

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

Table with subscription rates: One Year \$1.50, Six Months .75, Four Months .50, Two Months .25.

Subscribers are requested to watch the date following the name on the labels of their papers.

Grover Cleveland 28 June 63 means that Grover is paid up to June 28, 1863.

Subscribers who allow themselves to fall in arrears will be called upon or notified twice, and, if payment does not follow within one month thereafter, collection will be made in the manner provided by law.

FREELAND, DECEMBER 5, 1892.

The death of Ex Governor Henry M. Hoyt at Wilkes-Barre last week took from Luzerne county a gentleman of which it could well afford to be proud.

The Philadelphia Press works itself up into hysterics at least six times a week over the thoughts of what the Democrats will or will not do after March 4, 1893.

It is interesting to note the astonishing growth of the railway mileage of the United States from 1830, when there were less than 40 miles of railway, up to 1890.

REPRESENTATIVE WILSON, of West Virginia, who presided over the convention which nominated Cleveland and Stevenson, and who recently went to New York upon the invitation of Mr. Cleveland, is one of the strongest advocates for the holding of an extra session as soon as practicable after the inauguration, and following are his reasons: "The true worth and value of a tariff bill cannot be tested in a short time, and the first effects appear to be sometimes what they really are not."

An investigation of the Reading combine has been made by a committee of congressmen, and the public may expect to have a report of their work some time before the next presidential election.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

The Value of Space. Space in a newspaper represents no more nor less than a commodity offered for sale by the publishers, they being no more nor less than merchants.

The price or cost of space in a paper is not guess work, nor simply a price fixed without reference to cost and circulation, but on the other hand it is a value ascertained by close figuring upon the expenses incident to making such space possible.

It is not approximation, but an actual and true value, allowing a fair and equitable per cent. profit upon the time and amount of money invested.

No one would think about going into a grocery store and asking the proprietor to give, without consideration, a pound of sugar. No one would even think of entering a dry goods store and ask to be given, gratis, a yard or so of muslin, or anything carried in stock by the store.

Yet people will enter a newspaper office and ask for the publication, free, of matter that costs the publisher an actual outlay of time and money.

Matter that will directly or indirectly benefit the person desiring its publication is of monetary value to that person directly or indirectly.

Many persons desire the insertion of an advertisement free on the ground that they take the paper. No more conclusive argument could be offered than the publication of the item is worth the fixed price of the publisher.

Instead of people looking upon newspapers as a gratuitous medium, they should be practical and look upon them as they are, a commodity of usefulness and value.—Columbus Despatch.

Pension Frauds Must Go. The demagogues who have for years been heaping up pensions as bribes for votes, and the rapacious claim agents who have made fortunes for themselves by working upon the cupidity of others, are naturally in arms, says the New York World, at the demand for a revision of the pension list.

Prudent statesmen of both parties and the deserving old soldiers agree, however, that something must be done, not only to check the unnatural growth of the pension list, but to cut down its enormous exactions.

The list needs to be made a roll of honor. The treasury needs to be saved from bankruptcy.

A pension roll of a million names twenty-seven years after the close of the war, is self-evidently swollen by fraud and increased by non-desert.

To tax this country \$200,000,000 a year for pensions is to impose an unjustifiable burden upon the people and to render peace more costly than war.

It is notorious that the object of the present pension commissioner and his immediate predecessor has been to swell the list at the greatest possible speed for the benefit of the Republican party. "God help the surplus!" cried Tanner. Raum's boast has been that he would grant 350,000 new pensions in a year. There can be neither honesty nor justice in such an administration of the office.

Justice alike to deserving veterans and to the taxpayers requires that the pension list be carefully scrutinized and purged of fraud and unworthiness. A commission might be appointed for each state or agency to take proof as to every name added within the past ten years. Some means must be adopted to correct an abuse of the noble sentiment of patriotism which has become intolerable.

How Hastings Ate His Crow. The Democrats of Carrolltown on Thursday night of last week painted the town red in honor of the Democratic victory at the late election. Several speeches were made, one by General D. H. Hastings, and as the general trains in the other camp, in his speech he ate his share of crow with as good grace as possible.—Ebensburg (Cambria county) Freeman.

The manufacture of wire nails has reached such perfection that the latest approved machine makes a wire nail twelve inches long and weighing half a pound.

