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Questions of the Day.

You take my house, when you do take
the prop
That dost sustain my house; you
take my life,
When you do take the means whereby
I live.
—Shakespeare.

In Toronto, Sunday street cars are not permitted to run, because it is considered a violation of the moral law; but the use of private conveyances is not so considered. Strange logic.

An individual who has purchased anything for money or by trade has the clearest right to dispose of that which is his, in any manner he so decides. In the case of a railroad ticket (under Canadian law), the same rule does not apply. Wherein is the difference? Yet in the latter instance, a man can be sent to prison for scalping his ticket. The reason for this is apparent—the railroad monopoly is supreme.

Through the medium of free silver coinage, the masses of the United States hope for relief. In this, as with all superficial reforms, they stand to be disappointed once more.

To the conservative mind existing conditions should be conserved. Bad as things are, changes would be worse for him. That doctrine or belief passed at par once, but it never will again.

THE NOMINATION OF W. J. BRYAN

The nomination of Wm. J. Bryan for some high office was not altogether an unlooked for happening. A little over two years ago the Chicago Times published the following question.

"From what section of the country should the next candidate for the presidency hail, and for what must he stand?"

In response to this the Times received many letters favoring Hon. Tom L. Johnson for the presidency and Wm. J. Bryan, of Nebraska, as his running mate.

A BYSTANDER RIGHT THIS TIME

Referring to the Irish Land Bill, A Bystander in the Weekly Sun discusses the position of the landed aristocracy, in which he says:

"The land can no longer sustain the three orders of landlord, tenant-farmer and laborer. One at least of the three must go, and the non-producer must be that one. This must be the end of territorial aristocracy, and consequently of the hereditary House of Lords, for no one would endure a House of impoverished heirs to titles or of hereditary traders. In trying to uphold the House of Lords as it is Lord Salisbury is struggling against fate."

Will the writer (Prof. Goldwin Smith) please inform us how the non-producer

is to be got rid of? We have quite a few of them in Canada to be dealt with.

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CANADIAN MINING.

The development of the mineral resources of British Columbia and Ontario seems to be the all-absorbing topic of discussion these days. The capitalists of Canada have heretofore shown a want of enterprise and push in this particular industry, always holding back for fear of any loss in the undertaking, and awaiting meanwhile the intervention of the local governments to aid them by providing bonuses on each ton of ore extracted, and the construction of government smelters at the mines. This paternal feature of the question, fortunately for the people generally, is now altogether lost sight of. A feeling of confidence in one's own abilities to go ahead and succeed, without asking for special privileges, seems to inspire all who are interested in mining, and in this respect the manufacturers of the Dominion might well follow the same course, relying upon their own capabilities and good judgment as the highest and best form of protection.

FREE TRADE AS PEACEMAKER

The thoughts expressed by Lord Russell in his address at Saratoga, before the American Bar Association recently, in relation to the settlement of international differences, are echoed by all who aim for peace, and all that tends toward bringing about that desirable end among the nations of the earth. Even with the stunted intelligence of so-called civilized peoples who maintain barriers which stand in the way and impede the solution of this important problem some progress at least is being developed that may ultimately result in the formation of an international Board of Arbitration.

There is nothing so pregnant to embitterment and strife among nations, than hostile tariffs, and whilst this blot remains the war spirit, far from dead even in Canada will retard that which makes for peace on earth and for good will to men. When men and nations trade freely with one another, love and friendship takes the place of hate and strife. Let us strive for peace by working on the lines of least resistance,—and that is Free Trade with all the world.

In the east and west end sections of Toronto, there are to be seen on the lines of the Street Railroad many hundreds of vacant acres that have never had a spade dug in' them—just as nature left them, ready for the hand of man on which to employ his labor. In the centre and other sections of this same city, there are many hundreds of men idle, and living for the most part on charity; what is it that prevents these two—land and men—combining forces and bringing forth the things that sustain life and give happiness?

A DELAWARE SINGLE TAX CAMPAIGNER.



H. W. HETZEL.

THE DELAWARE PERSECUTIONS.

In the State of Delaware, where an energetic single tax campaign is being carried on, attention was recently directed to this unique movement, by the announcement in the daily press of the arrest in Dover of fifteen single taxers for speaking in the public highway, and who were subsequently condemned to thirty days in the common jail. Since this occurrence two others have been jailed for the same offence. This extraordinary attempt of the ruling powers to suppress the preaching of single tax philosophy by adopting measures of persecution and tyranny can not be justified under any circumstances, and no self-respecting man, no matter what his opinions may be of, the single tax doctrine, would condescend to the low and contemptible tactics of the officials at Dover.

The success of reforms only commences when persecution sets in, and the incidents in Delaware are merely a repetition of what the abolitionists suffered early in 1834 at the hands of the slaveholders. As with the Anti-Slavery Movement, so with the single tax reform, justice and equity will eventually triumph.

