

WE MAY EXPORT RICE.

Further Extension of the Industry in Mexico is Probable.

There is a promising outlook in this country for the further extension of the rice industry. Last year 100,000-200,000 pounds of this valuable food was produced in this country.

According to the officials of the agricultural department, enough rice can be produced in this country to supply the home demand and to export large quantities. Reliable estimates show there are about 100,000 acres of land in the two states bordering on the Gulf of Mexico well suited to rice cultivation.

Three million acres is a conservative estimate of the amount which can be irrigated successfully. The best results require rotation of crops, consequently only one-half of that amount, or 1,500,000 acres, would be in rice at any one time.

THE MILITIA SYSTEM.

Action by Congress Sought Which Will Make State Troops More Available for National Service.

The war department is anxious to hear from national guard officers and authorities in regard to the proposition to reorganize the state troops on lines which will admit of their employment with the regulars.

FOR THE DROWING.

Medicine Chests Placed Along Water Front in Brooklyn for Emergency Cases.

On Wednesday the United volunteer life-saving corps placed at the Hamilton avenue, Ninth street, Third street, Carroll street, Union street, Harway avenue, and Wallabout bridge in Brooklyn, medicine chests, containing a complete list of restoratives and other needed articles for use in resuscitating drowning people.

GOOD MARKET FOR CEMENT.

Great Quantities of the Stuff Used for a Variety of Purposes in South Africa.

According to official reports South Africa is a good market for cement. All public buildings, stores and dwellings are coated with cement.

California Raisins. The stock of California raisins is so large that growers talk of building a distillery to absorb the yearly surplus hereafter.

Black Cats. Pups of black cats are popular, and already a number of black-cat farms have been established in New England.

THE SUMMER HATS.

They May Be Made in Size, but They Are Light in Weight as Well as Color.

One very appreciable feature of the summer hat is its lightness in weight as well as color. While it may be huge in size, it can be a featherweight all the same, says the New York Sun.

The Lambelle hat, very round and flat, is one of the popular shapes, and is trimmed with flowers and a shepherd's bow of black velvet ribbon falling onto the hair behind.

The flower hat, which extends well over the forehead in a sort of peaked shape, is very fashionable, finished with the bow and ends of black velvet ribbon. A bow of black velvet of some sort seems to be an indispensable factor in the latest millinery, as it makes a pretty contrast with flowers and all the gauzy effects employed.

All these drooping tendencies in hats emphasize the fact of the new coiffure, which has arrived with all the necessary accompaniments of curls and puff. It is this mode of dressing the hair low at the nape of the neck which has brought about the chokerless bodice, and already the hats are affected by it.

Very pretty toques are made by stitching rows of straw in a net foundation and joining them over the net with a cross stitch of gold thread.

The marquis shape is a great favorite in Paris, the brim being edged with small flowers. A hat which is promised will be all the rage later on is three-cornered in shape, of course straw, and sometimes has a black crown with a white upturned brim, outlined with small roses in either pink or white.

A broad, flat hat in straw, alternating with tracks of white chiffon, is trimmed with a band of black velvet ribbon, a handsome buckle and two medium long ostrich feathers at one side.

An unusual style of hat in black crinoline turns sharply off from the face in front in a sort of Napoleon shape, and directly in the center, fastening the brim to the crown, is a bunch of pink roses. On each side under the brim there are two rosettes of black velvet ribbon, with loops on one side falling over the hair.

AMERICAN WOMEN AND DRESS.

They Lay Too Much Stress on It and Try Too Hard to Keep in the Fashion.

The views on "The American Woman and Dress," expressed by Helen Waterston Moody, in Ladies' Home Journal, are based on the marked difference in the way the different nationalities of women visitors at the Paris exposition last summer treated the problem of clothes.

Trying to Dodge It. Young Wife—John, dear, I'm so glad you are coming home to dinner. Now I am going to make a pie for you by my very own self.

John (seriously)—Very well, dear, mind you do, but not too much crust, you know. I never touch pie crust.

