

THE gold reserve is gradually climbing higher and higher. There have been no sales since the election.

SENATOR PAPER ONE WHOSE about "The Way Out," and now the Kansas Populists are threatening to show it to him by electing another man to the place he occupies.

A CLEVELAND dispatch says that General Horace A. Porter, president of the New York Union League, will be the grand marshal of the McKinley inaugural parade on March 4 in Washington.

It is becoming more evident every day that the farmers were raising gold when last summer while the Free-Silverites were trying to persuade them that the gold standard would send them to the poor-house.

AFTER all, it turns out that Bryan carried Kansas over McKinley by only 12,239 in a total of 337,000 votes. That isn't so discouraging as it might be. There is still a fine field for the missionary in Kansas.

In December's North American Review W. J. Bryan has an article on the present status of the silver question, in which he regards the last election as "a temporary defeat but permanent gain" for bimetalism.

TRUMP A. of the Ohio National Guard, will not act as the escort to President-elect McKinley at the inauguration in Washington. The political marching clubs are not in it with the military when it comes to inaugurating a President.

It is stated that Charles Gates Dawes, of Evanston, Illinois, will be President-elect McKinley's private secretary. Major Dawes was chairman of a bureau in the National Republican committee headquarters during the recent campaign.

SEVEN counties in Kansas cast an aggregate of less than a thousand votes, and will be consolidated into three counties to save expenses. If Kansas sticks to Populism a few years it will present great attractions as a battlefield.

THE highest vote ever cast in Nevada was 10,001, at the Presidential election in 1876. This year the total vote of the State was 16,837. It is an absurdly narrow lead for three Presidential Electors and two United States Senators.

OFFICIAL reports show extraordinary shipments of apples to foreign ports this season. The total shipments to the first of the month exceed 1,750,000 barrels, over two-thirds of which having been sent to Liverpool, England.

The present Congress and Administration must face the duty of enacting and enforcing such laws as will stop the continued governmental deficits by which this great country of 70,000,000 people gets deeper into debt by four or five million dollars nearly every month.

It is reported from Indiana that steps will soon be taken to unite the Menckle and Amish denominations of this country; a conference with that end in view will be held in Elkhart county some time next year. Representatives from all churches of both denominations in this country and Canada are expected to attend.

THE United States Congress convened at noon on Tuesday, and President Cleveland laid before it his last annual message. The message is lengthy, dull and colorless. The position on the Cuban question is much the same as that taken in the message submitted one year ago. On the tariff and currency the same old ground is occupied.

The great State of Pennsylvania, says the Harrisburg Telegraph, begins the winter months with a comfortable sum in the cash box to purchase coal and provisions until summer comes again. At the close of the Treasury on November 30th there was just \$4,250,257 in the general fund of the Treasury, which is not so bad considering that we gave \$5,000,000 to the public schools. The household affairs of the State are in good hands.

THERE was much said during the recent campaign about farm mortgages, the distress of the farmers, and the fact that farmers have suffered through the hard times, of course, just as railroads and manufacturers and others have suffered, but after the distressing tales of farmers passing from their owners, the honest tillers of the soil, to the money power, it is gratifying to find an official statement to the effect that 72 per cent of the farms of the United States are mortgaged. When it is considered that a large proportion of the deals in farm mortgage are secured by mortgages on the land, this figure is very small.

Governor Hastings and Senator Quay held a conference at the executive mansion, Harrisburg, the latter part of last week, at the close of which the Governor publicly stated that he would not be a candidate to succeed Senator Cameron in the United States Senate. The retirement of Governor Hastings from the light practically runs Senator Boies Penrose and Hon. John Wanamaker, both of Philadelphia. Penrose is a close personal and political friend of Senator Quay, and was his chief lieutenant in the 1891-Combline struggle of two years ago. Wanamaker will have the support of what remains of the Combline forces. In a contest between these two gentlemen it does not require much of a prophet to foretell who will win.

