

THE INTERNAL SLAVE TRADE OF AFRICA.

In a recent lecture before the American Geographical Society, Mr. Heli Chatelain made some very startling statements regarding the extent and horrors of the slave trade in Africa. The lecturer's long residence in the Dark Continent, his intimate knowledge of the country, its people, customs and languages, entitle him to speak with authority. He is ex-United States Commercial Agent at Loanda, West Africa; corresponding member of various geographical societies, and has made a name for himself also as the author of several native grammars and the translator of two of the Gospels into the native language of Angola.

The lecture, of which a digest is herewith presented, was copiously illustrated by stereopticon views. A few of these, which had been taken from life by himself and other travelers, are reproduced in the present article, and illustrate the nameless horrors of slavery.

Let no one suppose that the slave trade in Africa is a thing of the past. In this great continent, 5,000 miles long by 4,800 miles wide, which the European powers have recently partitioned among themselves, it still reigns supreme. "The open sore of the world," as Livingstone termed the internal and truly infernal slave trade of Africa, is still running as offensively as ever. Among 200,000,000 Africans, 50,000,000 are slaves. Only a few years ago the explorer, Cameron, estimated at 2,000,000 the number of victims claimed every year by the slave trade. "If I shut my eyes," said he, "I see the villages burning, I hear the shouts and mus-

a Christian basis of the whole social order. It requires the co-operation of the political power, of missionary effort, and of special anti-slavery societies.

It is a fact that in Morocco slave-trading operations are being carried on under the protection of the American flag. Last July the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society called the attention of our government to the fact that Moroccan Jews, who, by the laws of Morocco, are not allowed to hold slaves, place themselves under the protection of the American flag in order to practice this business. Slave dealing and slave holding are legal under Mohammedan rule, and public sales of slaves take place to-day, even in Tangier, almost within sight of Gibraltar. In Sus and Terdant small children are sold and find ready purchasers, not only among the Moors, but equally among the Jews. In Tripoli the same



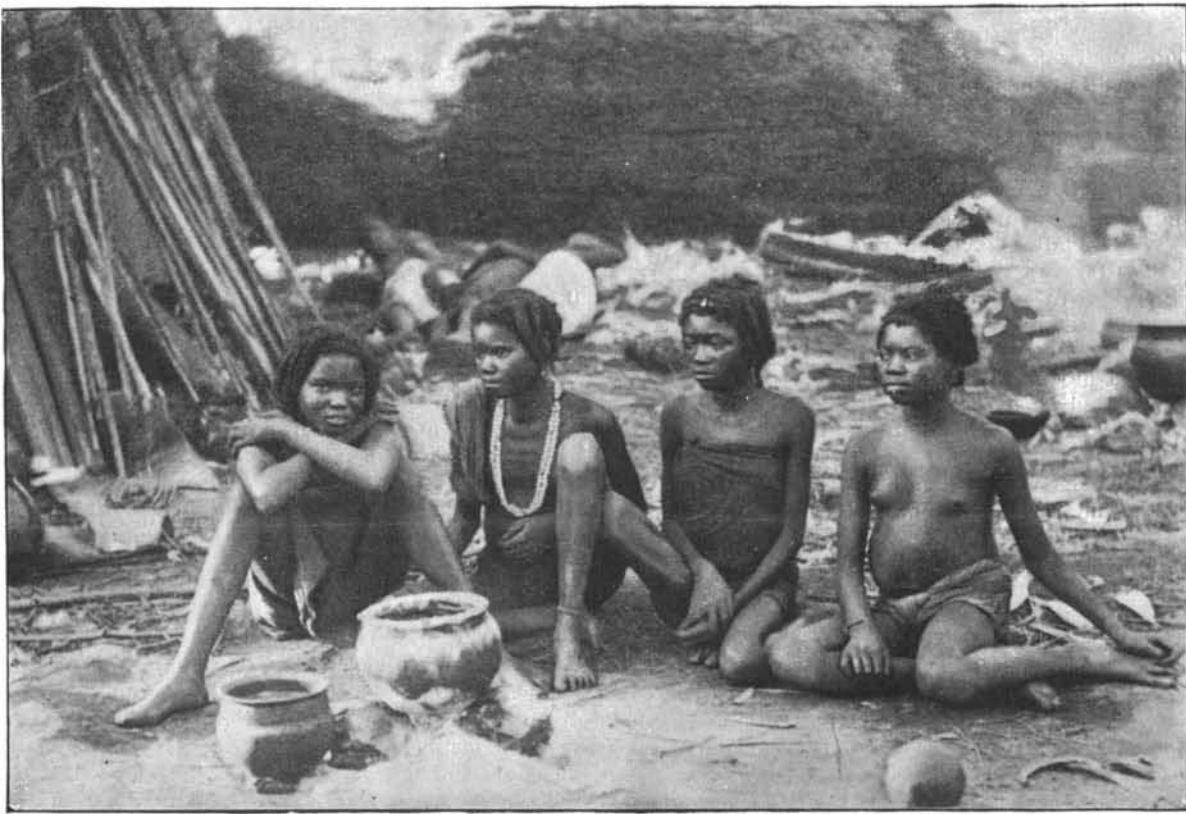
THE INTERNAL SLAVE TRADE OF AFRICA—SLAVE GANGS OF FOUR IN CHAINS.

