

General J. P. Osterhaus, our Consul at Lyons, France, has furnished the Agricultural Department some statements relative to poultry raising in France which may be of interest to our readers. He says that country feeds 40,000,000 hens annually, worth a total of about 100,000,000 francs. The practice of making capons (emasculating the males) is very common, and the females are also rendered incapable of breeding, being unsexed—the French use in this connection the term *poulardes*—and in that condition they are known as *poulardes*. This gives them a tendency to fatten, and is done when they do not promise well for laying, or have ceased to be fertile. Pullets of the largest breeds are generally selected for this purpose. About one-fifth of the 40,000,000 hens are so treated, and yield, at the above quotation, 20,000,000 francs. Besides the poulardes, 2,000,000 capons are annually sold, yielding 5,000,000 francs. The 400,000,000 stock hens produce every year at least 100,000,000 young chickens. If, of this number, 10,000,000 are allowed to replace the one-fifth sacrificed to Epicurus, and another 10,000,000 for various casualties, there remain 80,000,000 spring chickens, which, sold at 1 franc 50 centimes, (30 cents,) represent the sum of 120,000,000 francs. For the sake of accuracy, the enhanced value of the poulardes and capons must be taken into the account; this is not less than 6,000,000 francs, and raises the aggregate realized annually from the sale of the various kinds of chickens to 151,000,000 francs. Estimating the other products of the 40,000,000 stock hens at 240,000,000 francs, we have a grand total of 397,000,000 francs, (\$74,000,000,) which the chickens of the French farmers annually yield to them.

A new combination in the Atlantic and Pacific R. R. Co. on the 9th, is the result of a trip from which J. Edgar Thompson, President of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, has just returned, in which he went over the completed portion of the road to Venita, Indian Territory, the point of juncture of the Atlantic and Pacific road with the Missouri, Kansas and Texas road. Mr. Scott, the new President, is now in Europe on business connected with the foreign debt of the Texas and Pacific road, but will probably return immediately upon receiving notification of the new arrangement. The Directory is now composed of some of the heaviest railroad men in the East—Mr. Thompson, Mr. Scott, and Mr. Solomon, of the Pennsylvania Central. The latter is financial agent of that Company. Alfred T. Devine is President of the united railroads of New Jersey, and the New York connection of the Pennsylvania Central. Besides these, General Fisk, the new Treasurer, states that a number of heavy capitalists of other railroads have taken large interests in the Atlantic and Pacific. In consequence of this combination, the line of the Texas Pacific road will probably be deflected northward, and form a connection with the 35th parallel road at a point between Alia Querqu, New Mexico, and the southern line of that Territory, thence westward, both roads to use the present located route on the thirty-fifth parallel to the Pacific Coast. Upon Mr. Scott's return, the construction of the road will again be pushed forward rapidly.

A few years since there was a Presbyterian minister at Columbus, Miss., who had a horror of shouting in church, which fact was well known to his congregation. One day, after he had preached a very spiritual sermon, an old lady was observed to leave the church in a very hasty manner. Meeting her a few days afterwards, the minister asked her why she had rushed from the church so suddenly the Sunday before. "Well," she responded, "the fact is, I was so filled with grace in listening to your sermon that I found that I really could not contain myself, and so I ran over to the Methodist church across the way and shouted."

A NICE PLACE TO LIVE.—There is a farm in Pennsylvania where stones, bones, green walnuts and a variety of other small missiles are continually coming down from above in unexpected showers, to the exceeding discomfort of the dwellers. All this happens in broad daylight, as does likewise the making of tracks under the very eyes of the beholders. These tracks are of the most remarkable and unusual kind, being of tremendous size, and all made with the right foot. They are seen to follow people on horseback while, horrible to think of, the form that makes them is wholly invisible.

Lung Yow, a Chinaman, was hung at Walla Walla last Friday. The *Statesman*, in speaking of the execution, says: "The hanging of Lung Yow is the first legal execution that has been had in Walla Walla county, and this, notwithstanding we have had scores and scores of murders, some of them characterized with circumstances of peculiar atrocity. In all these cases the offenders had either money or friends, and so they escaped punishment. Lung Yow had neither money nor friends, and for him the law had no mercy. It is the old story. Gild crime with gold, and the bloodiest offender can snip his fingers at the law; but let the poor and friendless dip his hands in blood, and all the engineering of the law is at once set at work to hunt him down."

A writer in the *Statesman* says: "A suit has just been commenced against the Salem Flouring Mill Company by Wm. T. Wythe and Laura his wife, of California, who claim as heirs of W. Wilson, deceased, one-fourth interest in the real estate of the Salem Mills. This brings this disputed question of Salem land titles directly into court, and as the business portion of our town and the entire half comprising the land set apart as the special claim of Dr. W. H. Wilson is involved in the suit, it is of course of the utmost importance to all our citizens to have the matter settled as soon as possible."

The recently elected General Assembly of Kentucky will contain in the Senate 32 Democrats and 6 Republicans; in the House, 18 Democrats and 19 Republicans. The Republicans gain 2 in the Senate, and the Democrats gain 1 in the House.

A new and ingenious device for concealing smuggled goods was exposed on Havana steamers on the 11th. The Custom House officers discovered that the crew had stored a large lot of cigars and cigarettes in sails on the fore-topmast. Seizures of the goods thus concealed were made on the steamers *Cleopatra* and *Moro Castle*.

As mamma was putting Bertha to bed, the little one said: "I'm not afraid of the dark." "No, certainly you need not be, for it can't hurt you." "But I was afraid, mamma, when I went into the pantry after a cookie." "What were you afraid of?" "Afraid I couldn't find the cookie."

In Texas the Minister of the Gospel of Peace knows his business. When a crowd of jayhawkers started a disturbance in church on a recent Sunday the preacher raised up a shot-gun and said: "William Dello, sit down, or I'll make it painful for you." William sat down, and was as quiet as a lamb.

John Newsom, Esq., as agent for Marion county, on Saturday the 16th inst., let the contract for building a bridge across Pudding river at Newsom's mill. The contract was awarded to H. D. Mount for the sum of \$999. The bridge is 313 feet long with 100 feet span; east apron is 175 feet in length, west, 38 feet.

There was a Warm Spring Indian in Pendleton last week buying horses. He had the ornaments once worn by the notorious Captain Jack in his ears. Mr. Switzer purchased them of the Indian, and intends to keep them as relics of the late Modoc war.

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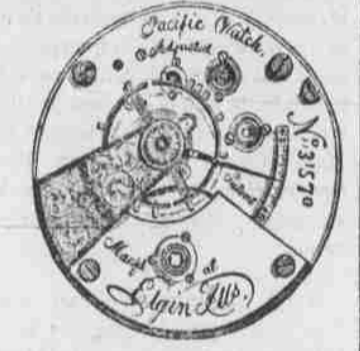
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