IF ATTEMPTS to defeat the ends of justice, such as are alleged to have been resorted to at last week's special term of court, are permitted to go unopposed, the doors of the Temple of Justice might as well be nailed up, and trial by jury abandoned.

When a party to a suit seeks to avail himself of the society of the jurymen sworn to try the issue involved and render a verdict in accordance with the evidence, he avows his conviction that he would not be a candidate to succeed Senator Cameron in the United States Senate. The retirement of Governor Hastings from the light practically runs Senator Boies Penrose and Hon. John Wanamaker, both of Philadelphia. Penrose is a close personal and political friend of Senator Quay, and was his chief lieutenant in the 1891-Combline struggle of two years ago. Wanamaker will have the support of what remains of the Combline forces. In a contest between these two gentlemen it does not require much of a prophet to foretell who will win.

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Quay's Self Respect.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 8.—At a meeting of the executive committee of the national league of business men, held to-day, the question of the Senatorship was discussed, and a motion was offered and carried to ask Senator Quay for a conference for the purpose of discussing the question with him.

The following letter was delivered to Senator Quay by Assistant Secretary Norris of the organization, previous to the senator's departure for Harrisburg: PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 5, 1897.

"HON. MATTHEW S. QUAY:—"DEAR SIR—At a meeting of the executive committee of the Philadelphia branch of the National League of Business Men, a committee consisting of Messrs. Howard B. French, James Pollock, and the undersigned, was appointed to ask a conference with you regarding the United States Senatorship. Kindly advise us by letter at what hour you can meet with us to-day, and we will, as usual, be glad to attend, and oblige. Respectfully yours,

"ROBERT H. BLANKENBURG, Chairman of Executive Committee." Senator Quay's answer to the message was: "Tell Mr. Blankenburg that at a public meeting held at Erie on November 28, at which he was present, and at which, one of the above named committees, James Pollock, in speaking of the senatorship, said: 'We are willing to have one man like Quay, but we want one who will not be a party to anything but important measures are up concerning our welfare.'"

"I decline to have any communication with the committee whatever, and you can give this to my pastor." Mr. Blankenburg, chairman of the executive committee, when seen, expressed regret that in a question of such vital importance Senator Quay should decline to meet the representatives of the Business Men's league on account of personal objections to one of its members.

The No-Breakfast Fad.

From the Philadelphia Ledger. The latest craze for dyspepsia is an old one revived. It is simply to go without breakfast, and the theory is that the stomach sleeps as well as the other members of the body, does not store up gastric juices during the night, and the preparation to assimilate food until several hours after waking. So many people are ready to take up blindly any new craze, without regard to attending circumstances, that it may be worthwhile to say a word of warning about this one. It may be a very good one to adopt in certain cases—an excellent one, probably, when people have undigested food in their stomachs—but when they have dined so lightly or so early that they have gone to bed with empty stomachs, nature demands a fresh supply of food to start the new day. Nature, by the way, is a pretty good guide in such cases. If people will only obey her, instead of humoring their appetites and trying to make her obey them.

To Test All Cows in the State.

The increase of diseases among cattle and the incalculable means the State authorities have for battling with the disease has resulted in a movement to have a bill introduced in the Legislature asking that a large amount of money be set apart for the coming year with which to make a systematic test of all cattle in the State and destroy such as are diseased. At the head of the movement is Dr. Leonard J. Pearson, of Philadelphia, State Veterinarian, and Dr. Laocok, of Allegheny City, Assistant State Veterinarian.

No effort will be made to have the money appropriated all at once, but the State will be divided into sections and one section inspected at a time. In order that the disease will not be brought back to an inspected section quarantine stations will be established, where all cows brought into that section will be held until tested.

Save His Own Heart Best.