All right, Johnny, then the pie shall be extra nice inside, with a lovely gravy. (Trying to speak cheerfully)—Yes, darling, but don't put too much inside, you know. I never eat the inside of pie, and I don't care much for gravy.—Harlem Life.

INCREASE OF ARMY.

Under New Plans Its Total Strength Will Be 77,287 Officers and Men.

Secretary Root's Order Just Issued Gives Details of Army's Make-Up—Infantry Companies 23,220 Men and Artillery 23,220.

Secretary Root has just issued an order giving in full the details of the new army organization. It fixes the total strength of the army at 77,287 officers and men, and determines the proportion of this force to be made up of cavalry, artillery, infantry, engineers and the staff departments.

There will be 126 companies of coast artillery, 109 enlisted men to each company, making a total for this branch of the service of 13,734 men. There will be 30 batteries of field artillery, each company consisting of 160 men, making the enlisted men in the field artillery corps 4,800.

The engineer corps will consist of 1,282 men. This makes the total enlisted strength in the line of the army 74,504. In the staff departments, military academy, Indian scouts, and recruiting parties there will be 2,783 men, bringing the total up to 77,287.

As rapidly as the increase of the enlisted force of the artillery makes the appointment of officers possible, 14 additional batteries of field artillery and 32 additional companies of coast artillery will be organized under the direction of the division and department commanders by making transfers from existing batteries and companies, the non-commissioned officers and men to be divided, so far as practicable, in such a way as to give equal promotion to the non-commissioned officers and to give to each battery and company the same proportion of experienced artillerymen, both the old and new batteries and companies being raised to the strength prescribed by the assignment of recruits or transfers from the cavalry or infantry.

TO MAKE SPECIAL TEST.

Attempt to Attain 125 Miles an Hour on Electric Road Between Berlin and Zossen to Be Made.

There is in Europe an association for the study of electric rapid transit railroads which has issued its report for 1900. Among other things, it is stated that the elevated track of the military road between Berlin and Zossen, upon which experiments will soon be made, has been carefully inspected and strengthened. It is hoped to attain a speed of 125 miles an hour. Two cars will be employed, which are supplied with the strong machines required and will hold from 40 to 50 passengers.

SUGGEST NATIONAL PARK.

Oklahoma City Merchants Offer a Fine Spot in the Territory to the Government.

A strong movement is on foot to have the general land office set aside part of the Wichita mountains for a national park, to be ten miles square and contain 64,000 acres. The Wichita mountains are too rugged to be of value for agricultural purposes, but nevertheless possess scenic beauties, such as great canyons, sparkling streams, towering peaks and delightful wooded parks, necessary for a great park.

THOUGHT PAX ABBREVIATION.

After an Explanation He Realized That It Was Only Latin for Peace.

The Pan-American flag bears the significant word "Pax" ("Peace"), and the date 1901. It was borne in upon the exposition officials and proved that the average man is not a Latin scholar and that "Pax" is no better than Greek to him, says the Buffalo Commercial.

Without doubt grain can be matured in a large section of Alaska. Barley, oats, wheat and rye have developed perfectly from seed accidentally sown and grown wild. Flux of good quality has also been found.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Germany is spending \$3,000,000 on the improvement of the Rhine river below Strasbourg.

The chief drawback to climbing mountains in Mexico is the scarcity of springs, as compared with the Swiss mountains in which they abound.

A local Berlin paper recently announced that an invalid soldier had no other way of passing his time than collecting picture postcards. This has been responded to by some 4,000 cards from all parts of the world.

There are to-day in Brazil, Uruguay and the Argentine about 3,000,000 Italians, in a population of 23,000,000; and it is believed that by the middle of the century there will be 15,000,000 of them, or nearly half as many as there are in Italy to-day.

Australian papers state that the experiment of the West Australian government in turning domestic cats loose in the southeastern districts of the colony, to check the invasion of rabbits from South Australia has been a pronounced success.

