

OUR FRUIT EXPORTS.

GAIN IN SHIPMENTS OF THE PRINCIPAL KINDS.

There Has Been Rapid Growth in Recent Years in the Demand for American Products.

Exports of fruit from the United States in the fiscal year 1904 will exceed \$20,000,000, against less than \$12,000,000 in 1894...

Apples, oranges, apricots, prunes and raisins form the principal items in the exports of fruits. The value of the apple exportations in 1904 will amount to about \$4,000,000...

Prunes from the United States have grown rapidly in recent years. The total number of pounds exported in 1903, the first year in which a record was made...

Raisins are also becoming an important feature in the export trade in fruits. The total number of pounds of raisins exported in 1903 being 4,350,000...

The imports of fruits and nuts have already indicated, changed but little in total value, but in character there has been a material change during the last decade...

Siberia's Big Farms. From Russian sources it is learned that streams of colonists are still pouring into Siberia to develop its agricultural resources...

Righteous Indignation. Towns—Some mean rascal passed a bad dollar bill on me today. Anybody who would do that is the lowest kind of a crook...

Couldn't Be Sold. Mrs. Carey yesterday was Mrs. Mary's birthday and her own maid presented her with a silver toaster...

Carry Coals with Them. When a Russian family moves it is usual for the head to carry about half a pint of coals or warm ashes in a closed vessel from the hearth of one house to that of the other...

Ferns Used as Tea. In Arran where the madderiate ferns grow plentifully, some of the inhabitants use them as a substitute for tea.

NEWEST NOTIONS IN DRESS

Decrease of Dame Fashion Concerning the Correct Things in Color and Design.

Fashion seems to be trending towards a season of brilliant coloring. It is hardly possible that the gorgeous tones of orange, copper, blue, green and purple seen on some of the costumes...

Almost all tailor models show very short skirts, trim, closely fitting jackets, and small sleeves. How these jacket sleeves are going to contain the enormous frilled and trimmed waist sleeves is a thing of mystery...

Decorative styles are shown in the coat suits. One of plain blue broadcloth might have stepped from a fashion plate of the early nineteenth century...

IT LEFT HIM THOUGHTFUL.

Then He Went to Work and Punctuated His Sign According to the Rules.

"Look here, what are you doing there?" The man who asked the question seemed excited, but the man to whom it was addressed was not disturbed in the least...

The man who became more excited at this non-attention, and I asked the question again in a louder tone than before. Then the workman replied: "But don't you see that dirt, sir?"

I beg your pardon, Mr. Smith, but that notice does not forbid me dumping dirt there. "It doesn't, eh? What does it say, then?" "It says, 'Place no dirt here by order of John Smith,'" read the man.

Work sufficient bread sponge for a small loaf to hold a cup of butter and a half cup of sugar. Have dried peas or apples stewed and sweetened to a rich syrup...

Ups and Downs. Tom—I wonder what makes Fred so melancholy? He says he doesn't care a rap what happens up.

On Second Thoughts. Her Father—Are you going to marry that insignificant little Percy Mill-yuns? Why, you once said you would never marry a man less than six feet high.

RUSSIA'S GREAT PROBLEM.

Demand for Parliamentary Government and the Obstacles to Its Establishment.

No one was surprised when the news of the assassination of the Russian minister of the interior was flashed round the world last month. Whatever else was said, practically all who spoke or wrote of the event agreed that Monsieur Von Plehve had met the fate which in Russia was the usual result of his policy and methods...

His taking off will not make Russia freer. It is more likely to delay the promulgation of reform decrees. And herein lies the pity of it.

Russia is a great empire, the people of which are blind groping for the light of representative institutions, and the czar and his ministers are guiding them with such wisdom as they possess.

JAP OFFICER AS A COOLIE.

Spent Six Months in Port Arthur Getting Information of Value to His Army.

The other day I was talking to a very intelligent man who has had many opportunities of meeting globe trotters—globe trotters for reasons of business rather than of pleasure—and he told me a remarkable story which had been told to him by one of these globe trotters.

A Japanese trader was leaving Port Arthur just as it became evident that war must come. He had several trunks, and these he entrusted to a Chinese coolie, who seemed to be well up to his work and who handled the trunks with the characteristic promptness and facility of a Chinaman of that class.

The officer remarked to the trader that he had not paid his coolie. The trader confessed that this was so and gave as an excuse that the coolie had suddenly disappeared just as the vessel was leaving.

Physical Degeneracy a Myth. Interesting facts regarding the question of physical degeneracy have been furnished by the use in England of old tailor measurements for comparison.

In After Years. Mrs. Green—William, what objection have you to that young man who is sitting on our daughter? Green—He is silly, Mary. "Oh, that's because he's in love. I remember the time when you were a very silly young man."

On Second Thoughts. Her Father—Are you going to marry that insignificant little Percy Mill-yuns? Why, you once said you would never marry a man less than six feet high.

Whole Thing Himself. The only name on the list of voters for the parish of Hopwas Hays, in England, is that of the assistant overseer himself. Besides being the only occupier, he appoints himself overseer at the annual parish meeting, over which he presides and alone attends. As assistant overseer he collects the guardians' precepts from himself and pays himself his own salary.—N. Y. Sun.

THE FORTUNES OF CUBA.

Contrary to Many Predictions the Island Republic is Getting Along Finely.

The Cuban republic is young among the nations of the earth, but is a lusty infant. It is only two years since Tomas Estrada Palma took the oath of office as the chief executive of the island republic, writes Albert E. Powell, in the Chicago Journal.

The adopted constitution has proved satisfactory, although many critics think it has serious defects. There are plain indications that the constitutions of the United States and Spain were drawn heavily upon and that they were also made upon the constitutions of the Spanish American countries.