The British colony of New Zealand, east of Australia, has conferred the ballot on women. It is in New Zealand that co-operative farming has begun to make progress.

The electric searchlight to be used in Jackson park at the Chicago fair will have an illumination of 160,000,000 candle power. The carbons in the radiator are twelve inches long.

George William Curtis created the Easy Chair department in Harper's Magazine as far back as 1853. He continued it till his death. Then the Harper's dropped the department, for the Easy Chair had become empty forever.

There are nearly a billion dollars of paper money of various kinds in circulation at present in the United States.

The very precautions you take against "catching" cold often make you more liable to it. Make friends with cool fresh air and it will not hurt you.

Eight states have taken advantage of the appropriation for a naval militia and already have a promising and tolerably well equipped force of young volunteers.

Women have talked dress reform for a dozen years past, but the first ones to really apply it are the Ann Arbor college girls. On a stormy day not long since they came out in force wearing the Jenness Miller rainy day dress. The skirt reached down half way between the knee and ankle. Long gaiters covered the shoe tops and extended to the knee. The girls declared they really enjoyed walking in the mud and rain with this rig on.

A thrilling experience that was which the men on board Professor Baker's new submarine boat encountered in their voyage under water from Detroit to Chicago. The submarine boat was towed by a tug across the lakes at the time of the late terrific storm. To keep the boat from being lost it was lowered below the action of the storm tossed waves, ten feet under water. There the men staid till the wind subsided. They would have died from suffocation, however, if they had remained constantly ten feet down, so every two hours, even when the waves were highest, it was necessary to raise them to the surface to get a whiff of fresh air. It was a thorough test not only of the endurance of the submarine boat, but also of the men.

Common Schools in the South. George W. Cables has his say in The Cosmopolitan about the education of the poor whites and blacks in the south. He tells us first that the idea of the south throughout is that that country should be governed by gentlemen. "A citizenship of and a government by gentlemen only is the perfect formula of social order and fortune" to the southerner. This is a beautiful ideal indeed, if only a country does the utmost in its power to make all its citizens gentlemen.

The first preparation for this ideal state is the education of the common people, and in this respect Mr. Cables believes the southern states to be lacking. He finds that in the south generally there is ample state provision for the education of white young men whose fathers are able to pay for their sons' schooling. There are costly select schools, colleges and universities everywhere for the few, while the children of the many are growing to manhood in blank ignorance.

The state outlay for the University of South Carolina is \$184 per student. The state outlay per pupil for the children in the public schools is \$1.84. The total value of all the public school buildings in South Carolina is less than one-quarter the value of the property of the university and military institute—the two higher schools maintained by the state.

A like condition prevails in the other states. Mr. Cables quotes the statement of the commissioner of immigration for Alabama that the lack of public schools is what prevents people from settling in Alabama.

The Universal Language. The author of the language Volapuk, Herr Schleyer, a German, is still endeavoring to bring it into general use for commercial purposes. A conference has also been proposed to fix on some tongue which can be commended to the nations for general adoption. It is a chimerical dream. There is no need of Volapuk, no need of a conference to adopt some composite language that could come into common use without hurting the susceptibilities of French, Germans, Russians, Italians or the natives of Booriboola Gha. Simply let one living language alone, and it will take the world. It is English, the language of Shakespeare, the Magna Charta and the Declaration of Independence. In the time of Shakespeare 5,000,000 spoke it. Today 100,000,000 speak it. Only one tongue is used by more people, and that is the Chinese, the speech of 300,000,000. But Chinese can never be the language of the world. It is to be English, and English only.

Zincke, a statistician, declares that in a century more there will be 1,000,000,000 English speaking persons. Matthew Arnold wrote concerning the proposition to fix arbitrarily on some language for a universal tongue, "Such a language will only be established by one language acquiring a stupendous preponderance of some kind." That preponderance English is acquiring as fast as commerce and the world's material development can advance. In the gold mines of South Africa, at the Nicaragua canal works on our American isthmus, in Japan, in India and the South Sea islands, it is all over the same, English being spread by traders and workers.

In America this language, which is the best mankind have found for practical, everyday use, is corrupted somewhat by the overflow of the languages of Europe upon us. This must be checked. The first duty of lawmaking authorities in all the states is to compel the English language to be taught in the schools—taught, too, by those who know how to use it. This is not a country of mongrels. It is a country in which the strong, rich, many English language shall be the common tongue of the people forever, a country from which this same English shall spread in all directions.

