

others, and also an invaluable experience in public speaking.

Another potent factor in the education of the people is an association for the sole purpose of arranging what may be called excursions to the museums and public galleries. These are conducted with skill and competent guides are furnished, all free of charge to the visitors.

An idea of the increase of the Danish population is given in eloquent figures. In the beginning of this century the total was 2,400,000, of whom 900,000 were living in Denmark proper. Since then the country has lost 1,500,000 inhabitants by the declaration of independence by Norway and the annexation of Schleswig and Holstein by Germany, and yet today Denmark has 2,400,000 inhabitants besides the 200,000 living in the United States. The population of Copenhagen has increased from 100,000 to 400,000.

One interesting Danish institution is the "meeting-house" now found in almost every town or village of the country. It is a hall built and supported by the people. Here the youth meet regularly, women and men, for the purpose of practicing physical culture, "gymnastic;" here the children learn dancing and here meetings are held and lectures given on the burning questions of the day. In the management of the exercises held in these "meeting-houses" women take much interest.

Agriculture is one of the chief resources of the country and during the last thirty years the yield of grain has been increased by twenty-four million bushels and that of root crop by eighty million bushels. During the same period 1,142 square miles have been reclaimed from heather and sea and 20,000 new homes for farmers founded. But dairy farming has had the greatest development of late years. Ten years ago the peasants ventured upon the system of co-operative steam dairy farming. Farmers in a certain district join in building a large steam dairy with centrifugal separators, ice coolers, etc. To this dairy they deliver the whole of their produce of milk, for which they are paid. They own the dairy jointly and the surplus is divided among them. They are pledged to feed and care for their cattle according to a given, rational system. Between 1885 and 1890 about two hundred such dairies were built each year, and at present ninety per cent of all the farming communities own a steam dairy. The quality of the butter produced has improved, the price risen, and the export increased enormously. In 1870 the export of Danish butter amounted to 90,000 cwt. In 1894 the export to England alone was 1,102,498 cwt., almost half of the total import of that country. But Danish butter is also finding its way to France, Sweden and other countries, where it successfully competes with rival products.

The remarkable success gained by the farming population, not only with regard to this one article but also many others, is due entirely to their high intelligence and rational methods, both among which is co-operation. But little aid has been given by legislative measures. This is a lesson that should not be lost on those who

seem to think that a government is the creator of national prosperity. It is claimed that Denmark now is the second richest country in Europe, as her national wealth, in proportion to the number of her population, is second only to that of England, and this result has been reached not because of wise legislation but rather in the face of many unwise measures and a policy not always entirely friendly to the interests of the farmers.

#### THE SILVER ISSUE POSTPONED.

Readers of the NEWS are respectfully cautioned against accepting into their political creed the bombastic promise that this or that party is sure to incorporate a "free silver" plank into its platform for next year's national campaign. First it is a chosen vessel in one party, then an equally prominent light in the other, that announces this as the program of his respective organization. Perhaps both of them believe it, but the stern, forbidding fact remains that on neither side as yet has there been the remotest indication of any such step being taken.

On the contrary, it is about as clear as anything in the way of forecast can be, that neither of the two great political parties has any intention of committing itself by its platform to the silver idea at all. Every convention thus far held that has had more than the backing of a single state (and a number of those, even) has dodged the issue in terms more or less evasive and with generalities more or less glittering. In some instances there has been a distinct deat for the white money man; and in none, even in the silver states, have they won a clean-cut, unequivocal and decisive victory.

It is not our part to go to predicting what political parties a year hence may select for their slogan and battle-cry; they do not know themselves that far in advance. We probably risk no reputation for accuracy, however, in venturing the opinion that neither the Republican nor the Democratic convention of next summer will take such decided ground on the silver question as to cause the gold metallists the least concern.

#### SMOKING IN CHURCH.

To what extent human ingenuity can go even in matters of religion, is seen in a new experiment undertaken in London. A despatch tells the story. An invitation to partake of a free smoke at a church in East End last Sunday was responded to by more than 200 men, the poorest of the poor. The gentleman who was to conduct the service and who himself blew a cloud from a briar root, commenced to distribute the tobacco. By the time all were served and plentiful wreaths of smoke were curling roofward, several ladies took seats on the platform, and the religious part of the proceedings began. There was a prayerful exhortation, a hymn, in which the female portion of the congregation joined, but not many of the men, it being difficult to smoke and sing at the same time.

After that came what they evidently enjoyed more than all else, a hymn sung with much sweetness by a lady. Probably they would not have ventured to applaud it, but as the chairman, who still puffed his briar, clapped his hands they all followed with great vigor, and their faces testified how much they were in earnest. A chapter was read from the Bible and the chairman took up the theme. It was the miracle of the six barley loaves and two fishes. He delivered a discourse that lasted half an hour. By that time the limited allowance of tobacco had been smoked out, and after the crowding hospitality of a cup of tea, with pieces of bread and marmalade for all, the proceedings came to an end.

It is intimated that this new departure is likely to become popular, and it is but natural to suppose, if there be any virtue in the doctrine of evolution, that the next step will be the establishment of sacred saloons where free whisky and religion are distributed together. Soren Kierkegaard, the immortal satirist, felt confident that a time would come when not only the par-son but also certain other unmentionable institutions would be exalted to the dignity of clerical expedients. A sacred smoking concert is unavoidably a step in this direction.

#### HORR-HARVEY HIPPODROME.

The anxiety of Mr. Horr to advertise "Coin's Financial School" and its author, and the anxiety of Mr. Harvey to advertise ex-Congressman Russell G. Horr, will be readily apparent to the most casual reader who reflects upon the great silver-debate hippodrome which began at 2 p. m. yesterday, July 16, in Chicago. That Harvey should have snapped at such a chance to win notoriety will surprise no one who ever knew him; for he is a "corner" of himself from away back and has an eye single to the main chance equal to any of the species that ever beamed upon western America. That Horr should have gone into partnership on the same kind of a snap may excite a little more wonder; but it is a peculiarity of some congressmen out of a job that as long as they can get their names into people's mouths they care little what the cause or the comment may be.

Of the profit that will come out of the present set-to, the lion's share will of course go to the self-elected champions. They are in it for revenue. We trust our readers do not expect much allusion to the daily rounds in our telegraphic columns, for they will not find it; neither combatant can be regarded as deserving of much more newspaper space than he pays for. Nevertheless, the novelty of the event entitles it to some mention, and a ten-eye wonder always has a right to demand its share of public chatter. In atonement, therefore for the determination not to give much of what the two men say, we shall once more give an account of the preliminary arrangement and of the plan agreed upon for the entire engagement.

The two knights of the strong voice, one wearing the gold belt, the other's tight's bespangled with silver, are to meet for one round daily (barring Sundays)