writing to me, and the letter stated that her house was entirely private, she having no boarders whatever. I was much pleased with the fair, delicate handwriting, and an idea took possession of me that Grace was a young and fascinating widow. I was not disappointed when I reached the house, and my ring at the doorbell was answered by the lady herself. She invited me into the parlor in a manner that was so courteous and yet so modest, that I had fallen in love with her before I even crossed the threshold.

Before leaving my former boarding house, a letter was handed me by the postman, but I did not find time to examine it until I was comfortably ensconced in the parlor of Mrs. Kingsley's cosy establishment.

Opening it, I discovered it to be from a wealthy uncle, residing in Vermont, who regularly sent me a letter every year, but whom I had never seen.

About a year previous my uncle made some pressing inquiries respecting my matrimonial prospects, and stated that if I wasn't already married I should immediately enter into the wedded state and let him know of it or "he would never more be uncle of mine."

Now, as my uncle lived in Vermont and I in Philadelphia, and I never anticipated the old gentleman would ever pay me a visit and discover the falsehood, I wrote to him and informed him that I was not only married, but also the father of a bouncing boy. This intelligence so pleased him that he sent me a gold goblet and a silver pap-spoon, to be presented to my child. I at first sat down and wrote a very romantic letter to my uncle, thanking him for the present and then visited the nearest jewelry store and turned both the goblet and the spoon into cash, which I pocketed.

I had received no further letters from my uncle until the one which I read in Mrs. Kingsley's parlor. The postscript to this one not only astonished, but absolutely frightened me. It read as follows:

"P. S.—I have never visited Philadelphia, so I have decided to do so at once and get a look at you and your wife and child. You may expect me about the 10th of the month."

"Good gracious; my uncle coming to visit me," I exclaimed, "and it is past the 10th of the month now! I don't know at what moment he may pop in. What am I to do for a wife and child?"

At that moment there came a terrible ring at the door bell, as if the man who pulled it imagined he owned the house and could make as much noise as he pleased. A sickening sensation took possession of me, for I had a misgiving it was my uncle.

Now, as good fortune would have it, Mrs. Kingsley had gone out for a few minutes and had requested me to have an eye to her child while she was gone. As I glanced at the cradle, and thought of my uncle at the door, a bright idea entered my mind. I determined in case the visitor was my uncle to claim the youthful occupant of that cradle as my own.

The visitor proved to be my uncle. I knew him by the picture of him I had seen, and he likewise recognized me by my photograph. After a mutual recognition and handshaking, I ushered my honored relative into the parlor and presented to him my newly claimed offspring.

So far I had succeeded in deceiving my uncle, but the worst I feared was that when Mrs. Kingsley returned she might object to my claiming ownership in her child. Besides, to carry out my deception I must find a wife as well as an infant, and Mrs. Kingsley was the only one I could conveniently claim. The only difficulty was to get her consent to the deception, and this might be done if I could secure a private conversation with her before I introduced her to my uncle.

I watched my opportunity, and gained an interview with her before she entered the room. I told her, in a few brief, hurried words, the extent of my difficulty, and how I had taken the liberty of acting as papa for her little one. I then told her I must find a wife somewhere, and begged her to allow me to introduce her to my uncle in that capacity. She laughed heartily at the suggestion, said she could comprehend my difficulty, and consented to my proposal, but warned me roguishly not to presume upon the occurrence.

We entered the parlor, and I introduced her as my better half. My uncle was much pleased with her, and complimented me upon my good choice in the selection of a wife. Mrs. Kingsley colored most charmingly at this compliment, and I could see she could scarcely refrain from laughing.

A short time afterward Mrs. Kingsley came to me, when I was alone, in an adjoining room, and I saw immediately something very humorous must have happened, for the corners of her lips were breaking out into beaming smiles.

"Do you know, sir, into what an awkward predicament you have gotten me?" she inquired.

"What's the matter?" I asked.

"Why, your uncle came to me a short time ago and asked to see my marriage certificate, as he said he had some money to settle upon us immediately, but wanted to be sure everything was right first."

"Did you expose me?" I inquired anxiously.

"No, sir, I did not, for I never enter into a deception or anything else by halves."

"Then we must lose no time," I replied; "if my uncle is so anxious to have our marriage certificate, let us put no obstacles in his way."

We lost no time, I assure you. I don't think Mrs. Kingsley ever got into her Sunday clothes in such a hurry in her life before, while I spoiled two pairs of suspenders in my frantic endeavors to be "on time." We quite astonished the parson by our haste, and at the conclusion of the ceremony I would have forgotten to give him the usual fee if he had not reminded me of it.

We had secured the coveted marriage certificate, signed and sealed, and were now safely out of our difficulties, as we thought. We had omitted one precaution, as we found when we had presented the certificate to my uncle. The date was too modern.

"Why, how is this?" said my uncle. "I thought you were married over a year ago?"

"So we were, uncle," I said, solemnly.

"How comes it, then, the certificate is dated to-day?" he asked in a voice of thunder.

We were both struck speechless.

"Come," said my uncle. "I see there has been some trickery here. Own up to it, or I will never forgive you."