VACANT LAND ASSESSMENT.

The sweeping and unwarranted reduction in the assessment of Toronto will set back the return of prosperity for which the people have been patiently waiting. The tax on buildings and on all products of labor was high while it should have been abolished, but the tax on land was far too low. The land holders who were spending their energies in holding on in hope of a prosperity which they were making impossible could not have continued much longer, and a reduction of the taxes on labor products would have afforded many openings for the capital now expended in holding land and men idle. The general transfer of the burden from the land holder to the useful elements has given land holding, which means stagnation, a new lease of life. The hands have been pushed back on the dial, but such reverses have occurred during the progress of all reforms. Almost every man in Toronto has cause to regret the facility for land speculation afforded by a foolish taxation system and many of them have discovered the fact. The business men of the city must see the folly of taxing their enterprise and industry.

THE FREE SILVER ISSUE

By REXAT ELONIS.

THE FREE SILVER ISSUE.

To the student of political economy, particularly the more advanced one, belonging to the George School of Philosophy—the primary cause leading to the agitation of most economic questions and particularly the present absorbing one of Free Silver, is perhaps more easily apparent than to any other class of economists.

The great producing classes of the United States are gradually beginning to recognize the fact that their interests have not been safeguarded by either of the two political parties, that while "America" and "Liberty" have been extolled for his benefit on all possible occasions, their pockets somehow or other were being depleted, or rather were not being refilled with coin to meet the common desires for food, raiment and shelter. They also seem to appreciate the fact, that while they are growing poorer, yet toiling harder than ever, a comparatively few in numbers are growing richer and more powerful, but to all appearances never seem to do anything at all.

They have looked for aid and sympathy from one party to another, and it never came. Fooled and disappointed, —desperate, and intent upon getting some relief, no matter where it comes from—is it to be wondered at that the masses should grasp at anything that will likely better conditions? If the producing classes are laboring under a delusion, and are misled into favoring absurd legislation, and by their strength vote in a government to carry out absurd and unwise proposals, who must assume the responsibilities for it? Certainly not these fettered slaves, who have so long and so often been despoiled and robbed!

And why should not Mr. Bryan and his party be supported by them? There is at least a ray of hope that in doing so some relief will be secured. But at the expense of others, some one will remark. Very well, at whose expense are the land monopolist money lords and tariff beneficiaries being kept now? There is only one answer to this—the producers.

To effect the cry of repudiation of obligations, dishonest money, etc., at this time, comes with a show of ingratitude to say the least. While we do not endorse the free silver proposition, we will endorse any movement that tends to the breaking down of special privileges, and in the silver agitation this view is recognized. As a consequence the money power of the United States, if Mr. Bryan should be elected, will have to forego some of its privileges. In what form this will follow, time alone can tell.

The unfortunate part of this extraordinary movement in the United States is the fact, though not generally recognized, that the common people do not realize what is really the matter with them. That something is wrong goes without question. In some quarters the mind of the people is being directed to the basic cause of hard times, but the easy acceptance of silverite doctrines claims the great majority. Some day, and perhaps not far distant, the real cause and the remedy will strike them with all the force and certainly with more clearness than the superficial question of free silver. The remarks of Hon. Tom L. Johnson, ex-Congressman of Ohio, and millionaire manufacturer of steel rails, very recently expressed, give utterance to our views in the matter, when he says:—

"The present hard times have been felt all over the world, in countries of low tariffs and high tariffs; in countries with little money and those with plenty of money; in monarchies and in republics. The real cause cannot be tariffs, or money, or form of government, it is something that we find everywhere—the monopoly of land, the source of all production."—B.



WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

Australian Legislation

OUR AUSTRALIAN COUSINS.

The editor of this department has recently received two letters from Australia, which contain matter of much interest. One is from Bert Stevens of the Single Tax newspaper, 112 King-street, Sydney, New South Wales, and the other is from Miss Catherine Helen Spence, of Eldon, St. Peters, South Australia. Very appropriate for a letter to Canada, Mr. Stevens' letter is dated July 1. Dealing first with the

TAX ON LAND VALUES

in New South Wales, Mr. Stevens states its exact position. A few weeks ago this department estimated it at two and a half mills on the dollar. This was based on a misconception, and we are glad to state that the tax is really about four mills on the dollar, instead of two and a half. It is a penny in the pound on capital value—say two cents on five dollars. Twenty mills on five dollars equals four mills on the dollar. Buildings and other improvements are not included in the tax, of course. However, we will let Mr. Stevens speak for himself. He says:—

The tax on land values in force in New South Wales is one penny (about two cents) in the pound sterling of capital value on all values over and above £240—in round figures, twelve hundred dollars—that being the amount of the exemption. The income tax is sixpence in the pound, and £200 is exempted—say a thousand dollars. So that you may have a complete and clear knowledge of the matter, I forward you herewith copy of the Land and Income Acts.

