

Extensive educational reforms are projected by the Madrid ministry. The war demonstrated the need of teaching the Spanish young idea how to shoot.

Since July last 990 bicycles have been stolen in Chicago, and the police of that city give out the opinion gravely that some bike burglar is trying for a ten-century record.

The shade of Christopher Columbus, in the Elysian Fields, must smile with amusement to see his countrymen of today carrying his brother's dust and to find upon the earth under the pious fiction that it is his, while his own rests undisturbed by the side of the rusting fetters he once wore.

One of the first acts of General Wood at Santiago de Cuba was to reform and vastly improve the school system. General Kitchener's first act concerning Khartoum since his conquest of the place is to raise \$500,000 for the establishment of a college there. That is what Anglo-Saxon conquest means today—the building not of fortresses to enslave people, but of schools to educate and elevate them.

The Massachusetts Socialists are highly elated by the showing which they made at the recent election in Massachusetts, having a total of 10,000 against 6301 a year ago. This will entitle the party next year to a place upon the official ballot as a regular political party, and they are greatly encouraged by the success in Haverhill of James F. Carey and Louis M. Scates, who were elected to the Legislature on the Socialist-Labor ticket, and will be the first Socialists to hold a seat in any legislative body in the United States, it is said.

The advantages of ancestry and family are worth little in themselves to a young man save in our oldest communities. In the newer parts of the country the day laborer, provided nature has gifted him with brains and energy, may cherish any ambition. Lincoln was a day laborer. General Miles was a clerk in a dry goods store. Blaine taught a country school. Garfield drove mules on the top hat. McKinley practised law in the insignificant little town of Canton, Ohio. Many of our millionaires began as workmen. Other men who are drudging for wages today will be the millionaires of twenty-five years hence.

Birmingham, England, is frequently referred to as the best governed city in the world. Whether or not that is true, Birmingham certainly has made greater progress in municipal socialism than any other city. Almost everything is municipalized. It was a pioneer in municipal tenement houses, markets, slaughterhouses, museums, art galleries, libraries, industrial schools, public laundries and baths, street-car lines, gas plants, electric lighting, and draws most of its revenues from business blocks erected by the city upon the ground which was formerly covered with the slums, and was purchased in order to eradicate them. Municipal sanitation is probably carried to greater perfection in Birmingham than in any other city in the world, and the common council is now spending \$2,000,000 in the purchase of a farm upon which the sewage of the city may be utilized as a fertilizer.

One of the greatest drawbacks to arming in this country, and especially in the New England states, is the difficulty of keeping the boys upon the farm. Fifty girls have taken up the study of scientific farming in the Minneapolis college of agriculture. The progress of these young women will attract general attention, and if the results are practical the innovation will naturally spread to other states, and thus in the end work a reform in farming matters that will not only give a new impetus to the industry, but also rehabilitate many of the now abandoned New England farms, and furnish profitable, healthy and even congenial employment to the superabundant female population of those states. With scientific methods, in conjunction with the labor-saving machines now in vogue, farming is not accompanied by the drudgery that necessarily attended the work in the years gone by. There is nothing in the whole routine of farm labor that cannot be accomplished by the average woman, and in no instance need she unsex herself in its performance. It is to be hoped the movement started by the Minnesota women will result in a reformation in farm matters that will not only increase the quantity and quality of the product, but also render the home of the farmer attractive to the young men of the family.

### A LULLABY FROM THE WEST.

Hey, baby! Ho, baby! what's all the row?  
Close up them peepers an' go to sleep now!  
Pappy's here with him an' no un 'll hurt—  
If there is, some galoot 's got to eat dirt!  
Jump! 'e hosophat! bear how he yell!  
Worse'n a herd that's stampeded o'rrail!  
Sounds like Apaches a-huntin' a muss—  
Hey, baby! Ho, baby! dry up yer fuss!  
Hey, baby! Ho, baby! look out down there!  
That's yer Pappy's six-shooter—better take care!  
Baby's too little to handle a gun;  
When yer in trowsers yer Pappy 'll get one,  
Learn ye to shoot it, too. Bully fer you!  
Yer a true son o' West, through an' through!  
Look like a tenderfoot yet, but ye ain't—  
Hey, baby! Ho, baby! sleep like a salnt!  
Hey, baby! Ho, baby! Gosh! see him screw  
Up his kid face worse 'n coyotes 'll do!  
Dry up that noise, er yer Pappy 'll shoot,  
Thinkin' he 's trapped by a band o' Pute!  
Mummy 'll come in a minute! Now quit!  
Panthers fer yellin' ain't in it a bit!  
What! hev ye quit? put an end to yer fuss?  
Hey, baby! Ho, baby! cute little cuss!  
—Roy Farrell Green, in Puck.

