

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

A Column Devoted to the Interests of Farmers and Stockmen.

Six hundred tons of honey will be harvested in Ventura county, Cal., this season.

With hay above \$10 per ton it is very poor policy to feed cattle that when sold will not bring top prices.

Good ripe fruit is never too plentiful for use, but it may be so abundant that marketing will not give profit.

Nobody has seen ground harrowed too much as a preparation for wheat, for it is hardly possible to get too fine silt.

If swine are to be kept on the farm the best profits will be found in the finest breeds that run into matured meat the first year.

The agricultural distress in Germany is so great that it is proposed to divide large estates for planting in the colonies among German peasants.

In Marion and Polk counties, Oregon, the hop crop has not turned out as well as expected, and in some places there is not more than half a crop.

Deep tillage is the privilege to which latent fertility in the lower soil responds with alacrity where the exercise gives invitation, so multiplying fruits to the measure of enlarged resources.

The methods of wheat farming in these days of hurry and worry to get work done cheaply, are much inferior to those employed a few years ago when hindrances were less troublesome than now.

Despite the numerous chapters on weed encroachments that have filled pages upon pages of agricultural papers their extent increases, and each succeeding year finds them more firmly established.

Mr. George Graham, of Beaver Creek, Clackamas county, Oregon, harvested an average of 40 bushels of grain, wheat and oats, off of 25 acres. The most of this land has been in constant use for the last 25 years.

It is said that a tablespoonful of powdered alum, sprinkled into a hog-head of water and stirred, will in a few hours, precipitate to the bottom all the impure particles and leave the water clear and pure as spring water. Four gallons would need but a teaspoonful.

Keep dairy salt and all other that is to be used for human food in clean packages and away from all foul odor, for salt will absorb impurities from the atmosphere and afterward impart it into food with which it comes in contact. Serious losses have occurred from ignorance of this fact.

A blacksmith who does not perceive the requirement that the foot of a horse must be pared to natural shape and long wearing of shoes until the hoofs are overgrown, has an important lesson to learn, for no horse can travel easily with projecting toes and relatively shortened heels.

Guinip is one of the most valuable plants for bees. The flowers are rich in honey, and for several months, commencing with June of each year, yield it freely at all hours and in every kind of weather. A patch may easily be raised from the seed, sown the latter part of summer or early in the spring.

The turnip crop in all parts of this country and in Canada is reported as very poor. The dry weather and insects have interfered with the growth of the plants. Roots that grow underground, like carrots and parsnips, have done much better, as they have not been exposed to the dry air and the heat of the sun.

Apple, peach, pear, plum and cherry trees set along boundary lines of farms interfere very little with cultivation, and their fruit is produced almost without cost after the trees are well established, while at the same time they may serve a useful purpose as screens to mitigate the force of driving storms.

PRESERVING EGGS.—The following is the "Havana process" of preserving eggs, the formula for which has been kept a secret or sold to persons who were willing to pay \$2 for it: Take twenty-four gallons of water and put in it twelve pounds of unslaked lime and four pounds of salt. Stir well several times a day and then let it stand and settle until perfectly clear. Then draw off twenty gallons of the clear lime and salt water. By putting a spigot in the barrel about four inches above the bottom you can draw off the clear water and leave the settlements. Then take five ounces of baking soda, five ounces of cream tartar, five ounces saltpeter, five ounces borax and one ounce of alum; mix and dissolve in a gallon of boiling water, which should be poured into your twenty gallons of lime water. This will fill a whiskey barrel about half full, and such a barrel holds 150 dozen eggs. Let the water stand one inch above the eggs. Cover with an old cloth and put a bucket of the settlements over it. Do not let the cloth hang over the barrel. As the water evaporates add more, as the eggs must be kept covered.

Female garrotes are numerous in the City of Mexico.

