

JEWES IN NEW JERSEY.

A Colony Established by Hirsch, the Philanthropic Banker.

An Experiment Which Promises to Become an Established Success—The People Prefer Trade to Farming.

The reports which have been from time to time received from the Hirsch agricultural colony in New Jersey have been nearly as conflicting and quite as unsatisfactory and unsubstantial as certain war bulletins which engaged the attention of humorous writers during the progress of military maneuvers in Madagascar some years ago. On one hand, according to the New York Sun, the Russian colonists in Cape May county were represented as being in a flourishing condition and in possession of lands teeming with fertility. On the other they were pathetically described as lacking needful raiment and decent shelter, without means or hope, restricted to uncongential and unprofitable toil in a strange land, and utterly wretched, despondent and dependent. Under these circumstances, any conclusion as to the success of the Hirsch experiment was difficult to arrive at, but it need be so no longer if the report made recently to the New Jersey board of agriculture be accepted as trustworthy. It is certainly explicit, Mr. Lee, who submitted the report, showed that the town of Woodbine, under Superintendent Jabsovitch of the fund, consists of 1,500 lots, around which are thirty-acre farms, and the outlying lowlands are reserved for pasturage, upon the plan of medieval English communities. In a year 650 acres of farm land, twelve miles of driveway, and 170 acres of town lots have been wrested from a natural wilderness. The town houses built by the company (composed of the trustees of the American Hirsch fund) cost from \$850 to \$1,300 each, and are models of neatness and adaptability for colonists' need. Active work is expected to give Woodbine 150 houses by spring. A hotel, a railway station, a synagogue, and a public school are completed, or are in course of erection. A park has been laid out, with side streets and avenues lined with poplars and maples. On the farms each agriculturist has 250 fruit trees, planted in 1891, with an acre of grapes and small fruits. Early vegetables, growing as readily in Cape May as in Norfolk, were also successfully raised.

This is certainly an encouraging showing, and if, as Mr. Lee declares in his report, the soil of South Jersey generally is susceptible of such improved cultivation, the hopes of the trustees of the Hirsch fund may be realized, more especially if, as is stated, the agricultural conditions of South Jersey much resemble those found in that part of Russia from which most of these colonists come. At the same time it appears that, great as has been the progress made in farming in the South Jersey colony, it has not kept pace with other pursuits less carefully fostered—cloak-making, knitting, and cigarmaking. It was the fear of such preference for mercantile and manual pursuits and the consequent neglect of farming which led many to doubt at the outset the success of the Hirsch experiment. Their apprehensions, even according to Mr. Lee's encouraging report, do not seem to have been entirely groundless; but it is probably too soon to determine definitely whether this natural preference of the colonists will militate seriously against the success of the South Jersey colony. Meanwhile no one appears to be starving; quite the reverse.

THE DREAM OF AN ENTHUSIAST.

His Purposes to Travel from Cape Horn to Cape Town by Rail.

It adds something to zest of life—if one has a healthy, active fancy—to reflect that there are people now living who may travel by continuous rail from Cape Horn to the Cape of Good Hope, says the Review of Reviews. The plan of a "pan-American" railway to connect the South American system, through Central America, with the systems of Mexico and the United States is already well advanced.

There are to be roads from the Canadian Pacific away up to the Peace River and Mackenzie valleys, and it is not

hard to believe that these may ultimately be extended across the Rockies to the Ukon valley in Alaska and continued finally to the narrow and shallow Behring straits, across which a connection would be made with the Siberian road. Continuous rail travel from Siberia to Constantinople will soon have become an accomplished fact, and the link from Constantinople to Egypt may be expected quite confidently.

At the present rate of development in Africa the construction of a road from Egypt to the cape ought to be realized within twenty-five years. The channel tunnel will, of course, have been built and electricity or some still more powerful motive force will have superseded steam, so that the Californians and Puget sound denizens would naturally go to London by fast Alaskan and Siberian express. If they chose they might return by steamship, making the passage in two or three days from the west coast of Ireland to Labrador or Halifax. In view of all that has been done in the last twenty-five years such further development of traveling facilities is easily within the realm of sober prediction.

Agricultural Exhibits.

Chief Buchanan has made the last assignment of space within his building to exhibitors whose applications have been regularly filed. A few applications are now being received every day, and the most important of these will receive attention. In all there will be more than six thousand exhibitors in the department of agriculture. Within the agricultural building, however, there will be not more than seven hundred and fifty domestic exhibits of manufactured food products; of these seven hundred and nineteen have already been assigned to space. The crop exhibits and the domestic wool and honey exhibits will be made within the state buildings.

The Arizona bill of fare is too apt to contain only the items bacon, beans, hard bread, flapjacks and coffee three hundred and sixty-four days in the year. Thanksgiving is the exception, and no dinner is complete on that day without a turkey to remind the miner, prospector or ranchman of the old home in the east. In the northern section of the territory there is a creek called Rio Prieto, and nicknamed the "Turkey river." It is the only place within about two hundred miles where wild turkeys abound, but then there are enough of them in the narrow valley to stock a state.

Just before Thanksgiving this valley is filled with hunters from every part of the territory, and the slaughter is very great; but it takes place only once a year, and the ranks will be filled up next spring and summer. Some of the hunters come so far that they have to make "jerky" of the turkey meat in order to get it home. A miner must be very fond of turkey when he will travel one hundred miles for it, and then take it in the shape of salted and sun-dried strips and shreds, and usually fried in a gravy of bacon, grease and flour.

These turkeys are very large birds, as half a dozen are about as much as a pack-mule can carry out of the valley. Old-timers say that gobblers weighing thirty pounds have been taken out of the Prieto canyon.

Prussic Acid and Peach Stones.

The statement was made recently that prussic acid was made from peach stones, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. This is altogether a mistake, for, although under certain conditions a trace of the main principle of the deadly poison can be found in peach stones, there is not sufficient to produce the acid without other essential ingredients. Indeed, without the process of fermentation, there is no evidence at all of prussic acid in the stones. Prussic acid is composed of such things as animal refuse and blood solids, with large quantities of oil of vitriol. Even the smell of the acid produces pain in the throat and in the region of the heart, and there are few poisons for which there is such little opportunity for an antidote. If there is time, and there seldom is, for the poison is almost instantaneous in its action, ammonia inhaled very freely may give relief and reduce the absolute certainty of death to a grave possibility.

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