SHEEPVILLE, Ind., Dec. 4.—Jas. Hall, 15 years old, residing eight miles south of this place, went rabbit hunting November 24th, with another boy, and was accidentally shot. At the time of the accident the barrel of the gun was resting obliquely across the left breast. It was loaded with No. 4 shot, which struck the boy in his left breast, unavailing the lung and cutting away the second and third ribs, opening a hole three inches square in the chest cavity, through which could be plainly seen every pulsation of the heart. After the accident the boy walked a distance of a quarter of a mile to the home of a neighbor, where he was attended five hours later by two surgeons. He never lost consciousness, though he came near bleeding to death. Thursday morning was made to close the hole in the chest by covering it with a silver plate. It was wired to the ribs to hold the plate as well as to strengthen the broken bones. After this was done skin grafting was resorted to to cover the plate and to fill the cavity where the flesh and muscles were shot away. The skin for this was all cut from Hall's body, and he underwent the ordeal with great fortitude. The chances are now favorable for his recovery. Before the operation was performed a mirror was placed in position so the boy could witness own heart beat.

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The destruction of game birds and mammals in Pennsylvania is made the basis of an interesting report by State Zoologist Warren to Governor Hastings to aid him in suggesting certain needed changes in the game and fish laws of the commonwealth in his biennial message. The report is a long one, and the State Zoologist says public policy demands that the traffic in game taken within the State should be abolished. Taking the most careful reports which he has obtained from the game committees of the State, the Zoologist takes of game the result shows ninety per cent of all the game killed is by market hunters and that it is shipped to the large cities and principally to New York.

"Market hunting is not done by farmers or farmers' sons," says Zoologist Warren, "but by the professional market hunter, who from the time he can lawfully pursue his vocation until the end of the season compels the game where game abounds and proceeds to make it his business and means of livelihood. I have the first instance to record of one contributing toward replenishing a deer supply, or paying in any manner for his gunning privileges."

"A reasonable trespass act and the restriction of our game traffic so that it will include deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, woodcock and quail would, I believe, meet the views of our land owners and all those interested in preserving and increasing our game. None of the above are in any manner destructive to farmers or stock raising, and it is to be regretted that they are so. It is to be regretted that they will ever become that numerous. Beavers, squirrels and rabbits are not game which can be defended and to continue their sale would not be a menace to its game of our State."

"There is not a state of such importance as Pennsylvania in all other commercial or educational affairs that can record as many reported violations without arrest or conviction of our game and fish laws as our own commonwealth."

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Raiding the Tollgates.

HARRISBURG, Ky., Dec. 6.—A mob of 200 men, armed with shot-guns, revolvers and axes, ran through Mercer last night and chopped down six toll gates. The gatekeepers were warned not to repair the gates or collect any more toll under penalty of death. The mob, which was passing through this city at 2 o'clock this morning, en route from Marksville to Harrisburg, and they destroyed every gate in the line of march. At Salt River, one mile from here, they burned his gate, and he was told to notify the turnpike directors that if the gate was repaired and money collected, the raiders would not only burn the toll houses, but the private property of the directors, who have ordered the gates repaired. Toll will be collected by an armed guard if necessary.

Fought a Bear With Bird Shot.

WELLSBORO, Pa., Dec. 3.—John Quick, of Morris County, had an experience with a black bear that he does not care to repeat very soon. Quick was gunning for pheasants, having but two buckshot shells in his belt, the balance being lead, he fired at a bear. While walking through a swamp that was hemmed in by heavy hemlocks, Quick spotted what he first thought was a stump, not more than a foot ahead of him. He "bumped" the stump, and then, then Quick, somewhat to his discomfiture, saw that the thing was a bear, and it was coming toward him.

He thrust the buckshot shells into the gun and fired both at the bear. But the bear's progress was only momentarily delayed, for the shots only served to make him more eager to hug the hunter. From a shallow he increased his gait to a trot, and went at Quick with his teeth showing like the fangs of a mastiff. Quick started on a run, loading his gun with shot-filled shells as he ran. Then turning he let the bear have both barrels of lead, and, much to his satisfaction, the bear came to a standstill. The next moment he whined like a dog as though to start the other way, when suddenly he stumbled over to one side, then toppled in a heap, dead.

Three Boy Heroes.