The exemption in the Land Tax Act rolls the effect of it to a very great extent, and we Single Tax men are concentrating our energies on the effort to get the exemption abolished altogether. There is little hope of getting the amount of the tax increased just yet, but if the exemption is removed we shall be in a fairly satisfactory position. The time allowed for the continuance of the old revenue and protective duties has almost expired; and, with the exception of duties on tobacco, alcoholic liquors, etc., we shall have a free port.

LOCAL OPTION IN TAXATION.

We have not got local option in taxation yet. The present Government was pledged to introduce a local Government Bill, and did so, but the labor party wanted to eliminate the provision for the property

vote, and make municipal suffrage similar to our Parliamentary suffrage—one man, one vote. The Government opposed this, and the bill was dropped; but I believe it will be brought forward again in such a form as to allow the municipalities the option of raising their revenue in what way they wish. I will send you along particulars if anything occurs.

"I am editing the New South Wales Single Tax, and send you a copy of our last issue."

IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The letter of Miss Spence confirms the foregoing statements, and gives particulars about South Australia. There the tax on land values is one half-penny in the pound, equal to two mills on the dollar, and there is no exemption. She says:—

"South Australia is the only colony where there are no exemptions. I pay the land value tax on a rood of ground where this house stands, and half an acre where another house stands, and both together come to one pound and six shillings. The tax is only one half-penny in the pound, but it is doubled when the land is worth more than five thousand pounds, for the portion which is above that value; and twenty per cent. is charged for absentees in addition to what they pay like residents."

To illustrate this in mills and dollars, an absentee land owner, having an estate of which the land was worth fifty thousand dollars, would pay:

- Two mills on the dollar on \$25,000.
- Four mills on the dollar on \$25,000.
- Two-fifths of a mill on the dollar on \$50,000.

Nothing on his buildings and improvements.

THE DELAWARE ELECTIONS

Never before has an election been so important in Delaware as will be the approaching one, even to the politicians. The winning side will control the constitutional convention and probably make such changes in the constitution as will enable it to have a strong grip on the political situation for a long time to come. The next legislature will also elect a United States senator, and the governor will have more offices to distribute than any governor had in the past thirty years. The party that gets the Single Tax support will win beyond a doubt.

Success for Single Tax is assured in Newcastle and Kent Counties, with a probability of Sussex, provided the Single Taxers themselves make no mistakes, follow up advantages already gained and do not permit themselves to be blinded and led into wrong moves by enemies disguised as friends. The political leaders understand this, although they will not admit it openly.

Social Reform and Economic Science.

Any question bearing on Social Reform and Economic Science sent to this Department will be Courteously Dealt With.

SUMMARY OF SINGLE TAX PRINCIPLES.

We assert as our fundamental principle the self-evident truth enunciated in the Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.

We hold that all men are equally entitled to the use and enjoyment of what God has created and of what is gained by the general growth and improvement of the community of which they are a part. Therefore, no one should be permitted to hold natural opportunities without a fair return to all for any special privilege thus accorded to him, and that value which the growth and improvement of the community attach to land should be taken for the use of the community.

We hold that each man is entitled to all that his labor produces. Therefore no tax should be levied on the products of labor.

The single tax we propose is not a tax on land, and therefore would not fall on the use of land and become a tax on labor.

It is a tax not on land, but on the value of land. Then it would not fall on all land, but only on valuable land, and on that not in proportion to the use made of it, but in proportion to its value. It would thus be a tax, not on the use and improvement of land, but on the ownership of land, taking what would otherwise go to the owner as owner, and not as user.

In assessments under the single tax all values created by individual use or improvement would be excluded, and the only value taken into consideration would be the value attaching to the bare land by reason of neighborhood, etc., to be determined by impartial, periodical assessments. Thus the farmer would have no more taxes to pay than the speculator who held a similar piece of land idle, and the man who, on a city lot, erected a valuable building would be taxed no more than the man who held a similar lot vacant.

The single tax, in short, would call upon men to contribute to the public revenues, not in proportion to what they produce or accumulate, but in proportion to the value of the natural opportunities they hold. It would compel them to pay just as much for holding land idle as for putting it to its fullest use.

For advocating these principles, now accepted by millions of converts throughout the world, nineteen (19) men have been imprisoned in Dover, Delaware, martyrs to a cause which will yet triumph in our day.

In the concluding chapter of Progress and Poverty, Mr. George prophesied that which has actually come to pass:

"The truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance. If that could be, it would have been accepted long ago. If that could be, it would never have been obscured. But it will find friends—those who will toil for it, suffer for it; if need be, die for it. This is the power of Truth."