Erastus Wiman says the receipts of the transatlantic steamships would be cut down at least one-third by a cholera epidemic next summer. The whole country would be affected proportionately. Every precaution against a cholera visitation in 1893 must therefore be taken.

Speaking of the suicide of a man because he had been slandered in a newspaper, a writer remarks, "It was a deed which but marks the ending to another chapter in the damnable history of personal journalism."

"Forces that utterly subjugate and enslave the mind of mediocrity sometimes rouse to thought and action the great soul," says Ingersoll, writing about Ernest Renan in The North American Review.

If the rabbits of Australia were to be exterminated the price of felt hats would rise at once. In New South Wales in one year as many as 25,280,000 rabbit skins have been shipped to England.

Do not pin people down and tell them with the air of one who has discovered a great truth something they have known all their lives.

Somebody claims that an electric plant has been discovered in India which will influence a magnetic needle twenty feet distant.

Our Friends the Workingmen.

Two items of recent news show that workingmen are beginning to learn how to fight. A great organization, said to embrace 30,000 mechanics and laborers, has been formed in western Pennsylvania. It is called the Western Pennsylvania Industrial association. The organizers say it is formed for a political purpose, and that purpose is the election to office of only such candidates as are pledged to the interests of the workingman. They will take no account of party, but will stand simply and solely on the ground of favoring the workingman. The candidate who pledges himself to do this will secure their votes. If these men live up to their blue china, they can secure almost any measure they want. But the chances are that after passing high sounding resolutions they will drop apart and each sneak off his own way and drop into the ballot box his same old Democratic or Republican ticket.

The other significant news item is that a large number of striking workmen in a certain industry are starting a co-operative factory of their own. They will make contracts and do work and transact business just as the firms did by whom they have hitherto been employed. They cannot help making a success if they stand together, in spite of jealousies and unacquaintance with business forms. All they do not know they can learn with patience and perseverance.

Workingmen's co-operative factories have often failed, but that is no sign they are to fail forever. Workingmen have in their own hands the power to peacefully accomplish all they desire if they will use their brains.

Sharp complaint is made of how the farmers of Maine are "ground down by the heel of the greedy capitalist." In this case the greedy capitalist is the sweet corn canner of Maine. The principal agricultural industry in some parts of the state is the raising of sweet corn for the canneries, and Maine canned sweet corn has a name throughout the world. A writer on the subject tearfully begs the prosperous canners to consider the farmers a little next year, and for the love of humanity to offer a fair price to the farmers. Well, they will not do it. It is not the way of capitalists ever to cut down their own profits for the love of humanity. The only thing will be for the agriculturists, for love of themselves, to start canneries of their own on the co-operative plan. They can do it. The canneries of Maine are represented as without exception prosperous and growing more so.

Far too many of us may eat with our knives in America. We are devoured with curiosity and make no hesitation about asking even an Englishman anything we want to know about him. We talk through our noses, and say "which" when we mean "what" interrogatively. American women, God bless them! wear their diamond rings to breakfast. But no lady members of our pork and petroleum American aristocracy, so far as heard from, ever yet accused one another of stealing jewelry and had a scandalous lawsuit about it.

Charleston seems in a fair way to realize her dream of being the great American seaport of the southeast. Then the freight from the southwest will be shipped to Charleston in preference to New Orleans or New York, Charleston hopes. Improvements for deepening the harbor were begun by the national government several years ago through the Eads jetty system. A new channel has been thus washed out, fourteen feet deep in the shoalest spot.

The French campaign in Dahomey lasted two months and a half, ending with the capture of Behanzin's capital—Abomey. It contains 12,000 inhabitants and had a ditch and a hedge of thorn bushes around it. But the French got in, the fierce Dahomeyans fighting them every step of the way. Of French soldiers under Colonel Dodds in the African campaign there were 4,000.

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STRIKES IN ITALY.

Interesting Record of Labor Organizations' Growth and Power. An Italian official, Commander Bodio, director general of the statistical department, has just issued a report on the strikes in Italy from 1878 to 1891, which goes to show that in Italy the "strike" as a weapon has so far not made much impression on the organization of Italian industry. While the "strike" is an indigenous institution in England, it is an exotic in Italy. It has nowhere in that country apparently taken firm hold of the popular mind.