A leading citizen of Hagerstown, Md., Mr. George W. Harris, had suffered for some time with facial neuralgia and toothache, when he tried St. Jacobs Oil. He says: "It gave me instantaneous relief, and I consider it a wonderful remedy."

The Connecticut onion crop is a failure this season.

Prof. Chas. P. Williams, Ph. D., of Philadelphia, says there is neither morphia, nor any mineral in Red Star Cough Cure. Price, twenty-five cents a bottle.

HOME DRESS-MAKING.

Practical and Useful suggestions for Economic House-Wives.

What is called the "lavense" or milk-maid skirt, is a good and stylish design for both light wools and wash fabrics. In this the plain overskirt is turned back with deep revers on the right side, the narrowest portion of the revers reaching to the belt, and it is draped very high on the left side. A yoked, belted bodice suits with this kind of skirt. If your goods are part striped and part plain, use the plain for under and overskirt, sleeves and full part of bodice, and the stripe for revers, yoke, belt and cuffs. If your goods is plaid and plain, use the plaid for skirts, etc., and the plain for yoke, revers, etc.

A zouave jacket over a full vest also suits for a bodice to the milk-maid skirt, or the bodice may be made full surplice with the V-shaped front trimmed in some way similar to a vest. For quite young girls and misses, yoke bodices are very much the style. Many young ladies are embroidering the yokes, belts, cuffs, etc., of chambray, organdie, batiste, and even zephyr gingham. Multi-colored fast-dye cottons are used, and the stitches are executed in what is called Russian embroidery that is usually done in bright silks. This kind of embroidery does not take long, and is very effective.

Foot-plaitings on skirts have almost disappeared. This does not mean that they are not used, but that they are put almost out of sight. If the lower part of the skirt has a trimming fold, the foot-plaiting is made very narrow and set underneath it, so that only about half of it is in sight. The reason for not dispensing with it entirely is because it saves a skirt from much wear and tear. It takes up the dust and mud before it reaches the skirt proper, and can be renewed when soiled more readily than the bottom of a plain skirt can be renovated. But as little trimming is now put on street suits, the foot-plaiting must be placed so as to be as little conspicuous as possible.

There are, as usual, summer fashions for children as well as grown people, but, after all, the most important thing to be noticed in making clothes for children is to see that they fit comfortably. Grown people, who are supposed to have more ambition and perhaps pardonable conceit in regard to the appearance they make in their costumes, will often undergo much inconvenience and submit almost to pain in order to have their clothes seem to fit well and look stylish; but with children it is different. Grown people make themselves miserable at their own option in doing this, and if they are foolish enough to do so, have themselves only to blame; but the mother who forces a little child to wear a garment that hurts or even inconveniences her free motion and play of limbs, does not deserve the name she bears. Good sense rather than fashion should govern the designing of children's clothes. Let them be quite loose enough to insure the free movement of every part of the body. This can be done compatibly with all neatness and grace of design. Dresses need not hang in bags on a child's form and make it look as though her garment had descended to her from a sister several years older than herself. The present style of dress for little children is the long skirt reaching to the ankle, the short waist, sash-bow and, and the large-brimmed hat set well back on the head, or the scoop bonnet, tied under the chin with ribbon strings in a little prim bow. These quaint, big hats and bonnets make children's faces all the prettier and more cunning by the contrast of the small, infantine features and baby expression, with the old womanly-looking bonnets; and, as some one has somewhat poetically said, the present style of children's hats and bonnets "tie in many a mother's heart."

As to the long skirts, it is but fair to acknowledge that they are a great drawback to the free motion of a little child in its play and gambols, and in our estimation should be used only with the "dress-up" suits that children wear when not expected to race and romp at large. For every-day wear there can be nothing more suitable than the "Mother-Hubbard" style, and it is used by as many ultra-fashionable mothers as by those who are less so, for the reasons given. Gowns and yokes of colored goods for white dresses, and of white for colored ones, are seen on children's dresses for nearly all ages—from the very youngest to young ladies. This is a good fashion, as they can be made separately from the full body as we have before described, and different ones used at different times, making pretty changes with the same dress.—Cor. Ohio Farmer.

