

The Searchlight.

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Questions of the Day.

SUNDAY CARS AND CONVEYANCES

In his letter to the Globe on the Sunday Car question, Mr. Stapleton Caldecott incidentally refers to the Searchlight and quotes this paragraph which appeared in the September number.—

"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."

Mr. Caldecott then proceeds to pass comments on it as follows:

"Now I think the strange logic is with the people who cannot distinguish between things that differ. The street cars are a public franchise which the people have a right to deal with—the using of a private carriage is a private matter—and it is simply a matter of gross inconsistency which all must condemn—for man will use his private carriage on Sunday and yet forbid street cars to another man presumably poorer than himself; but individual inconsistency has nothing to do with the merits of the case."

Notwithstanding Mr. Caldecott's statement, that "it is simply a matter of gross inconsistency which all must condemn—for man to use his private carriage on Sunday and yet forbid street cars to another man presumably poorer than himself," it is a deplorable fact, that the most active opponents of Sunday cars, which are quite ready to condemn the use of Sunday cars have not a word to say against the use of private conveyances.

To insist that individual inconsistency has nothing to do with the merits of the case—as between public and private conveyances,—is to advance one code of morals for the citizens, as individuals, and another code of morals for the citizens collectively. If the moral law is violated when cars are used for carrying sixty or more passengers on Sundays, because of the employment of labor, then, it also must be a violation of the moral law, when a private conveyance is used, even though only one ride in it, for is not man and beast employed also?

It makes no difference, whatever, to what use these conveyances be put to, for necessity knows no law. If the opponents of Sunday cars will be consistent, why not condemn all forms of Sunday labor?

We are neither opposing nor defending Sunday cars, but we do oppose the application of two sets of rules; one for the guidance of the individual and another for individuals as a body.

THAT PARADOX.

We affirm it to be unquestioned that there can be no such economic para-



HON. JERRY SIMPSON.
U. S. Congressional Reformer

dox as over-production, and at the same time tens of thousands of our fellow-citizens remaining half clothed and half fed, and who are piteously clamoring for the common necessities of life.—Philadelphia Record.

This affirmation certainly ought to be "unquestioned," but as a matter of fact it is one of the commonest subjects of debate. Leading newspapers all over the States are pointing to the phenomenon of "over-production," as the explanation of the hard times which have furnished the backbone for the silver agitation, and there are thousands of editors who believe that the explanation exhausts the subject. But of course, the Record is right. The thing is a paradox. It is absurd to talk of over-production until you have a condition of things in which all stomachs are filled, all bodies are clad and all heads are decently sheltered, and there is still a surplus of food, clothing and roofs that nobody wants or needs. That is certainly not the condition of things to-day in the States or anywhere else that we know of. What we really have is just what the Record intimates, storehouses packed with the necessities of life on the one hand, and "tens of thousands of our fellow-citizens remaining half-clothed and half-fed and piteously clamoring" for those necessities on the other. But it is a pity this exceptionally clear-sighted editor stopped short just at the interesting point. He should have explained the paradox. A riddle is only an aggravation if the propounder of it has not the answer at hand. Perhaps the Record man is of the large number who see the paradox quite plainly, but do not know the solution of it; or he may be of that less commendable number who can explain it, but are afraid to speak for fear of offending vested interests.

Let us look at the paradox. All that man needs or can have here below are

food, clothing and shelter. All the luxuries of life fall under one of these three divisions, and the absolute necessities cannot be reduced to fewer than these three. Here then we have vast store-houses galled with these necessary things, and vast multitudes piteously clamoring for them. The first clear point that comes out is this. Something must be kept the goods and the people apart. What is it? Why, that, you say, is simple enough, too. The goods are for sale, but the people can't buy them—they haven't any money. Mr. Bryan proposes to solve the difficulty with free coinage of silver, which will make dollars more plentiful. True, but Mr. Bryan does not propose to give the new dollars away, and it is hard to see how their greater abundance will be any consolation to those who don't own them, to wit, the clamorers afore-mentioned. Whether the dollars be many or few, whether they be gold or silver, they have to be earned by those who would possess them honestly; and the only honest way to get a dollar is to do a dollar's worth of work. So we may wave Mr. Bryan to one side, so far as this paradox is concerned; his free silver policy seems to throw no light upon it at all. But we have incidentally struck a clue to the true answer in that word "work." The reason why "tens of thousands of our fellow-citizens" have not the wherewithal to buy these goods they are clamoring for is that they haven't an opportunity to work and earn the necessary dollars. And why haven't they? The United States needs a tremendous lot of work done in every possible line. The country isn't half finished yet. Every one of its 70,000,000 might work day and night for the next 50 years and yet the job would only be fairly well started.