land, "is done in dhows from the Arabian coast, which come over to the coral reefs of the western side, ostensibly for pearl fishing. The many little harbors formed in the coral reefs offer every assistance to the Arab dhows, and the practice will continue until the reconquest of the Sudan is accomplished."

In the Eastern Sudan the Khalifa has a large number of "seribas" or armed stations, whence his men start on their raiding expeditions for the capture of slaves.

In Zanzibar and Pemba the plantation labor, the hard work in the harbors, the warehouses and the streets and the portage of expeditions to interior Africa are all performed by slaves. Almost all these slaves are, as confessed by the British government, illegally held, because smuggled into the islands in spite of formal treaties. In Zanzibar women prisoners can be seen every day chained together in gangs of about seven and working under the supervision of a policeman armed with a lash. None of the facts brought out by the commissioner of the British Anti-Slavery Society has been denied by the English government. The reason given for inaction is the fear that a hasty reform would cause an Arab uprising. Lord Salisbury has, however, promised to abolish the legal status of slavery before the end of this year.

Fortunately the power of the East African Arabs is fairly broken. Tipoo Tib enjoys the fruits of his rapines at Zanzibar and has probably forever bid adieu to Kongo and Tanganyika. Rumliza, whose name signifies "he who destroys utterly," after fighting unsuccessfully with the Belgians on the other side, and with the Germans on this side of Lake Tanganyika, escaped to Zanzibar. Nearly all the chiefs who have survived the recent campaigns carried on against them by the Congo State, by Germany, and by the British of Nyassa Land, are in subjection, and the only slave trading in Nyassa Land is that which is carried on by the native tribes among themselves, of whom the Angoni are the worst offenders. "The Angoni," says a missionary in Nyassa Land, "possess from 100,000 to 150,000 slaves. The sole possession of these poor creatures is a strip of goat or cat skin around their loins. They are kept in subjection by two species of terrorism.



THE INTERNAL SLAVE TRADE OF AFRICA—YOUNG GIRL SLAVES IN A TRADER'S YARD AT LOANDA.

