NEEDS OF ISLANDS

Delegate From Philippines to Tell Congress.

GOLD STANDARD IS FIRST

Great Injury to Business Caused by Fluctuations—Reduce Duties and Amend Land Laws—Commission Should Have Larger Power.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Brewster Cameron, formerly a resident of Washington, but for several years past engaged in business enterprises which have taken him to foreign countries, is in Washington. For the last two years he has been engaged in business in Manila. At the solicitation of the men controlling the large business interests of the Philippine Archipelago, Mr. Cameron has journeyed to Washington to lay certain matters before members of Congress which, in the opinion of Mr. Cameron and his associates, demand immediate Congressional action. Representing the allied Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines, as he does, Mr. Cameron is in reality a commercial delegate to Washington from that section of American soil, and at this particular crisis in the industrial affairs of the Philippines his mission is looked upon as of far greater import than if it was of a political nature. When asked what the people of the Philippines wanted from the home Government, Mr. Cameron said:

"To insure the permanent welfare of the Philippines it is necessary, first, that there should be an absolutely stable currency; second, that there should be some further reduction of the Dingley tariff; third, that the Philippine Congressional act should be amended in certain important particulars.

"First of all, we need a stable currency. The Mexican dollar, which is now the unit of value, fluctuates in price every day. The Philippine government has already directly lost over $1,000,000 in gold by the fluctuations of the Mexican dollar. In addition to this, the indirect losses to the government are variously estimated at from $100,000 to $250,000. And these losses, large as they are, are small in comparison with the losses that have been sustained by the business and commercial interests, through the fluctuations of the Mexican dollar.

Business Is a Gamble.

"When the government changed the ratio from $2 in silver for $1 in gold to the ratio of $2 10 and later to the ratio of $2 27, Mexican, to $1 in gold, the merchants suffered great losses on goods previously sold to the Philippine government, to be paid for in Mexican silver at the official ratio at the time of the delivery of the goods from America. These large and continued losses to our merchants compelled them to increase their silver prices to the government and to private customers beyond all reasonable profits, in anticipation of the probable further depreciation of silver, so that all business of the archipelago, excepting only the transactions that can be completed on the very day, must now be done on a gambling basis.

"The result is that no goods are now being imported, other than those necessary to fill orders already secured. The conservative business houses that formerly carried large stocks of goods have been letting them run lower and lower. Prices have been advancing accordingly, under the inevitable law of supply and demand. A stable currency is the only relief from this deplorable condition of affairs, which is already being misconstrued by the natives as a conspiracy among the merchants to increase the cost to the poor of the necessaries of life.

"As a concrete example of innumerable individual losses, a prominent lumberman and contractor in Manila took a contract to build a hospital for a price stipulated in Mexican silver, to be paid upon the completion of the work. During the time necessarily occupied in the construction of the building the depreciation of Mexican silver was so great that he lost $22,000, Mexican, from that cause alone.

Need Gold Standard.

"The facts in this case, which is not an extreme one, fairly illustrate the perils from a fluctuating currency which beset every business in the Philippines today. We need the gold standard, and there seems to us no reason why we should not have it. What possible advantage can come to the people of the United States through exposing the business interests of the Philippines to the perils and losses incident to the present sytem of currency?

"It is variously estimated that the losses to the business and commercial interests of the islands through the fluctuation of silver have been from $5,000,000 to $10,000,000. But this is not the only, nor, perhaps, the greatest, damage that will result to the people of the islands from the depreciation of silver. The poor natives in the provinces who are engaged in agricultural pursuits, the people upon whose contentment and prosperity the welfare of the islands depends, are unable to reconcile the benevolent purposes of our Government, as proclaimed by Governor Taft throughout the islands, with a financial policy that has depreciated the value of their money, the Mexican dollar, and thereby depriving them of a large part of the rewards of their toil. They argue that even the Spanish government did not thus depreciate the earnings of their labor, but maintained a fairly stable currency.

"Every consideration of trade and commerce, political expediency and National honor demands that Congress should give a stable currency to the Philippines. The fact that this can be done without risk or responsibility to the United States aggravates the injustice of denying this blessing to the Filipino people.

Reduce the Duties.

"The second need of the Philippines is a large reduction in the import duties collected upon Philippine products brought into the United States. This reduction is not asked for on the ground that the islands are an American possession, but on the higher plea of humanity and mercy. This appeal is now made to Congress because millions of Filipinos have recently been visited with one of the greatest afflictions that has ever befallen any agricultural people. The catastrophe which overwhelmed Martinique, while infinitely tragic, is small in comparison with the miseries which will result from the rinderpest plague to the poor natives who live by agricultural labor if Congress shall deny this prayer of the Filipino people.

"For the relief of the Martinique sufferers the American Congress generously voted the munificent sum of $200,000, and this was supplemented by princely gifts from the people of the United States. Surely these same people will not now begrudge the small amount of tariff duties they are asked to forego on Philippine products as a help to the Filipinos to put them on their feet once more.

