

THERE are now 11,000,000 men in Europe ready to be called into the field.

At Greenwich the moon has been observed with scarcely an intermission for 150 years.

In Paris there are 56,000 gaslights, so that it is just 100 times better lighted than it was a century ago.

IRON bolts exposed to the water, in the bridges over the Thames, have, in twenty-five years, been eaten away one-half.

The shipments of wheat from Antelope Valley, Los Angeles County, for 1890 were 34,894 sacks, equal to 4,607,280 pounds.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a clergyman whose benefice did not exceed \$100 per annum, was allowed to follow a trade.

Up to the end of October the loss from fires in the United States and Canada for the year 1890 was \$18,795,805 less than for the corresponding months in 1889.

The theory has been advanced that the loss of the British man-of-war Serpent was due to the magnetic influence on her compass of the masses of ore in the Galician mountains.

A NEW variety of seagull has made its appearance on the New Jersey coast. It is darker than the old kind, and the most remarkable peculiarity is that its tail is narrowed to a sharp point.

An invalid's chair propelled by electricity is among the late novelties. The battery is capable of propelling the chair over an ordinary road for nine hours at the rate of six miles per hour.

The number of employees on all the railroads of the country amounts to 700,000. There are 1,518 different railroad corporations, and the total mileage of these railroads is 156,400 miles.

ACCORDING to the report of Superintendent Gorse, the convicts employed on the Texas State farm have earned an annual net profit of \$283 per capita. Swamp lands have been made to yield as high as \$167 per acre net.

"In less than twenty years," said Sir Byon Playfair in his recent speech to his constituents at Leeds, "the United States will have no food to export; therefore it is England's policy to develop the farming resources of Canada."

NEARLY all the low classes of negroes living along the levee streets in Kansas City have been seized with a craze similar to the Messiah superstition, and believe that a colored Messiah is coming. This is in Kansas City, and that accounts for it.

TO AN OBSERVER not conversant with the special perplexities of the case, a safe and satisfactory device for coupling cars would not seem to be the most difficult thing in the world to contrive. But it has not that distinction it misses very narrowly.

THE CHINING costume for women is of such a clerical stamp that when a lady was thrown lately in Ireland a countryman rushed up with the remark: "If your reverence will just step along the bank a bit there is a handy rail you might climb over."

A leading member of the British Iron and Steel Institute, who is an expert of the highest rank, has recently reported that iron ore property in the South which he says is pig-iron can be made from the ore in question at \$7.00 a ton. This is cheaper than at any place in Europe, as reported in the late "Preliminary Report on the Cost of Production," issued by Carroll D. Wright, United States Commissioner of Labor. The lowest European cost given in his report is \$7.67 per ton, and the average cost is \$9.91. In his report several Southern furnaces are given in which the cost of production is lower than this European average. In most of the Southern establishments the cost is a little greater than in Europe.

In the "Preliminary Report" no European establishment is given where the cost is so low as \$7.00 a ton. Notwithstanding this fact our high tariff legislators put a duty of \$6.52 a ton on pig-iron to protect our producers from European competition. Our ironmakers were before McKinley a year ago to fight for the existing duty and got it retained. They had tables to show the low wages paid iron miners in Spain. Even from the South, where labor is cheapest and where iron is produced at lowest cost, interested capitalists were before McKinley's committee to plead for protection to labor. It is true that no laborers came from the South to ask for such duties to protect themselves; it was the men who employ labor and employ it at the lowest market price. Yet another example of the insincerity fostered by protection.

THE ready recovery from wounds and the success of grave surgical operations during our civil war, under circumstances which were on the whole less advantageous than those which attend the conduct of war in Europe, prove that the American body has more recuperative power than that of the European.

Four years ago a Rose du Barry vase sold in London for nearly £2,000. Wedgwood sold his copies of the Portland vase, ten inches high, for £200. A century ago Dr. Johnson said that the Derby vase was as expensive as silver. The sale of the peach-blossom vase in New York shows the possibility in values.

