

### BICYCLE ON THE FARM

#### WHEEL COMES INTO GENERAL USE IN THE COUNTRY.

Found to Be a Great Convenience for Short Excursions or Trips to Town After the Day's Work Is Done and Before Bedtime.

We are not prophesying but directing attention to simple facts and to changed conditions. The bicycle is on the farm. As you stand by the door of one farmhouse, at the close of a summer day, you see one and another young man go whizzing past on his wheel. They are called by the name of the older men use the office or the store. They are not there to find a job, but to return some borrowed tool, to inquire about some meadow grass that he wants to mow. There are many such neighbors around that can be done promptly on the bicycle; besides the horse is tired from the day's work. The change for the man or boy makes the bicycle coasting or sprinting a recreation—far more so than taking out the horse or horse for a buggy ride would be.

The bicycle for the rural districts is a blessing socially. The young ladies use it; the teacher rides to her school; parties of young men and women go out for a moonlight ride. The sociability and social intercourse in the neighborhood is greatly increased for the reason already indicated, that the boys and girls find it play to go off on the wheel, whereas it used to be a chore to go to school and drive, even if the farmer were willing the team should be used. Most farmers are thoughtful and considerate of their horses. Even though the animals might not have worked during the day they often want to rest them a full day off and complete rest.

In many of the families the bicycle is used to go to school. There is not always room enough in the family buggy for all. There are in every neighborhood some who thus go to the weekly prayer meeting, to the lodge, and any social gathering that may be planned. The bicycle is thus a promoter of what is best in the social life of rural districts.

For some years the bicycle was a kind of city or village "fad." Young people were crazy over it, going out to make their "centuries" on a holiday and coming home utterly worn out and perhaps their health impaired for months if not for life. The country boys and girls are more sensible and are restrained by their circumstances from such a "fad." The bicycle is an eminently practical and useful vehicle.

Our personal observations in Western New York opened our eyes to the fact that the wheel is not by any means confined to the prairie or comparatively level roads. Young men and women come down the long hills with an abandon and an evident sense of enjoyment that proved that there was something exciting and out-of-the-common in the use of the bicycle on these roads which made it more truly recreation than in the other conditions.

How has it come about that the wheel is now to be found in every country neighborhood when at first it was a city luxury? It is easy to answer this question. First of all the bicycle is much cheaper. A good wheel can be had as low as \$25 or \$30 and one of a high class for \$40 to \$50. Formerly prices were from \$75 to \$150. The writer several years ago paid \$150 each for bicycles for two of his boys when they were college students. Mark the difference in price with all the different reasons why wheels begin to be seen in so many out-of-the-way country places is that the people there are learning of their advantages and that they can really afford to have them. Wheels have gone down to as low a price as they are likely to reach. Every economy has been sought in their manufacture, every possible invention, not only for their improvement as a vehicle, but in facilitating and cheapening their manufacture.

To summarize: It is good economy; it is healthful recreation; it promotes social life; it is a constant convenience; and to those who have used them, even including men and women well along in years, bicycles are felt to be a necessity.—Farm, Field and Fireside.

#### PROFANITY COMFORTED HIM

An Exile Who Died Happy Hearing Oaths.

For myself, I know of the case of a young Japanese who came to Chicago shortly after the fair and who was straddled there. There was something wrong with him. He could not get any kind of an understanding of the language. The Japanese colony being limited to one person, and that person himself, he naturally got homesick and pined. They took him to a hospital and he grew worse. Nothing in particular the matter with him—just homesickness. He would look up with wide, searching eyes at all who came to call in his ward, and he listened apparently for some familiar word, but nobody could talk Japanese, so he had no means of communication with the world. Perhaps you cannot appreciate this poor fellow's position. Just imagine yourself in Fes or Madagascar, homesick and dying for the sound of one English word, and never hearing anything but a subdued jabber in an utterly unknown tongue. It was the way with this Japanese.

One day a man who had driven a canal boat in the East and after that had piloted a delivery team in Chicago, and in some other and tributary ways had laid the foundation for a thorough grasp upon the language of violence, was brought into the hospital suffering from a broken leg. The injured leg was getting along fairly well, and the interest in passing the cot in some unaccountable way slipped, and to catch his footing, reached toward the bed and seized the man's foot, which was trussed toward the ceiling with ropes. The contact and the wrench must have hurt the patient. Anyway, he said so. He said so with great force and volume. He pointed that hospital purple, green, yellow and vermilion. His remarks were copious

### WOMEN AS BEASTS OF BURDEN.

In One Section of Canada They Are Harnessed to the Plow. Like the squaw of the American Indian, on whom her lord and master lays the task of taking the place of a beast of burden, the women of a colony of Russian settlers, who came to Canada a little over three years ago and located on the bleak prairies of the great Canadian northwest, are slaves of the most mental kind. Not only do they take the places of horses in plowing, but they also perform other heavy work that in most sections is reserved for lower animals and "men do the lighter work."