"Owing to the disasters which have befallen the islands in the form of plague and impending famine there should be granted immediately a reduction of at least 75 per cent of the Dingley tariff. During the next four years the Philippine planters can grow but little, so that the utmost production during that time could not materially affect any article grown in the United States. The chief gain to the islands in the immediate reduction of the Dingley tariff now would be in the encouragement it would give to our planters to make whatever sacrifices might be necessary to restock their plantations, thus providing labor for thousands of suffering people, who within the past year have been thrown out of work on the plantations, by the wholesale destruction of the carabao, the Philippine ox, through the rinderpest plague. Unless this reduction to 25 per cent of the Dingley tariff is made now, those who are most familiar with the present deplorable agricultural conditions in the Philippines apprehend great distress, if not actual famine.

"While we do not ask Congress to admit the productions of the Philippine Islands into free competition with the productions of the United States, we cannot see that any possible injury could result to the farmers of the United States through permitting the free entry into this country of such Philippine products as the United States, the Hawaiian Islands and Porto Rico do not all together produce the full amount the people of the States consume. To encourage the agricultural development of the Philippines, the tariff should be immediately removed from all American machinery imported into the islands for those purposes. It is an unfortunate fact that the Philippine tariff on all American products cannot be removed at this time. It is maintained solely because the Philippine government cannot exist without it. We regret its necessity, if possible, even more than do the American exporters. We are eagerly looking forward to the time when it can be repealed. That time can be immeasurably hastened by Congress, through the amendment of certain laws which I shall specify.

Amend Philippine Law.

"The third need of the islands is the immediate repeal of certain provisions of the Philippine act, which have operated to prevent the rehabilitation of the agricultural interests. We believe that Congress will amend that act as soon as the fact is made plain that the planters and landowners are laboring under serious disadvantages because of this severe restriction.

"It is estimated that 95 per cent of the Filipinos who live by labor are engaged or employed in agricultural pursuits. Whatever laws, therefore, affect agriculture, favorably or otherwise, affect the very existence of practically the whole of the Filipino people.

"The trouble and the remedy can be stated in a few words. Not only have the landowners and the laborers been impoverished by the existing laws, but they have met with a ten-fold greater calamity through the rinderpest plague, which has destroyed 90 per cent of the carabaos, or water buffalo, which is to the Filipino farmer what the ox, the mule and the horse together are to the American farmer. The appalling consequences of these laws can hardly be appreciated by a non-resident of the islands. It is easy, however, to give numerous instances which confirm what I say, as for example, a Filipino business house in the city of Manila owns several plantations. On one of these plantations they have for years employed 20,000 Filipino laborers. The plantation produced, among other things, 200,000 piculs of sugar annually. A picul is 137 pounds. This plantation has 12,000 carabaos, male and female, of which all but 50 have died during the past year of the rinderpest plague. It is not difficult to measure the losses resulting from the plague when its ravages on a single plantation threw 20,000 people out of employment.

Larger Land-Holdings Needed.

"Prior to the passage of the Philippine act the owners of this plantation could have mortgaged it (it contains 20,000 acres) to a corporation and the money required to restock it with carabaos could have been obtained, but as the Philippine act limits the holdings of any corporation to 2500 acres, it is now impossible for the owners to do so. Carabaos are worth about $75 in gold, owing to the great demand for them. This makes each animal worth from three to five acres of land, according to the fertility and location of the land. During Spanish times carabaos on this plantation were worth only about $10 in gold.

"Under the most favorable circumstances, with laws encouraging the development of agriculture, it will require approximately five years to fully revive the agricultural industry. Under the present law, which has paralyzed every agricultural interest in the islands, the development of the Philippines will be indefinitely delayed.

"The present law, as I have stated, limits the ownership of land by corporations to 2500 acres. It is known to every one who has made a superficial study of the business that a 2500-acre plantation will not furnish sufficient cane to economically operate a modern sugar plant. Under the operations of this unfortunate law men who are rich in lands but without money have been unable to get corporate interests to equip their plantations with modern sugar plants. Thus it will be seen that this law, which was enacted by Congress for the benevolent purpose of protecting the Filipino people against the selfish exploitation of promoters, has been the unfortunate cause of bringing the laborers who have been employed for years in the sugar fields to the verge of starvation.

"It has not only prevented the legitimate development of the islands, such as the reclamation of virgin lands which would have given additional employment to laborers, but it has by its severe restrictions made it impossible for the Filipino who suffers some great loss, such as the death of his carabaos, to pledge more than 2500 acres, no matter how large his plantation may be, as security to any corporation that will lend him the money to buy a new equipment. Thus the owner of every plantation which suffers a serious loss must see his land revert to a tropical wilderness unless he has a bank account sufficiently large to repair the loss, whether it be in animals or equipment.

Natives Suffer Effects.