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 3.—Three school boys, aged between ten and thirteen, who were at school in the town of Cumberland, Md., were the heroes of a recent exploit. They were the heroes of a recent exploit. They were the heroes of a recent exploit.

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For a moment even the dignity of the Court was in danger, and the justices pounded lustily for order. Carter was sentenced to six months in jail and \$500 fine.

A Dog as a Witness.

NEW YORK, Dec. 2.—Henry W. Johnson, who confessed to tell the police where he lived, was a prisoner in the Flatbush police court on a charge of vagrancy. He was arrested on November 24th after rabbing three houses in Flatbush, the police say. Among the complainants was William B. Gorman, Ocean Avenue and Newkirk Avenue. As Johnson was leaving the house of Gorman, he was spotted by the watchdog, which sprang at him and held him until the arrival of a policeman. When the case was called Gorman was in court accompanied by his dog. As Johnson was brought from the cell, the animal growled savagely, sprang at the prisoner, and was only prevented from biting him by the interference of its master. The charge of vagrancy against Johnson was changed to one of burglary, and he was held for the grand jury.

Tragic Political Feud.

MIDDLETOWN, Ky., Dec. 3.—Particulars have reached here of a battle in Letcher county between the Morgan family, strong supporters of D. G. Colson, and the Harrison family, adherents of ex-Congressman John D. White, in the recent Congressional election.

William Morgan and his three sons, Thomas, Caleb and John, were going to the mill when they met William Harrison and his sons, James and Henry. The families have been at odds since the election, and after a few words were drawn, Old man Morgan fell dead at the first, and when the fight was over James and Henry Harrison also lay dead and Thomas and Caleb Morgan were dying.

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They Were Lynched.

LEXINGTON, Mo., December 7.—About 11 o'clock this morning a large mob of men from the town of Lexington, Mo., for the purpose of lynching Jesse Winner and James Nelson, who are confined here on the charge of murdering Mrs. Winner and her two babies near Richmond, Mo., October 30. They broke into the jail, and after a struggle, they accomplished their object of meeting out punishment to the alleged murderers. Lon Lackey, who has also been in jail under a charge of complicity in the murder, was taken out Saturday, which alone saved his life, as he certainly would have been lynched with the others. The probabilities are that vengeance will be meted out to him later. The mob was composed of men from all around the town, and the jailer and his guards and demanded the keys to Nelson and Winner's cell but were refused. The doors were battered down and the prisoners tied and led out. Winner came out trampling with fear. Nelson did not a word but clearly showed that he was not afraid. Both men pleaded with the mob for their lives and asserted their innocence.

"Standing before Almighty God, I swear I never murdered my wife," said Winner. "I swear I am innocent," added Nelson, but the mob paid no attention to the pleadings.

Girls Fight Crackmen.

SHARON, Pa., Dec. 4.—Two brave young ladies, the Misses Emma and Genevieve Rich, surprised robbers at work in the post office at Sandy Lake, early this morning, and drove them off, but not until one of the burglars had been shot. For sometime the post office in this part of the State has been the object of attacks by a band of crackmen. Several big hauls have been made, and men arrested and sent to jail, but without breaking up the gang.

The intrepid Misses occupied a room over the Sandy Lake post office. They are pretty, of a striking disposition, and popular in the place. Though they have never been molested they always kept a heavy revolver in the dresser, "just in case you feel a bit safer, you know," they said to-day.

While they were sleeping peacefully burglars pried their way into the post office and started to work on the safe. With a small steel drill they bored a hole through the safe's door and filled it with dynamite. The explosion was not loud, but was sufficient to wake the two girls.

Life at Washington.

The inauguration of a President, the selection of his Cabinet, and the seating of a new Congress—national events of the coming year—suggest the question, What are the powers and duties of these high officials? During 1897 it will be answered through the Youth's Companion, in a remarkable series of articles by Secretary Herbert, Postmaster-General Wilson, Attorney-General Harmon, Senator Lodge and Speaker Reed.

The Illustrated Amusement for 1897 (mailed free on application to the Youth's Companion, Boston) features by which the Companion will signalize its seventy