I did own up to it, and told him the whole story. I expected it would make him angry, but it didn't, for he laughed heartily, and said I was a clever rascal and he was proud of me.—Indianapolis Sun.

MELODY MADE HIM HOMESICK.

Was in His Native Land, but the Banjo Upset Him.

A well-known Chicago German newspaper-writer went to visit his birthplace on the Rhine a few weeks ago, with the intention of staying at least six months. It was his first trip to Germany since he left there more than twenty years ago, and before his departure he gave a supper to his English and German friends. In a farewell speech he told of his great love for the fatherland, but he added that he loved his adopted country with as much fervor as any native born. His friends cheered the sentiment and tossed off their glasses to his health and a safe voyage.

One of the party, a German, created no end of laughter by predicting that the traveler would not stay away from Chicago longer than a month. He himself had made a visit to the old home last summer, and after two weeks of handshaking he was anxious to return to America, which he did on the first steamer that sailed from Bremen.

"I wager a supper for all who are here," said the one who had been to Germany last summer, "that our host does not stay in Europe six weeks. He'll be homesick, or 'heimweh,' as we Germans call it, before he is there ten days, and if he wants to take me up on the supper proposition I stand ready to shake hands with him as a pledge that he accepts the wager."

They shook hands, and the "auf weidersehen" party came to a close in a burst of German song.

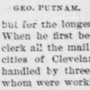
Just five weeks from the day he left Chicago the German traveler returned. The next day he resumed his desk on the paper with which he had long been connected. During the week he sent invitations to the friends who were with him the night before the departure, inviting them to the "heimweh" supper, as he called it. The supper was discussed last night at a down-town restaurant, and this is what the traveler told his friends:

"It was my intention to remain in Germany at least half a year, and I probably would have done so had I not visited a drinking resort one day in Berlin, which is frequented by American tourists. There was one of those automatic or electric banjos in the place, and when I heard it play 'Way Down Upon the Suwanee River' tears came to my eyes. Think of it! A German, born in Germany, crying over a negro melody, which I had never heard until I came to America. The plaintive old tune made me homesick for Chicago, and I could no more shake it off than I could fly. The notes of the familiar old song seemed to burn into my brain, and I really believe if I had not sailed on the first vessel that I would have gone insane. That is why I came back so soon."

Is there any one who will doubt this German's love for the Stars and Stripes?—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Aged Railway Mail Clerk.

For more than forty years George W. Putnam, of Ashtabula, Ohio, has been actively employed as a railway mail clerk. He is now in his eighty-second year, but is still active, and regularly makes his run between his home town and Oil City, Pa. He holds the record not only as the oldest clerk in the service, but for the longest continuous service. When he first became a railway mail clerk all the mail passing between the cities of Cleveland and Buffalo was handled by three clerks, only two of whom were working at the same time. In those days such a thing as a train exclusively for mail was unheard of. They did not even have mail cars. A small portion of the front car on the trains was set apart for the mail clerk, and he was forced to get along as best he could. Incidentally "Uncle" George Putnam is proud of the fact that his birdthday falls on the seventh day of the seventh month, that he is a seventh son, and has in addition seven sisters. To this series of coincidences he ascribes his lucky freedom from accidents during his long service on the road.



GEO. PUTNAM.

A laborer makes a bargain for the price of his work, but a lawyer simply takes everything in sight.

NEWS OF WISCONSIN.

A WEEK'S RECORD OF STATE HAPPENINGS.

Many Postmasters to Receive Larger Salaries—Racine Man Creates Impression He Has Made Away with Himself—Fight Over a Boy's Corpse.

Under the readjustment of presidential postmasters' salaries, these additional changes have been made: Mondovi, increased $200; Milton, Mineral Point, Necedah and New Lisbon, increased $100; New London, decreased $100. Salaries in other Wisconsin presidential offices have been fixed as follows:

Antigo	$1,900 to $2,000
Ashland	2,500 to 2,600
Barron	1,400 to 1,500
Bayfield	1,200 to 1,300
Berlin	1,900 to 2,000
Boscobel	1,400 to 1,500
Centralia	1,500 to 1,400
Chilton	1,300 to 1,400
Clintonville	1,400 to 1,500
Cumberland	1,200 to 1,300
Darlington	1,500 to 1,600
Durand	1,200 to 1,300
Elkhorn	1,600 to 1,800
Fairchild	1,100 to 1,700
Fond du Lac	2,600 to 2,700
Fort Atkinson	2,300 to 2,400
Horicon	1,100 to 1,200
Hudson	1,700 to 1,800
Jefferson	1,600 to 1,700
Juneau	1,100 to 1,200
Kaukauna	1,400 to 1,500
Kilbourn	1,500 to 1,600
Lodi	1,400 to 1,500

Grows Weary of World.

There is much excitement in Racine over the disappearance of Charles F. Ramer, a well-known mason contractor. Early on a recent morning a coat was found on the doorsteps of a house on Milwaukee street. In the pocket of the coat was found a letter written and signed by Ramer in which he directed that the coat should be returned to his wife. The letter stated that he had been unable to collect his bills and was tired of living.

Recover Much Stolen Property.