"The first evil effects of this law fell on native labor, whom it was designed to help; the next to suffer were the planters, who were chiefly Filipinos; and finally, by reason of preventing the reclamation and development of lands suitable for growing sugar, it greatly retarded the general trade and commerce of the islands. Thus the law was a misfortune to all.

"This act of Congress limiting the holdings of corporations in the Philippines to 2500 acres was doubtless intended to prevent corporate bodies from acquiring title to large tracts of public lands for speculative purposes. It is vital to the welfare of all the people of the islands that no corporation or individual should be permitted to purchase and hold unimproved a large tract of land, but this result can be even better achieved by a law that will not retard the agricultural development of the islands.

"For example, the law might provide that a corporation applying for title to a tract of public land in excess of 2500 acres should be required, first, to satisfy the Philippine Commission that the additional acreage was absolutely necessary to the purposes of its business. Second, to reclaim and plant, say one-fifth of such additional area each year until the entire tract had been brought under cultivation. Third, to bring the whole tract under cultivation before final title passes from the Government. This would not only prevent any speculation in public lands to the injury of future generations, but it would give immediate employment to labor by encouraging the development of the country, so vital at this time to the prosperity, happiness and peace of the people.

Islands Need No Tariff.

"A time will surely come when the American people will want the customs tariff removed from all American products going into the Philippines. The income derived from that tariff is now necessary to support the Philippine Government. It will continue to be necessary as long as the present restrictive laws make it impossible for the business men of the islands to create new sources of wealth for taxation. If Congress will so amend these restrictive laws that it may be possible to develop the agricultural and industrial wealth of the islands, we shall soon be able to defray all the expenses of the Philippine government from an income derived from internal taxation. Then the Philippine tariff can be removed from American products, then the foreign merchants who now purchase their goods in Europe will buy them in the United States.

"I come here at this time because the people whom I have the honor to represent believe that the business men of the United States can see far enough ahead to appreciate the importance of furthering our present efforts, and give us the legislation we now require. In doing this the people of the United States will assist themselves eventually to a large market for goods of American manufacture.

"Many thoughtful people in the Philippines believe it to be to the highest welfare of the Filipino people that the internal affairs of the archipelago should be controlled absolutely by the Philippine Commission.

Enlarge Commission's Power.

"We yield to none in our admiration for the American Congress or its individual members, whose long and illustrious services have given our National Congress an envied place among the legislative bodies of the world; but we nevertheless believe that the Philippine Commission, being on the ground and having acquired more or less intimate knowledge of the Asiatic temperament and character, and having a thorough knowledge of local conditions and needs, and being composed of able, honest and patriotic men, can legislate more effectively for the Filipino people in all matters affecting their internal affairs than a legislative body 10,000 miles away, though it be composed of the best and wisest of men.

"The success of our Government in the Philippines will depend upon the ability of the commission to gain and retain the full confidence and co-operation of the Filipino people—a most difficult thing to do. This being the case, the commission should be clothed with the broadest powers, so as to be able to do promptly whatever the welfare of the Filipinos demands. If deemed advisable, Congress might provide, as a safeguard, that the vote of the commission should be unanimous whenever it exercised extraordinary powers. This would necessarily require the assent of the three Filipino members of the commission.

"There can be no doubt but that it would add immensely to the usefulness of the commission if it were given supreme power to enact with a free hand all legislation affecting local matters, subject, of course, to the power which lies in the President and in Congress to suspend and annul. One year ago matters had not perhaps sufficiently advanced to have justified Congress in giving this power to the commission, but since then the insurrection has been crushed and a civil government has been established throughout the archipelago. The commission has meantime greatly increased its hold upon the affection of the Filipinos, and the confidence of all the people. By its unswerving devotion to high ideals of duty the commission has won the implicit confidence of even those who from the first insisted that a civil government was doomed to failure because it had been instituted too soon.

Taft Has Won Confidence.

"When Governor Taft was stricken down with illness and left the islands, a little more than a year ago, this feeling of possible failure was so strong that many believed he would never return; but while he was absent, under the genial and able administration of Vice-Governor Wright the benevolent policy of Governor Taft had time to develop itself to the satisfaction of all the people of the Philippines. The ovation tendered him on his return to Manila has not been surpassed in four centuries of Philippine history. Such a demonstration might be expected in honor of some victorious conqueror returning to a chivalric people, but history furnishes no record of any such ovation to a Civil Governor appointed by a foreign power to rule an alien people.

"Governor Taft, as stated, has won the confidence of the Filipinos by toleration of their weaknesses, patience with their vices, forgiveness for their offenses; by innumerable proofs of his affection and his sincere desire to help them to better things; by his confident belief that the Filipinos were a capable people, who, if patiently taught the art of wise self government, would be able ultimately to govern themselves. The Governor has also won the confidence of Americans and Europeans. Every business man in the islands, rich or poor, has equal opportunities before the departments, equal rights before the law. It is impossible with justice to single out any particular branch of the Philippine government for favorable mention where so many deserve high praise. The truth is that Governor Taft's claim to public gratitude does not rest on a few notable achievements. The history of his whole administration is the record of a great work faithfully done."