### ABIJAH BLAISDELL'S HEN.

It Was Not the Widow Who Gave Way.

BY SUSAN BROWN ROBBINS.

"She's the most remarkable hen in the country. I know she doesn't look it. No, she'd never take a prize at the cattle show. She ain't, so to speak, pure blooded. Some folks would even call her mongrel, but I think it's more respectful to refer to her as a composite. Why, she knows more than some men and most women," and Abijah would gaze admiringly at his solitary fowl.

"You'd think she'd be lonesome, would you? Well, how about me? O, no! we keep each other company. I don't want any better companion than Belinda, and she never finds a bit of fault with me.

"Did I ever tell you how it came about that she was left here all alone? You know I used to keep hens. I had those three houses full. They didn't do well, somehow, and one winter when grain was extra high and the hens didn't lay an egg, I got disgusted and vowed I'd sell off the whole lot of them.

"Well, a hen man came along, and he and I went out and caught the hens, and an awful squawking and dust they made, too. When the man had paid me and gone off, I felt pretty good.

"But just as I turned to go into the house I heard a little noise, and there came Belinda picking along as nice as you please. I was mad, and I told her then and there that she needn't think she could get the best of me that way, and just as soon as I'd eaten up a mess of corned beef I'd just got, I'd kill her and have a chicken pie.

"She looked up at me and creaked, the way she has. She gives two or three creaks like an ordinary hen, and then her voice kind of breaks in a long, pitiful wail. It sounded just as if she said 'O, O, O, don't!' if you'll believe me, I said out loud to her, 'All right, I won't.'

"Since then she's had things about her own way. I was going to tear down the henhouses, but Belinda she likes to use all of 'em, so I didn't. She always lays in the first one. The second one she has for a dining room and living room, and she sleeps in the third one.

"Yes, it's some trouble to take care of them all, but as long as Belinda is satisfied I don't find any fault.

"Lay? You never saw a hen that would lay as she does. She hasn't missed a day in six months.

"And it's a funny thing, too. My aunt Nancy came here on a visit and stayed a month. Now, she hates hens, but she likes eggs. Well, what do you think? All the time she was here, Belinda didn't lay a single egg! But she began again the very day aunt Nancy went away. She knew what aunt Nancy was just as well as I did, and she wanted to spite her.

"Why, I don't know but I should have got married before now if it hadn't been for Belinda, but I don't suppose she'd like to have any other woman around."

Thus would Abijah Blaisdell run on about his hen, as long as any one would listen to him.

The widow Millett, Abijah's next door neighbor, talked a good deal about the hen, but in a different strain. She addressed her remarks to herself or to the hen, so no one was the wiser. She hated hens in general, and Belinda in particular.

"If you'd mind your own business and keep on your own side of the fence, I wouldn't say a word, but I won't have you in my flower beds. Shoo! seat!" and she would shake her skirts at the intruder, and with a frown on her usually placid face, chase the hen off her premises.

"It isn't alone that you are a hen," she would say again, as she sat at her window and looked over across at Abijah's yard where Belinda could be seen. "But it's your being his hen, and making him the laughing stock of the neighborhood. He acts just as if you were a person, and he seems to have forgotten my existence.

"To be sure, he never did take much notice of me, but there was a time when I thought—here she would break off and blush a little; "well, any way, I should think you'd be ashamed to make a grown man act so silly."

As time went on her hatred of Belinda increased. There seemed to be an irresistible fascination for the bed in Mrs. Millett's garden, and nearly every day, found her scratching there. "I never did see a hen that knew anything," the widow would say wrathfully, "and I believe you know the least of any of them."

She spoke to Abijah about keeping his hen at home, and he fixed up the fence with that object in view, but fences were nothing to Belinda. She

was light of weight, and could fly over anything constructed of laths.

One day the widow found the hen busily digging a large hole in the midst of her pious bed. Thereupon in the heat of her anger she gave vent to dire threats.