WHAT PRESIDENT BRYAN BELIEVES.

He who aids in increasing landlordism in this country hastens the overthrow of the Republic, for free government will not long survive when a few own the land and means of support, while the many are tenants at will.

—William Jennings Bryan.

Thou shalt not steal—is a law of God and man. In breaking this ordinance

the act becomes a crime. He who plunders a bank, embezzles his employer's funds, knocks a man down and robs him of his riches is branded as a thief.

But what think you of a law (you and I made it) that condemns men to pay a fine every year—in the form of a tax, on the wealth they have produced?

The more we produce, the heavier the fine.

Is this not stealing? If not what is it?

"Equity utters dictates to which we have not yet listened; and men may then learn that to deprive others of their rights to the use of the earth, is to commit a crime inferior only in wickedness to the crime of taking away their lives and personal liberties." Herbert Spencer, Social Statics.

"Go up to the Northwest,"—say some—and settle on Free Government land; but how are they going to get there? Will the class who have profited by their presence here pay the bill? If not, then it devolves upon the community to find means for securing access to the idle lands, so that those who desire to till the land or build a home may do so without the aid of charity.

Mr. Gladstone in a speech at West Calder, England, Nov. 27, 1879, said:

"Those persons who possess large portions of the earth's space are not altogether in the same position as the possessors of mere personalty. Personalty does not impose limitations on the action and industry of man and the well-being of the community as possession of land does."

It is well to bear in mind that land is not wealth. An investment of capital may be made in land and rent received from it, as also may capital be invested in producing articles of wealth from which interest is derived. In both instances capital is invested, but a sharp distinction must be drawn between land which no man made, and wealth the product of man. The product of labor naturally belongs to the producer, but the same argument cannot apply to land, which is the gift of the Creator to all mankind.

In Ontario the value of farm land, exclusive of buildings, etc., owned by 205,000 farmers is \$620,000,000.

From the calculations made by a U S (American) statistician very recently, there are 70 citizens in the United States who are possessed of wealth in the aggregate, amounting to \$2,703,000,000, an average to each person of \$37,500,000.

A few facts culled from the report of the Illinois Bureau of Statistics are of interest:

The "Economic history of a Quarter acre in Chicago" shows in a striking manner the growth in value, from \$20 in 1830 to \$1,255,000 in 1894, of a lot on the southwest corner of State and Madison streets.

One block north of this land is a corner lot of less area, but with a value exceeding the first one of \$250,000. In March, 1896, Mr. H. H. Kohisaat, sold for \$100,000 his lease to this lot which is only by 90 by 91 1-2 feet. The market price of this land amounts to \$1,572,222, or \$190.92 per square foot. In 1844 the lot was sold for \$2,000.

During the 102 years of the life of the lease, the owners will receive an average annual rental of \$72,838—\$6,009 a month, or about \$200 for every day in the year.

Of every 1,000 persons who die in England over 900 die without leaving any property.

About eight millions exist always on the borders of destitution.

About twenty millions are poor. More than half the national income belongs to about ten thousand people.

Less than forty thousand people own the greater portion of the kingdom. And this is in merry England.

As showing that Bryan is favorably disposed toward the single tax, E. C. Clarke, of Hutchinson, Kan., relates the following incident:

Bryan, Jerry Simpson and myself spoke at the Wingfield, Kan., Chautauqua last year. Bryan was on the platform when Jerry spoke on the land question, and at the close Bryan said to Simpson, "Jerry, there is more in that single tax than I had thought, for that is the stuff. I am for the single tax; I am going to look it up hard."

"NATIONAL SINGLETAXER."

A gentleman well known in business circles, and an able exponent of single tax principles, is being prevailed upon to run for alderman in January. The name is quite familiar on both sides of the line.

In our next issue we hope to announce definitely what arrangements have been made for the fall and winter meetings of the Toronto S. T. Club—interest in Economic Studies is growing very encouragingly.

The receipt of a sample copy of the Searchlight to those interested in this department is an invitation to subscribe. Items of news from the following centres will be welcomed: Hamilton, London, Guelph, Lindsay, Peterboro' Cobourg, Belleville, Kingston, Leamington, etc.

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UNDEVELOPED MINERAL CLAIMS.

