

# ROYAL BAKING POWDER

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## FREELAND TRIBUNE

Established 1893.  
PUBLISHED EVERY  
MONDAY AND THURSDAY  
BY THE  
TRIBUNE PRINTING COMPANY, Limited.  
OFFICE: MAIN STREET ABOVE CENTRE.

Make all money orders, checks, etc., payable to the Tribune Printing Company, Limited.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year ..... \$1.50  
Six Months ..... .75  
Four Months ..... .50  
Two Months ..... .25  
The date which the subscription is paid to is on the address label of each paper, the change of which to a subsequent date becomes a receipt for remittance. For instance: Grover Cleveland 28 June 97 means that Grover is paid up to June 28, 1897. Keep the figures in advance of the present date. Report promptly to this office whenever paper is not received. Arrears must be paid when subscription is discontinued.

### FREELAND, FEBRUARY 25, 1897.

**It is Time to Call a Halt.**  
Instead of increasing the tax levy to meet the current county expenditures, a burden which would fall on the people generally, why not increase the valuation of coal lands to what would be a just figure? The valuation placed on coal lands is ridiculously low, compared with what it should be, and this gross injustice ought to be righted. Coal property does not bear its just and reasonable burden of taxation, and an increase of 100 per cent could be borne without doing injustice. That's the direction duty points, Messrs. Commissioners, and the plan is a safe one to follow. The people are taxed enough.

**The Newscaster strikes at the root of the trouble.** With a proper valuation placed upon coal lands, and for that matter upon all assessable property, there would be no deficiency. Instead, there is a barefaced and flagrant violation of the law practised in the commissioners' office year after year. Local assessors may return property as often as they wish at the value the law says property shall be assessed. These returns, however, do not stand. The commissioners, without authority from the state, scale the figures down to one-third and sometimes to one-fourth of the amount sent them by the assessors. The revised figures are then made the basis for the commissioners' estimates, and the tax duplicates are made out accordingly.

This system is an ingenious one, inasmuch as it prevents property holders from making any objections worth noticing. The small owners, like the big ones and the corporations, are favored, not nearly so much, of course, but sufficient to keep the great majority from complaining, fearing that the valuations of their own little homes may be raised to their true value if a noise is made.

This fear acts as a splendid check upon those who desire to enter a protest upon the system which permits unjust assessments to be practised annually in Luzerne county, and in the absence of a protest the inequality and injustice continues and grows more noticeable every year. There are coal lands in this county assessed at less than 1 per cent of their value. Not an acre in per cent of its value.

These facts are known to hundreds of people, but the proper steps are not taken to remedy the evil. The man whose home is assessed at perhaps less than 50 per cent of its worth considers himself fortunate in escaping that much of tax burden, and leaves the objecting to some one less favored. Little does he think that in a few years he pays double and treble the amount he would if all property, coal lands especially, were rated and taxed at the value placed upon them by experts.

The extra two mills which the commissioners intend levying, making a total of eight mills for county purposes, is an outrage upon common sense, and the new board, from which so much in the line of genuine and wholesale reform was expected, deserves the severest censure which the citizens of Luzerne county can inflict. The increase is unnecessary and uncalled for. If the funds are inadequate, and it should not be surprising to find them so, the remedy lies in having the assessment books revised by intelligent men and taxing all property at its true value, as the law intends should be done. Any other method places a stigma upon the board which honest men will not tolerate.

The proposed issue of \$90,000 worth of 4 per cent bonds by the commissioners smacks so much of the ridiculous that comment must be reserved until it learned positively whether Luzerne is governed by a set of corporation slaves or by men.