Why, then, should any of them stand in the market place with idle hands in empty pockets? Because, you say, though there is still much work to be done, they can't get a job. Nobody happens to want to hire workers. This is rather queer, but let it pass. Why, then, do not the idlers go and work every man for himself, why can't each son of Adam do as his original father did? Adam made a very comfortable living, we have reason to believe, and there was no capitalist about to hire him. Surely, with the tools and appliances now available a man of the 19th century could do as well as the first man did! Adam got food, clothing and shelter and enjoyed rude comfort anyway. Why, then, instead of "piteously clamoring" do not these sons of Adam go and produce those things for themselves and let the galled warehouses be hanged? All that a man needs is his own physical force, and raw material upon which to exert the same. The product is wealth in some form, whether it be grain, vegetables, or something else. This wealth he can exchange for dollars, or he can use it up himself just as he pleases. But surely that is the way out of Darkest Penury for every able-bodied man! There is just one practical snag in the way. The man has physical power, and the free use of the same. That is one factor in the production of wealth. But how about the "raw material" on which to exert this power? It is otherwise called land—and it is not free to his use unless he is content to go outside the bounds of civilization. The land is owned, and he can only get access to it on the terms of the owner, which are such as to make access impossible. That explains the paradox. The thing which keeps the goods apart from the thousands who clamor for them is stated in two words—land monopoly.

A Rising Statesman of the West.

Mr. McInnes, the young and talented member of Parliament and representative from the province of British Columbia, in his address in answer to his Excellency's speech, Aug. 24th, last, showed himself not only an able speaker, but a statesman as well. Many a day has long passed by since any man in the House of Commons has ventured to speak out boldly and declare his opinions on questions, which are too infrequently dealt with by those who call themselves Liberals.

It may be that Mr. McInnes will follow suit like the Western legislator spoken of by Hamlin Garland in his "A Spoil of Office," who when elected to the Legislature went with the firm intention to uphold principle, but soon found out to his sorrow that few were built that way, became disgusted and resigned his seat. But this course, we think Mr. McInnes will hardly adopt. He has the spirit and energy of the new Reformers that are rising up in all parts of the world, and nothing should restrain this able member from condemning the wrongs of the nation, on all possible occasions.

After referring to the magnificent resources of the Western Province and its great possibilities, Mr. McInnes continued as follows:

CONDITIONS OF LIFE.

I spoke of the influx of population which will undoubtedly flow into the province of British Columbia. There can be no doubt about that, because there is nothing which draws population and immigration to a country like the glitter of gold. We rest assured in British Columbia that come what may we will have a large population, and because of this certainty we are not perhaps so much interested in the question of immigration as are other parts of the Dominion; for instance Manitoba and the North-west. Different policies of immigration have been spoken of, but it seems to me, Sir, that the best immigration policy is a policy which will promote our natural trade conditions. It seems to me preposterous to speak of introducing population into this country when the conditions of life are such that our population will not remain with us. When the conditions are such in this country that we cannot even retain our native-born population, what is the necessity for spending large sums of money in endeavoring to induce people from the old country to come here? We want to make the conditions of life in Canada easy for our people and so attractive that when immigrants come here they will remain with us. Our country is a grand country, capable of maintaining in prosperity millions of people.

POVERTY WITH PROGRESS.

