

defeated, but they would not hold to their promises.

There is nothing left for the lottery company now but to seek refuge in one of the Central American States. There is no possibility of its obtaining a new foothold within United States territory. Its profits are estimated at \$20,000,000 yearly, ninety per cent of which are drawn from the wage workers and poorer classes generally. The gross annual income is estimated at \$50,000,000, but about one half of this is said to be paid out in prizes.

#### AIR TRAVEL AGAIN.

ONE of the most recent claimants to the discovery of a practical system of aerial navigation is Charles G. Loeber, who has received extended notice from the *Brooklyn Eagle*. Mr. Loeber is of German extraction and once practiced law in Utah. He has lately lived in Brooklyn, New York, and has turned his mind toward invention in the direction mentioned. It appears that while engaging in legal pursuits he has studied aerial subjects for twenty-five years, and, like others who have devoted themselves to a special project, he is now in need of funds to put what he claims to have discovered into visible and practical shape.

The inventor wants \$50,000 to enable him to construct an air car, made of iron and steel to prevent fire, its extreme length to be seventy-nine feet; mean breadth, twenty-seven feet; height, thirty-five feet; length and breadth of wings, forty and twenty-seven feet; total wing area, two thousand one hundred and sixty square feet, and have a net carrying capacity of six hundred tons. The minimum unyielding air support underneath the wings, he says, will be one thousand one hundred and eighty-eight tons and the area of the machine will be forty square feet.

His theory is not very clearly explained, but he says the foundation and embodiment of his invention is "anthexis." "The air is a power substance, but its power is occult and made manifest only by the use of means. The balloon is the means to obtain two opposite vertical air columns and the excess of the lower over the upper air column; vacuous space in the pneumatic tube is the means to obtain the full pressure force of one air column. A third means which he claims to have discovered brings forth anthexis. This means is constant and the control of the rudder absolute.

Three hundred miles an hour speed, according to his statement, are as easily obtainable in the air as are thirty miles an hour on land. The normal height of the car in the air will be above mountains, so as to keep it out of the zone of cyclones, and an automatic register denoting the height of the car, coupled with a simple rule fixing the heights for the various cars, will make collisions practically impossible.

As illustrations of the feasibility of his plan and the existence of anthexis, he cites the vulture, which, when weighted with a load heavier than itself, is able to rise in the air to any distance. "Were not the air unyielding the bird would have no fulcrumage, and the air would slip by it. The

bird does not obtain this by the exertion of force, as is shown by the motionless wings of the eagle poised in air. In the case of the laden vulture the force needed would be a force equal the weight of the vulture and its prey, added to that needed for fulcrumage and its flying force." This would make flight impossible, he claims, unless nature had provided a better means than simple force, and this, Mr. Loeber says, he has discovered.

Of course it is very easy to ridicule all this, and to class the discoverer's claims with others that practical experiment has proven to be chimerical. But aerial navigation, we have no doubt, is a possibility and one of the problems that will be solved before long. Mr. Loeber says his success after many years of unremitting study was quite providential, and we hope he will find the needful means to put his discovery to a practical test. A trip abroad through the air without the noise, dust and bustle of the railroad, and the horrible nausea and discomforts of the ocean steamer, would be a wonderful improvement on present locomotion, and who knows how soon it may cease to be either a dream or a marvel?

#### THE NATIONAL SILVER CONVENTION

THE silver question still continues to thrust its obtrusive head in front of the orthodox party politician. From Washington comes the news that the National Silver Committee has issued its call for a National Silver Convention to be held in that city on May 26th and 27th next. This committee is the creation of the St. Louis Silver Convention of November, 1889, and hence its work is all regular and in order.

From Denver comes the news that a State Convention has been held for Colorado, national delegates appointed, and a platform adopted that favors a distinct silver policy. In view of the reports that an international bimetallic conference is an almost assured certainty, this action on the part of the silver men seems rather radical. But, on the other hand, recent dispatches from London state that this conference idea is all news to the British press and that the question of rehabilitating silver is all moonshine.

The *London Times* is quoted as saying that the conference project is merely an electioneering scheme on the part of President Harrison. This shows how little the *Thunderer* knows of American party politics. It seems to jump at the conclusion that Springer, Cleveland, Palmer, Gorman and a hundred other prominent Democrats are opposed to the bimetallic conference idea, and that President Harrison and party are the only ones interested. However, a demand has been made on the Administration by Senator Teller for official intelligence on this question, and it is probable that in a short time all particulars relating to the matter will be presented to the public, unless as Senator Sherman amended the resolution, the good of the public service forbids it.

The object of the National Silver Convention it is claimed, is the education of the people on the free coinage idea, and also the fostering of public

opinion towards a decided demand for a bimetallic currency. The literature on this subject is already immense, yet the average citizen seems muddled over it. The thrifty person who has a little reserve in savings banks, in insurance companies, or kindred institutions is told that the remonetization of silver means for him a serious depreciation of his savings and investments. On the other hand the silver men claim that it would bring an appreciation of such investments. Where diametrically opposite statements are promulgated, it is difficult for the uninitiated in finance and banking to understand the real situation.

The silver men, however, seem to have the best of the argument. They can point to over eighty years practical test of the bimetallic policy to show the accuracy of their position. Until 1873 silver and gold stood side by side, with the advantage in favor of the former. This the goldites do not deny. Today gold is at a premium of nearly 35 per cent. over silver. The question is, has gold appreciated or has silver depreciated? The goldites claim that gold has not changed, but that silver has fallen. They claim that by remonetizing silver, gold will be driven from circulation; that with a silver standard silver values will prevail; and that \$100 now invested will dwindle under free silver to \$65. This claim is denied by the silver men, who contend that gold will not go out of circulation any more than it did before 1873, and in this they have the best of the argument, because the silver dollar was worth 108 cents in gold at the time of the demonetization act.

The international conference project in our opinion ought to be encouraged. For, if an agreement can be reached with England and the chief nations of continental Europe, one great obstacle in the way of silver will be removed and the chief stock objection offered by the goldites will be silenced effectually.

#### WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN NEW YORK.

THE lower branch of the New York legislature has just passed a bill extending the franchise so that women can vote for all State and municipal officers. While this bill was under consideration great interest was manifested by the people of the Empire State. The discussions at Albany were largely attended, and very heated discussions were delivered.

Additional interest in this matter has been awakened because one member indulged in language so coarse and indecent, in his opposition to the bill, that the House voted to strike his speech from the record. It is said that the wife and daughters of this member were present, and that they were shocked, pained and mortified by the utterances of their lord, protector and parent.

The bill has yet to be ratified by the Senate, where its passage is extremely doubtful. Speaking on this subject the *New York Recorder* contends that the Senate should not enter an objection. It says:

No rational argument can be advanced against woman suffrage. A mandarin sentiment has existed in many minds that if women were allowed to vote the in-