The Germans are now conquering Paris more effectively than they did in the days of Bismarck, William and Von Moltke. The Germans are gradually edging in everywhere in the French capital. They are in finance, banking, exploitation, commercial houses, professional houses.

The Irish bank returns show increasing prosperity of the island. In December, 1900, the deposits and cash balances in the Irish joint stock banks amounted to £43,280,000 (exclusive of the £1,960,000 government and other public balances in the bank of Ireland), or £3,508,000 more than at the corresponding date, being in fact the highest yet recorded, while the deposits in the savings banks amounted to £10,368,000, or £1,000,000 more than in December, 1899.

FACTS ABOUT CRAB MEAT.

The Finest Picked is Picked from the Crustacean's Steering Apparatus.

The hard-crab business began several weeks earlier this year than ever before. Chicago is the farthest point away to which crab meat is shipped. Most of it is sold in the east, near the seaboard. Philadelphia is said to be the greatest crab market in the world.

It was an Oxford packer who first made a specialty of crab meat, packing it separately from that taken from the body of the crab. The flake meat is the great boneless muscle attached to the two broad flipper backs—which is taken out in one solid white piece and which easily separates itself into flakes. It brings 25 per cent. more than the other meat. The prices now are one dollar a gallon for flake and 80 cents for body meat.

The disposal of the offal remaining after picking has been troublesome to crab packers. Thousands of wagon loads of it every season have been given to farmers for manure, and thousands of tons dumped into the river. Now, however, there is to be a market for even this debris. It is used for making a commercial fertilizer.

The average catch of crabs per boat per day during the season is three barrels, and the average price 30 cents a barrel. The railroad freight weight of a barrel of live crabs is 150 pounds. One barrel of fat, hard crabs will yield four gallons of 24 pounds. For picking two and one-half cents a pound is paid. The top shells are saved and carefully cleaned for the devilled crab trade.

Cleaners get five cents per hundred shells. Ice is one of the chief items of expense in the crab-meat trade. A packer doing a business of ordinary extent will use \$200 worth of ice a month, and it will take for the same house eight dollars worth of coal a week to steam the crabs. The cans cost 50 per cent. more this season than ever before. A crab picker will make from five to eight dollars a week, working ten hours a day.

The packers buy tripe from the butchers and eels from the fishermen all the year round, and salt them down for crab bait, buying salt by the carload. The crabbers for a packer doing an ordinary business will use 100 tons of bait in a season. Each packer has his own crabbers, whom he equips with outfits and furnishes with bait, charging them up against each crabber in settlement. The packer is obliged to take the whole catch of his crabbers during the season, whether his orders require it or not.

Philippine Ladies Smoke 16-Inch Cigars.

The ladies of the Philippines have progressed far beyond the dainty cigarette; indeed, their cigars, which measure some 16 inches, are not intended for an evening's pleasure or an after-dinner smoke. In the Philippines they prefer smoking on the installment plan, for these huge rolls of tobacco, which measure five inches in circumference, constitute one week's pleasure for the ladies of Luzon. To offset the difficulty presented by the weight, the mouth end is filled with a soft fiber of tobacco, so that when the cigar is grasped firmly between the teeth so great an indentation is made that for the remainder of the six days' smoke the huge cigar fits naturally to the mouth, and can be held without any conscious effort.—London Science.

MEDICINE A HUMBUG.

Speaker So Declares Before American Congress of Tuberculosis.

Dr. M. R. Levenson Creates Excitement at the Meeting Just Held in New York—His Paper Condemned and Shut Out from Minutes.

Excitement marked the closing meeting of the second annual session of the American Congress of Tuberculosis, held the other day at the Hotel Majestic, New York. For a time the dignity of the assembly was perilously near the overflow point, but the crisis was passed in safety and the disturber retired from the room. Dr. M. R. Levenson, of Brooklyn, read a paper entitled "Is Tuberculosis Infectious? Should It be Prevented by Legislation?" The essay afforded the doctor a vehicle for the expression of the most radical sentiments, and, in spite of the opposition that plainly manifested itself, he read it through.

