

THE days are getting longer now and very better, too.

Prize fighters are like politicians—they always claim a victory in advance.

NOWADAYS we hear very little of the office seeking the man. It does not get a chance.

NONE of the ammunition of the McKinley administration will be wasted on ducks.

MR. CLEVELAND and the wild geese are coming North—a sure sign that spring is approaching.

EXPERIMENTS in reform outside of the Republican party turn out badly. The one made in 1882 will do for a sample.

JUST one Democrat has occupied the presidential chair since 1861, and his own party insists that he was a terrific failure.

SPRING will arrive officially on the 23rd instant, and in the meantime it will be in order to expect anything from a blizzard to a blizzard.

THERE was never any doubt of the re-election of Speaker Reed, and there was never any doubt that as a presiding officer he stands without a peer.

THE entry boxes have been removed from the White House grounds. President McKinley wants no armor plate between himself and the American people.

THE new tariff bill, it is now claimed, will have fifty-five votes in the Senate, a good majority. This prediction is based on a poll made by the House committee on Ways and Means.

A Spaniard has died in Mexico who claimed to be 154 years old. As he smoked cigarettes, it is supposed that his young life was shortened by the habit.

MARCH, so far, has not been as beautiful as it might be, but neither has it been as hideous as it might be. That is a briskeness in air both of spring and of business, for which we should be duly thankful.

CHAIRMAN DINGLEY thinks the new tariff bill can be put through in two months and a half, a liberal allowance for congressional delays.

THERE is old shoulder for those who loaf around the White House. The President says that he will make appointments until the tariff matters and finances are disposed of. That will take several months, and in the meantime why should men pay board at a Washington hotel?

PERCY HEATH, who has done such excellent work for the Republican party, and whose reputation as a journalist is well established, will be the first assistant postmaster general, and he will make a good one. He has high ability, which will be needed in that important position.

CONGRESS convened in extra session Monday. There has been no more important session since the adoption of the Constitution; it is freighted with immense possibilities. President McKinley's first message, which will be found elsewhere in this issue, will make plain, business-like statement, short and to the point.

SILVER is down very near the lowest point it ever touched, while wheat is at a high level, and is likely to go higher. Nobody least who talks now of silver and wheat being yoked together, but this is because the silver issue is dead, temporarily or eternally. If the issue should be resurrected in 1900 the follies and falsehoods of 1896 would be repeated.

SENATOR FLINN, of Pittsburg, who is an uncompromising enemy of Senator Quay, says the latter is the greatest political general in America. This is in contradiction to the say-so of some of the small potato enemies of Col. Quay, who are perpetually speaking of him as a political trickster. The fact is, he is a wise and broad-minded politician, who gains his ends by the exercise of good sense and sound discretion.

UNLESS we die very soon we shall live to see mechanically propelled vehicles as common upon the streets as those drawn by horses. Already in London the authorities have passed an ordinance licensing mechanical wagons and carriages. In Paris such vehicles were licensed two years ago. Now a resolution permitting their use is under consideration by the board of aldermen of New York. A firm have put motor carriages on sale in that city.

IT is to be feared that there will be a general emigration of spirits from Michigan if the bill proposed in the legislature of that State becomes a law. It puts a tax upon old maids, excepting those who have failed to get married after strenuous efforts on their part. The originator of this unique measure proposes also to tax unmarried men. The course of true love in Michigan might run very smoothly with such energetic legislative stimulation.

During the last campaign, when the Hon. Tom Watson, of Georgia, foolishly thought of himself as a candidate for the Vice Presidency of the United States, he put forth a great many ideas which were non-sensical, but he finally gave expression to one truth which shows that he is not totally blind. "There is no suggestion," he said, "of misgovernment about the new administration. It is a matter to be envied." And he might have added that that is one of the reasons why the majority of Americans are delighted with the result.

Probably there is truth in the report that if a United States warship goes to Havana there will be an anti-American demonstration in that city. The feathered element in Spanish communities is always large, and it asserts itself on the smallest sort of provocation. Nevertheless, the war vessel will go to Havana. One ought to have been there from the beginning of the rebellion. The government was very lax in this respect, and many American citizens in the island suffered as a consequence. The new departure by the United States in Cuban policy can not prove too soon.