The following from the San Francisco Call is somewhat applicable to British Columbia. The practice alluded to obtains to a greater or less extent in every mining camp:

"When a man is new at mining he is apt to take up more ground than he can properly handle. There is scarcely anything worse than having a whole lot of ground in a camp held by a few men, who just manage to do assessment work each year and no more. The result is that none of the claims are properly developed or brought to such a stage as to invite inspection from those who might be purchasers. The mining laws are compiled with simply because they have to be, but men holding claims in this way are apt to rely more on the results of the labour of their neighbours than on their own exertions. This sort of thing is not honest mining. Men who hold claims in this way prevent others from working the ground they have, and yet they do not work it themselves. There seems to be no way to prevent men acquiring larger locations than they can handle. A 1,500 foot location on a ledge ought to be enough for anybody, but the class of men referred to take up a dozen rich locations, and then use the names of others on the continuations of the ledges to acquire more. Such men do more harm than good to a camp. They keep it back, because they keep out men who would do actual development and not mere assessment work. The latter is enforced, of course, or even that little would not be done. If, instead of scattering their work in a dozen or so places, prospectors would concentrate their efforts on one claim, and open it properly, they would bring it to a proper condition for a sale of some value to them and to the camp. There are plenty of 'claim-poor' miners all over the country, who will never get any better off until they drop some of their superfluous holdings and put all their work and energies into one or two."—Victoria, B.C., "Province."

ADVERTISER AND READER.

A consideration of the merits of this number of the Searchlight, both by advertisers and readers, should bring them to the same conclusion which many persons have already arrived at that the Searchlight is just what was wanted, being something new and different to the general run of weekly or monthly Journals.

We commend our columns to advertisers as being a good field for investment. Our subscription rate is an attraction and as a consequence many subscribers are thereby obtained.

Going over a broad plane of thought, the Searchlight will appeal to more than one class of readers, and for this and other reasons advertising should pay in the Searchlight. Our next issue will be better in every way, and possibly may be enlarged upon.

A THANKFUL SOUL.

Perry Patettic—The Lord is purty good to the human race, even you and me.

Wayvorn Watson—I'd like fer to know how f

Well, for instant, in making us so we kin swallow our beer down. S'pose we had to go to the exertion of swallowin' up, like the horse does water?

WHY SO SLOW?

By W.A.D.

A little over a quarter of a century ago the people of Canada came into possession of a heritage, sufficient, amply sufficient, to make every family in the country rich. Probably we are quite within the estimate when we say that there were upwards of two hundred acres of fertile land for every family in the Dominion. That added to mineral deposits, forest wealth and other advantages should have guaranteed such a good share of the riches of this world that Canada should have been one of the most attractive countries in the world for the emigrant.

We have good reason to ask why it is that the poverty stricken toilers of the old world did not rush to this clime to enjoy a share in our advantages.

The answer to this question is not hard to find. Several blunders were made and it is difficult to say which is the worst.

First, in the method of taxation. The man who settles and improves the country is the man who brings prosperity. The man who obtains land not to improve but to speculate is the man who retards the growth of the country. Unfortunately the latter is the man who was encouraged, for as fast as the settler cleared an acre or put up a building, just so soon were his taxes increased and the speculator's taxes necessarily diminished. The taxation discriminated against the improver. And this discrimination produced several bad effects. It scattered settlement, making it much more difficult to build schools, roads and other public conveniences. It induced the holders of land on the outskirts of the cities to keep the land unoccupied; so that Winnipeg for some time was reported to be like a city surrounded by a desert.

The second blunder was the railway policy. How much the Canadian Pacific Railway is to cost the people of Canada no one can tell. A hundred million dollars is the figure often mentioned, but that is only a moderate estimate. It was built also in such a way as to cause scattered settlements and to intensify the evil of speculation. At the same time there was handed over to the railway company a territory equal in size to the whole of Ireland and all the cultivated part of Scotland. Then having given such extraordinary gifts to this company, they were secured in a monopoly of the traffic so that in many cases the settler in Canada had to pay higher rates than his neighbor across the line. And then to add to the accumulated folly, the tariff was so arranged as to make the railroad of much more use to the foreigner than to the Canadian settler; for such duties were imposed on commodities landed in Canada that goods if from Japan or China could be landed cheaper in London, England, than in Toronto.

If there ever was a country in which it was folly to establish a protective tariff it was Canada. With an Arctic barrier of snow and ice to cut off all communication to the North, what could be more foolish than to cut ourselves off even partially round the rest of the country by taxes imposed not for revenue but to stop trade, as if trade was a curse! This tariff should have been entitled "An act specially designed to punish men for being farmers." The farmers are par excellence the exporters. They send goods to foreign markets and when their returns come back then the government ruthlessly takes twenty or thirty per cent. of these returns for taxes. Is it any wonder that the farmer in the loneliness of frontier settlement finds himself so discouraged that he does not write glowing letters to his friends at home urging them to come and settle near him? To leave these abuses in full operation and then to send out emigration agents would be the supremest folly. Remove that idiotic thing called a tariff and stop taxing people for doing their duty to their country by improving it as much as they can; place the taxes so as forever to abolish mischievous speculation; take for public purposes the values caused by the growth and organization of society, and then the abounding prosperity of this country will be sufficiently attractive to draw all the emigrants we want.