"If I find you over here scratching again, you, Belinda Blaisdell, I shall kill you. Do you hear? You think I wouldn't do it, but I just would. I have had to kill hens before now and I didn't like the job, but I almost think I'd enjoy killing you, you mean old thing. Now remember! I'm a woman of my word and I shall keep it, if I have to chase you all the way home to catch you."

As she went into the house, she began to repent of her threats. "I suppose I should hate to kill her," she soliloquized, "but I said I would, and, yes, I will, if she scratches any more, but I'll keep a close watch of her and keep her away so that I won't have to do it. And I'll get Abijah to build his fence higher."

After that Belinda was on Mrs. Millett's mind most of the time. She was driven home many times a day, and never got a chance to have a good scratch.

But this thing could not go on forever. As cold weather came on, and the frost had taken most of her flowers, Mrs. Millett's vigilance began to relax, and one day Belinda came over and found a nice sunny place in a grassy banking, where she scratched and dusted to her heart's content for half an hour before she was discovered.

There she lay her feathers full of dirt and her eyes blinking sleepily, when Mrs. Millett came along and saw her.

The widow pounced upon her, but Belinda was too quick for her. Thereupon began a chase which only ended in the middle house, which Belinda had always used for a dining room and living room.

The next day there was news for the gossips. Abijah Blaisdell had lost his hen.

"You see, I was away from home all day," he said, "and I didn't get home till dark. But I'd left feed enough for Belinda's dinner and supper, so I didn't worry about her. I went out and shut the door of the third house, because I supposed she'd gone to bed, but I didn't look in, as I was in a hurry to get to my supper.

"Well, this morning I went to let her out, and she didn't come. The house was empty. The other two houses were empty, too, but in the second one there were some feathers. Now, I suppose for some reason she took a notion to sleep in the second house, and as I didn't shut that, some varmint got in and caught her. It was a fox most likely."

For a day or two Abijah was low spirited, but he was of a philosophical mind, and he decided to make the best of it, so he began to tear down the henhouses, as there was no further use for them.

It was the fourth day after Belinda's disappearance that Abijah went to do some whitewashing for Mrs. Millett. "You'd better stay to dinner," she had said, "then you can work longer," and Abijah had agreed.

The widow was up early that morning and had her dinner started betimes. Only a few minutes before Abijah came she removed the cover of a kettle which was singing on the stove and looked in anxiously.

"I expect you'd a-been as tough as a biled owl if I hadn't kept you so long," she said. "As it is, I guess you'd better hold pretty steady till noon."

Abijah worked busily and cheerfully, and as the savory smells from the kitchen came to him, his spirits rose and he whistled his favorite tunes.

When dinner was announced he dropped his brush instantly and came without delay.

He enjoyed his dinner immensely, and as he took a second helping of the central dish he said, looking across at the widow.

"I believe this is the best chicken pie I ever ate."

"I'm glad you like it," she answered, and he noticed that she blushed at his compliment.

They say that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. If this is true, that chicken pie must have been the entering wedge in the case of Abijah Blaisdell.

Be this as it may, he and the widow were married last June.—Boston Herald.

### A Dog Stops a Runaway.

A butcher boy in Chicago, four years ago, taught a Great Dane pup to sit on the seat of the delivery wagon, hold the reins in his mouth and pull back on them if the horse started while the boy was away. It was a pretty trick, and has been the pride of the butcher boy even after he got a shop of his own and had other boys to deliver for him. A few days ago, the Great Dane was trotting beside the wagon, the horse shied so violently as to throw the driver from his seat. The horse then ran away up the street, the reins dragging on the ground. The dog was puzzled for ten seconds. He looked at the boy scrambling to his feet, half dazed. He looked at the runaway horse tearing down the street. He looked at the dangling lines and he decided something was to be done. Spritting after the runaway he caught him in a block, seized the reins, which were luckily buckled, in his teeth, and settled back, an animated, scratching, bouncing anchor. The horse was not so very badly scared, after all, and the dog was a big dog to carry on the bit. The horse stopped presently, the Great Dane grunting with joy of the struggle, and the boy came up. All which shows the value of early education.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

### MORE THAN A BILLION.

EXPORT TRADE THE LARGEST IN OUR HISTORY.

The Year 1898 Beats All Previous Records in Sales Abroad of Domestic Products, While the Imports Are the Smallest Since the Year 1885.

