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Women Workers.

Lady Cook has just announced the interesting discovery by her that women are making bicycles and supplanting men. Lady Cook in setting forth the details of her investigations and the results thereof, said:

"From my own personal observations I have learned that women are supplanting men. The manufacture of bicycles has grown so tremendously that there has been an unusually large demand for labor. The deft, delicate fingers of women, are peculiarly adapted to certain portions of the task of manufacturing bicycles and the manufacturers themselves have been very quick to see the advantage in the employment of feminine help. Again, women work much cheaper than do men.

"Now the men are suffering from exactly what they declared was a profit to them—the low wages of women. During the time when women were not entirely in favor of following the avocation of men the demand for them far exceeded the supply. Now the supply exceeds the demand, and the natural result is that the woman gains precedence by reason of the cheapness of her services. This discovery which I have made regarding the making of bicycles is merely another evidence of the fact that woman is no longer man's competitor in labor, but his superior.

"I found that what was known as light manufacturing was largely carried on by women. To a certain extent the making of bicycles comes under this head, and everything that they can do women are doing. It is a fact that much of the cycle work is very dirty and gives the hands of the women who carry it on that grimy appearance which is so distasteful to every self-respecting female.

"It is my observation that the position of the women cycle workers compares favorably with that of any other class of women workers in health, in morals and in wages. The conditions differ in England from those in the United States when the question of employing women is concerned. In the manufacture of bicycles in England and women, but though they are all at the same manufactory they are distinctly separated.

"They never are employed at the same class of work, and the hours at which they arrive and leave are entirely different. I found it to be generally the case that there was no necessity for the women working in a bicycle manufactory to see the men at all unless they chose that the employers take great care that this should be the case, and they claim that no woman who works for them need stand in fear of annoyance so far as the men in their employ are concerned. The wages the women earn in the bicycle manufactory are found to be fairly good, from a comparative standpoint.

"For instance, machinists earn from \$1.75 to \$3.50 a week, working nine hours a day. A ball grinder gets \$3.50 a week. The ball turner gets from \$2.50 to \$3 a week. The screw maker receives from \$1.75 to \$3.50 a week. The weekly wage of the screw turners varies from \$2.50 to \$3 weekly while the scoulers and nickel platers get from \$1.90 to \$2.25 a week. All these are women, and the work they perform, if it were done by men, would cost at least fifty per cent. more. The object of the manufacturers is therefore clear.

"With regard to the low moral and social standard met with in certain places, I find, as a general rule, that the morality and social habits of the women are largely regulated by the wages they receive. Speaking generally, where wages are good, social habits are on a correspondingly high level; where wages are low the reverse is to be found. This statement suggests the true solution of great social problems in relation to women. Their inferiority and alleged weakness do not arise so much from any physical, mental or industrial shortcomings as from pecuniary disabilities.

"As a rule, men hold the purse strings. Men made laws restrict the power of women over property in ways which do not apply to themselves. Men have endeavored to obstruct equal wages for equal work, where the sex is concerned. Every advance of women to wider sphere of employment or to higher remuneration for their services has been regarded as an attack upon male privileges. Thus able women are boycotted from many walks of life. The aggregate result of all this is political desuetude and social demoralization.

"Take Mill No. 21, a worsted spinning factory in the classic town of Ayr. Here a large number of women are employed at from \$1.12 to \$2.12 per week. About one third of the workers make \$1.12 per week. In her report of October 28, 1888, the lady assistant commissioner writes: 'About three years ago the girls struck for an increase of wages resulting in an advance of twenty-five cents per week. Their appearance is for the most part very miserable, the majority being pale faced, emaciated creatures. Their clothes are ragged and dirty and the larger number are barefooted.' What a sad picture this presents to us of Scotia's frank and winsome peasant daughters!

"Or take the girls of the collieries, as at Blantyre, engaged from morning to night in picking stones and rubbish from the coal as it comes from the mine. No accommodation of any kind is provided for them," says Miss Irwin, "beyond the Fickety sheds at the pit's mouth, where they work in all weathers. These sheds, which are neither wind tight nor water tight, are set on a sort of scaffolding, and are approached by perilous ladder stairs. The girls work from seven a.m. to five p.m., with one hour and forty minutes off, which is divided between breakfast and dinner. The wages begin at thirty-three cents and rise to thirty-seven cents per day, and they work five days in the week. There is no supervision of any kind, and the women workers are, as a rule exposed to rough and very objectionable companionship. The air was laden with smoke and dust, and

the persons and the clothes of the girls were exceedingly dirty and unseemly. Rich capitalists have small reason to be proud of their great wealth when the road is thus watered by the sweat of the hungry and defiled by the misery and demoralization of women and young girls. Women are disfranchised, and are, therefore, unable to force the necessary changes themselves. At present Mammon and ferocious Greed are enthroned in high quarters, and appear to be almighty. But the moral forces which stir the souls of noble men, and women are silently growing, deepening and widening with increasing years. Women must organize and consolidate their strength, each intelligent member resolutely determined to become a factor great or small, in the purification of society and the exaltation of her sex."