**HAILEY** received the Democratic nomination for the Speakership, but this will not make him the leader of his party in the House. Until the Democrats renounce free silver the place where Bland stands will be the head of the Democratic column in his chamber. Other men on his side may hold a higher titular rank, but he will be the commander-in-chief of the silver forces while there are any silver forces to command. Latorou d'Auvergne, the "first grenadier of France," would accept no higher title than captain, but while holding it he sometimes led an army corps.

**PRESIDENT MCKINLEY** is in no hurry to make changes in the departments in Washington. One undersecretary has been notified that he is safe for at least six months, and the need give up his office before that time is up. It is the same with appointments throughout the country. Notice has been served that the occupants will be allowed to serve their terms out and will not be disturbed. This is in accordance with a rule made by Cleveland when he first entered the Presidency in 1885. Of course, under this ruling the Democratic office-holders will remain until their terms expire, but when they go out there will be good Republicans to take their places.

**GOVERNOR HASTINGS** says with respect to the report that he is to be Minister to Italy: "While I appreciate the kindly mention of my name, I am not a candidate for that appointment or any other. I am content with the office which I now hold. My duties are congenial to me, and I know of no appointment that could be tendered me that would offer any inducement to leave it. Occasional mention of my name has been made for sundry appointments during the past year, and I repeat now what I have often said before that I have not been a candidate for any appointment since I came into the executive office, nor would I accept any position if tendered to me during my term of office."

The legislature will render a valuable service if it enact a law that will wholly abolish the fee system of compensating county officials, says the Philadelphia Times. There are a number of measures already under consideration that are intended to readjust the system, and Representative French has introduced a bill that provides for its entire abolition, offering as a substitute payment by fixed salaries. No readjustment of fees will correct the evils that have grown out of the system, and the only way to absolutely correct its defects is to abolish it altogether.

The prohibition of special legislation necessitates the passage of a law that will embrace the whole State. This may result in a slight change in the salaries of the officials in those counties where the fee system is no longer in force. But the counties can readily be divided into classes, with fair salaries for the officials of each class, and an equitable division in this way would provide a salary list that will dispense even justice everywhere. In several of the counties of the State, with a population of less than 150,000, the office of Prothonotary is worth from \$5,000 to \$7,000, that of Recorder of Deeds from \$6,000 to \$10,000, that of Register of Wills from \$5,000 to \$7,500, and that of District Attorney from \$8,000 to \$7,500. These incomes are far beyond a just compensation, and, under a law providing even liberal salaries, could be cut down outright.

A public official is entitled to no larger compensation than would be paid by a private business concern for equal responsibility and similar duties. Whenever the compensation becomes higher than this it makes the office a matter of sale, and the excess is recognized as a reward for political service, for which the people should never be called upon to pay.

**Foster's For Office Seekers.**  
The Washington Post of March 18, contains the following:  
A Senator went to the White House with a bundle of papers representing about forty applications for consulates. They all had recommendations, and were mostly done up and briefed.  
"You don't expect me to appoint all these men, do you?" said President McKinley.  
"Well, I don't know," returned the Senator. "I'd like to have you appoint as many as you can. They are all good men."  
"How many places in the consular service do you consider your state entitled to?"  
"I should think we ought to pull out five or six good ones."  
"Well," returned the President, "suppose you take the papers with you and after consulting on that basis with your delegation pick out five or six of the best men and all join in recommending them. There is plenty of time for a selection," suggested the Senator.  
"Not so difficult for you as for me," returned the President. "You know the man and I don't."  
"I mean that it would be embarrassing for me to indicate a preference in many cases."  
"You want me to assume that embarrassment. I am willing to take the responsibility, but I cannot make any appointments from your state unless you select the men. You must get together, too. I don't propose to settle any controversies."  
That is the sort of talk the President gives to nearly all the Congressmen who visit him, and as a consequence the delegations from the several states will hold meetings to decide between the claims of contending constituents. They are presently convinced that they will not be able to secure appointments upon their individual influence and must act together for the welfare of their party.