MR. STANLEY'S expedition has brought to light some curious specimens of pipes from equatorial Africa. Surgeon Park has made careful drawings of them. The simplest specimen of a rough and ready pipe is that used by the natives of the Aruwimi and Utri forests. Its stem is a perforated banana stalk. The

bowl is a banana leaf rolled up into a funnel, like a grocer's paper, and inserted into a hole cut into the stem, and the apparatus is complete.

THE smallest town in the United States which has an electric street railway in operation is Southington, Conn., with a population of 5,400. The are in service over two miles of track, and the average daily receipts are \$9 per car. The power for the operation of this road is furnished by the local lighting company, and costs \$1.56 per car per day.

ART, Pa., is the abiding place of a man who has lived in Susquehanna County all his life, and has never yet set foot upon a railroad car, though the Erie tracks run through his farm. When the road was built he declared that the locomotive was the invention of Satan, and he wanted to die before one whittled through his meadows. All attempts to induce him to ride upon a train have thus far proved futile.

SOME years ago a farmer living near Rowton, in Shropshire, noticed on a path in a field a hole which had been suddenly made by some mysterious and unknown agent. The laborers who were near told him that he had just heard a remarkable noise or explosion, and when the farmer put his hand down in the hole he felt something hot at the bottom of it. He took a spade and dug up the strange body and found it to be a piece of iron weighing about five pounds.

In the French school books of the last year the young idea is taught that France is at the head of all the fighting nations of the earth, and that the only reason she ever lost a battle on sea or land was because some general or admiral proved incapable or sold out to the enemy. Not one battle for the last 200 years is recorded as a square victory. France is by no means singular among European nations in this regard.

There is none of them which, in its school books, does not minimize, gloss over or ignore the defects its armies have sustained. This seems to be natural.

MR. GEORGE M. PULLMAN, the possessor of \$50,000,000, recently said to a correspondent, when asked how it feels to be a millionaire: "I have never thought of that. But now that you mention it, I believe that I am no better off—certainly no happier—than I was when I didn't have a dollar to my name and had to work from daylight until dark.

Mr. Gillinder was apparently under the delusion that a high tariff makes high wages, and he did "not want to see our well-paid labor put on the same footing with those who are said to get meat only once a week." Yet he had to admit that the wages of glass workers were not as high in protected Germany as in free-trade England. This is a part of his testimony:

Mr. Flower—Some statement has been made as to the efficiency of the German labor?

Mr. Gillinder—I have not been in Germany myself, but my brother visited the country and was very much astonished by the skill and quickness displayed by the German glass blowers.

Mr. McMillin—Does not your competition come more from Germany, where they have a protective tariff, than from England, where they have none?

Mr. Gillinder—I think that is true. The reason for that is that labor in England is as two to one in Germany. Where a workman gets \$12 in England he gets \$6 in Germany.

Mr. McMillin—And yet Germany is protected and England is not?

Notwithstanding this manufacturer's knowledge that protection did not raise the wages of labor in Germany, he was ready to try the experiment, and he got high protection. The old duty was 40 per cent., the McKinley duty is 60 per cent. But nobody has yet heard of higher wages to the workers in glassware factories. The only news on the subject is this dispatch, which means that some of the workers are going to lose their employment.

There was absolutely no excuse for the McKinley increase of duties in this case. Even under the old tariff the domestic industry was prosperous and developing rapidly. It has recently been stated by a reputable trade journal that the number of pots at work in the glassware industry has been increased by 75 per cent. within two years. The same journal states that there is a great increase in the demand for glassware, which has increased so greatly that manufacturers are not afraid to hold their goods for an advance in price, which is looked for at an early day. The trust will doubtless see to it that this expectation shall not be disappointed.

STILL ONE MORE TRUST.

IS COMBINING TO REAP THE M'KINLEY SPOILS.

The Makers of Table Glassware Make a Combination—They Mean to Have Uniform Prices—How Labor Will Be Protected.

One of our latest McKinley trusts is that of the glass tableware manufacturers. Nineteen manufacturers of Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia have just entered into a combination "to bring about uniform prices." Their plea for keeping up prices is as follows: "If at any time business should be dull, one of the factories, that plant will close down and its orders be transferred to other factories. Should general dullness ensue, the trust will operate only as many factories as are necessary."