Another chapter in the Schwartz burglary case in Sheboygan was concluded when the police unearthed, at the home of the three brothers, William, Otto and Herman and their brother-in-law, Fred Prelip, two drayloads of furniture consisting of bedsteads, tables, bedroom sets and an endless variety of chairs, purloined from the factories of the American, Sheboygan and Mattoon company.

Warm Fight for a Corpse.

The body of Peter Klaus, who was drowned off the levee at La Crosse, was recovered nine miles below the city. The body was lodged in the fork of a snag on the Wisconsin side of the river. A disgraceful scene occurred when Klaus' body reached the city. Coroner Theodore Mannstedt and the police, acting for the relatives, came to blows over the possession of the body.

Market Man Is Missing.

John Weber, proprietor of a meat market at Lannon, has been missing from his home since April 20. The last heard of him by relatives was from Menominee Falls. He is about 30 years of age and had a good business at Lannon. When he left he had a considerable sum of money on his person and foul play is suspected.

All Over the State.

Alex. Hume, a pioneer farmer of Osseo, fell dead. Heart failure was the cause.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kringle, an aged couple residing near Packwaukee, were struck by lightning and instantly killed.

Bernard Reinken, Jr., eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Reinken of Manitowoc, was drowned in the Rio Grande river at Sabinal, N. M.

The 3-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Christianson fell in front of a street car in Racine and was carried fifty feet in the fender before the car could be stopped. The child is badly bruised and cut.

The faculty of Beloit College, owing to the lack of interest on the part of many of the students, has concluded to make oratory elective hereafter. As a means of creating interest in rehearsals a friend of the college offers an annual prize to the winner of the home oratorical contest.

A terrible accident occurred at the summer resort of Charles Hermann, near the Kenosha County line, which resulted in three people being terribly burned and one of them has since died. The accident resulted from the explosion of a gasoline lamp which had been used for lighting the parlor of the resort.

At Richland Center fire destroyed two barns belonging to H. J. Clark and J. Brogan, together with a horse and several articles of household furniture. On discovering the fire Miss Allie Brogan entered the barn, which was a mass of flames, and attempted to release the horse, receiving several severe burns.

A Chicago syndicate has purchased a controlling interest in the Fond du Lac water works. The syndicate also owns water and lighting plants at New Albany, Ind.; Franklin, Ind.; Bloomington, Ind., and other points. Certain changes and improvements will at once be made in the plant, assuring a water service that will be satisfactory and adequate for all purposes.

J. Bacom Robbins, whose trial for the murder of William W. Fenelon of Rhinelander was set for this term of court, died in Chicago of pneumonia. At the opening of the term it was stated he was too ill to appear and a continuance was asked. No decision had been rendered, as the court was waiting the outcome of his illness. Robbins called at Fenelon's store last August and talked with a woman. Fenelon said Robbins insulted her, which Robbins denied. Robbins left and went to his hotel, where, in the evening Fenelon followed him. An altercation followed and Fenelon was shot and killed.

Ben Wood, a young farmer of the town of Bakerville, was drowned in the Yellow river while trying to rescue a boy from the water.

The police are looking for a gang of burglars that robbed a tailor shop in West Superior. The robbers took away practically everything in the store of Nicholas Laskowsky.

Among the passengers badly injured in a railway wreck at Ottumwa, Iowa, was Mrs. J. A. Burk of Jacksonville, Fla., formerly Miss Kitty Powers, a Beloit girl, who was en route to Beloit on a visit.

Mrs. David Hecht, Milwaukee, has reported to the police the loss of diamonds valued at over $1,000, which were taken from the residence while it was undergoing repairs.

Nathan Myrick, the oldest living settler of La Crosse, is suing John and Anna Kahle over the title to some land in the river addition which was first settled upon by Mr. Myrick. Mr. Myrick lives at St. Paul.

Lightning instantly killed Mr. and Mrs. Fred Krinke, an aged couple who resided on a farm half a mile from Packwaukee. They were standing together under a tree where they had taken shelter from the rain.

Charles Carter, a boy 14 years old, who was brought before Judge Vinje in the Circuit Court at Chippewa Falls, was sent to the industrial school until he reaches the age of 21. The charge against him was burglarizing a store at East Farmington.

Attorney John H. Vaughn, acting for John Colbrath of Iron River, has started suit against the Edward Hines Lumber Company for damages to the extent of $23,851.20. The principal claim is that there was a breach of contract upon the part of the Hines Lumber Company with which, it is claimed, Colbrath had contracted to cut timber on certain lands in Bayfield County.

A Masonic temple will be erected in Janesville at a cost of $15,000.

The Racine Woman's Club has pledged $1,000 for the public library building.

The plant of the Seymour Woodenware Company, recently destroyed by fire, will be rebuilt.

Mayor Dennett of Sheboygan will give his $1,800 salary to the public library fund of the city.

Frank W. Jenkins has resigned as secretary of the Northern Wisconsin State Fair Association.

Galesville voted to give the Norwegian Lutheran Synod $1,000 towards acquiring control of Gale college.

The annual reunion and picnic of the Old Settlers' Society of Racine County will be held in Racine on June 27.

