

SEALSKINS CHEAPER.

Owing to the Falling Off in the Demand.

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—The sleek and costly seal skin seems to be somewhat out of fashion.

This news comes as a surprise to local traders, for the catch of this year was much lower than that of 1895.

MINING TOWN BURNED.

Jamestown, Cal., Had No Means of Fighting Fire.

Sonora, Cal., Dec. 21.—The little town of Jamestown, located right in the heart of the mother lode's richest section, was visited by a costly fire this morning.

A HORRIBLE ATROCITY.

Bucket of Lye Water Thrown in Face of a Woman and Child.

Chillicothe, O., Dec. 21.—There is great excitement at Bethel, a small town three miles south of Kingston, this county, occasioned by a horrible atrocity which occurred this afternoon.

Mrs. Shell made her escape, but is being pursued by several hundred men and boys, assisted by dogs, and if captured a lynching will follow.

Hermann, the Magician, Dead.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 21.—Hermann, the magician, died today of heart disease in his private car at Great Valley, near Salamanca, on his way to Bradford.

(Professor Hermann, whose father was a sleight-of-hand performer, made his debut as a magician when he was but 8 years old. He has traveled all over Europe and America and has amassed a great fortune.)

Pardoned by Cleveland.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 21.—Today Sheriff Van de Vanter, of this county, received notification from Washington, D. C., that Mrs. Margaret Morrison, a young woman of Port Townsend, had been granted a conditional pardon by President Cleveland.

Attempted to Blow up a House.

Stockton, Cal., Dec. 21.—An attempt was made at 3 o'clock this afternoon to blow up a house in Hunter street, near the heart of the city, occupied by two Japanese women.

Placerville, Cal., Dec. 21.—The stage running between Auburn and Georgetown was stopped at 4 o'clock this afternoon between Penobscot and Greenwood in this county, by one man, and relieved of the Wells-Fargo express box.

CUBAN INDEPENDENCE.

Senate Committee Agreed to Report Cameron Resolution.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The meeting of the senate committee of foreign relations was important in two respects. It resulted in an agreement to report the Cameron resolution for the recognition of Cuban independence, and it developed, through the statement of Secretary Olney, the administration's policy in regard to the insurrection in Cuba.

First—That the Cuban insurgents have established no government.

Second—That the right to recognize a new state rests with the president, independent of congressional action.

He contended, in elaboration of the first point, that the pretended government of the island was without habitation.

"Suppose you recognize the independence of the island," said he, "what are you going to do with it?"

The secretary said the story which had been very industriously circulated that Consul-General Lee had provided the state department with an elaborate report on the condition of affairs in Cuba, was untrue.

"It is not true," he said. "General Lee has made no general written report at all. He has made reports on several special cases, but not on the situation as a whole.

It so developed during the examination that the government had made no demand in the case of the Competitor prisoners, and in other cases of a similar character, beyond requests for information.

All the members of the foreign relations committee were present today, except Gray and Daniel.

The meeting was held for the express purpose of continuing the discussion of the policy on the Cuban question to be recommended by the committee.

One member of the committee said: "Of course Spain will fight, but there is no danger of other countries getting in our way. No other European nation wants to fight us, and we would wind up the war with Spain in short order."

The opinion was expressed that Cleveland would veto the joint resolution. Another member of the committee said he believed that in case the president should veto the resolution, it would pass over the veto, as more than two-thirds of both the senate and house favored it.

Senator Cameron's report to accompany the resolution deals at length with precedents in the matter of recognition of independence and intervention, beginning with the Greek revolution and coming down to the present time.

"Resolved, By the senate and house of representatives, in congress assembled, that the independence of the republic of Cuba be and the same is hereby acknowledged by the United States of America."

"Section 2—That the United States will use its friendly offices with the government of Spain to bring to a close the war between Spain and Cuba."

New Alien Labor Ruling.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 21.—Immigration Inspector De Barry has received from Washington notice of a new ruling by the secretary of the treasury on the alien labor law.

The Pacific Railroad Bill.

Washington, Dec. 21.—The Pacific funding railroad bill will be the first business in the house after the holiday recess.

In Germany and France twenty-five per cent of the suicides are women; in Japan the portion is thirty-eight per cent.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Downing, Hopkins & Co.'s Review of Trade.

Comparative quietness ruled in wheat last week, the volume of business falling off largely on account of the smaller cash demand and the fact that some mills have closed down.

The foreign news is just as mystifying as ever, cablegrams bring only partial encouragement, quoting prices weak and depressed one day with little or no change, and the next day "a turn deers."

In corn there is a very interesting market to report. Prices have not changed since the last review.

GENERAL MARKETS.

PORTLAND, OR., Dec. 22, 1896. FLOUR—Portland, Salem, Cascade and Dayton, \$4.50; Benton county, White Lily, \$4.40; Graham, \$3.75; superfine, \$2.50 per barrel.

