THE REPORTER

By WHITE & WILLIAMS.

D. G. GRAHAM, - Associate Editor.

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And now it is announced that the world's fair diplomas will probably not be ready until next February. It is comforting to reflect that as the memory of the fair is immortal the diplomas will at all events be delivered before the fair has passed out of human recollection.

According to the report read at the Grand Army encampment the American flag now waves over 30,000 school houses in the United States, and the sentiment which placed it there is warmly applauded by the veterans who marched and fought under its folds thirty years ago.

The decision of Judge Neely holding Mayor McCarthy of Lemont to the grand jury is gratifying to the Citizens Association of Lemont, all who favor decency, and especially to the Rev. J. F. Clancy, who is proving himself to be one of the bravest men whoever undertook to reform a desperate and dangerous community. The recent attempt on Mr. Clancy's life does not deter him in the least from industriously prosecuting the good work in which he takes such a prominent part.

A sister of President Cleveland, living near Rochester, N. Y., has informed a reporter that her brother will not accept a third term, and that "he is opposed to to the third idea altogether." Perhaps he was when she saw him last, and he may have changed his mind since then. At the time of his first election in 1884 he said he was opposed to the second term idea. But he modified his views in the course of time, ran for a second term and failed to get it in 1888, to his great disappointment. It is safe to assume that if Mr. Cleveland can get a third term he will take it joyfully, and if he thinks he can get it if nominated he will not refuse a nomination.

The new style of arguments for political meetings being promulgated by certain republicans in Chicago, has much to recommend it, says the News. Before this new school of oratory was introduced when municipal statesmen got together and their limited supply of logic gave out they were too often prone to resort to the contemptible practice of besmirching each others character and record. Now nothing of this kind occurs. An eye may be gouged out or an ear eaten off but the new method of debate leaves no time for such miserable meanness as throwing mud on a ward heeler's reputation. How, in the face of this, people can complain that the world is deteriorating or that political methods are being debased rather than lowered is certainly incomprehensible. What is it to a Chicago politician to leave a meeting with bleeding nose, blackened eyes and the remnant of an ear, so long as he knows that not once has his character been assailed? For where in that city can be found a ward heeler whose body is not much more robust and able to resist attack than is his character. Looking at the matter in this unprejudiced light, it is but too evident that the present method of debate is humane.

The Illinois state fair opened Monday morning beneath a cloudless sky and under conditions that augur a splendid success. There were no formal ceremonies or exercises. The gates were thrown open at 8 o'clock and the people, at that hour mostly children poured in. Visitors continued to pass through the gates until the middle of the afternoon when it was estimated that there were 20,000 on the grounds. There was the usual bustle and confusion incident to opening day and complete order was not expected till Wednesday morning. The fair is going to be the most imposing one in the history of the state. The entries are unprecedentedly large in all departments. This is especially true of the live stock and machinery. Never before was there such a collection of farm machinery and implements on a fair ground in Illinois as is now massed in the great machinery hall, which has just been completed, and never before has there been such a demand for accommodations in the barns, stalls and pens set apart for the live stock exhibit as now exists. The collection of speed, roadster and draft horses on the grounds is a magnificent one, and in the other departments of live stock it may truthfully be said that the best breeds and herds in the United States and Canada are represented. The programme for week is as follows: Monday, children's day; Tuesday, old soldiers' day; Wednesday, Derby day; Thursday, governor's day; Friday, traveling men's day; Saturday, bicycle day.

W. C. T. U. COLUMN.

THE DRINK HABIT IN FRANCE AND GERMANY.

Recent developments concerning the drink traffic in Europe, especially on the Continent, have effectually disposed of some of the favorite arguments of the opponents of the temperance cause. The advocates of moderate drinking have been in the practice of quoting the example of the people of France and Germany with respect to use of intoxicating drinks, as a complete and unanswerable rrgument in favor of such indulgence. These people, it has been said, have been drinking wine or beer as freely or regularly as most people drink water, and that from generation to generation without any apparent harmful effects. There is comparatively little drunkenness, it has been said, among the natives of France and Germany, and few of the other evils commonly associated with strong drink. The evidence is accumulating, however to show that these statements about the harmless effect of universal idulgence in intoxicants have not beer. founded on fact. And there is none of this evidence so convincing as that the governments of France, Germany, Belgium and Russia have recently been moved to adopt measures looking toward the restriction of the sale and use of intoxicants. The French government is specially concerned over the evil results from the increasing use of absinthe and spirituous liquors among the French people. The German government has been moved to action because investigation has shown that universal beer drinking is undermining the physical strength of the German people, and especially the soldiery, the pride and hope of the country. Russia is waking up to the fact that *vodka*, the national drink, is doing more toward the impoverishment and degradation of the people, and particularly of the peasantry, than all other causes combined. In Belgium the evils arising from the drink traffic have assumed such proportions that it is proposed, as a measure of safety, to take the business under government control All these things prove beyond all doubt that there is no safety for any people anywhere outside the line of total abstinence from strong drink. Moderate drinking may be indulged in, perhaps, in some cases for a long period without any apparent injurious effects, but in the long run and in general practice it is certain to lead to immoderation and all its train of miseries. The experience of Germany and France are teaching, as nothing else could teach, that the use of intoxicants of any sort, however mild, is a way that leads to disease and death.