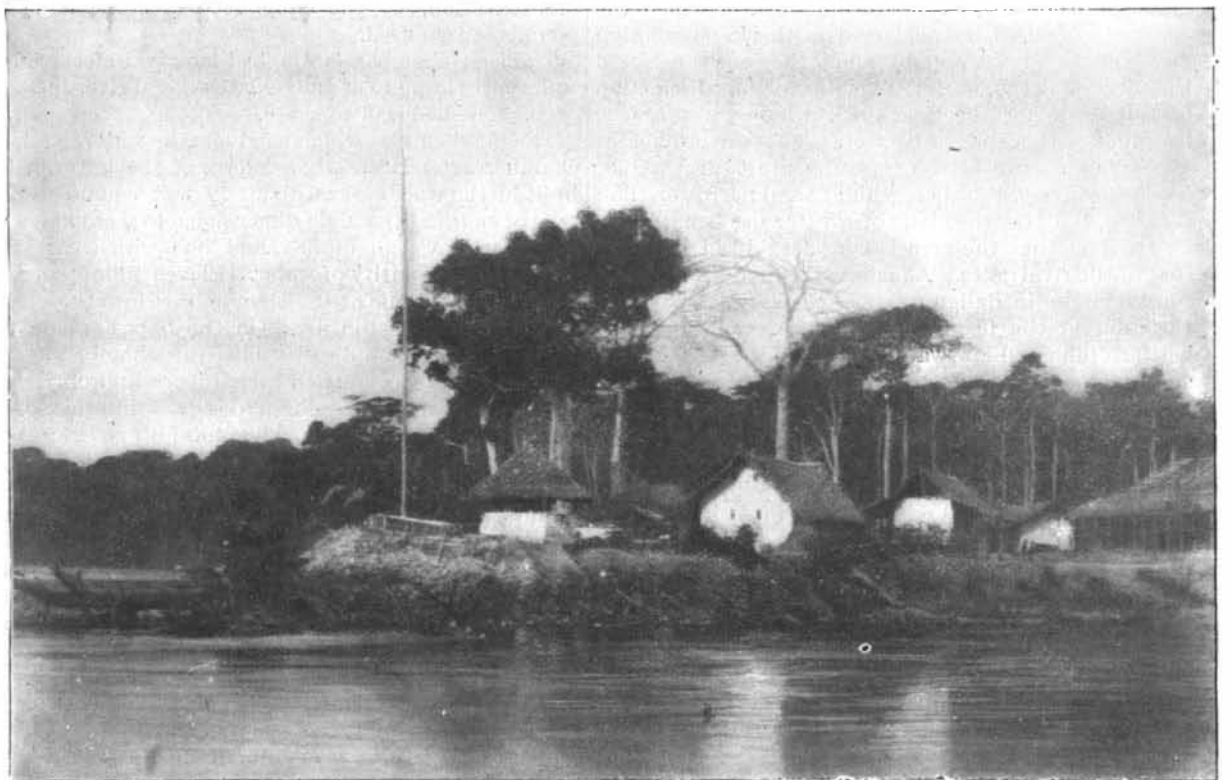
ketry of the murderers and the cries of their victims." If the estimate of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society is correct (and it seems to be rather below the reality), 500,000 lives are at the present time sacrificed every year for the maintenance of African home slavery.

In the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba alone, which are entirely governed by Great Britain, 260,000 are held in bondage. For each slave that reaches the coast, eight or nine are said to perish on the way down and in the interior: so that the supply of 7,000 slaves annually smuggled into Zanzibar, and of 11,000 smuggled into Arabia, represents the murdering of some 60,000 in the regions whence the slaves are drawn.

From Zanzibar the slaves can legally be transferred to Pemba, whence it is easy to ship them to Arabia and Persia. Over 1,500 dhows are engaged in this business. From this example of slavery in two small islands one may form an idea of the enormity of the evil over the whole face of the Dark Continent.

The lecturer said that it is a lamentable illusion to suppose that all the slave traders are Arabs. The Moslems in Africa are for the most part arch slavers, it is true, and their subjugation will mean a severe check to the slave trade, but it will not mean its final extinction. Slave trade has its source in slavery. The supply is created by the demand. Slavery is an essential element of African society. The parents sell their children; debtors and criminals are sold into slavery instead of being locked up in jail; girls are frequently sold to polygamists even before they are born; slaves are the regular currency over immense areas of the interior; they are the beasts of burden that bring the ivory, rubber and wax to the coast and take the European manufactures back to the interior; they are, too often, the porters of the caravans which European travelers lead into unexplored regions. The extinction of the slave trade implies a complete reconstruction on

practice prevails. In Egypt, although it is repressed by English officials, the slave trade is by no means extinct. On the west coast of the Red Sea a brisk slave trade is carried on with impunity. "The transport," says Mr. J. Theodore Bent, the explorer of Mashona-



THE INTERNAL SLAVE TRADE OF AFRICA—LUEBO AT THE HEAD OF STEAM NAVIGATION ON THE KASSAI RIVER.

First is the spear, second is the poison ordeal, which is administered to the friends of a fugitive slave, sometimes to fifty persons at a time. In one village, the other day, eleven persons lay dead from this cause."