A gentleman of some fame as a writer, who might claim a residence in any of three states, and who has been a warm personal friend of the President, asked to be considered a candidate for an attractive foreign mission.  
"I have not brought any papers," he said, "for you know me as well as anybody and can judge as accurately of my fitness as all the Senators and Representatives and politicians in the country. Still, if it is necessary I will get some letters."  
"I would do so if I were you," declared the President quietly.  
"From whom do you suggest?"  
"From the Senators and Representatives of your state."  
"I doubt if I could get either one of the Senators," was the reply; "but I can get the Representatives."  
"Better get the Senators, too, if you can," remarked the President in conclusion, and turned to another visitor.

**Try Grain—O!**  
Ask your Grocer to-day to show you a package of GRAIN-O, the new food drink that takes the place of coffee. The children love it without injury as well as the adult. All who try it, like it. GRAIN-O has that rich, sweet brown of Mocha or Java, but it is made from pure grains, and the most delicate stomach receives it without distress. The price is 10c. 25c and 50c per package. Sold by all grocers.

**Hanna Applauded.**  
W. E. Curtis writes to the Chicago Record: "For the first time in history a man was yesterday applauded on the floor and in the galleries in the Senate when he walked up to the desk of the Vice President to take the oath of office. His name was Mark Hanna. One of the Senators told me that he never knew such a thing to have occurred before. Mr. Sherman's resignation was first read by the clerk, then Governor Bushnell's appointment of Mr. Hanna and his credentials, which are handsomely bound in red morocco. While this ceremony was going on, Mr. Hanna was sitting in a chair on the last row, next to that of Mr. Fosker. His desk was decorated with an immense rose bush filled with beautiful flowers.  
When the Vice President asked Mr. Hanna to stand forward, Senator Foraker seized his colleague impulsively by the arm and led him down the middle aisle, where the oath was administered. Mr. Hanna then returned to the seat he had previously occupied with a cheer as hearty as was ever uttered after a prima donna, but he soon slipped away to the other room, where he was surrounded by a number of his new colleagues. Mrs. Hanna, Miss Mabel Hanna, Mrs. Leonard Hanna and Mrs. Phelps, who is Mrs. Hanna's companion, followed the scene from the private gallery."

**Hundreds For a Beefsteak.**  
Tacoma, Wash., March 12.—The first beefsteak that ever reached Circle City, Alaska, sold for \$48 per pound a few weeks ago. The steak consisted of a ten-pound piece, slaughtered at Forty Mile Creek, was packed from that place to Circle City, a distance of 250 miles. The steak was first placed on exhibition. As high as \$55 per pound was offered. In order to avoid complications it was sold at \$48 per pound, and a hospital benefit, and \$89 worth of tickets were sold.

**She Grappled the Spirit.**  
La Grange, Ind., March 14.—The town of Wakarusa, Elkhart county, has been wrought up to a high state of excitement over the continued performances of the spiritualists in their materializing séances. Many people have been converted.  
Joseph King, who has a reputation as a medium throughout Indiana, Michigan and Illinois, was invited to the town to lecture on spiritualism. He gave a sermon, which was attended by Mrs. Coffey, a prominent society woman. Relatives of Mr. Coffey appeared in the spirits, and she determined to ascertain the realism of the medium's communication. He gave a spirit, and in the tumultuous scene which followed one of her wrists was dislocated. It is alleged that King, who was the materializing spirit, used force to convert Mrs. Coffey to release her grasp on him.

**Will Die of Bright's Disease.**  
Persons you meet every day.  
What can be done?  
In such a serious condition you must secure the best remedy you can find in the market.  
AT ONCE.  
There is only one absolutely sure cure for these troubles, and that is  
**DR. WRIGHT'S VEGETABLE PILLS**  
For all Biliousness and Nervous Disorders. They purify the blood, regulate the digestive system, and cure DYSPEPSIA, HEADACHE, CONSTIPATION and PIMPLES.

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**Congress Goes to Work.**

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 14.—President McKinley's extra session of the Fifty-fifth Congress to pass the Tariff bill, began its work to-day with a promptness which was very gratifying to the people.

**What the Press Says.**  
The audience at the Opera House last evening was one of the most composite that has been seen there this season, and the performance was in keeping with the audience. It was an entertainment that consisted of a variety of acts, and there was an account of scruples and principle. Nothing offered on the program offended the "taste of the most fastidious." The Vitaseop was a revelation to the audience. It was a reproduction of scenes in life that, in many instances, one could almost hear the conversation.

