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CURRENT TOPICS.

SENATOR FRYE, of Maine, is a great fisherman.

MANY Atlantic liners burn as much as 300 tons of coal per day.

OF all the staple crops of the world the potato takes the first place.

A HANDSAW bearing date of 1620 was dug up recently at North East, Pa.

THE total cost to Russia of the imperial family is \$20,000,000 per year.

In Germany a clock has been made that is warranted to go for 9,000 years.

It is believed that in China there is 20 times as much coal as in all Europe.

THE favorite small arm in Brazil is a double-barreled pistol made in Belgium.

MUSIC boxes for bicycles are now manufactured by a firm in Hamburg, Germany.

DANIEL WELLS, of Milwaukee, aged 85, is the oldest living ex-congressman in the west.

PAUL KRUEGER's favorite dish is salt herring. He eats at least one of these fish every day.

GEN. FITZHUGH LEE is said to be contemplating the writing of a life of his uncle, R. E. Lee.

Mrs. GEB. OTIS' wife regularly receives a cablegram from her husband on the 15th of every month.

In the farming districts of Russia it costs 38 cents to hire a horse for one day, and 34 cents to hire a man.

HENRY H. BENEDICT, the millionaire type-writer manufacturer, was once a teacher of Latin in the Fairfield seminary.

It is said that at the death of Hetty Green \$1,000,000 of her fortune will be divided among 100 distant connections.

CONGRESSMAN KETCHAM, of New York, has a unique claim to fame. He has served in 13 congresses and has never made a speech.

A BALD eagle whose wing extension was seven feet, was killed recently near Milford, Del., while trying to carry off a lamb.

A SUCCESSFUL firm of tea merchants in London is composed entirely of women. The blenders, tasters and packers are also women.

THERE are three varieties of the dog that never bark—the Australian dog, the Egyptian shepherd dog and the "lion-headed dog of Thibet."

IN 1880 Germany imported eggs to the value of \$3,500,000. In 1898 the amount was nearly trebled. Russia provides 90 per cent of them.

TO-DAY 50,000 persons and \$50,000,000 are employed in the business of making and distributing newspaper clippings among those whom they concern.

The ordinary folding fan was invented in the seventh century by a Japanese artist, who derived the idea from watching a bat closing its wings.

The prince of Wales has warned his brother free masons not to make themselves cheap by wearing their masonic regalia on ordinary occasions.

THE oldest creature living in the world belongs to Walter Rothschild. It is a giant tortoise, weighing a quarter of a ton, and it has a known life of 150 years.

A LAW was recently passed in Norway prohibiting the sale of tobacco to anybody under 16 years of age without a signed order from an adult relative or employer.

A LAW was recently passed in Switzerland prohibiting the manufacturing, importation or sale of matches containing the ordinary form of yellow phosphorus.

IT is averred by a famous Chinese doctor that nervousness is kept out of the Celestial empire by the use of soft-soled shoes. The hard soles worn by the Anglo-Saxon race are said to be the cause of their extreme nervous temperament.

RAILWAY whistles inflict torture on so many people that Austria has introduced a system of dumb signaling to start and stop the trains. Belgium is trying compressed air whistles instead of steam, and Germany experiment with horns.

WILLIAM OXLEY THOMPSON, the new president of Ohio state university, spent ten years in getting his diploma from Muskingum college, he did so poor that to get one year's study he had sometimes to work three years to save the money required.

IT is not generally known that S. Coleridge Taylor, who composed the cantata played at the last festival in Norwich, England, is a full-blooded Negro. Mr. Bishop declares the composer of "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast" the coming musical genius.

EACH day of the week has served as a day of rest somewhere: Sunday among Christians, Monday with the Greeks, Tuesday with the Persians, Wednesday with the Assyrians, Thursday with the Egyptians, Friday with the Turks and Saturday with the Hebrews.

SAVED BY DEMOCRATS.