After denying that there were any infectious diseases, with particular reference to tuberculosis and small-pox, he sharply condemned vaccination and pronounced the present anti-spitting ordinance "stupidity and folly." "The infectious theory," he said, "was kept up by the regular physicians who were always on the lookout for power, place and pelf."

Apparently not content with the sensation he had already created, Dr. Levenson continued: "Medicine is a great humbug. I know it is called a science, but it is nothing like science. Doctors are mere empirics when they are not charlatans. To declare tuberculosis infectious in the face of so many facts conclusive to the contrary is to repeat the blunder of the English Royal College of Physicians, who declared in 1754 that the inoculation of smallpox was a highly salutary practice. The first and most efficient act to prevent the spread of tuberculosis will be to abolish the enforcement and encouragement of the murderous superstition of vaccination."

Dr. Charles K. Hole, of Helena, Mont., jumped to his feet and moved that the paper not be printed in the minutes. This was easily carried. A vote was also taken severely condemning the criticism of the medical profession by Dr. Levenson. This was also carried. Dr. Levenson protested vainly and left the room.

Resolutions were adopted on the recommendation of a special committee, calling on the government to take steps to limit the spread of the dread disease by certain specified methods.

BRITISH AGRICULTURE.

Statistics Which Have Been Made Up for the Year 1900 Show That the Decline is Persistent.

The London correspondent of the New York Tribune says the agricultural returns of Great Britain for 1900 which have just been issued show that the decline of British agriculture pursues its steady course. The area under corn crop in Great Britain, which in 1870 occupied 9,548,000 acres, has fallen to 7,335,000 acres.

The area under green crops has fallen almost as heavily, while only the acreage laid down in grass and clover shows an increase. In horses, cattle, sheep and pigs there is a slight advance in this period, but not such as to keep pace with the increase in population, or to compensate for the diminished corn production. England, which used to grow her own corn and was able to feed herself, is becoming every year more and more dependent upon imports from foreign countries.

HISTORIC SECRET ROOM.

Workmen Discover Refuge for Slaves in Dismantling New York House.

In dismantling an old brick house at 32 Baxter street, facing Mulberry Bend park, New York city, the workmen unexpectedly pried open a square trapdoor at the left of the stair leading on the second floor. The trapdoor opens into a secret chamber extending the whole depth of the house, 48 feet. The hidden chute—for that is its shape—is three and one-half feet wide and four feet deep.

Investigation shows that the place was for years before the war one of the chain of stations on the "underground railroad" by which Quakers and other friends of the negro sent fugitive slaves to the north.

Henry Ward Beecher directed runaway negroes to the house, there to lie concealed in "the cage" until the coast was clear.

RUSSIAN COTTON FIELDS.

Growing in Extent and Productiveness—Will Soon Supply All Her Own Needs.

It is expected that Russia will be able soon to supply her own needs in cotton, according to a report received at the state department from Deputy Consul General Hanauer, at Frankfurt, Germany. She is one of the few countries which levies a tax on imported cotton. A tax equal to almost five dollars per 100 pounds, and amounting to about two-thirds of the value of the staple, is imposed. The importation of cotton diminished over 72,000,000 pounds in 1899, while the production increased 34 per cent. during the same year. Great fields in Russia are now planted with cotton, for the cultivation of the fiber is much more profitable than that of wheat.

Names for Locusts. Italians call locusts "little horses," and the German term for them is "hay horses."

IMPORTED POTATOES.

Thousands of Barrels Brought Daily from Europe to the United States.

The potato crops have been good for the last few years, and dealers as well as consumers have been satisfied with the prices. The daily receipts in New York city within a few days averaged about 16,000 barrels, and this figure was pointed to by a large dealer when he was asked whether potatoes were imported from Europe in large quantities. It was explained that in years when crops were poor, Scotland, Ireland and Germany had been drawn upon for potatoes, "but this year and last year there was no necessity for going across the water, and no potatoes were imported."