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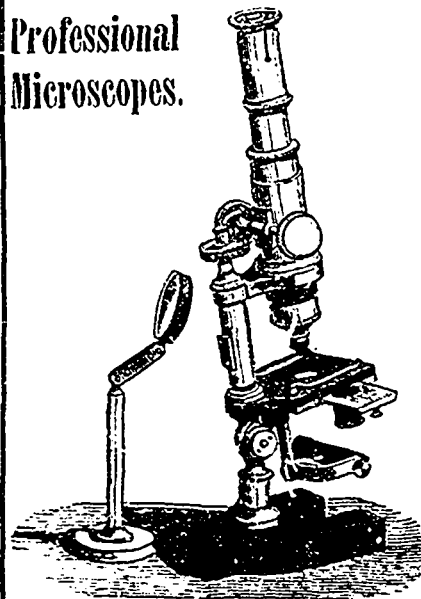
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SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

By T. L.

We purpose making these columns a common ground where our correspondents may meet to discuss matters touching upon any branch of modern science, and where we may review the scientific work of the day. All communications addressed to this department will receive attention.

It would appear from the published reports of the U. S. weather service that there are more theories than one regarding cyclones, tornadoes and the like. One of the staff, Prof. H. A. Hazen, has some ideas of his own as to how these visitors might be repelled, or destroyed. His proposition is to plant forests on the south western edge of cities, and to explode dynamite bombs on the approach of the storms! His own explanation may be clear enough, but the other members of the Bureau fail to see any explanation at all and the controversy has gone so far now that the chief of the weather service, Willis L. Moore, publishes a circular disclaiming for the department any belief in the theories of his colleague, and so interviewers and the press generally are cautioned against printing anything from Prof. Hazen as authoritative from the Bureau.

This reminds us of the circulars which were sent to the press from Lick Observatory, a few years ago, to the effect that no statements about observations of the planet Mars were to be considered as authoritative unless signed by one of the Mount Hamilton astronomers. These gentlemen were singularly unsuccessful in noting the wonderful phenomena which, according to popular report, were so easily visible in small telescopes! We will probably be spared any very sensational reports this year as the planet is not in that part of its orbit where it can be most favorably observed! We are safe in fact, from the glaring head lines, "Men on Mars" for a few years to come, unless indeed this new telescope, designed for Paris in 1900 as will show up everything, no matter how far off the planet is.

It appears that although the scientific expeditions which were sent out to view the solar eclipse of August 8th were not particularly successful, a private party on board the steamship Ohio, off the coast of Norway, had the pleasure of seeing the phenomenon in all its beauty! Observations with delicate instruments were of course impossible on board ship, but no instruments were required to see the grandeur of the solar corona, and it is most gratifying to learn that the weather was exceptionally clear where the ship was stationed. Miss Mery Proctor, a daughter of the late R. A. Proctor, was with the party, and from her we may expect a most interesting account of the trip to the Norway coast.

A scientific expedition has been sent by the Royal Society to the South Sea Islands for the purpose of gathering information regarding the origin of the coral reefs. Darwin found surface investigation and dredging quite insufficient to determine with certainty the origin and genesis of coral reefs! It is proposed now to bring up borings from fully six hundred feet below the surface. The drill which does the boring is faced with black diamonds, and will cut through anything! The diameter of the drill is four inches! The coral polype has never been recorded

as living at a greater depth than ninety feet. It is the intention of Prof. Sollas, who has charge of the present expedition, to go down 1,000 feet and bring home cores at various depths. The island chosen for investigation is Funafuti, one of the Ellice Islands, north of Fiji.

An English exchange suggests an entirely new field of action for the X-rays. It appears that a child was accidentally shot and an effort was to be made to locate the bullet. As a preliminary test an apparatus was arranged to determine whether the rays would pass clear through the head, another person lending his own head for the purpose. A sensitized plate was adjusted on one side, with a coin interposed, and the cathodic tube was set playing on the opposite side, about an inch and a half distant from the hair. An exposure of one hour developed nothing, but about three weeks later all the hair came out over the space that had been under the X-ray discharge. The spot became quite bald, though the skin was quite healthy looking and there was no indication of pain or other disorder. The Roentgen rays would seem to induce baldness in some way and may supersede the barbarous razor. Ladies especially, with troublesome hairs would bless the "new barber."

