

# The Democrat

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ENGLAND eats Australian eggs.

ALASKA has the largest quartz mill.

The world is full of rascals who are yelling "whip behind."

To REVEAL its complacence by gifts is one of the native dialects of love.

MANY Congressman envies a mosquito. His bill always goes through.

WE may shut our eyes to a painful truth; but we don't shut our ears—if it's about somebody else.

MAN was made to mourn, but he has fixed things so that his wife has taken the job off his hands.

CONSIDER the man who is always punctual—how much time he wastes waiting for other people.

The famous Mercer or Neshannock potatoes are natives of the soil of Mercer County, Pa., and hence the name.

The rate of increase in population of Tacoma during the last ten years was 5,500 per cent. For rapidity of growth this probably beats anything heretofore recorded.

The decrease of the shipbuilding of the United Kingdom during 1890 amounts to 29,823 tons in the aggregate, but the production of the Scottish yards has increased by 21,000 tons.

If the man who takes up a whole seat in a car, while somebody else stands, will try the plan of sharing his seat with some one else, he will be surprised to find how much more comfortable the seat will become.

A FOREIGN physician has discovered that goats are not subject to consumption. The general belief has been that that they eat all known quadrupeds or consumption, and took in everything from a circus poster to an oyster can.

LADY Annie Brunt, granddaughter of Lord Byron, with her husband and little daughter is located on the border of the Egyptian desert near Cairo. Her house is a tent, and she has adopted the dress and customs of the Arab.

"INNOCENT," who writes to know what a grand dutchess is, is informed that, as her title implies, she is a very grand personage who usually makes a stir in the world three times during her life—when she is born, when she is married, and when she dies.

The locomotive telephone signal enables two trains approaching each other to communicate by closing the circuit when two miles apart. The ringing of a gong warns the engineers, who can converse with each other over the telephone.

A STEEL clip, to facilitate the pulling on or taking off of rubber overshoes, has been invented. It is inserted in the upper part of the heel, and opens or closes the shoe, as may be required. A ring which is connected with the clip serves to pull the shoes on or off.

QUEBEC wants to find a purchaser for her Plains of Abraham, which are always tumbling down about her ears and making trouble. They are warranted to be in fair condition, will stand in any climate, and the purchaser will be required to take them away this year.

The depositors in a private institution in a Kansas town were getting ready to make a run, as the banker was reported short, but before they could do so he left by way of the back door and took all the cash in his carpet-bag. He reasoned that in his case it was better to run than be run on.

AN eccentric old bachelor named Frank Ebeling died the other day at Atchison, Kan. He had been engaged in the grain business, and among his assets are 3,000 bushels of wheat which he had in his warehouse five years. He refused to sell them because the price never reached his mark of value.

SOME ladies have been telling a temporary how to train a husband. It seems to be taken for granted that man is an obstreperous animal that must be handled with care; and that is about the truth of the matter. Perhaps if he tried, he might be better; but he is so much of a child that he must be coddled.

If there were laws under which the quail, partridges, turkeys, geese and other wild fowl and birds could be absolutely protected for the space of twenty-five years, the United States could gain \$40,000,000 in the increase of crops. No such laws can be made, however. Humanity must have something to shoot at, even if only a frog.

"NOTHING wears a railroad traveler more than a straight track," says an old railroad man. "Any road with fifty miles of straight track would be shunned for one with three or four curves in that distance. I know legions of people who put themselves out to go by roads which wind and curve and give a new bit of scenery every few minutes."

KRUPP, the German cannon-maker, figures up that he has been responsible for the death of 650,000 men on the battlefield. Then, he turns over the shingle and figures that these 650,000 men would have died from over-eating and over-drinking, and he pushes the button and tells the foreman to turn out five more full batteries.

VERA SASSULITCH has been the cause of more alarm to the Czar than all the other Russian anarchists combined. In her early years she was a pretty gov-

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Report of Labor Commissioner Wright—Steel and Iron Making in Europe and the United States—Cold Facts About Pauper Labor—A Pitiless Arraignment of Protection.

ERNESS in a little country village of Russia, and she still possesses traces of beauty. She is a woman of iron will and stern resolution. At one time, finding it impossible to conquer her, the Russian Government is said to have offered her a bribe of 10,000,000 rubles to quit the cause of anarchy and leave the country.

The New York *Star* tells of a man who, in coming from Odessa, brought with him a small quantity of the best Turkish tobacco. Before leaving the vessel he spread it out and folded it in large silk handkerchiefs and placed it next the skin under his vest. This in no degree gave him a suspicious fullness, but it was as much as he could do to walk ashore and tear this horrible politico from him. Tobacco thus applied is one of the most powerful of emetics.

WHEN Mr. and Mrs. Stanley reached Buffalo they were assigned the bridal chambers in the Niagara Hotel. Several wealthy and fashionable ladies living in the house thought it would be a delicate compliment to fix up the rooms with their own home belongings. They did so, thinking to reclaim them in a few hours. Mrs. Stanley, not knowing of the sacrifice, was so charmed with their apartments that she and her husband kept them several days. The kind-hearted decorators stood it as best they could.

THE Emperor of Germany, while entertaining much more freely than his grand-father did, has a keen eye to economy. The imperial kitchen, particularly, is managed with an eye to business. In order to avoid the immense wastage which has occurred at the palace in former times, whenever a banquet is given, the Emperor has fixed the price, per person, at which his guests are to be served, and makes his cooks and servants answer to a penny, for expenditures.