I started out to show what were the natural conditions in the west and in British Columbia particularly. I wish to show that the conditions which exist in that province to-day are a crowning proof of the inadequacy of the policy of the late Government. We have enormous natural wealth in that pro-

vince, but while that is true, it is unfortunately equally true that we have no great measure of prosperity. There are evidences of want and of poverty in the midst of all this abundance and plenty, and it seems to me that there must be some bad reason why these two conditions should exist side by side. I do not know why there should be poverty in British Columbia unless it be that the Government which has controlled the affairs of this country in the past has removed the natural advantages of the country from the grasp and control of the great majority of the people. What is true with respect to British Columbia is true also of the North-west Territories and Manitoba. There are in these parts of our Dominion immense opportunities for people to take up homes, and live a happy and prosperous life. They have rich and fertile prairies enormous in their extent and wonderful in their fertility of soil. But, Sir, as you know, Manitoba and the North-west Territories are not populated. You can travel for hours through the country without seeing the hut of a settler, and the whole of that vast domain is almost as virgin as it was when the buffalo roamed on the plains.

STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE.

Ours is undoubtedly a rich country, rich in natural resources, rich in the fertility of its soil and rich in its mines. Our people are energetic, economical and persevering, and let me ask why it is, that in view of all this poverty and depression exists? Why have some of our people to make such a desperate struggle to gain a miserable existence? Sir, I think there can be but one reason, and only one reason, and that is, that while the opportunities of this country are great, and while our natural advantages are enormous, it has been rendered possible that these advantages should be cornered by a favoured few. While it is said by some that a Government cannot cause depression or prosperity, I consider, Sir, that in so far as the late Government has fostered a system of monopolies in this country, which turned from the grasp of the people the blessings which nature conferred upon them, they are responsible very largely for the depression which has existed in Canada for the last few years. Sir, some of us—and some of the hon. gentlemen possibly on the other side of the House—doubted a short time ago that there was any depression in this country; but since we have won our seats we can no longer think that, for I do not suppose that there is a member here who has not been deluged by applications—in many cases from men of culture, refinement and ability—for some miserable petty position. Is that not an evidence that the existing conditions of things is such that the people wish to flee from this struggle for existence?

MONOPOLY THE CURSE.

But I was speaking of monopoly, Sir. I said that the Government had created and fostered monopolies in this country; and the placing of all the opportunities for wealth in this country in the hands of these few monopolies is the reason why prosperity has not been very general among our people. Just look at that for a moment. You will see that every condition to the gaining of an existence in this country

is characterized by monopoly, the whole land system—without entering into a discussion of Henry Georgeism—is based on the principle of monopoly. We will not discuss that matter; but the late Government aggravated the prevailing condition of affairs by giving enormous grants of land to people to hold at their own sweet pleasure. For instance, in giving to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company that magnificent heritage in the North-west Territories, they have done an enormous injury not only to the present but to future generations. I say, then, that the land, as a condition of existence, is monopolized. Look at the different branches of trade, and you will find the same condition of affairs. The National Policy undoubtedly fostered monopolies which could not have existed but for the enormous protection granted them. Look at the means of conveyance in this country, and you will find them also in the hands of monopolists. So I say that every condition to an existence—land, trade, means of conveyance—is monopolized, and it is for that reason I say again, that the opportunities afforded by this country have not been enjoyed by the people as they should have been.

These monopolists have run this country so long that, like all people who rule a country for a considerable length of time, they have become impressed with the idea that it was their natural right to rule. They became so strong and powerful in the country that they not only controlled its commerce, but actually controlled the Government which in the first instance created them, and the Government, entrenched behind such a powerful influence, also became possessed with the idea, like the old king, that they had a divine right to rule.

LIBERALISM AND REFORM.