SEATTLE, WASH., Dec. 22, 1896. FLOUR—(Jobbing)—Patent excellent, \$5.25; Novelty A, \$4.75; California brands, \$5.60; Dakota, \$5.50; patent, \$6.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.50; per cwt, \$3.50; Graham, \$4.00 per barrel; 10-lb sacks, \$2.50 per cwt; rye flour, \$5.00 per barrel; 10-lb sacks, \$2.50 per cwt; rye meal, \$4.50 per barrel; per cwt, \$2.40; rolled oats, \$6.75 per barrel; hominy, \$2.50 per cwt; cracked wheat, \$3.25; rolled wheat, \$5.25 per barrel; whole rolled wheat flour, \$2.50 per cwt; pearl barley, per 100 lb sacks, \$3.60; split peas, 4 1/2c; table cornmeal, yellow, \$1.65 per cwt in 10-lb sacks; 50s, \$1.50; white, 10s, \$1.75; 50s, \$1.65; flaked hominy, \$2.50 per keg.

CORN—Whole, \$22 per ton; cracked \$23; feed meal, \$23.

MUTTON—Gross, best sheep, wethers, \$2.00; ewes, \$2.00; dressed mutton, 4c per pound.

POTATOES—California, 55c; Oregon, 60c to 70c per sack; sweets, 2c per pound.

EGGS—Oregon, 30c per dozen.

POTATOES—Garnet Chile, 40c to 50c; Salinas Burbanks, 50c to 75c; Early Rose, 60c to 65c; River Burbanks, 25c to 35c; sweets, 75c to \$1.10 per cental.

IN JAPAN the portion is thirty-eight per cent.

A RELUCTANT READER.

Read Scott's Fascinating Tales as if in a Dream.

It is a very old proverb that you may lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink. It might be added that if you could make him drink, you certainly could not make him enjoy the draught.

"Well, old fellow, how is 'Ivanhoe' getting on?"

"Pretty well, thank you."

"How far have you got?"

"Oh, I've nearly read"—and he consults the top of the page—"one hundred and twenty pages."

"And whom do you like best?"

"A hasty glance at the page to see what name came handiest. 'Oh, Wamba.' (Wamba is the jester, or fool.)"

"Well, you know what Wamba was?"

"Yes, I rather dubiously."

"Well, what?"

"One of the chaps in the book."

"Now the unwilling reader stood well at school in history, so a week later they tried him again on a different tack."

"Have you found any old friends in 'Ivanhoe'?"

"No."

"Well, you know King Richard?"

"King Richard?"

"Yes, Richard the First."

"Oh, yes; he was king 1189 to 1199."

Herbert Spencer's new work, the third volume of "The Principles of Sociology," is nearly through the press.

WITH HOOK AND LINE.

The Excitable Frenchman Can Exhibit a Lot of Patience.

It is one of the curiosities of human nature that the most nervous and excitable people are often the most patient fishermen with hook and line.

"They form a double wreath of humanity on both sides of the Seine," he declared, "reaching from Charenton clear to Maison-Lafitte. For them were created the fortunate isles of Saint-Cloud and Croissy and the verdurous shores of Port-Marly and Chatou."

"Isolated there in the midst of tumult, calm in the very bosom of agitations, the passers-by smile at their aspect and gibe at their attitude and their immobility. They never catch a thing; the passing skeptics say. What a mistake! The vulgar lally know naught of what these fishermen catch besides fish; for fish are not alone the things they go for."

This means that the contemplation which is in a manner enforced on those who fish with hook and line, especially where no fish are to be found, often results in the apprehension of important things which would never have come if the fishermen had remained among the distracting scenes of Parisian life.

A distinguished French academician is accustomed to declare that he fished his academician chair out of the Seine with a hook and line; for the poems which really won for him his literary crown came to him while he was courting the wary gudgeon on the banks of the river.

He is far from being the only author who has worked in this way. There are three hundred and more living dramatists whose works have, in some shape, been brought out on the boards of the Paris theaters; and out of these, thirty have declared that they should never have had a single success if they had not elaborated their dramatic schemes while angling.

One of these dramatists once came back, radiant with glee, from a session of seven steady hours on the banks of the Seine. On his way home he met a friend.

"Well, did you catch anything?" asked the friend.

"Catch anything! Well, I should think I did! I caught a fifth act in three tableaux and a denouement that will draw all Paris!"

But he had not one fish. A somewhat amusing story is told of a minister of the interior, Monsieur De Corbiere, who was accustomed to get up every morning very early and go out with a hook and line to quiet his nerves on the banks of the Seine.

The office-seeker had no influence with the minister, but in some way he learned where the spot was to which the minister always went to fish.

Providing himself with "tackle," he rose still earlier than the minister, and when Monsieur De Corbiere went to his favorite place he found a stranger installed there, paying no attention to the minister, and apparently quite ignorant of his identity.

The minister went somewhere else, and got up earlier the next morning; but on arriving at the place he found the same man installed there. Again and again this happened. It was useless to try to forestall the man. He was at the spot before the slightest break of dawn.

At last the minister approached the man and said politely, "You seem to be very fond of fishing, sir?"

"I am, sir," answered the other; "and for the present I employ it as a means of passing the time while I am awaiting a response to an application which I have made to the minister of the interior."