This is the account of the trust as presented in the Philadelphia Ledger, a leading protection journal.

In protecting itself the glassware industry makes no provision for protecting labor; yet when representatives of the industry went before Maj. McKinley a year ago to get higher protection they put their plea upon the usual humbug pretense of protection to labor. Not only has the higher protection not been followed by higher wages, but a trust is at once formed whose plan is to throw a part of its labor out of employment at the first approach of dullness."

When the glassware men were before McKinley last winter one of their number, a Mr. Gillinder, of Philadelphia, had much to say to the labor. He is a paid glassmaker in Germany. Besides being a manufacturer of pressed glassware, he makes lamp chimneys, shades, etc. Showing the committee nine specimens of these latter, he said:

"The wages paid where these goods are made are very low, not more than one-third of what is paid in this country. The result is that they can import large quantities of these goods at such prices that it is impossible for us to compete with them. We do not think for this class of goods our men are overpaid, we do not think they average over nine months' work in the year; we therefore ask that, in addition to the present rate of duty, you put a specific duty on all these articles in addition to the ad valorem duty, not asking so much as the direct import duty, but a proportionate surcharge which, we think, would enable us to make them in this country to a much larger extent than we now do, and would give more employment to the workmen engaged in that branch of the trade."

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How little reason there was to double the oatmeal duty may be seen from the figures of our exports and imports for the past three years. Those figures are as follows:

Exports, Imports, Exports, Imports, Exports, Imports,

Year. Ibs. Ibs. Ibs. Ibs. Ibs. Ibs.

1888..... 4,900,263 1,961,239

1889..... 10,210,413 1,965,433

1890..... 23,400,123 2,363,330

Total..... 38,510,796 5,285,289

It is thus seen that our exports of oatmeal are increasing by leaps and bounds, while our imports are insignificant.

McKinley's double duty on oatmeal went into effect on the 6th of last October, and what is the first result? The oatmeal manufacturers have taken steps to form a trust. It is reported that each mill is to lose its identity in a big concern with a capital of several million dollars, and some of the smaller mills are to be closed down. That means thrown out of employment, a reduced output, and higher prices to the consumer.

In this bootiful scheme the farmer, for one, will get one cent more for his oats, but if he has oatmeal for his breakfast he will pay more for it. In which case let him not forget that the oatmeal duty is a part of the McKinley "farmers' tariff."

There are thousands of people in our cities and towns, many of them poor people, who use oatmeal extensively.

Most of them will ill afford to have the price of this staple breakfast dish increased. But McKinley must do something to the people and for the people, and that all are equal before the law.

That Mr. Carlisle has become an expert exponent of tariff laws is due to the fact that not only is he a sound political philosopher but also a practical legislator. The tariff was the instrument which he found the enemies of Democracy employing against the liberties and rights of the people. In this age and country parliamentary victories are not won on general principles. Nothing can be done in the protection of the tariff but to bring about a specific duty on each article.

Mr. Carlisle is best known.

Mr. Carlisle says, "for his efforts in behalf of tariff reform. This is because the enormousities of the present system have framed the issue of his time. But Mr. Carlisle is an opponent of the excess of protection because he is a Democrat and holds that government has no right to enact unequal laws, to enable the few at the expense of the many, to levy taxes for any but the general welfare. The protectionists are continually putting up new tariff oligarchies, and, as a Democrat, Mr. Carlisle opposed their system. That system involved a preference by the Government for one set of citizens over all their fellow-citizens, and therefore, it is hostile to the theory that government is by the people and for the people, and that all are equal before the law.

"I wonder how it is," remarked the lady in an undertone, "that Hymen is always represented as carrying a torch? I never yet saw a picture purporting to be the mortal god without the inevitable torch in his hand."

"I don't see anything strange about that," remarked her husband, with a cynical grin, "that's easily enough explained, I'm sure. The reason he is always drawn with the torch is to indicate how warm he makes it for the men who are foolish enough to enter the matrimonial state."

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