Slavery is legally abolished in all Portuguese colonies, yet the inhabitants of the islands of Sao Thomé and Principe are to all purposes plantation slaves. Of the

Brass tribes in the Lower Niger district Sir John Kirk, Great Britain's special commissioner, officially reports: "They are a mixed race recruited largely by the purchase of slaves from the pagan cannibal tribes, chiefly the Ibo people, and by domestic slaves born in their families, the status of the child depending on that of the mother. Slaves are generally obtained when young, and cost on the average from \$50 to \$100 each. Higher up the Niger is the home of the semi-civilized and most enterprising Hausa people, 15,000,000 strong, all of whose country is included in the territory of the Royal Niger Company, and is under the guardianship of the Foreign Office in Downing Street." The best authority on Hausa Land, Rev. C. H. Robinson, states that "there are usually about 500 slaves on sale in the Kano market. Every town of any size possesses its slave market. The provinces of Bantshi and Adamawa contribute no less than 4,000 slaves per annum to the Sultan of Sokoto. This system," says the same authority, "brings upon the country nearly all the evils of perpetual civil war. As many as 1,000 slaves were brought into the town during my stay in Kano on a single occasion, as the result of one slave raiding expedition." They are used as currency and their total number in Hausa Land alone is estimated at 5,000,000.

On July 21, 1894, at Sierra Leone, the same writer entered in his diary the following note of a conversation with the acting governor: "The accounts he gave of the slave trade at the back of the colony were most discouraging. Until quite recently slave raiding had been going on within four days' march of Freetown. Farther inland he had passed for seven days at a time the burnt villages and country which had been desolated by the slave hunter." The above are only a few facts culled from the many which could be cited to prove that slavery and the slave trade exist to-day in almost every town and village inhabited by African natives.

On January 19, 1892, the President of the United States ratified a general act between the United States of America and the other powers for the suppression of the African slave trade. The ratification was deposited with the King of the Belgians on February 2, 1892; the act was proclaimed on April 2, 1892, and on the same day it took effect. It is known as the Brussels act of 1892.

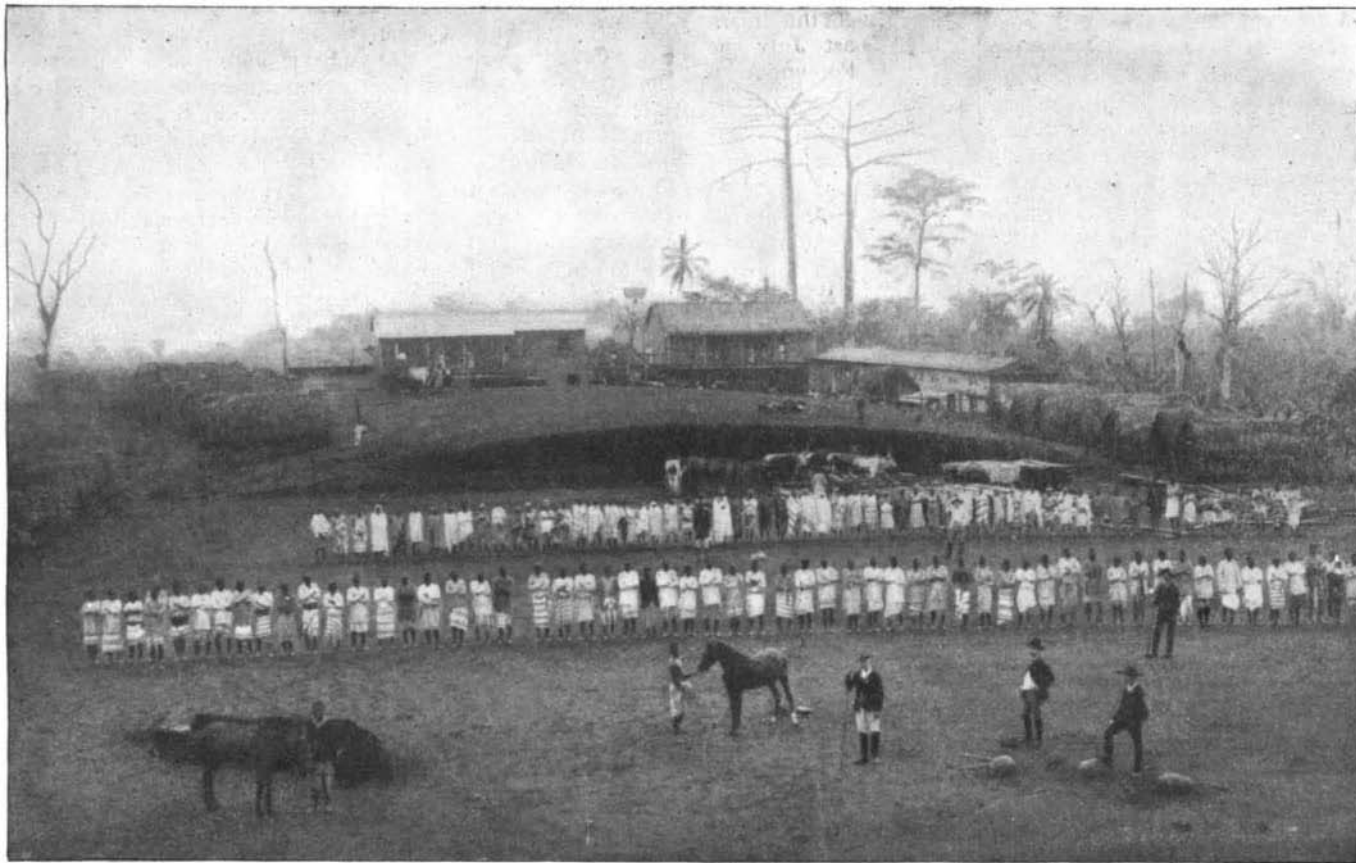
President Gilman of Johns Hopkins University, Senator John T. Morgan, Miss Frances E. Willard, Mr. Booker T. Washington, representing the colored South; and among the clergy, the Rev. Drs. Josiah Strong, L. T. Chamberlain, David H. Greer, David J. Burrell and W. H. P. Faunce, of this city. Ex-Postmaster General Thos. L. James is the treasurer. The plan of work outlined and