Plowing both spring and fall is done by "bees." The head of the family issues a call for a plow bee at his household on a certain day. The women gather in large numbers. They are huson-looking women and ready to

work. They arrive early at the morning, and are at first placed at a table and fed. The food is coarse, but substantial. At the conclusion of the meal preparations for the field are begun. The party is divided into three reliefs. To the team of the plow is attached a long rope, into which are tied stout sticks equal in half the number of women in each relief. As draught animals the women go to their places, dividing on either side of the rope, and the day's work is begun.

The owner of the land, holding the handles of the plow, gives a grunt. The women bend forward to the yoke, the plowshare enters the ground, and at a rapid rate the first furrow is turned over. For four hours each relief works. As fast as returned the women are privileged to go home. During working hours not a word is spoken. The women are as dumb as the animals they represent.

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Prof. F. B. Woodward, of Columbia University, in a recent paper shows reasons for thinking that the earth's atmosphere extends to a height varying from the distance from the equator to the equator he estimates the height to be 20,000 miles, which diminishes to only 17,000 miles at the poles. But of course, beyond a few hundred miles above the ground, the density of the atmosphere becomes so slight that its effects are imperceptible.

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### MECHANICAL CURIOSITIES.

The Le Dros family, of Neuchâtel, in Switzerland, were famous makers of mechanical curiosities. One of these was a clock, presented to the King of Spain, having a sheep and dog attached to it. The sheep would bark in exact imitation of a real sheep, while the dog was placed in custody of a basket of

fruit. If any one removed the fruit, he would growl, gnash his teeth, and endeavor to bite, until it was restored. Another was an old gold snuff box, about four and one-half inches long by three inches broad, and one inch and one-half thick. It was double, as though one box were placed on top of another, with a lid for each. The top lid was hinged, and as soon as the lid was opened, there rose up a very small bird of green enameled gold, sitting upon a gold stand. Immediately this minute curiosity shook its wings, wagged its tail, opened its bill of white enameled gold, and poured forth, minute as it was, being only three-quarters of an inch from the beak to the extremity of the tail, such a clear, melodious song as would have filled a room of twenty or thirty feet square with its harmony.

The Slanang. The gentle slanang is a gibbon and no monkey, says a writer in Blackwood's Magazine. In assemblies on the treetops live the slanang, whooping through the oaks, calling to their friends from miles away, and swooping off to meet them, racing steepchase with the winds. I have seen, and hope to live and see again, a pack of the slanang going through the jungle—a long black arm and a small crumpled body swinging wildly from like a pendulum run mad, then a suicidal crash in the covering green, and so they are gone. Tame they are the gentlest of creatures. The Malays catch the young ones and bring them to our doors, knowing that buy we must. It is not among the possibilities

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### THE CZAR WENT A-BOARDING.

A Bit of Unwritten History About Nicholas II. During the reign of Czar Nicholas II. a palace revolution took place that is not in history. It was not a military revolution, neither did it begin with the subordinates, but from the highest authority. The throne was not shaken, but the imperial kitchen was.

The czarina sat in her lodgings in the winter palace and was bored for lack of occupation. An idea occurred to her. She would audit the household books. In going through the wine list she came across "One bottle of rum for the czar" (after Alexander II.). She was surprised, she turned a few leaves back and found a bottle of rum charged for every day of his life since his birth. Books of the days long past were brought out and that bottle of rum was still in evidence away back in the last century. There she found an entry: "For toothache; ordered by the court physician."

It appears that because Alexander I. a crown prince, had to take a toothful of rum to warm an aching tooth, his successor was to be charged with a bottle of rum every day. The czarina told of her discovery to her lord and master, but Nicholas II. ordered all the household books to be brought to him and he figured and made notes during the whole night. Next morning the atmosphere was oppressive in the winter palace. The czar remarked to his consort: "It is worse than I imagined. My table costs millions more on paper than in reality. I am going to burn it, and from that day the imperial kitchen ceased to exist. The table was therefore provided by a hotelkeeper.—Chicago Tribune.

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### HER "SECOND SIGHT."

She Locates a Dead Body in the Bottom of the Illinois River—Claims that, in a Vision, She Saw the Woman Drown.

When the sullen waters of the Illinois River gave up their dead in the person of Mrs. Lucy Sommers some time ago there was not only cleared up one of the deepest mysteries that has ever occurred in Peoria, but at the same time there was evidence established corroboratory of a most extraordinary case of second sight.

One night early in January, Mrs. Lucy Sommers, who is visiting her sister, Mrs. R. H. Craig at 822 Fayette street in Peoria, suddenly disappeared. She had been ill and suffering at times from

slight attacks of dementia, though it was not supposed that they were of a serious nature. But on the night mentioned she arose from her bed, and announcing to her mother, who was watching with her, that she was going to get a drink she left the room and was never after seen alive. When she did not return her mother gave the alarm and the inmates of the house turned out to hunt for her, supposing, of course, that in a fit of temporary aberration she had wandered to the house of one of the neighbors. But the most diligent inquiry failed to reveal her whereabouts and then the family became genuinely alarmed. A search-

ing party was organized and they set out to find her. The ground was not frozen and they soon came upon foot-prints in the mud and going from the house.