WON'T PAY DUTY CALLS.

The English women living in India put a sensible scheme into execution recently. They revolted against the social bondage of "duty calls," and organized an anti-calling union. Several hundred women joined and pledged themselves to abide by the rules which are very simple.

Instead of paying calls in person cards are sent and calls are returned by post. A personal call is allowable only when a special complaint is intended. At home days are held by the members of the union when convenient, notices of these being printed in the papers several days beforehand. The fact that men are excluded from these privileges has caused no end of amusement among the women and no less talk among the lords of creation, particularly the crusty bachelors of society, who declare that calling did keep some women quiet; they go so far as to say that women friends will be up to now that there is no necessity for them to pay duty calls.

There is no union of this kind in this city, but the women members of the Barnard Club long ago gave up calling for the mere name of the thing. They agreed that their club should be a kind of a social clearing house, and the plan has worked admirably. An informal reception is held in the beautiful club rooms every Saturday afternoon, and a little chat with one's friends there relieves everybody of all calling obligations. This even extends to party calls among most of the members. One of the most prominent women in the club says that the plan not only saves the club members a great deal of valuable time, which can be put to more profitable use, but strengthens the moral character as well, since nothing weakens it so much as obligatory duty calling. The membership of this club, which includes men, too, has run away up into the hundreds and the waiting list is very long.

BICYCLE DICTIONARY.

Century—The distance made in one day by an imaginative rider when riding alone. See Liar and Cyclometer.

Cranks—1. Supposedly steel rods which refuse to move when desired, and vice versa. 2. All persons who refuse to ride wheels.

Cyclometer—A small instrument operated by turning machine upside down and revolving front wheel rapidly by hand. See Fake.

Dismount—To sever connection with wheel; may be done in several ways.

Expert—One who is able to scare a pedestrian to death by coming within one-eighth of an inch of him without hitting him, instead of running into him and killing him at once.

Fake—An unreliable or untrue statement. See Century and Cyclometer.

Handicaps—Pieces of steel or wood used by beginners for testing grip and by experts for shewing skill by letting them alone.

Heretic—Any one who rides a different make of wheel from one's own.

Liar—See Century and Cranks and Heretic.

Pedals—Two steel devices attached to cranks in form of a puzzle, the object being to keep feet on both at once.

Saddle—Something probably invented by druggists to boom the sale of articles.

Scorcher—A humplacked, bulging-eyed creature, who says "Steady-y!" and would wear his sweater to church if he ever went there.

Suicide—The apparent object of all learners.

Tandem—A device to enable a man to tell if his best girl's back hair is her own or not; a sort of pleasure conveyance for ladies.

Tire—A rubber thing which is the best in the market and bursts nineteen miles from the nearest repair shop.

TOO MANY RULES.

The teacher who gives her pupils simple rules outside of the authorities are determining questions which confront them, and particularly grammatical questions, is apt to find that her rules disastrously fail to fit all cases.

One time the county superintendent of schools was questioning the pupils of a country school. He wrote on the blackboard the sentence, The fly has wings, and asked a class what part of speech each word was. They passed the "the" without serious trouble.

What part of speech is fly? asked the superintendent.

Adverb! shouted the class in unison.

What! Fly an adverb? Yes! Shouted the children with great positiveness.

What makes you think it is an adverb? Cause teacher told us that all words that end in "ly" are adverbs.

SHE KNEW.

My new wheel isn't half the care my old one was. Is that so? So my wife says

THE HEALTHY PALATE.

It Does Not Crave Condiments, but the Food Must Possess Flavor.

While a perfectly sound and healthy palate does not crave for condiments, even prefers to do without them, yet the majority of digestions require to be humored and kept in order, and their peculiarities must be studied. Dr. Brunton says: "Savory food causes the digestive juices to be freely secreted, well cooked and palatable food is therefore more digestible than unpalatable. If food lacks savor, a desire naturally arises to supply it by condiments, not always well selected or wholesome."