### WASHINGTON LETTER.

Washington, February 23, 1897.  
Notwithstanding Senator Kyle's assertion that he did not get the Republican votes which re-elected him by making promises, the Republicans in Washington are now counting upon his voting with them to obtain control of the senate organization and to fill committee vacancies that will exist March 4. This confidence of the Republicans is not based upon any vague expectation or hope; they do not say Senator Kyle will vote with us, but that Senator Kyle will vote with us. In voting with the Republicans in this particular case, should his vote settle the question, Senator Kyle will betray the principles he professed ever since he entered the senate. As most people know, the senate finance committee, as at present made up, is controlled by silver, although seven of its thirteen members, including the chairman, are Republicans. There will be two vacancies in this committee on March 4. Senator Sherman will enter the cabinet and Senator Voorhees will retire to private life. The Republican leaders consider it necessary, as this is the committee that will handle the new tariff bill, that both of these vacancies should be filled by men who can be counted upon to support the new tariff bill and to oppose any silver legislation that may be prepared; and they are saying that Senator Kyle, whose advocacy of silver and of free trade is widely known, will vote with them. If he does, what will be the natural inference?

Representative McKee, of Arkansas, who was one of the Democratic members of the coinage committee who voted for the favorable report, with amendments, of the senate bill authorizing the president to appoint delegates for any international monetary conference, called by any nation or by himself, took occasion to briefly state the attitude of the Democrats toward the bill. He said the Democrats had no faith whatever in such a method of bringing about the free coinage of silver, but that they had no desire to place any obstacle in the way of the Republicans trying to carry out the promise made by their national platform; on the contrary, that they were anxious for the next administration to demonstrate to the country what could be done along that line.

The civil service commission has made answer to senator Allen's resolution, adopted by the senate last week, as to the alleged dismissal of two women from a branch of the agricultural department, at South Omaha, Nebraska, for displaying pictures of Mr. Bryan in the late campaign. The answer says the commission investigated the complaint when first made and that Secretary Morton denied that the discharges were made for the cause specified, or that he knew the politics of those discharged. The most significant portion of the answer, especially to those in office who regard themselves as being protected by the civil service commission, is the following: "The commission is not an appointing, or reinstating, or removing body."

Representative Walker, of Massachusetts, couldn't upset the Reed rules, but he could and did express himself very vigorously on the subject, saying in part: "Under the rules of this house, we get mighty few rights. When you go to see about a bill, you are referred to a sub-committee, and then you may cool your heels there day after day before you can get so much as one member of the sub-committee to hear you. And when you do, he tells you he knows all about it, and intimates that you are boring him. Then when he reports against you and you try to appeal to the full committee, you get no satisfaction." He called this "a system of tyranny," and added much more to the same effect.

It is unfortunate in more senses than one that there should be an investigation at this time into an act of the administration by which the step-father of the president will be largely benefited. And everybody sincerely wishes that the senate committee on public lands will find everything straight about the Florida land patent for 23,000 acres, which was recently issued to Mr. Perrine, the husband of Mrs. Cleveland's mother, and which the committee is now investigating. Ex-Congressman Brookshire, of Indiana, is counsel for the settlers on this land, who claim that the grant was forfeited many years ago.

Hon. W. J. Bryan will visit Washington this week, but he will not probably stay until inauguration day. He will be the guest of John R. McLean, who will give a dinner to about 100 guests in his honor. This dinner will not be a political event, as the guests will include a number of personal friends of Mr. Bryan in all parties. But during Mr. Bryan's stay there will be a conference, perhaps several, to discuss the immediate future of the Democratic party.

Senator Daniel, of Virginia, is one of the best electioneers in the senate; consequently Washington's farwell address, which, in accordance with the usual resolution, was read immediately after the senate convened, in honor of Washington's birthday, was much better rendered than usual, and was listened to by an unusually large number of senators, in addition to the crowded galleries.

The Wear Well's celebrated One-Piece Shoe is a great seller. Nothing is sold in this town like it for \$2. For railroad work and shop wear it is unequalled.

**Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.**

### FLOATING IN THE AIR.

New Aeroplanes Designed for the Imperial Russian Navy.

By Its Means the Movements of Hostile Warships Can Be Seen from Air-Booyed up by Aluminium Cylinders.