FLORENTINE STRAW.

A Consular Report on an Industry Practiced in a Large Italian District.

Consul-General Colnaghi has sent to the Foreign Office an interesting report on the Florentine straw industry, and it has just been published as a Blue Book. We extract the following passages: The industry is so generally extended throughout the district that there is scarcely a family in which some of the members are not engaged in the work. Children begin to plait at five and six years of age; while mothers of families, in addition to their domestic occupations, and females of all ages and almost all conditions, who do not follow the business as a means of livelihood, employ the leisure time in it. Formerly, when the production was carried on by persons connected with agricultural labor only, the work was not constant; but now, excepting, perhaps, with a few "contadine," it goes on all the year round. The plaiters work in their own homes, and their busy fingers are rarely at rest. The larger number work up the straw on their own account, and sell the plaits, or hats, on the public markets held at Florence and in other towns. Others receive the straw from and are paid by the "fattorini," a class of middlemen who consign the plaits and hats in the rough to the principal manufacturers, who finish them for export. Others, again, are in direct communication with the manufacturers themselves. The earnings of the plaiters are subject to considerable

ABOUT DOGS.

Points of Interest to All Admirers of the Canine Race.

The wonderful variation in size, appearance and intellect of dogs must strike every one who remembers that this great variety came originally from three or four species of wild dogs. There is now preserved in an English museum a little dog of the terrier kind which was about two years old at its death. It was exactly five and one-half inches long, which is just the length of a German boar hound in another part of the museum, measured from the corner of the eye to the tip of the nose. So great is the difference that one can hardly realize that they probably had a common ancestor. The original wild dogs had very much the aspect of wolves—erect ears and bushy, flowing tails. It is thought by many that the dogs most nearly approaching them in appearance are nearest them in point of development, and that the breed closely related are our shepherds, but an examination and comparison of the bones, and particularly the skulls, show that among the principal breeds the line of descent is: First, wild dog; then Danish dog hounds, pointers, terriers, pugs, spaniels and pet dogs in general come last. The influence of man over all nature is most markedly shown in pet dogs. They are, as a rule, small, with tails curved upwards, ears drooping, but sure signs of domestication. Besides, the temperament and disposition are wholly changed, whereas wild dogs are natural hunters, the pet dogs being wholly ignorant of the wiles of the chase. A pug would probably be as much surprised at the sudden appearance of a rabbit as bunny would be at the pug. The probability is that both would run as soon as they saw each other. The varieties have been so long bred that they would never return to original species again, even if left to run wild. That they are closely related to wolves and other animals, however, is shown by the fact that they will breed with them and also by the taming of wolves taken very young. They become gentle and affectionate. A wolf yelp when young, if suddenly menaced by a master, will cringe and beg off just as a dog does when he thinks he is going to be whipped. They have many other traits which indicate a close relationship. Not only are wolves capable of domestication, but on the other hand dogs often escape and become wild. A case is related of a greyhound who concluded she would take to the woods. After a year or two she was captured and brought back. In a few months she presented her master with some pups, but as soon as they were able to take care of themselves she left them and again ran away. Three of the pups stayed at home and became good citizens, but two partook of the mother's nature and ran away to join her. They at last became so destructive to young animals that they were hunted down and shot. Puppies get their eyes open on the tenth or twelfth day, reach their full growth at the end of the second year and are very old at ten years, very few of them reaching the green old age of twenty. Although their lives are short they are full of interest. The devotion of a dog for his master is phenomenal. He will stick to him whatever be his fortunes, stand any amount of abuse and love his master with a forgiving spirit in spite of every thing.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

THE NEW HEBRIDES.

The Social Condition and Commercial Resources of Their People.