The manner in which our national wealth is being increased as the result of an economic policy which stimulates the use of domestic products while at the same time enabling the producers of the United States to reach out after foreign markets is set forth in the figures furnished by the Treasury Department Bureau of Statistics. From these figures it is certain that the calendar year 1898 will be a record breaking year in the matter of export trade. Only twice in our history have the exports in a calendar year passed the billion dollar line; in 1898 they will be a billion and a quarter. During the eleven months of 1898 ending with November they are greater than in any full calendar year preceding, the total for the eleven months being \$1,117,681,199, and it is apparent that the December statement will bring the grand total for the year above \$1,250,000,000. The November exports were \$129,783,512, the largest in any month in the history of our commerce.

Of breadstuffs the exports for the eleven months ending with November, 1898, are the largest in our history, being \$277,136,341, against \$223,211,617 in the great exporting year of 1892; provisions are for the eleven months \$148,417,850, against \$125,297,037 in the eleven months of 1892. Cotton for the eleven months amounts to \$192,323,391, a figure slightly below that of 1896, though the total number of pounds exported by far exceeds that of the corresponding months in any preceding year, being for the eleven months 3,436,032,504, or, measured in bales, 6,722,283, a larger total in bales or pounds than that of any full calendar year preceding.

Equally gratifying is that portion of the showing which relates to the largely diminished purchase of articles of foreign production and the correspondingly increased consumption of domestic products. It is herein that the American policy becomes effective in piling up national wealth to figures so vast as to startle the financiers of Europe, who are growing more and more solicitous as to the enormous credit balances which are being accumulated by this country.

The import record of the year 1898 will be as remarkable as that relating to its exports, but for opposite reasons, the total imports for the year being less than those of any calendar year since 1885. For the month of November they were \$52,100,560 only, which was slightly less than those of November, 1897, and less, with three exceptions, than those of any November since 1885. For the eleven months ending with November they were \$579,844,153 only, while those of the corresponding months of 1897 were \$691,089,266, and those of the eleven months of 1896, \$622,598,896. It is thus apparent that the imports for the full calendar year 1898 will not exceed \$640,000,000, a sum less than that of any calendar year since 1885, and fully a hundred million dollars less than that of the calendar year 1897.

The year 1898 will naturally show the largest balance of trade in our favor ever presented in any calendar year. The figures for the eleven months show an excess of exports over imports amounting to \$537,837,046, and the December figures will bring the total excess of exports for the calendar year above the \$600,000,000 line, making an average excess of exports for the year more than \$50,000,000 a month. The highest excess of exports in any preceding calendar year was \$357,090,914 in 1897 and \$324,263,685 in 1896.

The gold imports for the eleven months ending with November are \$149,396,370. No full calendar year, save 1896, ever reached the hundred-million-dollar line, and in that year the total for the twelve months was \$104,731,259. The effect of this large importation of gold, in conjunction with the increased production from our own mines, is plainly visible in the increased circulation of that metal. The gold in circulation on December 1, 1898, was \$658,985,513, against \$544,494,748 on December 1, 1897; \$516,729,882 on December 1, 1896. The total circulation on December 1, 1898, was \$1,886,879,504, against \$1,721,084,538 on December 1, 1897; \$1,650,223,400 on December 1, 1896, and \$1,509,725,200 on July 1, 1896.

### They Have Not Changed.

Will the people of this country ever return to Democratic party policies? They will if they ever vote the Democratic party into power again. The people thought when they elected Grover Cleveland that the Democratic party had changed; that it had progressed, and a Democratic President and a Democratic Congress could be elected without bringing national ruin. A fair supposition is that Democratic leaders believe in Democratic principles, and just as often as the Democratic party is voted into power Democratic policies will prevail.—Binghamton (N. Y.) Republican.

### An Effective Combination.

President Rithois, of the London Board of Trade, notes as a fact regrettable from the English point of view, that since 1891 United States exports have increased eighteen per cent., while those of Great Britain have fallen off five per cent. Protection of industries and expansion of trade go well in combination.—Troy (N. Y.) Record.

### STRICTLY JEFFERSONIAN.

The Patron Saint of Democracy Advocated Marine Protection.