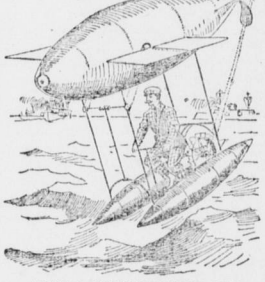
The aerial observation car, an ingenious device which has just been perfected by Paul Skobloff, a Russian naval expert, is destined to be of great service in marine warfare, as by its application the officers of one fleet can be apprized of the enemy's movements by signals from the clouds, while the enemy will be ignorant of being watched.

This invention is to some extent a modification and a vast improvement upon the war balloon, yet it bears so little resemblance to the usually conceived idea of that machine that the observer might well be pardoned for mistaking it for anything except an airship. It is, in fact, a combination of all the practicable features of air craft constructed during the last quarter of a century, and, in addition, has a number of entirely new and novel features which give it a success heretofore unattained by any invention for aerial navigation.

With this car, says the New York Herald, the maneuvers of hostile ships can be observed long before they come within the range of vision of anyone aboard ship, and high among the clouds the rider of this novel machine signals his fellows by means of colored flags just what the enemy is doing.

Stationed at Vladivostok, that lonely Russian naval station on the east shore of Siberia, M. Skobloff has during the last few years had ample time and opportunity to arrange and perfect his plans for a successful trip among the clouds. As a result of his thought and labor he has just completed the aerial observation car, and after having successfully tried a working model, a large one is now being constructed at Vladivostok, and it will in the early spring be placed in actual service on one of the Russian war ships of the Pacific squadron.

This peculiar contrivance, which enables the officers of a ship to learn



AERIAL OBSERVATION CAR.

the plans and movements of the enemy miles away, consists of three large cylinders, two of equal size and one larger one, all of aluminium. The two small cylinders are cigar-shaped, and are held in place side by side and suspended from the larger cylinder, which is about 13 feet long and eight feet in diameter at the front, while the stern is somewhat smaller.

Projecting from each side of this main cylinder are two sheets of aluminium, which might be termed wings. They are seven feet long and three feet in width. At the stern of the cylinder there is fixed a large but light fan wheel or propeller, which, when in motion, acts in the air exactly as a ship's propeller does in the water, forcing the car onward through space.

Extending downward are four light but strong steel rods, to which are attached the two smaller cylinders, parallel with each other, but sufficiently far apart to allow for the working of the machinery of the car between them.

When it is known that an enemy's ship is in the vicinity, the services of the aerial observation car are called into requisition. The cylinders are partially filled with gas, which is carried for that purpose in a large storage tank on board the ship. The car is then lowered over the ship's side into the water, and the rider takes his seat upon the machine. The filling of the cylinders is then completed and the airship rises from the water like a huge sea bird.

High up in the air the rider has an unobstructed view over miles of water. No bullets can reach him, and with a powerful glass he can at his leisure locate the hostile ship or ships and by the signal code give the information to his own ship's officers, who are watching him through their marine glasses.

When it is desired to return to the ship the turning of a lever beneath the handle bar of the machine opens a set of valves in each of the three cylinders and allows as much or as little of the gas to escape as the rider may desire. Instead of sinking directly down now, as would an ordinary balloon when the gas is allowed to escape, this aerial car descends in a diagonal direction, being enabled to do so by the wings, aided by the propeller and wheel.

As not all the gas is exhausted from the cylinders, the car rides lightly over the top of the waves; at the same time the rider is clear of the water and in no danger of a wetting. The lead-balloon cylinders maintain the machine in proper position, and the demonstrations by models have proved that quite rapid progress can be made with this car.

To Use the Revised Bible.  
A movement is again on foot among a section of the clergy and laity of England to have the revised version of the Bible used in churches.

### SIR REDVERS BULLER.

New Chief of the Anglo-Egyptian Army in the Soudan.