TO BEAUTIFY NEW YORK

Art Society Seeks to Unify Business and Commercial Interests.

New York Times.

The Municipal Art Society held a conference at the rooms of the Merchants' Association, of New York, the other afternoon. The purpose of the conference was to consider ways and means for unifying the business and commercial interests of New York, and to have a scheme evolved which will so beautify the city as to bring out of the present chaotic condition of the five boroughs a harmonious whole. Another object of the conference was to call forth plans and specifications which may have been projected by the various organizations represented at some time in the past.

It was discovered that the American Society of Civil Engineers commenced the consideration of the subject 40 years ago, and had drawn certain plans which sought to better the street transportation business and other facilities found in a great city. The Architectural League and the National Scripture Society had also devoted much attention to schemes for beautifying the city.

The discussion established that before any scheme for beautifying Greater New York can be successfully carried out the structural and transportation changes must first be determined. It will be necessary to open new avenues from the entrances to the new bridges, as well as to the proposed tunnels. Better transportation facilities must be furnished. Many avenues now existing must be widened and new streets made. All of these will necessitate numerous changes. They will not all be confined to the Borough of Manhattan. Manhattan will form the central part of the whole plan, the alterations, changes and improvements in the other boroughs being subordinated to that one idea.

The conference adjourned for a week, and it is expected that the final result will be the compilation of such plans as may already exist and the formation of a new one commensurate with the needs of the situation.

Uncle Sam Wants to Pay a Debt.

New York American.

George W. Edgcomb, a Civil War veteran living in Cortland, N. Y., has just received a notification from the Auditor of the War Department that the United States Government owes him a bill of $2 72, which has been running since 1865, and which it is proposed to pay.

Mr. Edgcomb enlisted at the outbreak of the war as a musician in Company H, Twenty-third New York Infantry, and after serving his enlistment re-enlisted as a private and artificer in the Fifteenth New York Engineers, serving until he was mustered out of the service, June 25, 1865.

At the time when he was mustered out the Government failed to pay him 60 cents that was due for wages, and $2 52 that was due upon his clothing allowance account, making a total of $3 12 in credits against the Government. It appears that when he drew his first pay for service he was overpaid to the amount of 40 cents, leaving a balance due him of $2 72, which he has been notified will soon be paid.

M'LEOD WINS THE PURSE

BUT ONLY BECAUSE JENKINS IS DISABLED.

Championship at Catch-as-Catch-Can Wrestling Changes Hands Only Through McLeod's Callousness.

WORCESTER, Mass., Dec. 25.—Dan McLeod won the championship of catch-as-can-can wrestling and the $1500 end of a $2000 purse in Mechanics' Hall, before 1100 people this afternoon, by getting the better of Tom Jenkins. Jenkins had a bad leg caused by blood poisoning, and the pain caused by the points of a brass buckle entering the foot, made him quit in the third bout.

In order to protect the injured part, Jenkins had a leather bandage with a steel strap down the front of the shin, fastened with brass buckles. Two of these were broken in the early part of the match, and the brass points dug into his flesh until the pain was unbearable, and he was afraid of further blood poisoning. He had wrestled 20 minutes in the third bout, when he told McLeod the condition he was in, and said he was willing to quit and call the match a draw or go on wrestling. McLeod insisted on continuing, but Jenkins's manager refused to let the big fellow go on, and forfeited the match.

Jenkins won the first fall by a three-quarters Nelson in 59 minutes, and McLeod got the second in 24 minutes on a crotch and half-Nelson hold. The match was fast from the start, McLeod being on the aggressive almost all the time.

NONES GIVES GOOD SPORT.

Only Favorite Among the Winners at San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25.—Eight thousand people witnessed excellent racing at Ingleside. The weather was good and the track in fine condition. Several of the finishes were of the order that arouses the enthusiasm of the spectators. The feature of the programme was the Christmas handicap, at a mile and a quarter, value of $3390. Seven clever performers went to the post, with Nones favorite, at 3 to 1. The heavily played Articulate set the pace, but the fast clip and heavy impost told on him, and he tired, as did Corrigan, who raced with him. Nones was in a good position among the first division, and when Minder called on him he did not have much trouble in passing the leaders. He won in a gallop from Bessie McCarthy and Siddons, both of whom closed fast. Articulate and Corigan were next in line. Nones was played very heavily by P. Ryan and his friends. He was the only favorite to score during the afternoon. The results:

Seven furlongs, selling—Galanthus won, Handpress second, Platonius third; time, 1:30.

Six furlongs, selling—Matt Hogan won, Jarretierre d'Or second, Jim Hale third; time, 1:15¼.

Futurity course, selling—Little Margaret won, Orfeo second, Onyx II third; time, 1:13¼.