On the 23rd of June last the people of this country most unmistakably declared their discontent and dissatisfaction with the condition of the country, and expressed a desire for a change. Sir, that change has come about; and it seems to me that the people on that occasion commissioned the new Government to inaugurate a new administration of affairs in this country—to tear down those monopolies which were in possession of rights belonging to the people, and to broaden out the opportunities for wealth, so that there would be brought about an era of more general prosperity throughout the country. That, Sir, I take it, is the work of the Liberal Government to-day. For what is liberalism if it is not relentless opposition to all class privileges—if it is not the spirit that declares every man to have an equal right to common opportunities at the hand of the state? That is the liberalism wanted in Canada to-day. That is the liberalism which makes a democracy possible, and which alone can make a democracy great. We want more of that kind of liberalism, that justice to humanity, which was celebrated by the young Scottish ploughman when he sang:

"A man's a man for a' that."

It is pleasing, therefore, to find in the Speech from the Throne an assurance that this new Administration realizes the importance of recognizing the interests and rights of the great mass of the people. With respect to the tariff, they give us an assurance that

as it operates at present as a burden on the people, they are prepared materially to lighten that burden. It is pleasing and reassuring to see that they realize the existing condition of affairs; because, while we on this side of the House are not socialists, while we do not wear red shirts nor carry daggers, yet we do see that the conditions of society at the present are becoming strained, and relief must be given to those who are suffering from an enforced condition of poverty in our country, and if this relief is not forthcoming from these legislative halls it will be enacted in the streets.

Some hon. MEMBERS. Oh, oh.

Mr. McINNIS. Hon. gentlemen laugh, but, Sir, it appears to me that those who laugh most at that statement fail most to recognize the existing condition of affairs; for justice is crying out for a redress of grievances which are felt in every city and home in the country, and that cry can no longer be withstood or ignored.

HOW TO RAISE \$7,000,000,

Under the above heading a morning paper publishes a number of letters proposing means of meeting the deficit under prohibition (liquor traffic). Some of the proposals are absurd and impracticable, others indefinite and of little or no value. While others suggest the taxation of land values, which of all proposals advanced is by far the best.

Those who favor direct taxation, do not say what they mean by direct taxation. It would be interesting to learn in what manner the proposed tax is to be collected. Then some others suggest that patent medicines be taxed, by imposing a stamp tax of 10 per cent on the retail price of all proprietary medicines as a means of striking at Indian medicine, men fakers of trash and ignorant peddlars of vile concoctions going from house to house, through the country" and to affix a stamp to each bottle sold. Another patent medicine taxer would also impose "a small internal tax, say twenty-five cents upon all aerated waters, sodas, etc.

One of those favoring direct taxation, rather pointedly remarks:

"If prohibitionists can justify themselves in shifting the gage of battle from the arena of moral suasion to that of physical and brutal force—which is more than doubtful—they can much more readily and certainly justify themselves in committing the country to the just economic policy of direct taxation, for its enforcement and for reparation of fiscal disturbances thereby created."

GOLD SILVER OR HONOR?

To the average Canadian the clatter about silver and gold among our cousins of the Stars and Stripes is one of the things "a fellow cawn't understand."

We have just enough silver to make change. We scarcely ever encounter gold coin in our trading, but we always have money for legitimate enterprise. We have currency enough why should the wealthy United States clamor for metal, when paper "goes" with us? Why must Uncle Sam have at least \$100,000,000 in gold always in his strong box? Why does he take a fit every time the gold sinks below that amount?

What is money?

It is a measure (not the standard) of value. It is a medium of exchange deserving of and inspiring confidence.

010,711, showing an increase in the last two years of \$942,657. The expenditures for relief in 1894 were \$1,243,678, and in 1895, \$1,259,000; total, \$2,491,374, an increase during the past two years of \$115,000. The number of subordinate lodges on Dec. 31, 1893, was 5,997, and Dec. 31, 1895, 6,494, an increase in the two years of 497.

The number of members Dec. 31, 1893, was 443,615; Dec. 31, 1894, 461,539, making a net gain of 20,924.

As evidence that the subordinate lodges are at work, the number of initiations during the years 1894 and 1895 was 103,192. This would indicate what the growth of the order would be if there were not for that more serious question of suspension for non-payment of dues.