As commerce brought them within reach of the people, condiments in simple or complicated forms came greatly into favor and foreign spices were added to the wild herbal growths of the fields and hedges. In our early history the "spicery" was a special department of the court, and had its proper officers. In the fourteenth century spices were both costly and rare, most of them coming from the Levant. Chaucer mentions many by name—cinnamon, mace, clove, (cloves), grains of paradise, nutmegs, caraway and spikenard. The ancients, especially the Greeks and Romans in the luxurious period of their history, used condiments very freely. An old English historian, referring to the earlier Roman court, says: "The best magistrates of Rome allowed but the ninth day for the city and public business; the rest for the country and the sallet garden." From this it would seem as though the education of taste was accounted of some consequence in those days.

DOG SMOKES CIGARETTES.

Denver has a dog that smokes cigarettes. He is a cocker spaniel and lives in a cigar store. He is only ten months old, but he is a confirmed fiend and is cross and peevish until he has had his daily smoke. His owner has taught him a number of tricks, which Billy—that is his name—will perform when a cigarette is offered as a reward. When ready for his smoke Billy seats himself on the cigar case, permits a pair of spectacles to be adjusted to his nose, and then daintily takes the lighted cigarette in his mouth. He puffs away with a beatific expression on his intelligent face until the fire gets so close to his nose as to be uncomfortable. Then he drops the stub and remains quiet until the spectacles are removed.

ORIENTAL RAILWAYS.

A cog wheel railway is to be built up Mt. Sinai to the spot where, according to tradition, Moses stood while receiving the Sacred Tables, the spot being already marked by a stone cross erected by the Empress Helena, mother of Constantine the Great. It is proposed to connect the road with a line from Port Said through the Isthmus of Sinai and Arabia to Barra on the Persian Gulf. The Persian Railroad Transpiration Company finds railroading the land of the Shah beset with difficulties, the receipts for 1896 showing a decrease of 18 per cent. due to three months' traffic suspension, a lot of boiler tubes ordered, miscarried, and, when a second lot arrived, the Shah had been murdered and for fear of an outbreak train service was forbidden on certain parts of the line.

THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

IS PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY MORNING AT THE CHRONICLE PRINTING HOUSE, SARAFAXA STREET DURHAM, ONT.

SUBSCRIPTION The CHRONICLE will be sent to any address, free of postage, for \$1.00 per year, payable in advance—\$1.50 may be charged if not so paid. The date to which every subscription is paid is denoted by the number on the address label. No paper discontinued until all arrears are paid, except at the option of the proprietor.

ADVERTISING For transient advertisements 5 cents per line for the first insertion; 3 cents per line for each subsequent insertion—minimum measure. Professional cards, not exceeding one inch, \$4.00 per annum. Advertisements without specific directions will be published till forbid and charged accordingly. "Transient notices"—"Lost," "Found," "For Sale," etc.—50 cents for first insertion, 25 cents for each subsequent insertion. All advertisements ordered by strangers must be paid for in advance. Contract rates for yearly advertisements furnished on application to the office. All advertisements, to ensure insertion in current week, should be brought in not later than Tuesday morning.

THE JOB : : Is completely stocked with DEPARTMENT all NEW TYPE, thus affording facilities for turning out First-class work.

W. IRWIN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

The Chronicle Contains . . .

Each week an epitome of the world's news, articles on the household and farm, a serials by the most popular authors. Its Local News is Complete and market reports accurate.

RAIN CALMS THE SEA.

It is rather hard to understand how such tiny drops can flatten down the enormous swells of an angry ocean, but the observations of a well-known English scientist explain it clearly. Each drop, he says, sends below the surface a certain quantity of water in the form of rings, which, with gradually decreasing velocity and increasing size, descend as much as 18 inches below the surface. Therefore, when rain is falling on the sea, there is as much motion immediately beneath the surface as above, only the drops are larger and their motion slower. Thus unseen by the human eye, the water at the surface is being made to continually change places with that beneath, and in this way the wave motion is destroyed.

IT'S A GOOD IDEA, TOO.

A novel idea in vacations has been adopted in Boston. The firemen there are allowed annual vacations, and the commissioners have decided to send every horse owned by the department out to country pasture two weeks every year.

Cash System

Adopted by

N., G. & J. McKechnie.

We beg to inform our customers and the public generally that we have adopted the Cash System, which means Cash or its Equivalent, and that our motto will be "Large Sales and Small Profits."

We take this opportunity of thanking our customers for past patronage, and we are convinced that the new system will merit a continuance of the same.

N. G. & J. McKECHNIE