Christmas handicap, 1¼ miles, $2500 added—Nones won, Bessie McCarthy second, Siddons third; time, 2:07¾.

Seven furlongs, handicap—Arabo won, Durazzo second, Gaviota third; time, 1:29.

One mile, selling—Bill Massie won, Sweet Tooth second, Iliowaho third; time, 1:42.

Races at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 25.—Crescent City race results:

Six furlongs—Wealth won, Jane Holly second, Epidemic third; time, 1:14.

One mile, selling—Scotch Plaid won, Andes second, O'Hagan third; time, 142 4-5.

Seven furlongs, handicap—John Peters won, W. J. DeBoe second, Antonius, third; time, 1:28 1-5.

One mile, Christmas handicap—Mechesney won, Old Hutch second, Federal third; time, 17:41 1-5.

Five furlongs—Imp. L'Etrienne won, Ben Moran second, Agnes Mack third; time, 1:01.

Mile and a quarter—Cogswell won, Adelante second, Gin Spray third; time, 2:10.

Commissions on California Races

Accepted, Portland Club Cafe, 130 Fifth street. Direct from the tracks.

HIGH SALARY FOR JOCKEY.

Will Receive $35,000 a Year for Riding in Europe.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Jockey Winnie O'Connor is the latest American to arrange to go abroad and try his fortune on the foreign tracks, says the American. O'Connor has just closed a deal through August Belmont to ride abroad for the next three years for Baron de Rothschild and M. Debloch, of Paris. O'Connor will take the place of Milton Henry, whose license was suspended by the French Jockey Club last October. For his services O'Connor will receive $25,000 a year for first call from Baron Rothschild, and M. Debloch is to give him $10,000 a year for second call. This will make O'Connor's salary in all $35,000 a year.

The contract begins on March 1, 1903, and runs to March 1, 1906. O'Connor is to ride at 110 pounds.

CROAK STAYS TEN ROUNDS.

Ike Hayes Fails to Knock Him Out and Loses Match.

BUTTE, Mont., Dec. 25.—A special to the Miner from Havre, Mont., says: Ike Hayes, of Butte, the heavy-weight champion of Montana, failed to knock out Eddie Croak, of Iowa, in a 10-round contest at Montana Concert Hall this afternoon, and Croak was awarded the fight. Croak knocked Hayes down in the second round with a clean, hard left to the jaw, and played for Hayes' wind and had the colored man's nose bleeding profusely. In the tenth round Hayes went after his man and had Croak going, who took the count three times to save himself.

SHARKEY AFTER JEFFRIES.

Issues Challenge to Champion or Munroe, His Butte Opponent.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—As a sequel to the recent defeat of Champion Jeffries by Jack Munro at Butte, Mont., Tom Sharkey has declared his intention of re-entering the prize ring, and has issued a challenge to Jeffries or Munroe for any sort of a bout for a side bet of from $1000 to $5000. If either of them is inclined to accept, Sharkey will post a forfeit to clinch the match.

Fight 21-Round Bout at Sumpter.

BAKER CITY, Or., Dec. 25.—Ed Cuff, of Spokane, and Joe Cotter (colored), of Denver, fought a 21-round bout at Sumpter this afternoon. The battle was a fierce one, and Cuff is said to have had the better of it, when he fouled Cotter in the 21st round, and the contest was awarded to the negro. A large crowd of local sports saw the fight.

Killed Himself for Family's Sake.

New York Sun.

Eighteen-year-old John Winfield Baldwin, a student in the Horace Mann school, shot himself dead at his home in the apartment-house at 533 West 124th street Tuesday evening, after writing a note in which he said that he was going to get out of the way so his mother and sister could have more money.

The boy was the son of Arthur Pond Baldwin, who says he is a student of psychology at Columbia University. The family, which included a daughter, Daisy, moved from Brooklyn several months ago so that the boy could prepare for Columbia.

John was a sort of electrical genius, but had recently decided to study medicine. His relatives say that besides being brilliant in his studies he was also a very good chess player and spent much of his time at that game.

The boy pawned his watch Tuesday morning and bought a revolver. Then he wrote a note to his mother. In it he said he knew he was a drain on his father's resources and that if he was dead his sister and mother would have more money.

When he shot himself Dr. George A. Leech, who was a surgeon on both sides in the South African war, was summoned. He extracted the bullet which the boy had sent into his brain, but the lad died before an ambulance came.

AGRICULTURE IN ENGLAND

Plowing by Steam—Big Horses and Heavy Tools—Staple Crops.

Farm Journal.

England's chief agricultural products are wheat, barley, rye, oats, beans, peas, potatoes, turnips, clover and rape. All grain is called corn in England, and corn is called maize. Maize does not flourish there, as the Summer heat is not sufficiently intense nor lasting enough to mature the crop. Great quantities of maize are annually imported for stock feeding, principally from America.