As on the Continent, so in England, public attention is being more and more forced to the consideration of the drink problem in its various phases. The recent Parlimentary elections afforded a good many sharp reminders to the English people of the enormous power the drink traffic has gained in that country. It is generally conceded that the overwhelming defeat of the Liberals was mainly due to their somewhat hostile attitude to the drink business. The triumph of the Conservatives was largely a triumpth of beer. It is unlikely that the lesson of this defeat will be lost upon the intelligent and respectable classes of the English people, even among the members of the victorious party. It is inconceivable that these classes will rest content under the conviction that the English nation is dominated by an appetite for beer. There is surely something unusual stirring it the English mind with with reference to the drink business, when we find the London Times, England's greatest newspaper, moved to such an utterance as this: "It would be impossible to find anything which stands for so much loss to soul and body and estate as the public house. Even if we accept the best case that can be made for it in principle, the fact is it is still a huge nuisance and misery—there is not a vice, or disease, or a disorder, or a calamity of any kind that has not its frequent rise in the public house. The public house degrades, ruins and brutalizes a large faction of the British people.—Christian Work.

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Maud Muller on a summer night went out on her bike in the bright moonlight. She pedaled around from 6 to 10 on a trip that would fag the strongest men; but her heart was light and her spirits gay, for it wasn't work, 'twas nothing but play. Next morning, however, she'd a pain in her head, she was all played out and stayed in bed, while her mother hustled in the kitchen below—not to ride a wheel but to make things go. Though the morning was hot and she worked by the fire she didn't collapse with a punctured tire. Alas for the girl and the woman, see. Things are not as they used to be.

Frank Syme was out in Christie's woods near Wheaton hunting and found a demented man with his pockets full of thorn apples and nuts. He was brought to Wheaton and taken in charge by Sheriff Hoy, who found the man's name was Conrad Lyons and he resided in Chicago. He telephoned the police of that city who answered by saying that a man answering the description wandered away a week before, going to his work as sewer inspector. His wife came on the evening train and took her husband home with her. He had probably been wandering around in the woods for several days before being discovered.

Last Friday morning a week ago, fire was discovered in the buildings of the Golf Club at Wheaton, but it was so thoroughly under headway that nothing could be done to extinguish it. Three buildings were burned. One of the buildings had been built over into a dressing room and bath rooms, and also contained the lockers of the different members in which were stored their golf clubs, balls and suits. The individual loss to the members will range from $50 to $300 on the property stored in the lockers. The total loss to the members individually and to the club as a whole will amount to $15,000. The work of rebuilding will probably be commenced within a few days.

The village of Kirkwood is in danger of being swept from the face of the earth. A well, ten feet in diameter, was being constructed for the water works. A depth of sixty feet had been attained with seven feet of water when the workmen at the bottom noticed a pressure against the curbing. They had hardly reached the top when the walls disappeared. The earth has continued to disappear until now the opening is twenty feet at the top and apparently double at the bottom. The direction of the caving is northwest, where the ground is loose and shaky. There is no apparent cause for this, and the inhabitants are getting much alarmed.

The village of Hawthorne was in great danger of being destroyed by fire last Sunday night. Flames were discovered about 10 o'clock in the barn of Peter Neels, which contained 15 tons of hay. The wind was blowing a gale, and the barn stood in the most thickly populated portion of the village. The water supply was limited, and calls for help were sent to Morton Park and Chicago. Chief Swenie sent engine company No. 38 from Lawndale and the volunteer fire company of Morton Park was soon on the spot. The barn, with its contents, was destroyed, causing a loss of $2,000. Most of the residents of the village moved their possessions to places of safety, but by hard work the fire was kept from spreading.

The Wheatland annual plowing match was held on the farm of Peter Lantz near Naperville on the 22d and attracted its usual number of people, not less than 5,000 being present, many coming a distance of thirty and forty miles. The main object of the gathering is to bring about better plowing, so essential to successful farming, yet many make it a sort of a holiday and come together to visit and renew old acquaintances. The institution of the plowing match has brought about a revolution in the art of plowing in the town and to see fields by the score where one field after another is evenly turned and as straight as if it followed a chalk line is a common occurrence. As in other years, the plowing had to be no less than five nor more than seven inches in depth. Each plowman had to plow one half acre within three hours. Competitors with riding plows had to use three horses and ride. The young men of adjoining towns were invited to compete for all the different premiums. There were eighteen contestants for premiums. The successful ones are: For best plowing with walking plow, men Wm. Demuth first premium, Henry Sussamehl second, Zack Fry third. Riding plow, men Alvin Stark first, John Dade second, Henry Rink third. Boys under 15, riding plow, Clarence Eichelberger first, A. Hobert second, Ben Davis third. Boys under 18, riding plow, Oscar Stoner first, Wm. Jouvenal second, Ed. Stark third. Boys under 18, walking plow, Wm. Fry first, Fred Jameson second. Those who had previously taken first premiums in any class could not compete for a silver cup, the successful competitor to be permitted to hold the cup only after winning it for two years in succession. The cup today was won by Alvin Stark. A grain show and ladies' fair was held in connection with the plowing match. The display of handiwork and pastry added materially to the occasion and brought out the women. Over 800 vehicles were on the grounds.

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Baptist—James Frederick Hellner, Pastor.
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