**Women United—Witch's Ban.**  
WILLIAMSPORT, Pa., March 14.—Constable George Steiglman, of South Williamsport, has a strange case on hand. A woman named Irene had appeared to him to invoke the law upon her alleged tormentor. The person whom she charges with exercising witchcraft upon them and their families is a respectable retailer named Charles Goodfellow, who is a resident of this town. The woman declares that she can not handle her household without dropping or breaking it; that when they use a knife they invariably cut themselves, that their children are constantly ill, and that their stock fat cows give milk that is not fit to use.

**Great Loss to a Drummer.**  
LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 14.—Wm. Weder, 29 years of age, a commercial traveler, has been advised that he has fallen heir to \$30,000 by the death of John Ward, of Minneapolis, Minn., which occurred on January 24 last. Young Weder, who is now in Los Angeles, has just received a letter from the estate of Mr. Ward's daughter, Mr. Ward took an interest in him, and when he became ill, during his visit, all expenses were defrayed by the gentleman. He subsequently returned to his home, and had almost forgotten all about Ward.

**His Own Prize.**  
INDIANA, Pa., March 14.—The present contestants to the Grand Jury last week pronounced many things highly offensive to Judge Harry White, and the members were taken from the Court papers, photographs, and other matters. In Judge White's handwriting, was printed in a local paper.  
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**Collegian Rev.**

DENVER, Colo., March 14.—The Middle-of-the-Road Populists met here yesterday and adjourned after three hours of fighting. Women were in the thick of the meeting, and they were in several instances instigators of the attack.

The first assault was provoked by the remarks of a woman that she would not sit in a convention with the hirelings of corporations, including one of the delegates. The latter replied that the assessor was a liar and her husband led to the rescue, while his wife and her women companions stood by and cheered the fighters. Mrs. E. W. Reed started another row by saying that she had seen too much of politics to blush any more; that was a perfunctory effort that did the party no good. Mrs. Alice Faulkner took a hand when Mrs. E. W. Reed started another row by saying that she had seen too much of politics to blush any more; that was a perfunctory effort that did the party no good.

**Philadelphians' Murders.**  
FRANCON, Ky., March 12.—Alonzo Walling and Scott Johnson, the convicted murderers of Pearl Bryan, will not part company on March 29, the date on which both have been sentenced to be hanged.

**A Sufferer Cured.**  
"Every year, from the time I was two years old, I suffered dreadfully from erysipelas, which kept growing worse until my hands were almost useless. The bones softened, and from a mass of tissue which would not respond to any treatment, my fingers are now crooked from this cause. On my hand I carry large scars, which, but for  
**AYER'S**  
Sarsaparilla, would be sores, provided I was alive and able to carry anything.  
Eight bottles of Ayer's Sarsaparilla cured me, so that I have had no return of the disease for more than twenty years. The first bottle seemed to reach the spot and a persistent use of it has perfected the cure."—O. C. DAVIS, Wautoma, Wis.

**AYER'S Sarsaparilla**  
THE ONLY WORLD'S FAIR  
AYER'S PILLS Promote Good Digestion.

**Jos. Horne & Co.**  
BLACK DRESS FABRICS!  
This Spring is rich in new colors and color combinations, but black is to be worn as much as ever, nevertheless. We are showing complete assortments in every black dress fabric manufactured and special prices on almost all of them.  
We have plain black Mohairs, 50 inches wide, of admirable quality, which we are selling at 50 cents a yard. A simple skirt will show how good an offer this is. At the same price are many of the new Spring wools, Hammock Suitings, Escurias, Florentine, etc., very handsome goods and intensely fashionable.  
In Black Silks, too, are offers just as good. All Silk Twisted Grenadines, All Silk Printed Crepe and Black Mohair Velours, at 50 cents a yard—just about one-half their worth.  
We have some very excellent colored trimmings in narrow and medium widths at 10c, 12c, 15c and 25c a yard. Get samples of our beautiful domestic Organses, Lawns and Dimities at 5c and 12c a yard.  
Our new Catalogue will be out about April 1st. Write for it.