Legislation Against Monopolistic Combinations Furthered by Republicans.

But for democratic action in congress a stringent national law against trusts would be in force to-day. Republicans passed the law in 1890. Democrats destroyed it in 1894 and defeated its reenactment in 1897.

It is distinctly set forth in the laws passed by congress and is too plain to be disputed. In the McKinley tariff law of 1890 was the following section: "Every contract, combination in the form of trust or otherwise, or conspiracy, in restraint of trade or commerce among the several states, or with foreign nations, is hereby declared to be illegal."

In the next congress the democratic controlled both houses and proceeded to extend to the trusts the greatest act of friendship they have ever received from any source. No one was more prominent in this deed than William J. Bryan, who was a member of the ways and means committee, and one of the framers and champions of the Wilson tariff law of 1894.

More than this, the democrats in the last congress prevented the restoration of the provision against trusts in the present, or Dingley, tariff law. The republicans had no majority in the senate and democratic senators would not permit the anti-trust clause of the McKinley law to be inserted in the Dingley law.

THE democratic party of Ohio is getting ready to sell out once more to a boss with a barrel. McLean will have his own way at Zanesville.—Cleveland Leader.

FORECAST BY ALTGELD.

Some Baseless and Unreliable Predictions on Political Issues for the Coming Year.

Ex-Gov. Altgeld has explained in an open letter to the editor of the Quincy Journal what he thinks will be the political issues of 1900. He says: "One-half of the American people are farmers, and these find their purchasing power is only about 50 per cent, of what it formerly was in proportion to population, and consequently their social status has been lowered."

According to the census of 1890 there were employed on the farms and ranches and in the dairies of the United States 8,427,676 men and women. In the same year there were employed in the manufacturing and mechanical industries 5,091,669 people; in trade and transportation, 3,233,562; in domestic and personal service, taking in barbers, engineers and firemen, janitors, laborers, nurses, servants, etc., 4,360,577, and in the professional services, including architects, clergymen, journalists, lawyers, musicians, physicians and teachers, 944,333, making a total of 14,118,110 men and women engaged in business having no relation to farms or ranches.

In 1890 thousands of farmers were under a weight of mortgages, which calamity-bowlers of the Altgeld class said never could be paid. Yet in the last two years most of these mortgages have been lifted. Except where drought or storms prevented, the farmers have had more than the usual quantity of grain and other farm products to sell, and it is notorious that, in the last year or two, they have received exceptional good prices.

THE democratic agitator may strive to blind himself and his followers to these facts, but all the verbiage of socialism and Altgeldism cannot put them out of the world.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Mr. Bryan continues to confer with ex-governors and former congressmen. The statesmen out of jobs are naturally chummy.—Washington Post.

WON IN A WALK.

Shamrock Easily Outraces the Britannia in Two Races.

Southampton, July 19.—There was much excitement on the Solent yesterday over the Britannia-Shamrock race. The course was 45 miles long and the Shamrock won easily, being 19 minutes ahead of the Britannia at the finish.

On the actual difference in the times of the Shamrock and Britannia at the various points and the times at the finish of the race it does not appear that the Shamrock has a great chance of winning the America's cup. These signs, however, may be deceptive. It was the opinion of those who closely watched the race from the steamer following the yachts that the Shamrock was never pushed to her utmost and that Mr. Fife, the designer of the yacht, who practically engineered the contest on behalf of Sir Thomas Lipton, merely desired to ascertain whether the Shamrock could show the Britannia a clean pair of heels.

THE Shamrock is decidedly the fastest boat ever launched in these waters. No other craft ever gave the Britannia such a beating on such a fair sailing trial.

Spaulders Will Yield Money to Secure Release of Prisoners—Manila Streets Turned Into Rivers.