The F. R. Carter Brick Company of Chilton has decided not to operate its plant during the ensuing summer.

The 2-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. David Harud of Jefferson drank some gasoline and died in terrible agony.

All the courses in the Racine high school have been placed upon the accredited list of Wisconsin university.

At Millston Albert Yeski, aged 17, was arrested charged with shooting Frank Dittman, aged 16. The boys quarreled while hunting.

The La Crosse Packers' Packing Company has been absorbed by the trust recently organized and known as the American Can Company.

Richard Broderick, aged 13 years, was accidentally shot and dangerously injured in Kenosha by a companion, Julius Ewe, aged 12 years.

Trial of J. Bascom Robins of Chicago, accused of killing W. M. Fenelon at Rhinelander, will be postponed owing to illness of defendant.

At Coloma while unloading lumber Harley Collins fell out of a car, striking on his head and shoulders, breaking his collarbone on the left side.

William Schenck, aged 20 years, a son of one of the most prominent residents of Racine, committed suicide. Schenck left a letter, but his relatives refuse to publish its contents.

The blueberry acreage will be materially reduced in Jackson County this season, as forest fires have done immense damage. It is estimated that 5,000 acres have been burned over.

Because he drank from a spring on his land, Ernest Nagle attacked C. J. Jacobson of La Crosse with a stone and beat him severely. Nagle was arrested and fined $15 and costs.

Wojec Sowa, who was convicted of murder in the second degree for killing Marshal Moore of Stanley, was sentenced by Judge O'Neill at Neillsville to fourteen years in State prison.

Congressman John J. Esch has secured for the high schools at La Crosse, Black River Falls and Eau Claire sets of plaster casts of prehistoric weapons, from the Smithsonian institute at Washington.

Anton Kocher of Brothertown, who recently endowed Chilton with a soldiers' memorial monument, has placed an order with the same firm for a $1,000 monument to mark his own resting place when he dies.

The sensational case at Babcock, the alleged attempt to poison aged Attorney Remington, has been dropped. Mrs. Remington has gone to Minnesota to make her future home with her son, Henry Remington.

Lightning struck a barn at Darien, killing a horse belonging to the Darien Creamery Company. Roy Weaver was knocked down and Mrs. Arthur Weaver, who was in a shed feeding chickens, was also struck. Her clothing was torn off her and she was badly injured.

Six firms in Milwaukee that are doing a general commission and brokerage business, dealing in grains and stocks, outside of the Chamber of Commerce, have paid the special internal revenue tax levied against bucketshop keepers to Collector Fink. The tax has been paid in each instance under protest.

William Dangers, who about two months ago, together with Ruth Wilson, was charged with robbing Richard Pearl of $200 in a Glidden resort and confined in the county jail since, awaiting trial in Circuit Court, was acquitted. Ruth Wilson pleaded guilty and was sentenced to imprisonment in the State penitentiary for one year.

Owing to the continued dry weather forest fires have been raging throughout Richland County. Hundreds of dollars' worth of fences and cordwood have been destroyed. The sawmill of Stowe & Barclay, one of the largest mills in the county, was burned to the ground, together with about 1,000 feet of lumber. The mill will be rebuilt.

The dread of the pea louse, whose ravages last year caused the loss of thousands of dollars to Two Rivers farmers as well as the canning institutions, has caused the farmers to decrease the pea acreage and in consequence the crop of peas, for which the section is noted, will be decreased by thousands of bushels. The raising of hay will supplant the pea crop in most instances.

John B. Simmons, special assistant United States District Attorney, received instructions from the Attorney General to appeal the decision of Judge Bunn in the case against James Stinson to the United States Court of Appeals. Stinson was formerly of Superior, but now resides in Chicago. The case involves the title of fourteen quarter sections of land located in the city of Superior which is worth $750,000. In 1854, under the pre-emption law, several Swedes secured title to this land. As soon as they made entries they conveyed the property to Stinson. In 1889 the government began action to vacate the titles, holding that the property had been secured through fraud, as the Swedes had been hired to make the pre-emption. The government holds that the Swedes never occupied nor improved the land. Judge Bunn handed down a decision three years ago against the government.

John D. Rockefeller has given $7,000 to Wayland Academy of Beaver Dam, providing an additional $20,000 is raised by July 1. Rev. Catchpole, the financial secretary, says $17,500 has already been raised and the remainder will be secured. A new hall will be built.

D. J. Cameron of La Crosse, one of the most prominent horsemen in the State, has sold his trotting stallion Oh So, with a record of 2:25, to Charles Chapman of Chicago, the consideration being $12,000. Oh So is the sire of So So, who held the world's record for 2 and 3 year olds at 2:16.

A quarrel over a garnishee suit at Mountain will probably result in murder. John Champaign, who works for the Holt Lumber Company, was garnisheed by J. R. Buckly, a saloonkeeper of Mountain. They came to words about it, and, it is alleged, Buckly shot twice at Champaign. Both shots took effect.

Mrs. Catherine Brumton, aged 70 years, was burned to death while in bed at her home in Racine. It is thought that she was smoking and set the bedding on fire before going to sleep. The body was found near the door and indicated that she had attempted to get out, but was overcome and fell back. A verdict of accidental death was rendered.