Grain is sowed in drills, weeds cut down, the earth loosened and cultivated as here. On large farms plows drawn by traction engines are common. A large portion of the fields are thoroughly underdrained. The wheat yield averages from 35 to 40 bushels to the acre. The wheat grown in England falls far short of its demand.

Grain in Old England is up above the ground while the soil of New England is still frozen, yet their harvest is no earlier than ours. Haying time there comes as here, the first of July, and harvest the middle of August.

The beans which are raised in England, ground and fed to stock, are the yellowish-brown bean, the color and shape of a marrowfat pea. White beans for table use, a la Boston, are not raised. Neither are pumpkins to any great extent, either for feeding stock or for "pie timber." Squash, mostly of the Summer variety, figures there quite conspicuously under the name of vegetable marrow.

Cabbages are grown, of course, but are not nearly so popular a vegetable as in Germany or as with us, even. Although tomatoes are far less eaten there than here or in Italy, where they are served with almost every dish, yet their culture and use are largely on the increase in England, where the plants require a hot-bed in the Spring.

Rape, or cole-seed, is very extensively grown for its herbage and its oil. Rape oil is used for machinery and for lamps. Out of the mass of seeds from which the oil has been crushed—rape cake is made for feeding cattle. Rape is said to be the most desirable plant in existence for sheep grazing. It has been asserted that mature sheep will fatten upon it in 60 days without an atom of grain, and that an acre of rape upon fertile ground will fatten 15 sheep.

While agriculture is studied and carried even to the point of overcultivation in England fruit culture, meanwhile, is not neglected. The climate is not naturally very well adapted to the growth of fruit, which requires a dryer atmosphere and a longer continued heat than English skies afford.

Since English Summer heat and sunshine, unaided by stone and brick, are not sufficiently powerful to ripen standard fruits, they are cultivated against house or fence walls, peaches most frequently against flued walls and in hothouses, especially in the north of England. But, with the exception of grapes, the flavor of both wall and hothouse fruit is flat and insipid as compared to our fruit, particularly the fruit grown in the lake counties of Western New York.

Raspberries, red, yellow, black and white, are largely cultivated. Currants are generally trained against walls, and, to retard their ripening, for table use, against north walls.

Gooseberries are more extensively cultivated in England, particularly in Lancashire, than in any other part of the world. They are set out in good garden soil and given just enough shade. The bushes are very cautiously pruned of choking shoots, with plenty of the young wood, which yields the largest berries, left on them.

English farm horses are exceedingly heavy, as they need to be to haul those English farm wagons, the only reason for whose ponderosity is British hatred of change. "Any old thing" goes.

"Keep to the left" is the English rule of the road. Perhaps it is more convenient than our rule, as it allows the driver of the approaching vehicle to pass on the side upon which the driver sits.

BRAY ALBERTUS.

Heart-to-Heart Talks Talked at East Senora.

New York Sun.

William Morris wrote a book and made a Chair. His life is in both. I looked thru the book, and sat my body, which Walt Whitman would have loved, in his chair, and I know all about him. Said Tinky Pete—how goes it now, Tinky, with your primeval red undershirt?—when he say me mount the rostrum of the Oshkosh Masonic Temple: This is the Man.

I had never seen Tinky before, but he is one of the Chosen, and he saw the marks of the Chair on my pants seat. A great Soul knows a great soul, and he is a fool who doesn't recognize it.

Yes, dearie, it is easy. Love me and you'll be it, too. For Love is greater than Art, but both can be made to pay if you advertise. The very wisest man is a Fool, and the Fool is the very wisest man. Mike Angelo—but what is the use of telling you about that early bird when your heart yearns to hear of me?

No Love can be bound by an oath, and no law is sacred to me. Loyalty is bosh, and honor a periwinkle. Isn't that clever, dearie; and shocking? I love to shock Old Maids; it makes them think me something Awful.

Yes, I'm clever, dearie. I discovered Venice and Morris and the Art of Everything. I can chew you Emerson and Dante, via a crib, and spew them out for you in little chunks. Isn't that a bold style for you? I don't care a phig for the conventions. I'll say dam, and damphool, too.

Be yourself. Nature is Dirt, and Purity is Artificial. I was a clown and the world laughed at me. The imbecile world scoffs at the Reformer and laughs at the Savior; it laughed at me—savvy? I made faces and called people naughty names and so I was amusing and phine. Genius is every man's estimation of the Self within him. Soon, dearie, I 'fraid I bored 'em.

But I can pose.

And spout Socialism and water the Poets. And I can always talk about Me. I love Art, and free passes and dove, and to talk thru my very stylish hat. Do you understand this, dearie. Well it doesn't matter much; I like it, and it pays.

BRAY ALBERTUS.

His Hands Divining Rods.

Denver News.