Manila, July 20.—The Spanish commission charged with negotiating for the release of Spanish prisoners held by the Filipinos expect to return to Manila soon, with full authority to secure the release of all the prisoners. The commissioners hope to be able to make arrangements under which the money to be paid for the ransom of Spanish captives will be deposited in the bank, to be drawn by the Filipinos at a future date, so that the money cannot be used to carry on the war against the United States.

MR. ALGER QUILTS.

The Secretary of War Tenders His Resignation.

Washington, July 20.—Secretary Alger yesterday tendered to the president his resignation of the war portfolio. The resignation will become effective August 1, though it was tendered "at the pleasure of the president."

THE belief has prevailed in Washington for some time that Secretary Alger would resign from the cabinet, but the date generally set for it was towards the close of the year, after he had submitted his annual report, in which he intended to sum up what had been accomplished during his brief but eventful direction of the war department.

There have been many explanations and denials of the facts in that case, but in the end the impression was conveyed that the result of the Michigan visit of the secretary had been to change the relations between the president and himself to such a degree as to make a restoration of their former status impossible and to render the connection of the two as part of the same official family undesirable.

He arrived in Washington Tuesday night, too late to make any political calls. Almost before the executive departments were opened for business in the morning he called at the White House and, visiting the president in his office, announced that he had concluded to resign his office.

Austin, Tex., July 20.—A letter received here from a well-known Bryan leader now in the east says an element of the democratic national committee is seeking to elect ex-Gov. Hogg, of Texas, to the position of chairman of the committee to succeed Senator Jones. This letter says further that the resignation of Chairman Jones is in the hands of one of the western members of the committee.

"Uneasy Lies the Head That Wears a Crown."

But such are not the only uneasy heads. Overworked, harassed, anxious people of all ages and both sexes are uneasy with aches, pains, impure blood, disordered stomachs, deranged kidneys and liver. For all such, Hood's Sarsaparilla is the effective and faultless cure. It infuses fresh life through purified blood.

SHAPE OF AN ANAESTHETIC. As described by an Eminent Specialist Who Had Used One in an Operation.

It is a Bath physician who tells the following: "Some time ago I happened to spend the night in a country town not far from Bath and it happened that there was stopping at the same hotel an itinerant eye specialist."

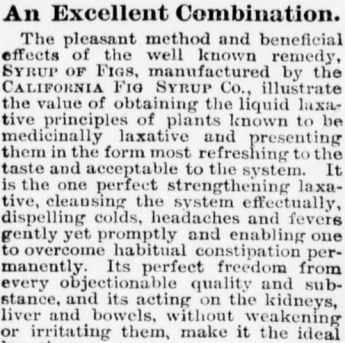
A MAN OF PRUDENCE. He Thought a Cyclone Cellar Might Come in Handy When He Was Married.

"Speaking of wives and their dispositions and tendencies," said Mr. Biskum to the evening crowd in front of his cross-roads store, "there was John Brunt, that lived for ten years in the cyclone belt in Kansas, trying to raise corn and mortgages and things like that, until he was able to borrow money enough to get back to Maryland again without walking more than half way. John come right to me, and I let him have a job on my farm at \$20 a month, for he was a hard worker and thrifty."

Justice in the West. "Heard a couple of good ones on this trip," announced one of Detroit's traveling men. "At a little town in Oklahoma court was in session, and I dropped in while waiting for the train. The prosecution had taken the testimony of a stationary engineer, and the attorney for the defense took hold. 'Where were you the day this thing happened?' he inquired."

Trophies of the Chase. "What are those queer-looking trophies the Filipinos wear around their necks?" asked the raw recruit. "Them's the medals for the century runs they've made during the war," replied the Kansas volunteer.—Philadelphia North American.

Automobile or ought not to mobile seems to be the question at issue.—Cycling Gazette.



An Excellent Combination. The pleasant method and beneficial effects of the well known remedy, SYRUP OF FIGS manufactured by the CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO., illustrate the value of obtaining the liquid laxative principles of plants known to be medicinally laxative and presenting them in the form most refreshing to the taste and acceptable to the system.