

### BICYCLES IN GERMANY.

The importation of American bicycles into Germany increased by 850 per cent, in the first few months of this year compared with 1897. It is stated that a Munich agent has undertaken to purchase cycles to the value of £7,500 annually from one American maker alone. English bicycles, it is stated, are unfortunately not so much in request, partly owing to their reputation for heaviness, especially compared with American machines, though lately English makers have discovered that most cyclists on the Continent demand a very light and highly-gearcd bicycle.—British Report from Munich.

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### FARM MACHINERY IN CAPE COLONY.

American agricultural machinery has become very popular in South Africa. The five years ended 1894 show a very large increase. American harvesters and reapers are coming into very general use, and British manufacturers will have to exert themselves to counteract this. Until lately the best plows were of British manufacture, though as regards numbers, more of the cheap American plows, such as the Eagle, 75, 55 and 25, were imported into this colony, especially into the Eastern province; but of late years the Americans have introduced their best plows, and these, both with regard to workmanship and efficiency, are equal to, and in some cases excel, the British. A few German plows are imported; these are of cheap make, and there is but little demand for them; they are suitable only for loose soils.—Colonial Governor's Report.

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### CONDITIONS OF TRADE IN AUSTRALIA.

Agents of German houses are reported as being extremely active in endeavoring to secure Australian orders, and are promising, if sufficiently encouraged, to thoroughly study the requirements of customers. It is a cause of grave complaint among many storekeepers there, that British shippers too frequently give more attention to inferior low-priced goods than to superior articles at moderate rates. Especially is this the case with tools and implements, in which English manufacturers continue to hold their own, despite the large consignments of inferior wares continually finding their way into the Australian market. The great competitor of Britain is the United States, which, in 1897, exported to New South Wales miscellaneous trade to the value of £45,833, the value of the British imports into the Colony during the same period being £47,366, and of those from Germany £1,841. In