Sir Redvers Henry Buller, the army man who is to replace Sir Horatio Herbert Kitchener at the head of the British forces in Egypt, is his predecessor's senior by 11 years. Sir Herbert, who is a "mere youth of 47," as the London cable has it, is an able soldier, but not enough of the old fox to make the home government feel safe in his administration of the military expedition against the Mahdists in the Soudan. If an old soldier is needed in Egypt, why, then, Sir Redvers is the very man for the place, for he has been in the army since the age of 19 years. He was then a commissioned officer of the Thirtieth rifles and won his way upward by dogged determination, hard service and distin-



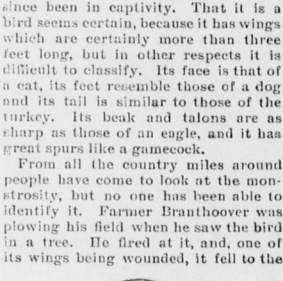
GEN. SIR REDVERS BULLER.

guished bravery. He won the Victoria cross for his gallant conduct at the retreat of Imbhabene during the war in Zululand. On that occasion he rescued a brother officer who was, while returning on foot, hotly pursued by the Zulus. On the same day he conveyed to a place of safety Lieut. Everitt, whose horse had been killed under him. He also saved the life of a trooper whose horse was exhausted and who otherwise had been killed by the savages. The Zulus were within 50 yards of the soldier when Lieut. Buller came up and rescued him. Since those early days Buller has been a prominent figure in the fights of the English against the savages whose territory has been invaded by the British. In the Egyptian war of 1882 he was present at the action of Kassassin, and likewise at Tel-el-Kebir. In the Soudan expedition of 1884 Sir Redvers took a leading part, and he served under Lord Wolseley in the expedition of 1885 into the very territory he now goes to as commander.

As a general, it is the opinion of experts that, with the exception of Wolseley and Roberts, Buller stands head and shoulders over any general in the British army.

**QUEEREST OF BIRDS.**  
It has the Face of a Cat, Tail of a Turkey and Feet of a Dog.  
The queerest freak of nature ever seen in that section of the country, and what is said to be the queerest bird ever discovered, flew into a tree on Jesse Brantthoover's farm, six miles from Apollo, Pa., several days ago and has since been in captivity. That it is a bird seems certain, because it has wings which are certainly more than three feet long, but in other respects it is difficult to classify. Its face is that of a cat, its feet resemble those of a dog and its tail is similar to those of the turkey. Its beak and talons are as sharp as those of an eagle, and it has great spurs like a gamecock.

From all the country miles around people have come to look at the monstrosity, but no one has been able to identify it. Farmer Brantthoover was plowing his field when he saw the bird in a tree. He fired at it, and one of its wings being wounded, it fell to the



A FREAK OF NATURE.

ground. Then the farmer attempted to pick it up, but a fight which lasted for half an hour ensued, and the sharp beak and talons inflicted wounds the scars of which Brantthoover still carries. At last the farmer's son Ned came to the rescue, and together they succeeded in capturing the queer bird, which has since been confined in the granary.

Many attempts were made to photograph the thing before the effort was successful. The bird would fly into a cage and jump around, as it always does upon the approach of a human being.

The bird measures 13 inches from the top of its head to the tip of its body. The wings are three feet ten inches long and the legs only two inches long. It grants and barks like a dog.

**Russian Female Criminals.**  
Russia's penal statistics just published at St. Petersburg show that in the dominions of the czar the women criminals outnumber the men by nearly 50 per cent.—just the contrary being the case in other countries. Most of the women criminals are unmarried, and the majority come from the laboring classes in the cities. The time of life when the Russian woman is most exempt from crime is between her eighteenth and twentieth years.

**Hard on Furniture Workers.**  
Improved machinery in the manufacture of furniture has displaced from 50 to 75 per cent. of the persons formerly required.

### NEWS OF THE WEEK.

**Thursday, Feb. 18.**  
Senator Wolcott left Berlin for London, returning from his mission abroad in the interest of bimetalism.

Chicago tanneries locked out about 2,000 men pending the settlement of a dispute about wages and hours.

A cable dispatch from Caracas states that President Crespo in his message to congress will advocate the ratification of the Anglo-Venezuelan treaty.

The crew of the British ship Troop, from Honolulu, charged the captain and two mates with gross cruelty. One sailor, they said, took his life to escape them.