The report of R.L.C. White, supreme keeper of records and seal, showed that in 1864 there were three subordinate lodges and seventy-eight members, and in 1896, 6,504 subordinate lodges and 4,339 members. The states in which the greatest gains were made were Ohio 1,893, Illinois 3,317, Indiana 2,757, Iowa 2,665, Massachusetts 1,919, Missouri 1,912, North Carolina, 1,404, Maine, 1,314, Texas, 1,219. There was a loss of 2,807 in Kansas and 4,166 in Pennsylvania. There were gains in thirty-eight states and territories and a loss in sixteen.

The Pythian Tent at the Exhibition this year was a great success and this owing to the untiring efforts of the committee which was composed of Bros. Chas. Wallis, Mystic Lodge, Thos. Coule, Toronto Lodge, Thos. Stevenson, Damon Lodge, Arthur Bryan, Queen City, and James G. Wilson, Amicus Lodge. Fully 400 visiting Pythians registered at the tent and nearly every state in the United States was represented to say nothing of the visiting brothers from far off British Columbia and as far east as the provinces down by the sea.

Damon Lodge had a great meeting Monday 14th Sept., one that will long be remembered by those present. It seemed more like old times, when every lodge would have from ten to twenty visitors, than any other meeting that has been held in the last two years. After the Page Rank had been conferred upon two candidates by Bros. Beeton, Taylor and Wilson in a manner that showed the great lessons to be learnt and the beautiful ritualistic work of the Page Rank, C. C. John M. Taylor very kindly provided refreshments after which the talented members of the order Bros. John E. Turton, Chas. Musgrave, E. Farringer, Ed. Wills and Sharp entertained those present with a short but very enjoyable concert.

The members of Amicus Lodge are bringing in new members in great style. At the last meeting two applications were received and three more are promised for the next meeting. Every meeting is well attended and visitors can always expect to see some Rank work.

D.D.G.C. Bowie, occupied the chair at the last meeting of Ontario Lodge and he conferred the rank of Page upon a candidate in his well known style.

John E. Turton, who is without doubt one of the finest descriptive baritone singers in Canada, if not in America, and who was soloist with the Queen's Own Band during their summer season, has commenced booking already for the season of 1896 and 1897. His permanent address is care of Messrs. Whaley, Royce & Co.

Every member of the order should keep posted on the Endowment branch of the order. Should any one desire any printed matter as to rates, etc., the writer would be pleased to give them same upon application.

J. Reginald Smith, formerly of this city and now of Los Angeles, Cal., has secured a position with the well known Southern drug house of F. W. Braun & Co. He frequently corresponds with

Toronto friends and his letters are always very much enjoyed and are always full of those eccentric witticisms for which he is famous. A great many of his friends would like to see him contributing to some of our Eastern papers as they think his articles would be much more enjoyed than those that now appear from the pens of some of our so-called funny writers.

CANADA'S LABOR PARLIAMENT.

AFFIRMS THE PRINCIPLE OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

The Labor Organizations throughout the Dominion of Canada send delegates every year to a central meeting known as the Trades and Labor Congress. The deliberances of this body are important, as voicing the sentiment of Canadian organized labor as a whole. This year, 1896, the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada met in the old city of Quebec, and amongst the resolutions passed was the following:

Regarding popular representation this Congress affirms:

That the existing method of election by wards and single member districts, is clumsy, inefficient, unfair and unscientific.

It makes the nomination of candidates a monopoly of the two party machines.

It promotes gerrymandering, bribery and treating.

It causes disfranchisement of a great body of voters at every election.

It prevents the direct representation of labor, of Reform movements and of the smaller parties.

It tends to keep the best men out of politics, and puts a premium on dodging, shuffling and evasion.

It promotes and encourages the undesirable habit of personal canvassing on behalf of candidates.

And it is a great obstacle in the way of good civic and municipal government.

This Congress believes that a proper system of Proportional Representation, operating in large or grouped constituencies, returning several members each, would remedy the foregoing evils.