In the early days of the republic attention was directed to the building of ships to strengthen the commercial enterprise of the country. A development of shipbuilding and shipowning followed, that rapidly increased the tonnage of American shipping in foreign trade. When Thomas Jefferson was Secretary of State in the administration of President Washington, he, at the request of Congress, made during the third session of the first Congress, prepared a "report on the privileges and restrictions of the commerce of the United States," which was written after careful study of the question and when his mental powers were in their very prime. His command of the English language was such as to enable him to express himself with precision and felicity, which is a delight to study. In that memorable report, he said, in part:

"If particular nations grasp at undue shares of our commerce, and more especially if they seize on the means of the United States to convert them into a means for their own strength and withdraw them entirely from the support of those to whom they belong, defensive and protective measures become necessary on the part of the nation whose marine resources are thus invaded, or it will be disarmed of its defense; its productions will be at the mercy of the nation which has possessed itself exclusively of the means of carrying them, and its policies will be influenced by those who command its commerce. If we lose the seamen and artists whom it now employs, we lose the present means of marine defense, and time will be requisite to raise up others, when disgrace and losses shall bring home to our feelings the disgrace of having abandoned them."

It is thus clearly shown that the question of being able to build and own our own ships was not with Jefferson a purely economic one; indeed, it was essentially a national, a defensive, a military one. Those considerations were of value in Jefferson's day; they are even more so to-day, when the present commerce of the United States has become of wonderful importance and the future presents a view that is encouraging in the extreme.—Buffalo Express.

### The Explanation.

In a report to the State Department, Commercial Agent Stern, at Bamberg, predicts that the United States will soon surpass England in the value of exports of machinery to Germany.

The present year shows even a falling off in the case of England, while the imports of American machines show an increase of seventy-five per cent. over last year's figures. In 1895 the imports of the United States of these goods into Germany did not amount to the sixth part of the amount of the English imports, while to-day they are equal to sixty per cent. of the latter.

This increase is due not so much to price as to quality. An American made machine is recognized as the best the world over. The explanation is ready and simple. It is found in what the London Times calls "intelligent labor highly paid." In other words, the fruits of protection.

### It is High Time.

We are still paying \$200,000,000 a year to foreign shipowners to carry our surplus produce to foreign markets. This is because American ships and shipping have never been properly encouraged and protected. We have wonderfully developed all our industries by properly protecting them. It is high time we should develop our foreign commerce in the same way. One-half of what we pay to foreign shipowners annually for freightage would make our own merchant marine equal to England's in ten years and then we would put the \$200,000,000 into the pockets of our own people which the foreigners now get. Let Congress at once enact laws giving our commercial marine proper encouragement. Next to a bill assuring the continuance of sound money a good bill protecting our commerce should command the attention of our legislators.—Bedford (Penn.) Inquirer.



Jack—"That's an awfully big building your father is putting up over there."

Grace—"Yes, papa says they haven't room enough in the old place, the business has grown so rapidly since protection came."

### In the Hands of Foreigners.

We must own our ships. We are making ten times as much as we can carry, and there is no reason why we should give one of the most productive lines of business in which any country can engage into the hands of foreigners.—El Paso (Texas) Herald.

### Should Be Let Alone.

The Dingley bill is proving itself a revenue producer despite smaller importations and irrespective of the war tariff. The conclusion from which it is that it should be let discreetly alone.—Chicago Evening Post.

### MINES AND MINERS.

Notable Decrease of Some of Great Britain's Mines—Coal Operators Fear a Strike.

The copper mining of Great Britain is a decaying industry. The output of lead ore is also declining. Last year it was only 35,333 tons, being the smallest recorded during the last half-century. She produces only one-half the amount of lead ore she did twenty-five years ago. Although the same remark applies in the case of tin ore, while the values in both cases have decreased to one-fourth. Her output of zinc ore—19,278 tons—does not reach the average of the last quarter of a century ago, although this is the same that it was in 1896.

Coal dealers at Cincinnati say that for some time no Pittsburg coal of consequence has been received, and that the stock of Pittsburg coal is very low. This, the dealers say, is because the Pittsburg operators are accumulating a large stock on hand in anticipation of a strike after the Monday's conference between operators and representatives of the miners' unions at Pittsburg, at which they believe a disagreement inevitable.

Coal operators at Cleveland believe there will be another strike of the miners in the spring as a result of the failure of the operators and miners to agree at their meeting in Pittsburg. The shippers are getting ready for the strike. Coal in large quantities is being stored in the harbor in the harbor. It is estimated that 60,000 tons at least have been put away already and more is coming every day.