The archipelago known as the New Hebrides, over which England and France have for some time past been striving to gain supremacy, is situated between the parallels of 14 degrees and 10 minutes and 20 degrees south and the meridians of 166 and 170 degrees east, and at a distance of 1,000 miles from the coast of Australia. The chain is about 400 miles in length. No region could be more curious or attractive in its natural aspects. There the elements of fire and water may yet be seen in active operation, building up a small continent, the gigantic volcano and the minute coral polype each doing its respective work.

The largest island of the group is Espiritu Santo, about eighty miles long by forty-five broad. It has a fine deep bay on its northeastern side. Next in importance is Mallicolo, fifty miles long and twenty-five wide. Erromango is twenty-eight miles long by twenty broad, while Ambrym, Tanna, Vato, Pentecost and Aurora are minor islands, all of which, however, are of considerable extent and form collectively with smaller islets a large area of country.

The natives inhabiting the various islands owe their origin to the same stock from which the western and southern portions of New Guinea appear to have been peopled. All their physical characteristics denote them to belong to the Papuan race, but they have evidently received a considerable admixture of Malayo-Polynesian blood. Physically considered the native are a well-built, athletic race of savages. The men average about five feet six inches in their height, and their limbs are muscular and well turned. They have large, well-formed heads, and the features are usually regular. The hair, which forms one of the most remarkable features of the race, is distributed over the head in small spiral curls.

The social condition of the natives presents many characteristics indicative of the infancy of mankind. They dwell together in villages, and the ownership of the soil is vested in the tribe. On the same island there are several tribes, each having its own district and chief. There is no recognized native sovereignty over the group. War is the chief occupation of the men—as tribal feuds are very common—but they likewise build the houses and canoes, go fishing, and prepare the implements of war. The women till the soil and perform all domestic duties. They have no form of money, but barter pigs, fowls and shells for trinkets and native cloth. All the tribes are well supplied with defensive weapons, such as clubs, spears and bows and poisoned arrows.

It is an interesting fact that notwithstanding the proximity of these islands to one another the natives of each have a distinct dialect; nor does this apply to the separate islands alone, since the dialects of the various tribes inhabiting each island undergo a remarkable variation.

It may be added that the natives, as a rule, are remarkably intelligent, and when well treated are friendly and hospitable to a degree.—Chicago Times.

Mistakes of Life.

Somebody has condensed the mistakes of life, and arrived at the conclusion that there are fourteen of them. Most people would say, if they told the truth, that there was no limit to the mistakes of life; that they were like the drops in the ocean, or the sands of the shore in number, but it is well to be accurate. Here, then, are fourteen great mistakes. "It is a great mistake to set up our own standard of right and wrong, and judge people accordingly; to measure the enjoyment of others by our own; to expect uniformity of opinion in this world; to look for judgment and experience in youth; to endeavor to mould all dispositions alike; to yield to immaterial trifles; to look for perfection in our own actions; to worry ourselves and others with what can not be remedied; not to alleviate all that needs alleviation as far as lies in our power; not to make allowances for the infirmities of others; to consider every thing impossible that we can not perform; to believe only what our finite minds can grasp; to expect to be able to understand every thing."—Montreal Witness.

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THE EX-EMPRESS.

A Touching Story of the Unhappy and Homeless Eugenie.

The following is the latest story that is told about the Empress Eugenie, who has ever been a striking figure since the day she charmed Napoleon III. with the wraith of violets which she wore in her golden hair. "Twas morning then, but now the night has come." A few days ago, says the chronicler, a visitor to the Marcus Church at Venice, where the ex-Empress is now staying, observed a lady dressed in deepest mourning kneeling in long silent prayer before one of the side altars. When at last she rose she looked about her in search of something which she missed, and then walked slowly away, and supporting herself by the wall, toward the entrance. The stranger politely offered his arm, which was gratefully accepted, the lady meanwhile explaining that one of the beggars must have taken her silver-headed walking-stick away, without which she was "very helpless." Outside the church two liveried footmen were waiting; the stranger on retiring offered his address card (alas, for cruel Nemesis, he was a German from Berlin) glancing at which the lady was seen to shudder slightly and then return the civility by whispering: "Empress Eugenie, and—homeless."—Fall Mall Gazette.