Among the latest additions to the literature of experimental physiology is a work on "Fear" by Angelo Mosso, the eminent Italian physician. Mosso was the first to make the brain write its own pulsations, and the account of his numerous experiments in this direction is exceedingly interesting. He and his colleagues were evidently ardent vivisectionists, so much so that they speak of the "human methods" of the laboratory as compared with the horrible tortures of lethal chambers for the public extermination of animals. This is an old story, possibly it is true, and the vivisectionists may not inflict pain—but we reserve the right to flatly deny their assertions. Some of the experiments described by Mosso, as he leads up to his subject proper are very gruesome indeed. Perhaps it will be enough to say of them here that they prove the extension of the life principle. It is not confined to the brain alone; animals live without the brain! How he found this out is better imagined than described. When we come to actually useful experiments we find that those have been numerous enough which have been performed on persons accidentally injured. It is a lasting reproach on vivisection that it has never added one jot to scientific knowledge which we could not learn by other means. In the chapters on "Fear" proper it is shown what an extraordinary influence the imagination has upon the physical system. Speaking of deaths from fear Mosso says: "Many patients die in the hospitals from fear and depression who would probably have recovered had they been tended in their own homes," and the strongest sentence in the whole book is the following: "We must hope that thrift may so increase that the poorest working-man may have a cleanly house in which he may be nursed by his family when he falls ill, and that public benevolence may erect modest houses for those unhappy ones in need of succor, where the patient may enjoy efficacious aid and those comforts, which the advance of hygiene demands, and be spared the heart rending sights and injurious effects of the old hospitals."

The August meteors were very widely observed this year. Several members of the Astronomical and Physical Society reported fine displays. Dr. J. A. Brashear, of Allegheny, the well-known optician, wrote an interesting account of his observations from Muskoka. The Doctor was summing there and was highly pleased with the clear atmosphere of that great resort. Rev. Canon Macnab, of Toronto, described a very fine aurora seen on the evening of August 6th, at the same time as a shower of meteors was observed. It appears that the magnets at the observatory were considerably disturbed at the same time.

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PYTHIAN KNIGHTS.

By W. J. ROBERTSON.

The publishers of Searchlight wish me to announce to the members of the Order of Knights of Pythias that this department will be enlarged from time to time as the support of the members warrant it. It must be apparent to every member of the Order of the necessity of a Pythian paper, and while we regret to say the Order is not quite large enough to support a paper, we will have in Searchlight a department which will enable us to have some means of informing the outer world just what the Pythian Order is doing for the betterment of mankind. Suggestions as to how to make this department interesting and items of interest will at all times be cheerfully received.

Philadelphia is to have a Pythian Hall costing \$250,000.

The Grand Lodge of Maryland, it is said, owns a library of 7,000 volumes.

J. Fraser Bowie, M. D., has been appointed D. D. G. C. for Toronto District by Grand Chancellor Elliott of Brantford.

Grand Chancellor Elliott of Brantford is Mayor of that enterprising city.

E. F. Clarke, M. P. for West Toronto, is a member of Toronto Lodge, No. 30.

Major McKinley, ex-Governor of Ohio, and Republican candidate for President of the United States, is a member of Champion Lodge of Columbus, Ohio.

Knights of Pythias will soon eclipse all other Orders in the United States, Ohio alone having 60,000 members, with Pennsylvania 50,000, Indiana, 40,000, and Illinois 40,000.

Few people in Canada have any idea of the size of the Insurance Branch of the Knights of Pythias, no less than \$85,350,000 being in force. It is now beyond the experimental stage, and no better system of fraternal insurance is in existence to-day. Over \$10,000,000 has been paid to the widows and orphans of deceased brothers since the Endowment Rank commenced.

We will have to hold over to our next issue a fuller report of the Supreme Lodge convention and uniformed encampment of the Knights of Pythias, which is now drawing to a close in Cleveland, Ohio. Never before were the conditions so favorable for a large crowd. As Cleveland is right in the heart of Pythianism, it is believed that over 20,000 uniformed Sir Knights were in line in the parade. A sumptuous entertainment was provided and during the whole gathering novelties of some sort were presented and among other things was a spectacular and allegorical presentation of the drama of Damon and Pythias on twenty-four floats in a night parade. Subscribe to the Searchlight.

Now that the fall weather is near at hand the city lodges are getting ready for interesting meetings and the outlook was never more promising than at present.

Dr. J. Fraser Bowie, the new D.D. G.C., is one of the brightest secret society workers in Toronto and has filled a similar position for another society with great success. With his previous experience and with the aid of the

old standbys, Pythianism should have a great boom this year. Already several of the lodges have got down to work, and at the last meeting of Amicus Lodge it was claimed that it was the best meeting that has been held in two years. C. C. H. R. Hamilton is always on the lookout to make the meetings interesting and is assisted by such well known workers as J. G. Wilson, G. O. G. P. C. A. Bosworth Armstrong, P. C. W. A. Munell and W. G. VanWinckel.

Toronto Lodge, the home of the Pythian talent, has also got down to work and many people hope that they will repeat their minstrel performance this winter. Nearly every meeting the talent of the Lodge give a short concert, which is always very much appreciated by the brethren present. C. C. Wiley is making a good presiding officer, and has good assistants in Bros. Macdonald, Turton, W. Smith, Bedingfield, Soule, Little and Haines.