DR. OSWALD says soothsaying syrups are nothing but treacle mixed with the most hellish poison known to crime and depravity, that they exert a health-blighting influence to the end of the victim's life and are largely responsible for the sallow appearance of those children who have for years been fuddled with the infernal drug. He prefers the method of the Zanzibar slave dealer who quiets squalling brats by banging their woolsy heads against a post until they are hushed, as he thinks the after effects are less disastrous.

THE inhabitants of The Hague are delighted at once more having royalty in their midst, and the sight of the day is the little Queen taking her afternoon drive in a sleigh drawn by four ponies. Both the Queens lead the simplest of lives, and Queen Wilhelmina has returned to her books and masters just as if she was still at Het Loo. Her father's old nurse (who had been present at his birth in Brussels) died two or three days since, at the age of 100, and was buried with great state in the Cathedral of Breda.

THE report of the Forests Commission to the New York Legislature on the proposed Adirondack State Park provides for a tract of 2,307,760 acres, of which the State at present owns about one-quarter. This will certainly be one of the most magnificent parks in existence. The total value of the land within the proposed park is \$651,000. It is thought that the Legislature may possibly push the western line of the park over the northern portion of the adjacent land and include 500,000 acres, which are now in danger of being taken up by timber speculators.

BRITISH Refrigerating Ships. Our food supply has been largely increased by the application of apparatus for mechanical refrigeration to ships. Our frozen meat trade with New Zealand is of recent development, and it has already reached enormous proportions. At present twenty-seven steamers and ten sailing vessels, all fitted with mechanical refrigeration machinery, are engaged in this trade. The aggregate tonnage of these twenty-seven steamers is 123,000 tons, or an average tonnage of about 4,500 tons, while that of the sailing ships is 10,000 tons, or an average of 1,000 tons each. It will thus be seen that thirty-seven vessels are engaged in this trade, of 133,000 tons total carrying capacity. The total frozen meat cargo which these vessels can carry in a single year amounts to the enormous number of 2,250,000 carcases, which certainly gives some idea of the great importance of this trade. It is estimated that not more than 1,500,000 will be available for the trade this year, so that the carrying capacity is more than sufficient for the present volume of trade.—*Steamer*.

WHY PEACH TREES DIE YOUNG. The cultivated peach is supposed to have descended from a small native tree of Persia, or at least South Central Asia, bearing an acrid, poisonous fruit, scarcely, if ever eatable. The almond is considered a selected off-shoot from the peach, and both bred from time immemorial, the peach in the line of its goodness of pulp, and the almond in the line of goodness of its kernel or seed, for food or luxuries for man. The peach has been selected from seedlings, since long before the dawn of man's history, in the line of its delicious pulp, or, as we call it, its fruit alone, without any reference whatever to the health, vigor or hardiness of the tree. This breeding constantly in one line alone has resulted in the whole race of stock becoming enfeebled and diseased. This feebleness and liability of tree, foliage and tree to diseases, such as the yellows, rot of the fruit, curl of the leaf and the inability to withstand cold and climatic changes, seems to increase, rendering this, the easiest of all fruits for the pioneers of this country to grow, the hardest now to fruit successfully.—*Farm and Fireside*.

IF you are run over by a hearse it is almost a sure sign that there will be a funeral in your family.

SOME men must think that the lamp of life is a spirit-lamp, judging from the way they pour in the alcohol.

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da's weeping committee soon discover that the meerschaum comes from Asia Minor, where there are inexhaustible supplies of the cheapest pauper labor in the world—where the poor laborer does not get meat to eat but once a week and has to make slaves of his wife and children? Will they not discover, too, that gunpowder comes from Japan, another country of pauper labor? The services of the weeping committee may be needed again to stretch forth their imploring hands for succor."

COL. CARROLL D. WRIGHT, United States Labor Commissioner, has sent to Congress the most important report yet made by him. The subject of this report is the cost of production of iron and steel in their various forms, both in this country and in Europe. The efficiency of labor here and in Europe is also the subject of investigation, as well as the cost of living among laborers engaged in the various forms of the iron and steel industry.

This investigation is pursued in an absolutely non-partisan spirit. For this reason the facts brought out in the report are all the more damaging to the cause of high protection. The mass of facts and figures given by Col. Wright may be regarded as absolutely trustworthy and authoritative; and there can be no doubt that this report will play an important part in future discussions of the tariff. Its arsenal of facts will be used to meet the cheap talk of the protectionists about the pauper labor of Europe, and to refute their claim that the cost of production is so much less in Europe than to us as to make McKinley's high duties necessary for the protection of the American iron and steel industry.

The figures given by Colonel Wright were taken in every case from the books of the manufacturers and mine operators, and may be accepted implicitly. The report does not cover all the companies engaged in mining, ore, making pig-iron, and manufacturing steel rails and other forms of steel. Naturally there was a disposition on the part of some to keep secret their methods of business and their profits. Thus the report contains information about only two American steel rail establishments, the eleven others reported being European. The other rail manufacturers have "showed a sensitiveness about giving information."

The report contains information about 618 establishments in this country and in Europe which are engaged in the various forms of iron and steel manufacture, and it required the labor of three years to collect the information embraced in it.

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