

MINES AND MINING

Consul McCook Says Alaska Is Destined to be a Wonderful Mining Camp.

"Alaska is destined to be a wonderful mining country," says United States Consul McCook, at Dawson, in a letter to the state department.

"The great necessity now in Alaska," says Consul McCook, "is good roads, good camps and the prospecting of comparatively unknown sections."

Great dissatisfaction was expressed at Dawson City this spring after the wash up, he says, by miners who worked for men who had leased mining claims from the owners.

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The cereals are all lower this week, partly on better crop reports, partly on lower cables, but largely on the growth of bearish feeling after the late reaction.

Beef products are generally higher on army demand, while tin is seeking a lower level in sympathy with foreign markets and increased supplies.

Wheat, including flour, shipments for the week, aggregate 3,327,003 bushels, against 2,366,743 bushels last week.

From July 1 to date this season, wheat exports are 14,568,869 bushels, against 18,508,96 bushels last season.

Business failures for the week number 170, as against 183 last week.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE. Seattle Market. Onions, new, 1 1/2c.

Letting, hot house, \$1 per crate. Potatoes, new, \$16.

Beets, per sack, 85c@91c. Turnips, per sack, 75c.

Carrots, per sack, \$1.00. Parsnips, per sack, 50@75c.

STILL FAVOR THE BUYER.

Trade Conditions Do Not Warrant Any Greater Activity.

Bradstreet's says: Trade conditions still favor the buyer; general fall demand, though fair in view of the mid-summer condition, is still below expectations.

On the other hand, gross railway earnings hold their percentage of gain previously shown, and where prices are made low enough to satisfy buyers, a heavy business is uncovered, and readily booked, pointing to demand being still present and waiting disposal.

The crop situation, as a whole, is better; the outlook as to corn is for a 2,100,000,000-bushel crop. Spring wheat is turning out better in quality and quantity than expected.

There has been an unquestionable improvement in cotton crop conditions. The yield of apples will be the largest in many years, and fruits generally are yielding liberally and commanding good prices.

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PEST OF THE FARMER.

THE CANADA THISTLE DEFIES LAW AND SCIENCE.

All Other Forms of Vegetation Are Smothered by Its Presence—Eradication Is Difficult Because of Its Being So Extremely Hardy.

Of all the weeds hated and denounced by the farmer the worst hated and the most denounced is the Canada thistle. Carduus arvensis, familiar along country roadsides in thick patches and in vacant lots in cities where it springs up without apparent cause, thrives without encouragement and perseveres against any but the most determined and unrelenting efforts to root it out.

In the city its presence is not important, but to its denizens it is a serious matter. For its dense patches smother all other forms of vegetation and warfare against it is without glory, but never without wounds. Weeding out a thistle patch is one of the bugbears of country boyhood.

In a recent circular the division of botany of the United States Department of Agriculture treats of the Canada thistle historically, scientifically and practically throughout its troublesome career. It appears in this pamphlet that the thistle may be found to be a matter of concern to persons who have never been in the slightest degree interested in it and this through the process of law.

It will doubtless be a matter of great surprise to the suburbanite to learn that though he may be the prickly plant flourish upon his borders, if he allows it to go to seed and scatter its propagating material abroad the majesty of the law may step in and fine him. No fewer than twenty-four States prescribe the Canada thistle, and most of them prescribe penalties for permitting the weed to produce seeds.

The Canada thistle can't prove its arrival in the Mayflower, but it is a pretty old American nevertheless. Early botanists held that it was indigenous in western Canada, but the best specific opinion at present holds that it was probably never indigenous on this continent, but was introduced into the French settlements in Canada early in the seventeenth century.

At present the weed holds sway from Maine to Virginia and westward to North Dakota and Kansas, and on the Pacific coast from Washington to northern California. From the Mississippi to the Rockies it is not luxuriant enough to be troublesome and the Southern States are practically free from it and likely to remain so, as it does not thrive in that region.

There is danger of its introduction into the northern prairie States and the Rocky Mountain region, as the climate and agricultural conditions are suitable for its growth and it is now abundant and troublesome in Manitoba and along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railroad from Winnipeg to the coast.

The great hindrance to the way of eradicating the Canada thistle which has once got a start are its hardiness and the pertinacity of the traveling roots. These run along underground sometimes at a depth of three feet and thrust forth shoots into the upper air with the greatest vigor, when the plant itself has been destroyed. As showing the vitality and power of these shoots a case in Washington is cited where in vacant lots the thistle had been cut down and, as was supposed, rooted out and the places where it grew were covered over with soil from excavations, packed hard by the passage of many carts, so that the running roots must have been at least a yard beneath the surface.

Nevertheless its shoots penetrated this soil and started new patches of the plant. Various methods of eradication are advocated by different authorities, but all are slow and involve considerable labor. Where the running roots can be reached and turned up by plowing this method, if frequently repeated, is effective, but in light, rich soil, which is permeable by the air, plowing is always ineffective. Where a dense sod can be formed this will choke out the thistle. Hoeing out, burning, salting and treatment with kerosene and other destructive chemical agents are successful in many cases and some farmers commend the practice of covering small patches of the plant with tan bark or straw, but it has been found that thistles will lie dormant for as long as three years in porous soil and pop out as live and ready for damage as ever when the straw or tan bark is removed.—New York Sun.