Children playing with matches set fire to a barn on the Neusenberger farm, a mile south of Durand. The house, barns and all buildings were burned. Two children of William Thelen were burned before rescued. One died while the other may recover. The loss is about $2,500, with small insurance.

The representatives of the American Cigar Company located a permanent tobacco industry in Sparta. The plant is to consist of three large brick buildings, with capacity of 23,000 cases and is to cost in the neighborhood of $50,000. Six hundred hands will be employed. Work will commence as soon as possible. The city furnishes the site to the company.

European Retaliation.

The agricultural and manufacturing interests of Europe are suffering a relapse from the good times of a few years ago. and statesmen and merchants are looking for the cause and a remedy. They have arrived at one conclusion that American competition must be curbed by increased tariff protection to their own people, or national bankruptcy will ensue, for it is impossible to continue buying American goods without reciprocal purchases by this country.

Wide interest has been created in Great Britain, says the Mail and Empire of Toronto, Canada, by the announcement that Austrian manufactures have taken the initiative in forming a European Customs union for the purpose of resisting American competition. According to Vienna reports, it is proposed that the Continental nations unite in the adoption of counteracting measures, with a view to exact sweeping reciprocity concessions from the United States. The approaching expiration of the European commercial treaties in 1903 is fixed on as an opportune time to bring about an anti-Yankee combination.

The existence of Great Britain does not figure in the alliance. It is recognized not only that British fiscal traditions are at variance with such a proposal, but also that her leading business men are opposed to it for practical present-day reasons. They hold that offensive, not protective, measures are Britain's surest means of beating back foreign trade rivals.

The Daily Mail of London, England, in the course of an extended article on the Steel Trust, says it can see no escape for the United States from the oppression of trusts, except in free trade, and declares that Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan has appropriated $200,000,000 to crush independent concerns. The operations of the trusts, says the Daily Mail, may induce general legislation by Europe, and will certainly consolidate the British iron and steel trades, which will give the trust a hard fight here. The London Spectator also had lately an article of similar import.

The Republican policy of protection is bound to result in retaliation by those countries who find that the competition of our goods is injuring their own manufacturing. In fact, our protectionists see this fact staring them in the face, and are preaching reciprocity to offset the trouble, but they will find that if a general scheme of reciprocity is adopted that it must amount to the same thing as a revision of the tariff.

Declares for Municipal Owenrship.

The victories of Tom Johnson in Cleveland, Jones in Toledo and the three-cent fare ticket in Columbus have aroused the Ohio Republicans to the fact that the people favor municipal ownership. Charles W. Dick, chairman of the Republican State convention of Ohio, who is the chief henchman of Hanna and the President, made a speech at Columbus before the Presidential Postmasters' Association, in which he marked out some startling departures from usual Republican campaign issues and indicated what to expect in the next Republican State platform. Dick said he favored government ownership of all means of communication and that he fully indorsed the postal savings system.

"Sooner or later," he said, "the telegraph and telephone lines of the country will be owned and operated by the government, and it is proper they should be, for if the government can send a message by wire for 5 cents it has no right to permit a private corporation to extort 25 cents for the same service."

Dick betrayed no sign that this was the first time he ever spoke on the municipal ownership side of the question and the postmasters, recognizing it as a new slogan, applauded the sentiment vigorously.

It is also stated that an important conference of Ohio Republican leaders was held, at which it was decided to get into the field first with the declaration for municipal ownership.

This sudden change of mind of Republicans on the issue they have always been fighting brings to mind the declaration against trusts in the Ohio Republican platform of two years ago and the turning down of Attorney General Monett, the only man in their party who had shown any effort to curb the trusts. That Hanna, McKinley or Dick really favor municipal ownership is too absurd to even be swallowed by an Ohio Granger from the back counties, for they have for three or four years been ardent supporters of Public Policy, a Chicago publication that is published in the interests of corporations that own municipal franchises.

The perfection of the Republican machine in Ohio is brought to the light by this meeting of Republican postmasters, who are owned and entirely under the control of Hanna, McKinley and Dick and of course are expected to applaud any program that may aid in keeping them in office. They would applaud free trade. anti-imperialism, free Cuba, or free anything. They are patriots who only wait to be told what the people want and they espouse the cause. The old flag and an appropriation is their idea of patriotism.

Living Issues and Their Treatment.

If the millions of American Democracy shall not spontaneously and instinctively adhere in defence of the party principles and in recognition of the practical men who are qualified for political leadership no scheme of reorganization on this or that basis will serve any good purpose. There will be no need of inventing issues. The issues now exist in the conditions of government and legislation. Upon the practical manner in which the Democratic party shall grapple with these issues will depend in large degree its fate as well as the future welfare of the country.—Philadelphia Record.

The Issues of 1904.

Nobody can yet write down in resolutions what the paramount issue or issues will be in 1904. Democratic principles of strict constitutional construction and preservation of manhood liberty will be applied. The foremost issues will be determined by the people of the United States at the time. More than that no politician is enough of a prophet to know.—St. Louis Republic.