We call attention to the fact that such a system is in successful operation in some Six Cantons of the Republic of Switzerland and in the city of Berne, under the name of the Swiss Free List; that other Cantons are considering its adoption; and that the Hare-Spence system has been tested for four years in actual elections of the Mechanics' Institute of San Francisco, and for two years and a half in the elections of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council.

We recommend Local Labor organizations to adopt Proportional Representation in the election of their officers and committees, with the double object of securing better results for themselves and of making their members familiar with the working out of the principle. The Hare-Spence or the Single Vote is suitable for this purpose.

We urge upon the Dominion and Provincial Governments to introduce the Single Vote, the Hare-Spence System, the Gove System, or the Swiss Free List, to such an extent, as may be needful for a full and fair trial under Canadian conditions, so that one of these systems of Proportional Representation may be generally adopted if found satisfactory.

We believe that municipalities should have the option of using Proportional Representations in their elections if any of them see fit to do so; and we hope that the Provincial Governments will see the way to amend their municipal acts accordingly.

HOW TO RAISE DOMINION REVENUE—A SIMPLE AND PRACTICABLE PLAN OF TAXATION.

That a direct tax of \$ be annually laid upon land values in the Dominion of Canada, and the same shall be apportioned to the Provinces and Territories, respectively, in proportion to population as ascertained by the latest census enumeration.

That the said direct tax, shall be assessed and laid on the value of all land, exclusive and irrespective of the improvements thereon: Provided that all

lands belonging to the Dominion of Canada, or to any Province, county or municipality, shall be exempted from assessment and taxation under this Act, and provided further that all land subject to taxation shall be valued and assessed for the purpose of taxation at its full market value, in the first month of each year.

The plan of detail is as follows: That each Province and Territory after having appraised the true values of all land in each distinct municipality or district, shall in turn collect from each distinct municipality or district a sum proportionate to the total assessed land values, equal to the amount required for the purposes of the Federal Government.

The justice and wisdom of this proposal lies in the fact, that the Government—the people collectively, are the creators of land values, and in taxing land values, the whole community of Canada will derive the full benefits of Government—in proportion to benefits bestowed without the continuance of the vicious methods now in operation of imposing taxation on thrift, enterprise and industry, as if by the exercise of these qualities, men were committing breaches of the criminal law in violation of good government. Let us apply a little common-sense to questions of importance, such as taxation is.

THE DELAWARE CAMPAIGN.

A call has been issued through the National Single Taxer for a \$10,000 extra Delaware campaign fund. Already \$2500 of this sum has been subscribed and contributions are rapidly coming in. Canadian Single Taxers have heretofore acted generously in subscribing to good objects when the purpose was made perfectly clear to them. They must recognize the necessity still further for continued help. No time presents itself better than the present for aiding the Delaware campaign fund, when with a little more financial assistance some measure of success is sure to be gained in the ensuing elections. Whether Delaware obtains the first privilege of applying the Single Tax or whether any province in Canada should do so makes no difference to Single Taxers. Once the privilege is embodied in legislation, we are certain of one thing, the cause will spread rapidly.

A strong pull and a pull all together and the deed is done.

Single Tax papers and papers friendly to the Single Tax please notice and aid in pushing this fund. Immediate action is urgently required.

Allan Thompson, secretary of the Toronto Single Tax Association, is District Treasurer for Canada. His address is at the office of the Association, 72 Victoria-street, Toronto. Let every Canadian Single Taxer strain a point to give a little help to Delaware now, if it be only a quarter. Send it right in to Mr. Thompson.

THE PEOPLE'S HERITAGE.

The wealth that it is alleged lies hidden in such abundance in the Ruiny River district belongs to the people of Ontario, and they have a right to demand that their property shall be handed to the best advantage. The Province of Ontario is rich enough to develop this property on its own account. The Government is composed of business men, and we fail to discover any reason why they should not assume this new duty. Under this system the people and not a few individuals would reap the benefit. If the business were undertaken by the Government the Province would likely soon develop sufficient revenue from it to defray all the expenses of Government. If the mines are really valuable, as we believe they are, a profit of two or three million dollars a year would not be an excessive one to calculate on. In this way the country will be developed at once and the people will not be dispossessed of their heritage.—Editorial Toronto World, Sept. 7.