Henry Zachary, a Texas plowboy, 15 years old, who has been visiting in Pueblo for the last week, is possessed of a magic power in his hands, by which he can locate minerals, water or oil at a great depth with a certainty never before known. While holding the plow in one of his father's fields he felt a peculiar tingling sensation in his hands, which, as often as he returned to that part of the lot, was repeated, and at one spot with such force that he cried out to his father. The elder Zachary ridiculed the boy, and told him to go on with his work. But so surely was the strange tingling repeated that well diggers were put at work and came upon a good depth of excellent water. Since then young Zachary has done little plowing. From every part of Caldwell County, where the family lived, came constant calls for the services of the boy from people who were anxious for a sure thing in well sinking. Not once did he fail.

RIGHT IN HIS LINE.

President Pnoodles Pertinently Points Out Necessity for Reform.

Chicago Tribune.

The president of the Neighborhood Improvement Association had dropped in at a meeting of the Political Purity League and had taken a back seat, hoping, perhaps, to escape the notice of the chairman, but the hope was destined to disappointment. He was discovered and compelled to take a seat on the platform.

"Don't ask me to make a speech," he pleaded, in a whisper, as he was dragged down the aisle by the chairman. "I haven't the ghost of an idea in my head tonight."

"That will be all right," he was assured. "Just a word if you feel like it, and if you don't feel like it, you needn't say anything."

But after a speech or two had been made, and the hunger of the audience for oratory found to be apparently unappeased, the presiding officer arose and said:

"We have with us this evening, fortunately—providentially, I may almost say—a gentleman of whom you have all heard. His work as the president of an organization kindred in some respects to ours is familiar to all of you. Neighborhood reform—material reform—goes hand in hand with political reform. The one complements and supplements the other. We need a basis of material reform—neighborhood reform—on which to build the superstructure of political reform. We are fortunate indeed in this opportunity of listening to one who is working with such magnificent success in a field of labor, which, as I may say, adjoins ours, and we shall treasure his advice, which he knows so well how to give. Gentlemen of the league, I have great pleasure in introducing President Pnoodles, of the Neighborhood Improvement Association, who will now address you."

Amid the loud clapping of hands, Mr. Pnoodles arose, with a ghastly smile on his face.

"Mr. President," he said, "and gentlemen of the Political Purity League, not having prepared myself to make a speech this evening, and not being expected to be called upon to—to make a speech; in fact, I find myself—er—unprepared. Your president, in fact, almost promised me I should not be called upon to say anything. But"—here he brought his hands together in front of him, finger to finger, in the shape of a pointed arch, and assumed a severe expression of countenance—"as your president has well said, your organization"—accent on the gan—"and the one of which I have the honor to be the president, are kindred organizations. Perhaps I cannot do better than to point out some of the lines along which we are working."

The speaker took a drink of water and proceeded:

"What we want, Mr. President and gentlemen, is reform. I say reform. We are working along the lines of reform in the Neighborhood Improvement Association. We meet together and we—we work along those lines, as I said before. In working along those lines we have to take into consideration what we want to do. That is the first thing. Now, what do we want? We want reform, as I said before, and I may say, for your encouragement, that in working along these lines we work together, gentlemen. We work together. You can't accomplish anything along—along these lines unless you work together. That is the first thing. We have got to have unity, gentlemen, unity of purpose, unity of action, unity of—or whatever we have got to do along these lines. I say we have got to have unity. What is reform? What is political purity? It is something we have got to have, gentlemen. Take the old fable of the bundle of sticks. That shows what can be accomplished, gentlemen, when you work together. And I want to say right here that nothing is ever accomplished in this world along the lines of real reform unless we work together. If we try to work separately what do we accomplish? Nothing. Absolutely nothing."

Vigorous applause at this point enabled the speaker to collect himself for the next onslaught.

"And so I say, gentlemen," he proceeded, with increasing emphasis, "that it should be an encouragement to us when we find ourselves animated by the same spirit and working along the lines of reform, as I said before, whether it be in neighborhood matters or in purifying the politics of this great country of ours, cemented together, gentlemen, by the blood of our Revolutionary forefathers.

"Now, gentlemen, I did not expect to address you when I came in, as I said before, and as there are several eloquent gentlemen to follow me I will yield the floor, but before I take my seat I want to leave this thought with you, that whatever we do along the lines of improvement or purifying the politics of this magnificent country of ours, we cannot fail, gentlemen, we cannot come short of success in each and every effort along these lines if we work together. I thank you gentlemen."

And the applause of the audience was loud, prolonged and enthusiastic.

CHRISTMAS PIANOS

How Eilers Piano House Delivered Eighty-two Pianos for Christmas.

Many accounts of the phenomenal trade that has been handled by Portland's live retail stores have been published from time to time, and a glimpse of the manner in which the enormous trade of Eilers Piano House was handled will be of interest.

That even their superb facilities were taxed to their limit need not be mentioned.

Tuesday, the 23d, will go on record on the books of Eilers Piano House as the banner day of the year.