The Only Plea Is Guilty.

No man understands better than does Mr. Babcock what is demanded of the Republican party as a condition precedent to another appeal to the people. He says, and he is as much a protectionist as any man in Congress, that the question, "Why do you permit a tariff to remain on articles which can be produced here cheaper than elsewhere?" will be put squarely to his party in the Congressional canvass of next year. There is no answer to that question, but a plea of guilty to the Democratic charge of subserviency to the trusts.—Washington Post.

Magnificent Deadhead Trip.

The recreation journey of President McKinley is the most magnificent trip ever undertaken by railroad in the United States, if not in the world. No emperor or king ever made as splendid a tour through his dominions as that which the President is enjoying among his American fellow-citizens. He will see more people and more acres of territory than any potentate or conqueror except Alexander the Great ever saw before.

President McKinley will be received everywhere with a gay and festive welcome that will not be as noisy as a continuous Fourth of July, and will be far more agreeable on that account. He will traverse twenty-five States, and his route is 15,000 miles in length. He is accompanied by a working force of his cabinet, and he will be in constant communication by telegraph with Washington. He will transact all public business on his route. His train will actually be the national capital on wheels running at an average rate of thirty-five miles an hour.

The President's personal party is constituted of himself and family, several Washington officials, a dozen private guests and twenty attendants, including stenographers, typewriters and telegraphic operators. A great number of press reporters and other followers are accommodated on the train. The commissary department is luxuriously provided and is managed by skillful employes, including a complement of cooks and waiters.

The cars are seven in number and are fitted up in a style superior to anything of the kind ever before seen. "It is understood," says a trustworthy account of the affair, "that the President expressed a desire to pay all the expenses of the trip." But the railroad companies which furnished the palatial cars would not listen to the suggestion.

To a private party the actual expense of the cars and trackage would be $29,880. The commissary stores and service for the trip would bring the cost up to at least $50,000, a year's salary for the President. Probably he did not insist with importunate pertinacity on paying the bill.

The President will be fortunate if out of these circumstances a national scandal shall not be evolved.—Chicago Chronicle.

Change Back to the Old Flag.

Let us get away from sectional politics by all means. The sooner the better. But let us not accept corrupt and corrupting politics for enlightened politics. Either way, north or south, the "bloody shirt" was a most misleading shibboleth. Under cover of the passions it called into being the people were robbed right and left, and hardly less by rascally Democrats in the South than by rascally Republicans in the North. It is good to bury this "bloody shirt" and in its place to hoist the fair, free ensign of the republic, the glorious Stars and Stripes, that wave for all.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

How to Prevent Panics.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and nowhere more so than in the stock market. The way to prevent panics is to prevent inflation and overtrading. Wise folk will not be carried away by the magnetism of the speculative advance now being scored on Wall street. The country is solid and prosperous, but that is no reason for believing that the time has come to get rich quick by buying whatever stocks may be offered for sale. Go slow.—St. Louis Republic.

The Trusts and the Tariff.

The people of the country are thinking a good deal about the tariff these days, for they see that most of the great trusts have their foundation in the benefits conferred upon them by the Republican policy. If these trusts have such control of the Republican party as will enable them to continue to dominate tariff legislation the people will see that the Republican party is driven out of power.—Atlanta Constitution.

The Party Is in Distress.

With Statesman Grosvenor advocating an income tax and Statesman Babcock pleading for free trade in iron and steel and Statesman Dick preaching up government ownership of telegraphs and railroads, the grand old party is preparing to hang out a few signals of distress.—Columbus, O., Press-Post.

Brief Comment.

Speaking of deathbed repentance, we are afraid that that indicated by Congressman Babcock in proposing to free list trust articles will not save the trust party. Its long life of tariff rapine can't be atoned for in that way.—Johnstown, Pa., Democrat.

The Dingley tariff is, as Hanna says, "balanced on scientific principles." Every fellow got his share of the swag scientifically distributed, and "it must not be disturbed" for obvious reasons. If one of the brethren is despoiled of his share, he will pull down the whole house of cards.—Albany Argus.

Tariff reform ought not to be attempted in patches. Duties should be revised and cut down all along the line. In all places where the tariff enables the manufacturers of trust goods to sell cheaper to the foreigner than to the home consumer, it should be abolished, and such articles as trusts produce should be placed on the free list.—Kansas City Times.

There are some general principles which are not subject to change to which the Democratic party adheres. as the tariff, strict construction of the consntitution, the liberty of the citizen, the foundation of which is government by consent of the governed. These are always and everywhere sound Democratic principles. They are perennial. —Dubuque Herald.

With the example of Great Britain's claim of suzerainty over the Boer republics before us, Senator Beveridge admits that this is the relation to Cuba which the administration is seeking to establish. And it seeks it under profession of carrying out a pledge for independence. What mockery! What unblushing falsehood! What despicable treachery!—Indianapolis Sentinel.

WISCONSIN SOLONS.