LING CHEE.

Ornamental Pastime that Brings Out the Highest Fogy of Executioner's Art.

Executing is a favorite amusement in China, and the ceremony of ling chee is the height of the executioner's art. First, the criminal is bound to a cross and, as the wretch with bulging eyeballs looks upon the scene in horror, the gentleman upon whom develops the principal work advances with drawn sword. Possibly the offense was a light one, or it may be that the wretch had obtained partial remission, in which case he might expect to be killed in twenty-four or possibly seventy-two.

At the first stroke the executioner simply whisks off one of the eyebrows—so neatly as scarcely to draw blood. He, presto! off comes the other. With a light horizontal sweep he slashes a shoulder clean from the body, performing a like operation on the other side a moment later. Then the breasts are similarly treated, and with a lunge forward quick as lightning the executioner plunges his weapon into the victim's heart. After that all that remains is to decapitate the lifeless and maybestill quivering body, and the execution is complete.

This is the lightest form of ling chee. When, however, full ling chee is performed it is a lengthened business, and the various operations of the executioner are watched as keenly by the onlookers as is a great actor in a new part on a first night. He rises to the occasion feeling that much is required of him. When he has removed the breasts as in the first method he has still a long and expert carving operation before him till the moment when he shall dispatch the wretch; each forearm, then each upper arm, then a slash from each thigh, followed by dexterous slashes at each calf, and finally after the heart has been pierced, the hands, feet and other parts all come under distinct operations.

Minor offenders guilty of rebellion or murder may get off with strangulation. Crucifixion takes place, but the victim is left to die with a string tied tightly around his throat.

OVER STAIRS

The British empire is forty times larger than the German empire and sixteen times larger than all the French dominions.

Ostriches are often unruly, and when they are shipped each of them has a lady's stocking drawn over the head and neck, and in that condition they can be led like lambs.

To the Academy of Sciences (Paris), M. Batelli reports that when the heart of animals has ceased to beat, and a quarter of an hour, it has been reanimated by abdominal massage.

There are a number of deep places in the Hudson, as every one is aware, but few know that spots ranging from a depth of twenty to twenty-five fathoms are frequently met with south of the highlands.

There are 6,750,000 volumes in the libraries of the American colleges and universities. Harvard has five hundred thousand volumes, Chicago university 350,000, Columbia 275,000 and Cornell 225,000.

Because of the multiplication of governments in Chicago due to the existence of seven townships in Cook County the per cent. cost of collecting taxes is 6.66 as compared with .57 in New York proper, 37 in St. Paul and 1.12 in Boston.

In order to facilitate traffic along the shores of the Dead Sea it has been decided to establish regular intercourse by means of small steamers, and the first steamer has been purchased. It will certainly be a shock to many to hear of a steamer on this historic body of water.

In olden days, when tea was a rare and precious luxury, silver strainers were used, into which the exhausted leaves were put when they had been well watered and drained. They were afterward eaten with sugar on bread and butter. This fact is recorded by Sir Walter Scott in "St. Ronan's Well."

"SHANTY-BOAT FOLKS."

The People Who Live on the Great Rivers of the West.

One cannot travel along any of the larger interior waterways, either by steamboat or rail, without catching sight of the water denizens' queer arklike habitations. Contentious references to them as "shanty-boat folks" are to be seen in the newspapers of all river towns, and heard in the conversation of all river-bank dwellers, and no State watered by the Mississippi, the Ohio, the Missouri, or any of their larger branches, is ever clear of them.

Steamboat men say they number from 10,000 to 12,000; some of the more intelligent water folk themselves place the total at from 12,000 to 15,000 at least, while all agree that, instead of becoming fewer, they are increasing as the years roll round. This, notwithstanding the adverse ordinances of certain municipalities, and the repressive but entirely inoperative statutes of two or three States. It is forbidden and shanty-boat man to "tie up" within the boundaries of the municipalities referred to, excepting in cases of dire emergency; the States in question prohibit the existence of "shanty-boat folks" at all.

Dry land supports no corresponding class. In truth, they cannot be treated properly as a single class, for they are split up into almost as many subdivisions as those who live on shore. Frequently these subdivisions are not sharply defined, however, and, indeed, it would not be easy to draw an exact line, separating river from land dwellers in all cases. But, in some respects, the water folk are a unit. They return to the contempt of the "shore people" with interest. Without exception, they are infatuated with "the river," as they broadly term the entire system, and, no matter how much they may differ among themselves, they hang together when in trouble with outsiders. They call themselves "the river people," and sniff disdainfully when that title is applied to steamboat men, roustabouts, or even the raftsmen who pilot great fields of timber and logs down the mighty streams.

YANKEE AND SOUTHERN GIRLS.