Twenty-seven sales of pianos and five organs were recorded on the books of the Portland store. Mr. G. A. Heidinger, the popular manager of the Spokane store, telephoned his record as fourteen sales for the day, while the San Francisco store telegraphed that nineteen pianos and four organs were sold there on that day.

No institution in the United States can show a record equal to this.

No homes in Portland could have been quite so cheery and happy as those where Eilers Piano House Christmas sale had induced Santa Claus to provide a fine piano. From early morning till late at night a large force of delivery teams was on the jump taking out pianos.

Many of them had been selected and set aside by provident fathers weeks and months ago.

Every piano was delivered on time. Every piano, too, was delivered in perfect order. Never did piano-movers and delivery men do better work. Altogether something like eighty-two Christmas deliveries were made.

LOW PRICES CONTINUED.

The special low prices that have prevailed during the big Christmas sale will be continued during the week. A large number of the choicest and most costly instruments remain to choose from. Start the new year right. Provide the home with a fine new piano. Pay $25 down and $10 a month if you like. Eilers Piano House, 351 Washington street.

MISS POTTER'S PLAN.

The Bishop's Niece Interested in a Social Halls East Side Project.

New York Herald.

At the New York State Conference of Religion a few days ago, during a talk on saloons, Miss Virginia Potter, niece of Bishop Potter, spoke of the East Side "social halls" plan now under way, in which she is interested.

"Our halls," she said, "are to be in no sense a substitute for the saloon, but should they prove to be a counter attraction we shall be greatly pleased.

"This work is not a charitable or philanthropic scheme, but purely a business one. The idea is to provide places where the working people may have pleasures and recreations corresponding to those that people of leisure find in their clubs and places of amusement. And we are assured by those who have investigated the financial possibilities of our scheme that the halls will not only be self-sustaining, but will pay 4 per cent interest on the money invested.

"Contracts are being let today for one of these halls.

"It is to be located in Clinton street, near Grand, in the most congested district in the city. It will be a building of five stories, 50x100 feet in size, and is to be completed by July 1, next."

Miss Potter said there would be a billiard hall and bowling alley in the basement. On the first floor will be a restaurant for women, in front, and one in the rear for men, in which they may smoke. The floor above will be given up to a hall, with a seating capacity of 500. The seats in this hall will be moveable, to permit dancing. The next floor will contain lodgerooms, and above them will be a roof garden.

"We are perfectly sure we shall have a liquor license," Miss Potter added, "but whether we shall sell anything stronger than beer will depend on the people of the neighborhood. We have no plans to impose on them. We wish them to determine what they want."

Home for Masons' Orphans.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 25.—Announcement was made today that William L. Elkins, of this city, will found a home in this city for orphan girls, daughters of Free Masons of Pennsylvania, that will cost $500,000. Mr. Elkins gave his second Christmas dinner to the residents of the Masonic Home today, and announced the Christmas gift to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The grand officers of the lodge accepted the gift.

Cromer has seven men and seven women whose united ages total 1199, an average of a little under 86 each.

Christmas cards bearing the season's greetings in Gaelic are now being sold in Dublin.

ARE YOU SICK?

ST. LOUIS Medical and Surgical Dispensary

Longest Established. Most Successful and Reliable Specialist in Diseases of Men, as Medical Licenses, Diplomas and Newspaper Records Show.

You should consider thoroughly the skill, experience, reliability, etc., of a doctor or specialist before entrusting to him your health, the perfect and lasting recovery of which means so much to your future life and happiness.

You should consider the QUICK-CURE ILLUSION and FREE-CURE FALLACY as an intelligent man would consider a business proposition. You do not want to be mutilated and maimed for life by trying to be cured of varicocele and kindred troubles in a few days by surgical procedures.

Every man who is afflicted owes it to himself and his posterity to get cured safely and positively, without leaving any blight or weakness in his system. The many years of our successful practice in Portland prove that our methods of treatment are certain and not experimental.

Call at my office, and if I find that you cannot be cured, will NOT accept your money UNDER AND CONDITIONS; but if, on examination, we find you are curable, we will guarantee a

Safe and Positive Cure

In as short a time as the nature and extent of the disease will permit without injurious after effects. My charges will be as low as possible for conscientious, skillful and successful services. Consult us before consenting to any surgical operation upon important blood vessels.

Premature decline signalizes the presence of one or more weaknesses of the vital system, which are due to the inheritance of one of the following

DISEASES

Varicocele
Weakness
Blood Poison
Rupture and
Kidney Diseases
Etc., Etc.

And all reflex complications and associate diseases and affections.

I will save you the suffering associated with Nervous Debility, Weakness, Premature Decline, Loss of Memory, Energy and Ambition, Nervousness, Pimples, Palpitation of the Heart, Shortness of Breath, Apprehension of Calamity, etc. We will make your memory good.

Call at our offices or write a full description of your case. Hundreds have been cured at home.

Our special home treatment will cure you as it has others.