The Hagemeister primary bill was vetoed by Gov. La Follette on Friday. As this would appear strange to those who remember the vigorous statements which the Governor made on the question of the election of candidates by direct vote of the people, he sent to the Senate a long message explaining his position. He states that the measure is only drawn up to throw ridicule upon the very question which it appears to support, and that while it provides for primaries as the platform originally desired, it so inserts obstacles in the way as to be valueless. The chief executive also complains that its provisions are so loose as to be unconstitutional in that it provides for its operation only so far as county elections are concerned. Furthermore, it is presented that several of the large cities of the State when called upon to vote on the question have no election at the time specified and therefore would be disfranchised. The Senate reconsidered its vote on the bill taxing ice shipped out of the State 10 cents a ton, and advanced it to third reading.

In his message vetoing the Hagemeister act Gov. LaFollette said: "Immediately upon the organization of the Legislature, many weeks before any bill was offered upon the subject of primary elections, it was boastingly announced and published that one of its branches had been so organized as to defeat the passage of any primary election legislation. Before the introduction of the primary election bill an attempt was made to arouse distrust concerning it, and to thoroughly discredit the measure in advance. Upon its presentation to the Legislature—so framed as to comply with the pledge made to the people of the State—a systematic campaign of misrepresentation of the bill and its supporters was industriously prosecuted. The general purpose of the measure, the plain meaning of its provisions, the certain effect of the law in operation, the necessary and reasonable expense, each and all furnished theme for persistent falsification and malicious assaults. With the defeat of the original bill the friends of primary elections offered to pass the measure subject to approval by the people. This the opposition refused. A further concession was then offered, applying the primary election to municipal, county and legislative offices. This the opposition refused. A last effort was then made to submit the limited bill to a vote of the people. This the opposition rejected. And after having refused to pass the bill promised, and having refused to let the people pass upon it, a mockery of platform pledges and judicious legislation alike is offered in the form of a bill which I am unable to approve. I cannot divest myself of the binding character of my official obligation—not in any narrow partisan sense—but to all the people of the State, which forbids my sharing in the responsibility of giving them a law which violates that obligation and is manifestly so framed as to bring reproach upon the principle, even if it were at all possible to interpret or enforce it. The bill is wanting in specific provisions as to many important details which cannot be supplied by conjecture or judicial legislation. Should it become the law of the State, it will be inoperative for this reason alone: By the provisions of this bill its passage by the Legislature with executive approval does not enact it into law. It is especially provided that it shall not take effect, and have the force of law until submitted for adoption or rejection at the spring or municipal election of 1902. While the Legislature could have given it the force of law with the approval of the executive without condition, it has not seen fit so to do, but has required before it shall become a law that it shall be approved by a majority of the legally qualified electors of the whole State. It is not a county option bill. At least, it is safe to assume that the Legislature did not intend to disfranchise any voting precinct in the State on the question. It cannot be assumed to be the legislative intent to exclude the electors of any voting precinct in the State from the right to vote on the question of the adoption or rejection of the proposed law. The time of the submission by the wording of the referendum is, 'the spring or municipal election of 1902.' There is no provision in the bill for calling or noticing any election other than such as is now provided for by law. So that if there be a single voting precinct in the State where no spring or municipal election in the year 1902 is to be held, the question is not submitted to all of the electors of the State; and as to each and every precinct in which no spring or municipal election is to be held in that year, the electors of such precinct are deprived of a voice or a vote on this subject and are necessarily disfranchised."

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At its closing hour Saturday morning the Senate, amid a scene perhaps unparalleled in the history of Wisconsin legislation, adopted resolutions strongly condemning Gov. La Follette for his strictures upon the Legislature as set forth in his veto of the Hagemeister primary bill. The resolutions were introduced by Senator Roehr of Milwaukee, who did so, he said, from a sense of duty to his party, his fellow legislators and himself. After quoting extracts from the message reflecting on the Legislature, the resolutions closed with a protest against the executive questioning the motive or character of the legislators. Immediately an excited scene followed. Senator McGillivray jumped up and denounced the resolution as cowardly and intended as a cover for the sins of the majority, and denouncing the stalwarts as not Republicans. Senator Miller in a warm defense of Gov. La Follette used the words "this subsidized Senate," and at once Senator "Long" Jones asked the clerk to take down the offensive phrase, which was done. Miller defiantly replying that he could not be scared that way. Senator Miller finally withdrew his remarks about a "subsidized Senate," but the resolution went through by a vote of 18 to 8. One of the last acts of the Senate was to concur in the Assembly bill authorizing cities to use voting machines. The bill authorizing the Governor to investigate State departments with a view to reducing clerical forces failed in the Assembly.

Bills Passed—Senate.

McGillivray—Providing for an inspector of public schools for the deaf.

Miller—Appropriating $484.67 to Thos. P. Nelson, for labor and material furnished as a sub-contractor on Ladies' Hall.

Roehr—Slightly amending the statutes relative to insane.

Whitehead—Increasing the appropriation to the Wisconsin Dairyman's Association from $2,000 to $4,000.

Roehr—Providing for the election of the Milwaukee city school superintendent by the directors of the school board, term to be three years.

Reynolds—Amending the statutes providing for a more complete registration of births and deaths.

Martin—Authorizing the Governor, when he deems it expedient, to have an investigation made of any State institution or office.