"You are looking for an office?"

"A small prefecture, sir, in the country. I have waited a long time, and may have to wait still longer; but we fishermen, sir, know how to be patient."

"Will you kindly give me your name and address, sir? I have a little influence, perhaps, at the department, and I shall be glad to mention your case. Between fishermen, sir—"

"Ah, I thank you, here is my card."

That evening the office-seeker received his appointment and went no more to the banks of the Seine, and the minister thereafter fished in peace in his accustomed spot.

Adaptable Stomachs.

It is well known that North American Indians can go an extraordinary time without food, and on the other hand can eat enormously when the opportunity serves them.

Their recklessness about their food is a trying characteristic. At the commencement of a new stage in the journey we had to serve out ten days' rations, and some of the men would eat so much in the first few days that by the end of the week they had none left.

But they can go on for great distances on what appears to be the most insufficient food. Some of my men carried loads of one hundred and ten pounds from dawn to dusk, with only a pound's rest in the middle of the day, on a pound and a half of beans or Indian corn, and sometimes less than that.

When their "foot-pounds" of energy were derived puzzled me, till I noticed

that they became thinner and thinner. They illustrate the law of compensation; for the amount of food they can eat, when they have it, is phenomenal.

When we reached the Kikuyu country on the return journey, I owed all the men arrears of food, amounting with one group of men to seven days' rations. I offered them beads or wire instead of the excess of food, that they might buy for themselves any little delicacies, such as chickens or ripe bananas; but they refused my offer.

"You owe us seven days' food," they replied; "seven days' food we will have, or nothing."

Of course it was given them; but in the evening one of them came as a delegate from the rest to ask for medicine. He complained of severe internal pains, and seemed very uncomfortable. I asked him what he had been doing, and what he had eaten.

He calmly replied that he had done nothing, and had only eaten the food that had been given him.

Each of the men, having received his seven days' rations, had borrowed a big cooking-pot, made a great fire, and had cooked and eaten the whole of the ten and a half pounds of beans.

I was somewhat annoyed and declined to give medicine, telling the emissary that the only expedient I could think of to prevent fatal consequences was a band of hoop iron. This we had not got, so he must take himself together with my climbing-rope.



Herbert Spencer's new work, the third volume of "The Principles of Sociology," is nearly through the press.

F. C. Selous, the mighty hunter of big African game, has written a history of recent events in Matabeleland, both before and after the insurrection.

Ernest E. Russell, editor of Public Opinion, is about to publish a radical purpose novel with the enigmatical title, "The Reason Why; A Story of Fact and Fiction."

The Kindergarten Magazine gives thirty pages to an illustrated article on the Chicago Normal School, erstwhile the Normal School belonging to Cook County and Col. F. W. Parker.

Mrs. William Morris writes from Kelmecott House in the suburbs of London asking for the loan of all letters written by her husband, to be used in the compilation of a life of the artist-author.

The Critic states that Ferdinand Brunetiere, the French critic and editor of the Revue des Deux-Mondes, is to deliver a course of lectures on French poetry at the Johns Hopkins University next March.

The MacMillan company announces "Guess at the Riddle of Existence," by Prof. Goldwin Smith, the talented Canadian essayist and publicist. The questions treated in the volume are ethical and religious.

The Ladies' Home Journal gives its readers some more heart-to-heart talks—not on pillow shams, but on marriage. Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney and Dr. Parkhurst treat the subject from their respective standpoints.

Over thirty colored men and one colored woman have been regularly admitted to the Illinois bar and are now practicing law in Chicago. Judge Jas. B. Bradwell prints an interesting biographical article on the subject in the Chicago Legal News.

Exit Aubrey Beardsley from his second magazine venture. The Savoy is to be discontinued after the issue of the eighth number, in December. The Aubrey Beardsley art is not the fad it once was, in the brief days when the Yellow Book flared into conspiracy.

William T. Adams, known as Oliver Optic to boyish romance lovers, and to others as the father-in-law of Sol Smith Russell, has written more books for boys than any other man living, but at the age of 80 he has just returned to his Boston home from a trip around the world, laden with fresh literary materials.

The prominence of Gen. Lew Wallace in the St. Louis convention adds interest to the rumor that he has begun a new piece of literary work on the lines of his "Ben Hur" and his "Prince of India." But as Gen. Wallace is a slow and painstaking worker, and very close-mouthed regarding his unfinished writings, it will probably be some time before the public knows even the field in which he has laid his new plot.

In the Harvard Graduates' Magazine Edward Everett Hale writes entertainingly of a group of five Harvard presidents who were photographed together at the same table in 1861. They were Josiah Quincy, Edward Everett, Jared Sparks, James Walker and C. C. Felton. "The old Harvard statutes were such that no man in his senses could remain president of Harvard College for many successive years. These statutes were changed when President Eliot was elected."

Too Ambitious.

"Oh, that young man is all right," said Gohang. "He is just sowing his wild oats."

"The trouble with him," said Grymes, "is that he is trying to raise two crops on the same land."—Truth.

How soon after marriage a woman gets reconciled to having her husband see her in her old clothes!