According to a dispatch from New York the seawater prices of anthracite coal have been advancing. The price on a ton there, and now range as follows: Stone, \$3.75 a ton; nut, \$3.50; chestnut, \$3.75; egg, \$3.50; grate, \$3.25; buckwheat, \$1.85 to \$1.95, and pea, \$2.00 to \$2.15. The advance has been expected for some time, in view of the demand for hard coal for domestic use and the unusual severity of the winter. The snow storm of Saturday night is expected to curtail shipments from the mines very materially, and no difficulty is anticipated in securing the new prices.

The copper deposits of Granville county, North Carolina, are attracting considerable attention, and a company composed principally of Boston and North Carolina parties, it is understood, intend developing them on a large scale. Samples of ore from the deposits, which have been analyzed show that silver and copper are both to be found. In some cases the veins contain 60 per cent. of copper. The Boston & Carolina Copper Mining Co., which has been organized to develop the deposits, it is stated, controls about 1,300 acres of land. R. W. Lassiter, of Oxford, N. C., is one of the promoters of the corporation. A number of Boston capitalists are preparing to visit the mines.

The Wellston, O., collieries are running full time and the city was never before in so prosperous condition. The miners are not contemplating any strike the first of the year and are making every effort to avoid any intermingling in the state office seekers' contest. The Warwick & Justus Coal company, of Wellsville, O., is opening two new mines. The Warwick company has also commenced work on a new mine. Other local operators have purchased extensive territories in the vicinity of West Lebanon, the new Massillon district field, and by this time next year at least 100 additional mines will be in operation in this vicinity.

The Worthington Coal & Coke Co. of Morgantown, W. Va., has purchased the Colson coal lands, comprising 500 acres, located near Enterprise, in Harrison county, W. Va.

A strong effort is made in Pennsylvania and Ohio, in connection with our negotiations with Canada, says the Boston Herald, to have Bituminous coal put upon the free list. The coal miners of Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio supply the Dominion with coal from a point slightly west of Montreal to a distance of hundreds of miles beyond Winnipeg.

A strawboard manufacturing plant at Anderson, Ind., will hereafter use soft coal instead of gas, owing to the scarcity and unreliability of that class of fuel at present.

Coal discoveries have been made at Mt. Baker, where Thomas Tyler, of New Whatcom, has been exploring in this vicinity and reports great crops of hard coal. The miner's pick will have to make way in digging of coal, to a machine. The latest developed machine cuts a block of coal twenty feet long by six feet deep in from seventeen to twenty-two minutes. The block of coal would weigh about 100,000 lbs., and would require to excavate it with a pick the labor of one man eight days.

Robert Gillham, general manager of the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf R. R., says: "There will be completed within ninety days in the coal field near Poteau, on the line of our railway, extensive new mines and five hundred coke ovens for the manufacture of coke for Mexico. The ovens will produce twenty thousand tons of coke per month, or equal to about forty carloads per day."

### THE LABOR WORLD.

The bootblacks of Louisville, Ky., have a union of eighty-five members.

The shoemakers and manicurists of London give employment to about 100,000 persons.

The wages of shoeworkers at Nashville, Tenn., have been reduced one-third during 1898.

The Central Labor Union of Terre Haute, Ind., has a library consisting of 1300 volumes.

British printers have instructed their officials to invest their surplus funds in co-operative institutions.

The Grand Trunk Railroad of Canada has agreed to recognize the Brotherhood of Telegraphers and averted a strike.

Bakers in Newark, N. J., are preparing to go on strike to enforce a ten-hour workday and compliance with New Jersey's sanitary bakery law.

The call for the tenth convention of the Bakers' and Confectioners' International Union, to be held in Chicago during the week of March 6 next, has been issued.

A general strike in the bituminous coal region of Pennsylvania is looked for on April 1, at the close of the term of the interstate agreement between the miners and the operators.

Kansas and California barbers are working for the passage of State measures providing for examinations of barbers on much the same plan as dentists are now examined and licensed.

Factory Inspector Elkhoft, of Michigan, reports the enforcement of the factory laws of that State has reduced the number of children employed in factories from 4000 in 1891 to 1900 in 1894.

The proprietors of the eight shoe factories in Marlboro, Mass., involved in the general strike of the shoe workers have begun a united attempt to conduct their establishments without the interference of the unions.

The average height of clouds is rather over a mile.