In the eighteen years between 1860 and 1878, according to Commander Bodio, there were only 495 strikes in all Italy, which is at the rate of only a little more than twenty-seven per annum. They gradually increased in number up to 1886. There was a falling off in 1887, and a rapid increase again from 1888 up to 1890. The largest number of strikes ever known in a year in Italy were organized in 1890, but even then they only numbered 136. Between 1878 and 1891 Commander Bodio finds that of 1,062 strikes more than half—543—were organized to secure an increase in the rate of wages, 66 to secure a diminution in the hours of labor, 110 to resist a reduction of wages, 16 to resist an increase in the hours of labor, and 291—a very large percentage—to settle disputes between the wage earners and the employers about discipline, management, modes and forms of payment, and personal questions arising out of changes proposed or desired in the organization of the different industries concerned. Strikes brought about to support and encourage strikes already existing in other industries—which make a very frequent feature in the history of English strikes—have so far been exceedingly rare in Italy. As to the result of strikes, the Italian record is not encouraging from the point of view of the wage earners. Out of 1,000 strikes Commander Bodio ascertains that 174—hardly 17 per cent.—ended by a triumph of the wage earners, 448 ended unfavorably to the wage earners, and in 379 "honors were easy," neither the wage earners getting nor the employers keeping precisely what they wanted. The industries most affected by strikes have been textile factories, mines, metallurgy and machine shops.

Geographically speaking, Lombardy and Piedmont are the chief theaters of the Italian strikes. Out of 1,030 strikes only 96 occurred in Sicily, and those almost exclusively in the mining industries of that island, many of which are carried on by foreign capitalists.

The number of wage earners taking part in the Italian strikes is increasing much more rapidly than the number of strikes. This is a noteworthy feature of the Italian situation as set forth in the report of Commander Bodio. Up to 1882 the number of wage earners out on strike never exceeded 10,000. In 1888 and 1889 it rose to 30,000 and in 1890 to 40,000. In 1891 no fewer than 21,000 wage earners went out in seventy-five strikes, of which alone out of the whole number in that year Commander Bodio is able to give full returns. The most important of these strikes of 1891 were the strike in the machine shops of Milan, which lasted two weeks and in which 2,000 wage earners went out; the strike of the weavers at Schio, in which 1,300 went out; the strike of the cigar makers at Naples, in which 2,000 wage earners went out for ten days; the strike of the female weavers at Como, in which more than 2,000 went out for a fortnight, and the strike of the tanners at Genoa, of whom 600 went out. Most of the Italian strikes have been of very brief duration.

In the whole record of Italian strikes only 126 have lasted three months out of 993, the duration of which has been precisely ascertained, while 621 ended in less than four days. One of the most important aspects of the strike system finds no place in Commander Bodio's report. Although since 1884 the system of strikes has taken on a decidedly socialistic turn in the rural districts of Italy, Commander Bodio tells us nothing about the agricultural strikes.

Still Sweating in New York. Notwithstanding the laws against the sweating system in New York and the reports of inspectors employed for the suppression of the evil, it appears from a recent investigation made by Rev. Dr. Bliss, of Boston, that the system is as bad as it ever was. Dr. Bliss made an investigation as the representative of the Antislavery League, of Boston, and in his report to that organization said:

The sweating system does exist in New York city to a most frightful extent and under most frightful conditions. The streets on which these tenements are situated are worse than any I have seen in London, Paris, Berlin or even Constantinople, and I have visited the slums of all these cities. I took up some of the clothing and found it stained and smeared with suspicious filth. I saw women working with naught on save a flimsy skirt and chemise, babies marked and pitted playing amid the clothing, pale faced women bending over the work, working only too evidently, as some of them said, from 5 o'clock in the morning until 10 or 11 o'clock at night to earn even half of a man's low pay. I am absolutely convinced that there are whole blocks and square miles practically given over to the tenement made clothing trade. I have lived in Constantinople during the visitation of the Asiatic cholera and know the conditions of the cholera visited quarters there, and I do solemnly aver that the conditions in New York city are worse. I saw seemingly fine work as well as poor made in these wretched houses.

An international congress of shoemakers will be held in Zurich, Switzerland, next year, at the time when the international labor congress meets in that city.

The result of the Carmaux (France) strike shows the power labor can exercise by securing the election of its friends to important positions.

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