Damon is another good Lodge, and owing to meeting in the West-End they have one of the best fields in the city. C. C. John M. Taylor is a splendid officer and has a lot of warm supporters in Bros. Beeton, Inglis, Worthington, Hayes, Bacon and Moore. Queen City has always kept its end up, and C. C. Arthur Bryan is one of the best known Pythians in Toronto. Mystic Lodge is the oldest Lodge in Canada, and if you attend the meetings of this you will see some of the charter members in attendance. C. C. Chas. Deverall has held that office for three terms, which shows for itself what a good officer he makes.

The best ritual workers in the city are to be found in Ontario Lodge, and when ever any special rank work is to be done a large number of Ontario's members will be found on the team. This Lodge is getting ready for a boom and expect to have a large increase this year.

A card in the Searchlight announcing the time and place of meetings of the city lodges would not be amiss. Discuss the question anyway.



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We dissolved partnership remarked the dairyman. But he was altogether too punctilious.

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That's just it. He was the most impractical man I ever saw. Why, sir, he wanted to go to the expense of having the well water analyzed once or twice a year, so's to be sure there wasn't anything in it that 'ud make the customers sick!

SHORT AND SHARE.

Now that you've tried the new girl, Marie, how does she answer?
Like a snapping turtle. I'm afraid to speak to her.

NOT PARTICULAR.

We take breakfast here at 7, the mistress informed the new servant.
Don't change your arrangements for me, mum. I can find something for myself when I come down later.

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Mrs. Elizabeth Darlow, of Southport, England is a new woman whose advanced thought has diverted itself to money-lending. She is likely to achieve success, for in a recent bankruptcy suit it was showed that her rates of interest for \$40 lent to a coachman were \$25 per cent. per annum.

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Dramatic Notes.

Manager O. B. Sheppard of the Grand, as heretofore, is going to provide his patrons this season a list of attractions that compare favorably with any of the New York theatres. Commencing Monday, Aug. 31st., Donman Thompson's delightful picture of life in New England, "The Old Homestead," is to be presented for one week. The lesson embodied in this familiar drama cannot be equalled for force and pathos by any preacher in the pulpit. It should be seen to be thoroughly appreciated.

Mr. Sutton Vane's new drama, "In Sight of St. Paul's," now being performed at the Princess theatre, London, Eng., is attracting widespread attention in the metropolis.

The American drama, "Lost in New York," which has frequently been on the boards in Toronto, is being tried on London audiences at the Olympic. The play is only half-heartedly commended by the critics.

The Drury Lane pantomime at Christmas will, by arrangement with Sir Aug. Harris's executors, be produced by Mr. Oscar Barrett. The subject will be Aladdin. This feature of theatrics is sadly neglected in America.

Sir Henry Irving is to unveil the Sidons memorial fund statue early in September.

The London Music Halls are all going in full swing. A large business is expected to be done this coming season.

Miss Lucy Webbling, whose picture appears in this issue, with her sister, Miss Peggy, have compiled a volume of verses and short stories that does these



young ladies great credit. The book appears under the title of "Poems and Stories." The Sisters Webbling are known on the concert platform as unusually clever performers.

At the Toronto Opera House all this week, beginning Monday, Aug. 31., Geo. W. Monroe and a company of talented players, will perform his laugh producing farce-comedy, "A Happy Little Home." Mr. Monroe is one of the wittiest and most entertaining comedians on the stage—don't miss this show.

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AND HE GOT LEFT.

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"No; my daughter got most of my change and my wife got the rest."

A WORM'S MEMORY.

Mr Umbell--Even the worm will turn.
His Wife (scornfully)--You are scarcely a worm.

Mr. Umbell (rominiscently)--Possibly not now, my dear, but I can remember away back yonder hearing folks say something about an early bird when you got me.

GOODFELLOW'S MISTAKE.

First Clubman--How does it happen that Goodfellow has such a hard time getting into society?
Second Clubman--Society found out that he wanted to get in.

AN APPROPRIATE MOTTO.

Cemetery Sculptor--You wish a monument to your aunt? Yes, sir, I knew your dear, departed relative very well, sir. She was all her life a boarding-housekeeper in my neighborhood. Do you wish a motto inscribed on it, sir?
Englishman--Oh, yes. Put hon 'Peace to 'er h'ashes.'

FLOWER-MISSION DRAWBACKS.

"Julia, what did that poor man say when you gave him that lovely bunch of daisies?"

He said he would much rather have a good boiled cabbage.

NOTHING TO FEAR.

Lady--Little boy, isn't that your mother calling you?
Little Boy--Yes'm.
Why don't you answer her, then?
Pop's away.

NOTHING STRANGE.

They say that the Kickers have a big skeleton in the closet.
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