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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 is gratifying to learn that the Weather Bureau at Washington gives the highest credit to Mr. I. R. Stupart, director of the Canadian Meteorological service for valuable reports contributed from Toronto. It is well-known that the magnetic observatory in this city ranks second to none in the world, the observations have formed the basis for many elaborate papers on terrestrial magnetism. Mr. Stupart is at present in Europe, having been invited to an international meeting of meteorologists, and is expected to bring back everything that is new. Some of our readers may have noticed one of the latest additions to the equipment of the observatory, an instrument for measuring the "velocity" direction of motion, and altitude of clouds, by photography. The apparatus is modelled after a French design, with certain modifications, the execution being the work of Mr. J. R. Collins of this city.

We were pleased to see in a recent number of Science, a plea for scientific instruction in the realm of agriculture. It was shown very clearly that there is room for the scientific man on the farm, that the man with a good college education is more likely to be successful in agriculture than the man who has had no such advantage. If this fact, for it is a fact, could only be gathered in and digested by the youth of the country! As it is now the farmer never dreams of giving that boy a college education who is destined for the farm; he gives that to the pet of the family and thus adds to the already overcrowded list of professional men, looking for something to do. A young man has a taste for chemistry, perhaps, he is a born doctor, make him one by all means is the verdict. Yet it is a knowledge of chemistry which is wanted to make the most out of the land. It would be a happy country if the boys could see it as the writer in Science sees it.

The question is opened up by the Canadian Mutual Underwriter, whether a building is at all protected from lightning by the old-time and orthodox rod? The number of barns and mills destroyed by lightning during the past season is much in excess of former years, and in view of this fact among others, there are many who take strong ground against the lightning rod. They tell us it is of no service. We would be glad to have the opinions of any of our readers who may be interested in this branch of electric science.

The meeting of the American Association for the advancement of science, held recently in Buffalo, was a very successful one in point of the importance of the papers read. The department of physics was represented by thirty-six carefully prepared essays in various departments of the science. One interesting paper was "On the compactness of a beam of light." The author, E. R. Von Nardroff, calls the solid angle subtended by the extreme rays of a beam of light, at a point, the vergency of the beam, assuming the luminous source to be of uniform brightness, he shows that the quotient—intensity of beam divided by vergency—is a constant. He applies this conception to the discussion of various theorems in connection with optical instruments. Another paper of importance in the department of light was a preliminary note "On a proposed new standard of Light," by C. A. Sharp. It is proposed to define a standard of light as a flame of definite size pro-

duced by a gas of definite composition, burning in a continuously renewed atmosphere of definite composition. Experiments have been made with a mixture of equal parts of acetylene and hydrogen, burning in an atmosphere of pure oxygen. The mixture of acetylene and hydrogen issues from a small tube, surrounding which is a larger tube supplying oxygen.

The address of the Vice-President of the Geology and Geography section was an elaborate essay on "Geological Myths," in which many of the tenets of modern orthodox belief were traced back to their connection with natural phenomena. The definition given of a myth is worth remembering. "A history treasured and hallowed in the literary and religious archives of an ancient folk, of some startling or impressive event, that, in the stimulating environment of poetry and personification, has completed a long evolution, which disguises entirely its original—so that, in fact, its study is palaeontological." From this standpoint the stories of Lot's wife, the Sackian deluge, etc., are explained.

A recent contribution to the literature of "primitive man" (highly honoured, indeed, he is, to have so much written about him) is from the pen of Dr. Friedmann, of Berlin, who undertakes to prove that the state of primitive thought is nothing more nor less than insanity, and has its parallel only in our asylums for mental diseases. He holds the gray barbarian lower than the Christian child. It has always seemed to us that writers on these lines are acquainted with only two classes of beings, the untutored savage and the highly cultured civilized man. How far above the former, we would like to ask, is the unspeakable Turk? The word "savage" admits of the clearest definition, "one who delights in the infliction of bodily pain." This will hold anywhere and always, and the nonsense we hear about evolution is not worth considering until it can be shown that man, as a race, has "evolved" beyond this stage. Some of us have, of course; but relieved of the high pressure necessary to keep us civilized, removed from a certain order of environment, how long before even we, who think so much of ourselves, would be back to savagery?