The extensive wooden and paper plate factory at Beaver Falls, N. Y., has been burned to the ground, together with nearly all of the contents. It employed 400 men. The loss is \$30,000.

Miss Elizabeth Brown and Hon. Archibald Majorbanks of England were married in Nashville. The bride is a member of one of the most prominent families in Tennessee, and the groom is a brother of Lady Aberdeen.

**Friday, Feb. 19.**  
Bills to grant women the right of suffrage were defeated in Massachusetts and Oklahoma territory.

John Burns, the Socialist member, made a bitter attack on William Waldorf Astor in the British house of commons.

Near Winona, S. D., six members of the family of Thomas Spicer, a Methodist circuit rider, were murdered. It is supposed by drunken Indians.

The Spanish government has promised to release Julio Sanguily, an American citizen who has been imprisoned for more than two years in Cuba.

The New York Parcel Dispatch company's bill was put through the New York state assembly secretly, but the leaders, it is said, have decided to have it reconsidered.

**Saturday, Feb. 20.**  
W. Wallace, an Oxford professor, was killed by a fall from his bicycle.

The police have made several arrests in Havana for an alleged plot of anarchists.

A Boston girl of 18 years confessed to setting fire to her home for the sake of excitement.

Baron von Oeyen committed suicide at Detroit after a career of adventure and misfortune.

A woman named Hewitt became insane on religion at South Seville, N. J., and disappeared from her home.

Frederick Bilson, an carman, was saved from the Passaic falls, in Paterson, N. J., by a human life line.

In addition to large sales of steel rails to English corporations the Carnegie company has received an order for 11,000 tons from the Japanese government.

Princeton, N. J., is laughing over a story that three truckmen who assisted in moving President Cleveland's effects to his new home, in Bayard avenue there, drank 19 bottles of his choice wine and betrayed themselves by unseemly merriment.

**Monday, Feb. 22.**  
Emperor Francis Joseph has consented to be crowned king of Bohemia.

A whale was killed off Amagansett on Long Island after a desperate fight, in which one man was hurt.

Senator Wolcott was told in Berlin that the action of England was necessary to the calling of another international monetary conference.

It is said in Berlin that Bob Kneeb, the horseman, will be prosecuted on another charge in Germany when his present sentence is served out.

The New York state canal board asks the legislature to appropriate the remaining \$5,000,000 of the \$9,000,000 voted by the people for canal improvement.

There is trouble with the Papago Indians in Arizona. Their chief, Pablo, has been killed while trying to escape from prison, and his followers are on the warpath.

The new home of President Cleveland in Princeton is almost ready for his occupancy. Crowds are visiting it every day, but nobody is allowed to pass the portals. Mrs. Cleveland is expected there this week.

**Tuesday, Feb. 23.**  
Floods in the Ohio river and its tributaries caused great damage to property.

Harry Fitch was sentenced to ten days' imprisonment in the Jersey City jail in an effort to break him of the cigarette habit.

The charter for Greater New York and supplementary bills for necessary legislation were presented in both houses of the legislature in Albany.

A daring band of robbers under the leadership of a woman named Mamie Carter was arrested at Louisville. The gang robbed freight cars.

Twelve-year-old Florence Hart dashed into her father's burning house in Kilmepoint, N. Y., and carried her baby brother to safety while her terrified parents looked on.

# Hon. W. J. Bryan's Book

ALL who are interested in furthering the sale of Hon. W. J. Bryan's new book should correspond immediately with the publishers. The work will contain

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- His biography, written by his wife . . .
- His most important speeches . . . .
- The results of the campaign of 1896.
- A review of the political situation . .

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Mr. Bryan has announced his intention of devoting one-half of all royalties to furthering the cause of bimetalism. There are already indications of an enormous sale. Address

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## Patents Granted.

Reported by C. A. Snow & Co., Washington, D. C.  
W. J. Devers, Scranton, weather-strip.  
H. W. Morgan, Carbondale, silk spinning and twisting machine.  
E. Sherwood, Honesdale, cardener.

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