WHAT HE WANTED.

The Kind of a License Desired by an Emancipated Old Bachelor.

The following story is told of a well-known gentleman of this city who recently married a belle from a neighboring Pennsylvania city after his case had been given up as hopeless by all the managing matrons of Buffalo. It seems that the gentleman in question regarded his abnegation of bachelorhood with a sort of rueful misgiving, which increased as the days of his liberty waned. His last revolt against the shackles of matrimony occurred when he was sent to procure the marriage license, a few days before the ceremony. He sought the city official who presided over the license department and asked gravely: "Is this where licenses are kept?" "Yes, sir," answered the clerk, politely; "what kind of a license do you want?" "Well, what kind have you got?" rejoined our friend with superhuman gravity. The clerk had begun to look upon his visitant as a lunatic, but he obligingly rattled off the list. "Give you a license to drive a hack, give you a license to pull teeth or practice medicine, give you a pawnbroker's or huckster's license, give you a license to keep gunpowder in the house—" "Stop," said our friend, quietly; "that's what I want."—Buffalo Courier.

Analyzing the Baking Powders.

"Royal" the only absolutely pure baking powder made.—Action of the New York State Board of Health.

Under the direction of the New York State Board of Health, eighty-four different kinds of baking powders, embracing all the brands that could be found for sale in the State, were submitted to examination and analysis by Prof. C. F. CHANDLER, a Member of the State Board and President of the New York City Board of Health, assisted by Prof. EDWARD G. LOVE, the well-known late United States Government chemist.

The official report shows that a large number of the powders examined were found to contain alum or lime; many of them to such an extent as to render them seriously objectionable for use in the preparation of human food.

Alum was found in twenty-nine samples. This drug is employed in baking powders to cheapen their cost. The presence of lime is attributed to the impure cream of tartar of commerce used in their manufacture. Such cream of tartar was also analyzed and found to contain lime and other impurities, in some samples to the extent of 93 per cent of their entire weight.

All the baking powders of the market, with the single exception of "Royal" (not including the alum and phosphate powders, which were long since discarded as unsafe or inefficient by prudent housekeepers) are made from the impure cream of tartar of commerce, and consequently contain lime to a corresponding extent.

The only baking powder yet found by chemical analysis to be entirely free from lime and absolutely pure is the "Royal." This perfect purity results from the exclusive use of cream of tartar specially refined and prepared by patent processes of the N. Y. Tartar Co., which totally remove the tartrate of lime and other impurities. The cost of this chemically pure cream of tartar is much greater than any other, and on account of this greater cost is used in no baking powder but the "Royal."

Prof. Love, who made the analyses of baking powders for the New York State Board of Health, as well as for the Government, says of the purity and wholesomeness of "Royal":

"I have tested a package of 'Royal Baking Powder' which I purchased in the open market, and find it composed of pure and wholesome ingredients. It is a cream of tartar powder of a high degree of merit, and does not contain either alum or phosphates or any injurious substances.

"E. G. LOVE, PH. D."

CASTORIA

for Infants and Children.

"Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me." H. A. ARCHER, M. D., 111 So. Oxford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, 152 Fulton Street, N. Y.

Advertisement for Metropolitan Savings Bank, Portland, listing directors and interest rates.

Advertisement for Hamburg Figs, featuring an illustration of a fig branch and the text 'HAMBURG 25¢ AT DRUGGISTS'.

EVERY one has heard of Hamburg Figs, and some persons have enquired if they grow in Hamburg. They do not, but are simply a crystallized fruit cathartic, which is unsurpassed for the cure of Constipation, Piles, Liver Complaint, Indigestion, Dyspepsia and Sick-head-ache. 25 cents. At druggists.