It provides for a partially centralized government; the president has the power to suspend the regulations of the various "Ayuntamientos" and those of the several governors of the provinces. In other provisions are seen possibilities for a strong hand in time of stress.

Cuba is well governed. It is a republic in all respects, and the people are proud of it. It is a republic in all respects, and the people are proud of it.

MOUNTAIN CLIMBING CLUB.

Unique Organization Composed of Men and Women Fond of Adventure.

When the "Sierras" gather for their annual pilgrimage, says the Era, there is one who always addresses them in these words: "Welcome home, my friends!" To John Muir, what men call the wilderness has been home and school where he had devoted the best of his life to study Nature's handicraft.

Succession of Assassinations. The position of a Russian high official cannot be a happy one at present. The list of assassinations is indeed terrible. De Plehve's predecessor, M. Siplaginoff, was assassinated on April 15, 1902, and he had stepped into the shoes of a murdered man, Gen. Bobrikoff, governor of Finland, who was killed only in last June, while Gen. Bogoloff, minister of education, was assassinated; while attempts have in the last three years been made on M. Motzink, chief of police; Prince Galtzoff, governor of the Caucasus; Prince Obolenski, chief of police at Kharkoff; Gen. de Wahl, governor of Vilna; and M. Pobisnostoff, the noted proprietor of the holy synod.—Black and White.

He Was It. "And what seems to you," the reporter asked, "to be the object of most interest in this country?" "Well," replied the foreign notable, who was endeavoring to travel, "I seem to be."—Philadelphia Press.

ICEMAN AND WASHERWOMAN

Housekeeper Reveals a Secret That Has Made Two Industrious Persons Successful.

There was a discussion in progress about success and persons who are classed as successful, relates the New York Times.

"Only the other morning, as I settled my monthly account, he confided to me with undisguised pride that he had received over \$100 in the past four days. 'I tell you,' he said, 'I've got a beautiful ice route—beautiful.' Has it ever occurred to you to apply that particular adjective to an ice route? No, nor had it to me, but just that enthusiasm and that burst of confidence revealed the whole secret of the spirit that he put into his work."

"Successful? Of course he is successful. He can't help being so. I don't mean merely in a financial sense, either. He has the possibility in him of something more than that."

"The only attempt at condolence I ever made was when I ventured to say that it was too bad that her husband had died and left her to struggle so. But she would have none of it."

THE CHINESE CALENDAR.

Its Errors Rectified by a Jesuit Astronomer in the Seventeenth Century.

In the old Chinese classic, the Records of Yu, we are told that "the beds of the sun and moon were made of gold and silver, and respectfully give the times of their rising and setting." The Chinese calendar is to and two others of their respective families were ordered to the four points of the compass to determine the equinoxes and solstices. The bird, supposed to be Spring, Antares (Alpha Scorpii), of summer, Beta Aquarii for autumn; and the world renowned Pleiades the sign of the winter solstice. "Oh you Hi and Hu!" the old document continues, "all around there are three hundred and sixty and six days, use the extra moon, faithfully regulate the hundred offices, and all the works will be perfect." Thus was formed the first Chinese calendar about 2,300 years before the Christian era; and its regulation has always been an object of care and interest to the emperors from Yao down to the present day.

Practically no changes were made in it, says an astronomical authority, until the mission of the Jesuits to Peking in the seventeenth century. The help of Mohammedan astronomers had been sought, but they were unable to cope with the difficulties which presented themselves, and the emperor, Kang-Hi, was thankful to let the Jesuits take the lead in all astronomical researches. He built them an observatory at Peking, which Father Verbiest fitted up (in 1688) in thorough "up-to-date" style. The errors of centuries had accumulated in all departments of the science, and the foreigners had a hard task to eliminate them and introduce European improvements without exciting hostility. The accuracy of their calculations soon inspired such confidence that Father Verbiest was appointed president of the mathematical tribunal. He soon turned his attention to the calendar, rectifying the errors, but not making many changes beyond introducing the 12 signs of the zodiac, and dividing it into 60 degrees instead of 365, as was the old Chinese division. The reformed calendar went into many details and the calculations were given down to the minutiae.

The solar and lunar years are both used and a combination is effected between the two by adding seven extra months during the period of the lunar cycle—that is 19 solar years. The civil year commences with the second new moon after the winter solstice, and consists of 12 months of moons, which are called large or small according to whether they consist of 29 or 30 days. When an extra moon is to be used a thirteenth month is added, but one of the months is doubled. The rule that the winter solstice shall be kept in the eleventh moon is never departed from.

As our work is not used except among Christian converts, the Chinese are accustomed to count by the date of the moon. Certain days are considered specially sacred, such as the 1st and 15th of each month, and the date, on which the numbers are doubled—on the 1st of the third month, or 7th of the seventh. Particular attention is given in the calendar for general use, to the lucky and unlucky days, sometimes even to the neglect of astronomical information and predictions. Some opinions combine rather poetical matter with the practical and superstitious notes, giving the date when the rainbow will first be seen, the time for the opening of certain flowers, and the operations and songs of birds.

The official calendars are issued annually after they have received the emperor's approval, and although filled with superstitions and inaccuracies, many particulars, they are most interesting and instructive, and present a good example of the lore and science of the Chinese people.

The Doctor Enlightened. Representative Livingston, of Georgia, repeats a story that was told him by a physician on duty at a hospital in Atlanta.

Domestic Happiness. Mrs. Neighbors—How have different ways of making home happy. Mrs. Haumer—How so? "Some do it by staying at home, and some by staying away."—Cincinnati Enquirer.