As the time approaches for the observations of the Leonid meteors, astronomers generally are preparing for systematic study of the shower. Many of the data for sketching a history of this great ring are wanting, but it is thought possible to so observe as to obtain elements from which may be computed the very time when a great cluster of little bodies came under the influence of one of the major planets and was drawn out, ring shaped. What the observer can do without any optical aid at all, is to note with as great care as possible the "radiant point" of the shower; that is, the point in which all meteor tracks will meet, when carried back in the heavens. This point has a motion in space, it is the amount of the displacement from year to year that is chiefly required. Mr. W. F. Denning, of Bristol, Eng., sends an open letter to all observers of meteors asking for co-operation in determining the height at which they pass through the atmosphere. If for instance, a meteor were seen by two persons at widely different stations at the same time, each noting the altitude, that would be a valuable observation. There are not many such recorded, and here is work for amateurs and without telescopes.

While there is yet a chance of observing Mars to some advantage, the Woodstock telescope might be directed upon that object if only for the honour of the country. So far as we know, no Canadian observer has reported an observation of the so-called canals, while across the line the controversy still goes on with undiminished ardour on both sides as to what they are. The astronomers at Flagstaff, Arizona, and the observers at the Lick observatory are beginning now to call hard names at each other, not a very dignified proceeding, and not strictly scientific, but they are only mortal.

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Dramatic Notes.

THE MERRY WORLD.

Novelty seems to be the order of the day in things theatrical, and in "The Merry World," which comes to the Grand next week, there are said to be enough novelties to keep the ordinary "continuous theatre" running for a week. Everything in the line of comic opera, vaudeville, farce-comedy and spectacular-burlesque comes in for treatment at the hands of "The Merry World's" famous fun-makers, and if a person cannot find something on the programme to please him, he must indeed be hard to suit. The company numbers something like 60 people, carries all its own scenery, costumes and effects, and is without doubt one of the leading attractions of the season.

NOTES OF THE FOOTLIGHTS.

Dublin is to have a new theater. The New Orleans French opera season opens in November. The full seating capacity of all the London theaters is 200,000. Mme. Albani is to begin her Canadian tour at Halifax, November 17. The theatrical season has opened with marked signs of improving business. Vienna managers have agreed not to produce two new plays on the same night. Fregoli, the protean actor, carries 110 trunks and requires the assistance of fifteen dressers. Pittsburg has two continuous performance theaters; New York, five; Philadelphia, one. Myron W. Whitney, the well known basso, will devote a part of his time this season to teaching in Boston. Lewis Morrison's production of Faust this season is reported to be a remarkable exhibition of scenic and electrical effects.

Hermann announces that at the close of the present season he will open a school of instruction in the art of magic. He is to be backed by a stock company, and the school will be fitted with mechanical and chemical paraphernalia.

In Daniel Sully's play, The Millionaire, the operation of building a railroad and driving the last spike is one of the features.

It is rumored that Arthur Nikisch, formerly Director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, will bring the Leipsic Gewandhaus Orchestra to this country next season.

Hugh Chivers, baritone, formerly of the Royal Italian Opera Company, Covent Garden, London, and Nellie Bragins, prima donna, have been engaged to support Della Fox.

A sign in a New Orleans theater: "Notice to ladies—It is illegal to wear your hats during the performance. The usher will check them free of cost." The law has met with no serious opposition.

A Berlin paper reports the discovery of a new tenor "on whom great hopes are based." He is an American, Friedrich Carlen, educated in Germany, and he has been engaged for the Dresden opera.

Mrs. Drew, it is reported, has retired permanently from the stage. She, with Mrs. John Drew and Mrs. Henry Miller (Bijou Heron), is going abroad shortly with the intention of remaining four years.

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