Naval Officer Mixed Them Up, but Made No Enemies. Among the visitors to the Kearsarge were two young women, dressed handsomely. One, in a patterned rose-color dress, had black hair, the complexion of a crook and bright brown eyes. She resembled one of the song. "She Was Bred in Old Kentucky, Take Her, Boy, You're Mighty Lucky." She was a Connecticut Yankee.

The other girl, in a plain gray skirt and white waist, had brown hair, light complexion and hazel eyes. She looked like a "stunning" New Englander. She was a Kentuckian. The officer of the deck was presented to them on board. He took the Yankee for the Kentuckian, and, speaking to the girl with black hair, recalled the Kearsarge and Alabama fight, saying a good word by courtesy for the Southern boat. The Yankee girl didn't understand—couldn't understand. The Southern girl smiled as she listened, and suddenly broke in with a suggestion that she'd like to see the magazines and the engines of the "latest thing, named for the ship that whipped the Southerner." The officer of the deck turned and looked sharply at the brown-haired girl with the hazel eyes.

"Now, what does that mean?" he asked. "Am I confused? Which is the Kentuckian?" The brown-haired girl smiled again and a little flush came to the cheek of the officer. "I come from Kentucky," said the girl with the light complexion and the hazel eyes. She spoke softly, without resentment. "You're on the wrong ship." "The wrong ship?" said the girl from Kentucky. "What's the difference nowadays? The Kearsarge and Kentucky are sister ships. We're all sisters now."—Boston Herald.

HISTORIC CHARMS OF NEWPORT.

Fashionable Watering Place Was Famous in the Olden Days. No watering place in the United States, not even Saratoga, approaches Newport in the fascination of historic charm. For more than two centuries and a half or as far back as the time of Roger Williams the little island on which it stands has been the scene of great ambitions. There it was that Bishop Berkeley saw in his prophetic and poetic vision how "Westward the course of empire takes its way;" there it was that the quakers, who had followed George Fox himself to Rhode Island, established a community, which one time professed to rival that of Penn; there the Portuguese and Dutch Jews so flourished that the Hebrew name of Touro is to-day the most familiar that greets the visitor.

Before the revolution the foreign and domestic trade of Newport was greater than New York's. Nowhere else was there a social life more elegant and scholarly. The Redwood library dates its name and origin to a quaker merchant of the eighteenth century, a contemporary of that Col. Geoffrey Malbone who, as a house as famous in his day as Marble house of the Vanderbilt-Bolton entourage is in ours. When it was destroyed by fire one summer afternoon, while his slaves were engaged in cooking a dinner for a brilliant company of his guests, the colonel immediately ordered the feast to be served on the lawn, amidst the illumination from the flames of the burning mansion. It was this fire and this feast that did a great deal to make Newport famous.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Sun Does the Cooking. An inventor in India has constructed an apparatus for cooking by the heat of the sun. It consists of a box made of wood and lined with reflecting mirrors, at the bottom of the box being a small copper boiler, covered with tin to retain the heat of the rays concentrated by mirrors upon the boiler. In this contrivance any sort of food may be quickly cooked.

Vessels in Chinese Ports. During the year 1898, 52,661 vessels, of 34,233,580 tons, entered and cleared Chinese ports. Of these vessels, 748, of 239,152 tons, were American.

SUPPOSE WE SMILE.

HUMOROUS PARAGRAPHS FROM THE COMIC PAPERS.

Pleasant Incidents Occurring the World Over—Sayings that are Cheerful to Old or Young—Funny Selections that Everybody Will Enjoy.

"Kind lady," he inquired as he inspected the staff of a great daily journal, "what is your work in this journalistic establishment?" "I write the 'Reveries of a Bachelor,' kind sir," she replied sweetly.

"Billy never tells a funny story when his wife is around." "Does she contradict him?" "No, but if he doesn't begin the story correctly in every minute particular she takes it away from him, tells it accurately in small details and leaves out the point."

"She knew Her Ser. He—I've just been dancing with Miss Sharp. She was talking about you. She (indignantly)—Was she? The nasty, spiteful thing!—July.

Numerous Times. Little Mike (nursing his aching jaw)—Feyther, did yev iver hov a tooth pulled? McLubberty (encouragingly)—Hundred av 'em, me y'; hundred av 'em.—Judge.

For Resumption. Tramp—Gimme a dime, mister? Philanthropist (suspiciously)—You've been drinking, haven't you? Tramp (meekly)—Yes, sir, and I'm broke. I want the dime to resume business with at the old stand.—Detroit Free Press.

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Rich. "They say Jones is making all kinds of money in Nome now." "How's that?" "In the day time he stakes his claim and in the evening he claims his stakes."

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An Error Corrected. Clara (with thoughts of an empty pew)—You weren't out Sunday, were you, Fred? Fred (impulsively)—Yes, I was—three times—struck out twice and fled out to Casey at third.—Boston Courier.

Always the Way. "Indeed, I never say anything to my wife about the discomforts of housecleaning." "Why not?" "If I do she gets sorry for herself, quits and goes to bed."—Indianapolis Journal.

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