matured by Mr. Chatelain contemplates the acquisition of grants of land sufficiently large to give scope for a village or town of moderate size. From this territory, the chief causes of Africa, namely, slavery, polygamy, witchcraft, rum and immoral white men, are to be rigorously excluded. In this free land, the location of which the league has chosen upon the high table land between Angola and Lake Nyassa, liberated slaves are to be settled and educated. The work of each station is to be divided into agricultural, industrial, educational and medical departments, under the direction of competent

specialists. Such a settlement can be started for \$10,000, and, after being fully equipped, can be maintained at a very small cost. Mr. Chatelain is making an urgent appeal for the necessary \$10,000 to establish the first settlement and he hopes to take out the first expedition and establish the first colony during the spring of this year. The address of the league is 513 United Charities Building, New York.

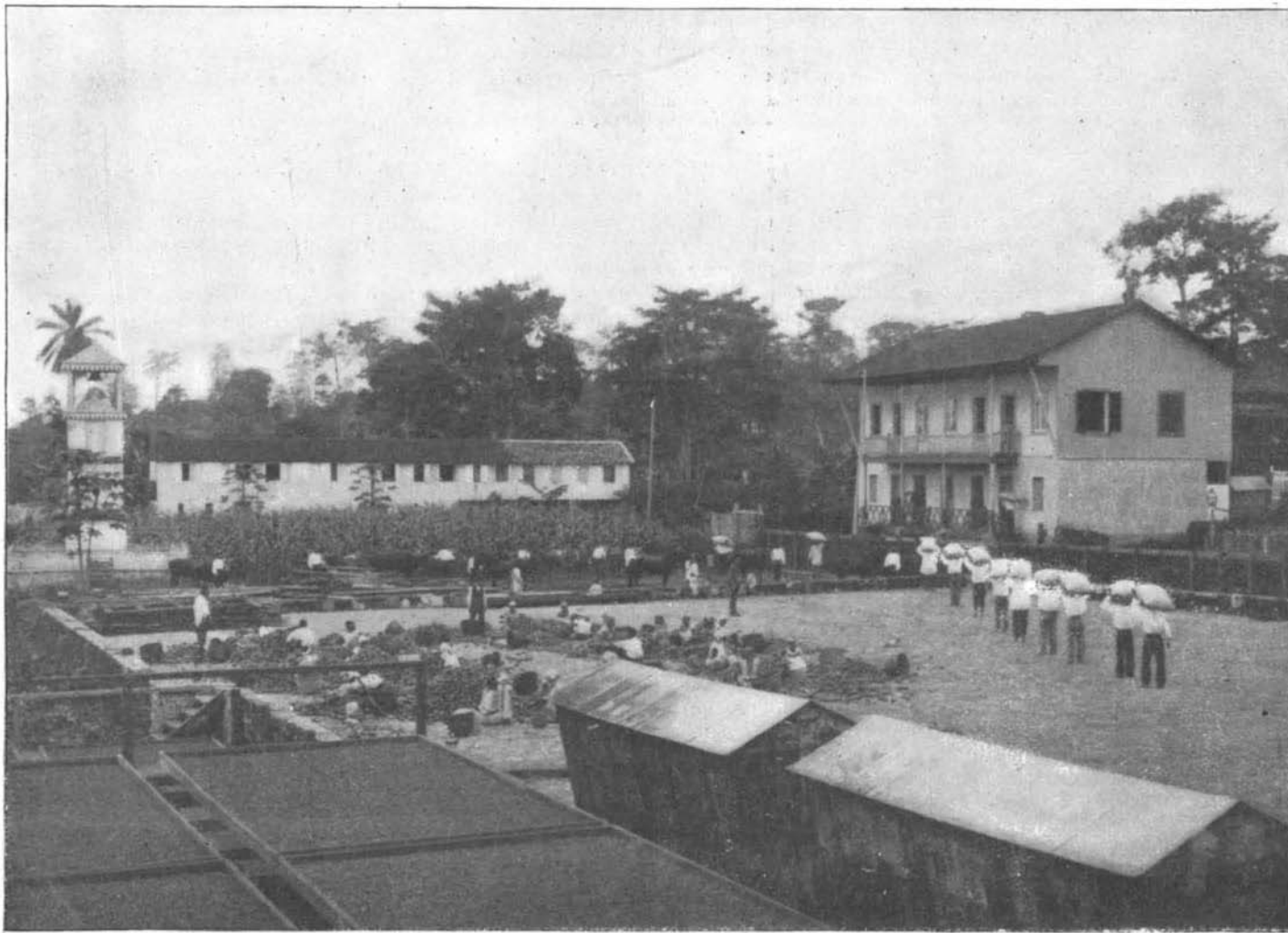
An Invention Wanted.

Quite a number of managers are looking for, or experimenting on their own account, with a view of adopting some convenient device for carrying wheels on the outside of cars, says the Street Railway Review. This seems to be especially desired in those cities where there are long, steep hills with the riding territory at the top or bottom. We illustrated some months since the scheme of hooks on the outside of the cars at Butte, Montana. There the city is away up on the top of the mountain and the good wheel roads down in the valley. In San Francisco the order is reversed, with the choice



THE INTERNAL SLAVE TRADE OF AFRICA—PLANTATION SLAVES AND SLAVE QUARTERS ON THE ISLAND OF SAO THOMÉ.

Political power alone, however, would prove unable to eradicate the evil. It needs the co-operation of philanthropic societies, due to private initiative, which will supplement force by persuasion, and follow it up by education along agricultural and industrial as well as intellectual and moral lines. For this purpose most Protestant and Catholic nations of Europe have organized societies, raised money, and commenced effective work in Africa. America, which by its spirit and traditions ought to take the lead, has hitherto done practically nothing in this great work.



THE INTERNAL SLAVE TRADE OF AFRICA—COCOA PLANTATION ON THE ISLAND OF SAO THOMÉ.

The organization of what is known as a Philafrican Liberators' League was completed at the close of last November. Its board of directors includes many names of national reputation, among which may be mentioned the Hon. Charles P. Daly, Fred. R. Coudert,

riding streets on the high plateau, to reach which the wheelman has to push his vehicle up long, steep hills. General Manager Vining is looking for a good, simple device to take care of the bicycles. Here's a chance for some ambitious inventor.