The custom house records do not agree with the potato dealer's statement. They show that 158,861 bushels of potatoes were imported in the year ending June 30, 1900. This included 72,780 bushels from Bermuda. The importation from Germany was 25,948 bushels. France sent 252 bushels and the Chinese empire contributed 668 bushels. There are certain dishes which are popular with the Chinese in which potatoes are largely used, and the proper flavor cannot be produced, the Chinese think, unless potatoes from his native land are used. The 668 bushels from the Chinese empire and 170 sent from Hong-Kong were probably used in making that particular dish.

In the six months ending December 31, 1900, there were imported from Germany 27,795 bushels of potatoes, valued at \$11,897. The import duty is 25 cents a bushel. The German potatoes sent to the United States are of a small variety, and reach this port usually in September and October. They are used exclusively in the preparation of potato salad. The potato is oily and moist, and may be sliced evenly. The American potatoes become dry when boiled and are likely to break when sliced, thus making the salad "mushy" and uneven. Only a small part of the importation finds its way into private kitchens. The potatoes are bought by the dealers in German delicatessen, who make the salad and sell it to the consumers.

The custom house statistics show also, that in the year ending June 30, 1900, pickles and saucers to the value of \$306,223 were imported, of which the United Kingdom sent \$214,206 worth, the Chinese empire, \$30,199 worth, and Japan, \$14,868 worth. Vegetables in their natural state, exclusive of potatoes, valued at \$24,479, were imported from China last year, and the prices realized for these goods were so good that some of the popular articles are being cultivated on Long Island and in New Jersey for the epicures of Mott and Pell streets.

THEORY OF INSTRUCTION.

Blind and Deaf See and Hear in Vienna—Organs That Have Not Proper Brain Connections.

In the institution for the blind, in Vienna, there is a boy of seven years who, blind from his birth, has learned in 14 months to read and to distinguish color, form and objects of daily use. These he recognizes either by day or by artificial light without previous touch and at continually increasing distances. Prof. Heller, of the institution, who has spent 30 years with the deaf, dumb and blind, recently introduced the lad to the Society of Physicians at Vienna and explained his methods of instruction, says the New York Tribune. Prof. Heller's theory is that the cause of deafness and blindness in persons who possess perfectly formed organs of hearing and sight is due to a loss of proper connection of those organs with the brain. Basing his teaching upon this principle, he has, it is said, made 72 children, formerly deaf and dumb, hear and speak. Three years ago two Hungarian boys, brothers, were brought to Prof. Heller for preparation for the blind school. Both, according to a leading oculist of Vienna, have eyes that are perfectly formed and are suffering from "psychical blindness." With both Dr. Heller's methods were adopted. They were placed in a perfectly dark room in which there was a movable, transparent, illuminated disk, and after long and patient effort learned the difference between light and dark. The youngest was soon able to localize the disk. Then a large house key was placed in his hands that he might feel it. When he had learned to know it, the key was hung behind the disk and the boy said: "What you have placed in the light is your house key." In the same way he became acquainted with a ball and soon learned to distinguish them apart. When a piece of red glass was hung between the lamp and the disk, the boy said: "There is another light." This, he learned, was red. In the same manner he became familiar with all the colors. Outside the darkened room the child was still blind, but there he learned geometrical figures, letters and figures. Gradually the instruction was extended to daylight and he now reads with his eyes.

The Deer's Trusting Eye.

"Buffalo Bill" once allowed himself to be put to shame by failing to shoot a couple of deer at an easy distance. "Everyone has his little weakness," he explained; "mine is a deer's eye. I don't want you to say anything about it to your friends, for they would laugh more than ever, but the fact is, I have never yet been able to shoot a deer if it looked me in the eye. With a buffalo, or a bear, or an Indian, it is different. But the deer has the eye of a trusting child—soft, gentle and confiding. No one but a brute could shoot a deer if he caught that look."—From Mrs. Wetmore's "Life of Col. Cody."