Cady—Relating to vagrancy.

Committee on State Affairs—Providing for the registration of trade marks.

Committee on Education—Correcting a mistake in chapter 197 passed at this session.

Dow—Prohibiting winter fishing Delavan lake.

Appropriating $7,500 for an intersta park at the Dells of St. Croix.

Cady—Relating to vagrants.

Smalley—Relating to joint school districts.

Barker—Requiring new registry lists for every election.

Gilman—Appropriating $420 to J. M. Hanton for care of Willie Garling, a ward of the State board of supervision.

Ainsworth—Amending the statutes relative to licensing peddlers.

IN THE PUBLIC EYE

Most people have probably forgotten that Jay Cooke, the famous financier, who was the financial agent of the government during the rebellion, is still alive. At the age of 80 he is still a hale old man, and recently he felt that all his predictions and forecasts were justified when Northern Pacific stock, common, sold at par. It was his confidence in the securities of this road which led to the crash in 1873 which carried Jay Cooke off his feet as a great financial power. The creditors who waited until the estate was settled, however, received the amount of their claims in full, together with interest. The importance of the work which he did for the Union during the rebellion can hardly be overestimated. As the sole financial agent of the government he successfully negotiated loans amounting to more than two billions of dollars, and each of the men who served as Secretary of the Treasury during that time has publicly testified that what he did no other man in the country could have accomplished so successfully.

JAY COOKE.

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One of the new rural mail delivery routes in Nebraska runs from the town of Schuyler twenty-five miles out into the country and back again, and the trip must be made daily with the exception of Sunday. Since the route was established half a dozen carriers have been tried on it. Either they were slow or careless or they did not find that the job paid well enough to stick to it, and accordingly resigned. Then Mrs. Pauline Elder, a widow, nearly 50 years old, came forward and applied for the job. With some misgivings and chiefly because nobody else could be found who would undertake the job she was given a trial. Since that time, the mail has never missed a day. In all kinds of weather and over all sorts of roads Mrs. Elder has driven her horses fifty miles a day and has given such satisfaction that her appointment has been made permanent.

MRS. P. ELDER.

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The story has been telegraphed from Rome that Pope Leo XIII. has made a will in which he designates Cardinal Gotti as his successor. It is pointed out that each succeeding Pope is chosen by vote of the Cardinals, and that therefore the story of a will is most improbable. On the other hand, it is declared that as the papal authority is absolute the present Pontiff would have the right to nominate the man to succeed him. In addition, it is known that Cardinal Gotti has long been the especial favorite of Pope Leo. He was made a Cardinal in 1895 after his return from Brazil, where he displayed great tact and skill in managing the affairs of the church during the early days of the republic. Since he was made a Cardinal he has held the post of Prefect of the Congregation of Indulgence and Sacred Relics.

CARDINAL GOTTI.

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Princess Hatzfeldt, the adopted daughter of the late Collis P. Huntington, has arrived in New York from Europe. She will commence suit for $371,437, being the amount over $1,000,000 bequeathed to her under the will, which her portion of the estate increased since the millionaire's death. The estate has increased $20,000,000. Mrs. Collis P. Huntington and the nephew, Henry E. Huntington, are the residuary legatees under the will.

PRINCESS HATZFELDT.

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Thomas M. Patterson, who succeeds Hon. E. O. Wolcott as one of Colorado's representatives in the United States Senate, is proprietor and editor of the Rocky Mountain News, published at Denver. Mr. Patterson is also a lawyer. Back in the seventies Tom Patterson represented Colorado for one term in the lower house of Congress. In 1896, when Colorado was almost unanimously Populistic, Mr. Patterson identified himself with the People's party and has since been an active leader in that party. He was chairman of the Populist national convention in 1900. His election as Colorado's junior Senator resulted from a union of Populists, Democrats and Silver Republicans in the Legislature.

T. M. PATTERSON.

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Prof. Algie R. Crook of the Northwestern University, Chicago, is the man who recently admitted to his class that he "never swore, never tasted intoxicants, never smoked and never kissed or hugged a woman." He says he is not interested in women, and adds: "People should grasp the fact that the scientific atmosphere is inimical to the love germ. My abstentation from intoxicants and narcotics is temperamental. I have no time for love, nor any thoughts to send wandering in that direction."

PROF. CROOK.

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The Baltimore News says that Tom L. Johnson's first name is not a contraction of Thomas, but a family name widely known in the South—especially in entucky, his native State. Mr. Johnson always feels aggrieved when he sees himself referred to in print as Thomas Johnson or "Tom" Johnson (with the quotation marks).

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Lord Kitchener is blind in one eye.

Citizens of Bismarck, Mo., have begun suit against the Iron Mountain Railroad for $50,000 damages, the result of the fire which almost wiped out the entire town, and was caused, it is claimed, by a spark from a locomotive.

The total number of women over 18 years old employed in the factories and workshops of the British Islands is about five hundred thousand, of whom 11 per cent belong to trade unions.

Solomon Tanner, prisoner at the Columbus, Ohio, prison, has the officials of that institution guessing. Without a key he unlocks his cell door.