**With a Successful**  
Experience extending over many years in supplying the wants of our many friends in  
**Dry Goods, Dress Goods, Ladies' & Children's Furnishings,**  
we feel that we are now in a better condition to more successfully anticipate and supply the wants of our friends than at any previous period. We began months ago to give orders to manufacturers, importers and wholesale merchants for our spring stock of  
**Dress Goods and Ladies Furnishings**  
of all kinds. We believe our stock of Dress Goods is the most stylish and desirable ever shown in Somerset; the same applies to all other kinds of Goods we carry.  
All goods have been bought for CASH  
and are paid for. We are, therefore, in a position to offer great inducements to CASH BUYERS.

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**With a Successful**  
Experience extending over many years in supplying the wants of our many friends in  
**Dry Goods, Dress Goods, Ladies' & Children's Furnishings,**  
we feel that we are now in a better condition to more successfully anticipate and supply the wants of our friends than at any previous period. We began months ago to give orders to manufacturers, importers and wholesale merchants for our spring stock of  
**Dress Goods and Ladies Furnishings**  
of all kinds. We believe our stock of Dress Goods is the most stylish and desirable ever shown in Somerset; the same applies to all other kinds of Goods we carry.  
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**The New Tariff Bill.**

NEW YORK, March 13.—"Herald" special from Washington says: Chairman Dingley, of the committee on ways and means, expects to have the new tariff bill ready for publication on Tuesday morning. He said last night the Republican members of the committee had practically completed the entire bill and were now engaged in reviewing their work and making changes necessitated by the results which various schedules have to each other.

The bill, as a whole, is a high protective measure. The average rates are little, and many of the schedules they are slightly higher. Through changes may be made before the bill is presented in the House of Representatives, an outline of the various schedules indicates its general character and the more important changes from the present law which have been made. When the task of preparing a new bill was first undertaken the committee was disposed to be very conservative and from a measure which would be in the nature of a compromise between the McKinley law and the present law.

The new law is expected to produce an additional revenue of between \$60,000,000 and \$70,000,000 a year.  
The chief addition to the revenue expected from the increase of the sugar duty. From this source alone an additional revenue of about \$27,000,000 is anticipated by Chairman Dingley.

**Pearl Bryan's Murders.**  
FRANCON, Ky., March 12.—Alonzo Walling and Scott Johnson, the convicted murderers of Pearl Bryan, will not part company on March 29, the date on which both have been sentenced to be hanged.

**A Sufferer Cured.**  
"Every year, from the time I was two years old, I suffered dreadfully from erysipelas, which kept growing worse until my hands were almost useless. The bones softened, and from a mass of tissue which would not respond to any treatment, my fingers are now crooked from this cause. On my hand I carry large scars, which, but for  
**AYER'S**  
Sarsaparilla, would be sores, provided I was alive and able to carry anything.  
Eight bottles of Ayer's Sarsaparilla cured me, so that I have had no return of the disease for more than twenty years. The first bottle seemed to reach the spot and a persistent use of it has perfected the cure."—O. C. DAVIS, Wautoma, Wis.

**AYER'S Sarsaparilla**  
THE ONLY WORLD'S FAIR  
AYER'S PILLS Promote Good Digestion.

**Jos. Horne & Co.**  
BLACK DRESS FABRICS!  
This Spring is rich in new colors and color combinations, but black is to be worn as much as ever, nevertheless. We are showing complete assortments in every black dress fabric manufactured and special prices on almost all of them.  
We have plain black Mohairs, 50 inches wide, of admirable quality, which we are selling at 50 cents a yard. A simple skirt will show how good an offer this is. At the same price are many of the new Spring wools, Hammock Suitings, Escurias, Florentine, etc., very handsome goods and intensely fashionable.  
In Black Silks, too, are offers just as good. All Silk Twisted Grenadines, All Silk Printed Crepe and Black Mohair Velours, at 50 cents a yard—just about one-half their worth.  
We have some very excellent colored trimmings in narrow and medium widths at 10c, 12c, 15c and 25c a yard. Get samples of our beautiful domestic Organses, Lawns and Dimities at 5c and 12c a yard.  
Our new Catalogue will be out about April 1st. Write for it.

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