These were followed as far as they could be in the darkness, when by the party returned home to await the coming of day before renewing the search. When the morning broke, however, the earth was frozen hard and the trail abandoned the night before was hard to follow. New parties were added, and a reward offered for the discovery of the woman dead or alive. The country was scoured for miles in either direction, but always without result.

Finally they fancied they had discovered the broken trail, but these fragmentary discoveries led to nothing tangible. At last, in despair, the relatives invoked the aid of bloodhounds. The trail they followed was a devious and winding one, running from the Craig home on Fayette street, north by northwest to Glen Oak Park, thence in a westerly direction to Bradley Park, outside the city's limits and on its western border. Here the trail grew faint and it was only with difficulty that it was continued to the Easton farm, where it was lost, and the dogs stopped, never after did they get any further.

At this juncture Little Grace Holmes appeared on the scene. She is a child about ten years old and especially bright for her age. Her parents are uneducated people and not in the best of circumstances. She declared that while lying in her bed at home more than a mile from the Craig home she had seen the unfortunate woman come out of the house, climb over the fence and make her way stealthily to the river, where she had plunged into the opening left by the ice when the day before.

This statement was borne out by the parents, who asserted that she had told the story identically as reported on coming downstairs in the morning, and that this was long before she could possibly have had an opportunity of learning facts in the case from any source whatsoever. The child was questioned closely, but she stuck to her story with a persistence that began to disarm suspicion. She described the garments worn by Mrs. Sommers at the time of her departure, and to the surprise of her listeners her description proved to be entirely correct.

At length in response to her earnest solicitations she was allowed to go out and point out the resting place of the woman she insisted was in the river. She started from the house accompanied by her father and others and followed the streets she claimed to have seen Mrs. Sommers follow until she came to the foot of Spring street.

From there she pointed out the exact spot at which Mrs. Sommers had gone down. She said that she walked calmly into the water and went down, down, until finally she disappeared altogether. The next night she saw the body again. It rose slowly from the bottom of the river, being caught in an eddy, and after whirling around several times moved away slowly down the stream, sometimes floating and sometimes rolling along

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### FRUIT HOW BECAME IT.

Some Mistaken and Popular Notions Clarified. The vermiform appendix, inflammation of which constitutes appendicitis, is a curious little offshoot from the large intestine near the point where it is joined by the small intestine. It is a hollow tube about as thick as a lead pencil from tip to tip, and is from one to two inches in length, which communicates with the cavity of the large intestine, but is closed at its free extremity. Nobody knows definitely what its use is, and many think it has no use at all.

It is a popular belief that inflammation of the appendix is often caused by the lodgment in it of a grape seed or some similar little body, but as a matter of fact this very seldom occurs, and no one need deprive himself of a delicious and nourishing fruit from any such fear.

There are probably very few persons of middle age who have not had appendicitis, but fortunately few do not know it. It is only when the inflammation becomes severe, and involves the parts about the appendix, that violent symptoms appear, and this occurs in only a small proportion of cases. The disease is more frequent with the young than with the middle-aged or old.

In mild cases the only symptom is a slight dull or colicky pain in or near the right groin. When the inflammation is more severe, or extends to the neighboring parts, the symptoms become more pronounced. There is a sharp pain in the abdomen, signs of dyspepsia—loss of appetite, nausea or vomiting and bowels disturbed, are present, and there is often slight fever.

In the most serious cases a sudden, violent pain occurs, there is a marked fever, and the patient is depressed and presents all the signs of being very ill. If the treatment of appendicitis is one of the points upon which doctors disagree. Some believe that in nearly every case a cure will follow rest in bed, a milk diet, cold applications to the abdomen, and sedative remedies. Others say that an operation is necessary in every instance, and that this should be performed the instant a diagnosis of appendicitis is made, before serious symptoms appear.

The proper course, here as elsewhere, is doubtless the middle one, for in many cases an operation is absolutely necessary to save life, while in others recovery will take place without subjecting the patient to this serious risk. In any case a sufferer from appendicitis should be under the constant care of his physician.—Youth's Companion.

### ENGINEERED OUT OF TOWN.

How West Virginia Liquor Men Got the Best of the Prohibitionists.

"I reckon we've got the oldest town in our State that there is in the United States," said a West Virginia man. "Ever since the first day of the year the class of Culloden died by the post Campbell, I mean Culloden, Va. Well, sir, about half the population of the town doesn't live in the town and can't vote in the town, although they are right in the town."

"I'll explain. The good people, and they are in the majority, too, are down on saloons and liquor in any shape. They got up a temperance meeting and purposed to drive the liquor men out of the town. When you find a West Virginian who believes in liquor you find a man who is ready to fight for it. The liquor people got together and for some days got the confidence of the town engineers. I don't know what was a liquor man or not, but they got him on their side. The engineer discovered that the town was not laid out right, and he got authority to change the metes and bounds. When he finished the job the temperance people found out that they were on the wrong side of the line of the town's metes and bounds. A man could stand in his back yard and talk to the man whose place was right up against his place and who was a voter, but the first man had lost his vote.

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