

OREGON SCOUT.

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UNION, OREGON.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

—Among recent achievements in photography is a portrait copy taken by the light of a Cuban fire-beetle in thirty seconds, and a photograph of the aurora borealis. To obtain the latter had been declared an utter impossibility.

—Milk is altered both in taste and appearance by the character of the food supplied to the cows. It is colored by madder and saffron, scented by plants of the onion tribe, and changed in taste by such articles as turnips. Certain food may give medicinal properties, and milk thus medicated is proposed as a method of treating disease.

—As illustrating the part that labor plays in enhancing the value of raw materials, it is estimated that from seventy-five cents' worth of iron ore may be developed \$5.50 worth of bar iron, \$10 worth of horse shoes, \$180 worth of table knives, \$6,800 worth of fine needles, \$29,470 worth of shirt buttons, \$200,000 worth of watch springs, \$2,500,000 worth of pallet arbor (used in watches.)

—It will probably surprise most people to learn that both cessation of respiration and of movement of the heart are rejected as signs of death by a French lecturer, in considering the precise moment when life ceases. Heartbeats have been known to continue for an hour after the body was beheaded, while, on the other hand, they may temporarily cease in fainting.

—A new alloy discovered by Herr Keith, of Breckenheim, can be used very advantageously in the laboratory to replace vessels or fittings of ebomite, vulcanite or porcelain, as it practically resists the attack of almost all acids and alkaline solutions. This alloy is a bronze, with the addition of lead and antimony, its composition being as follows: Fifteen parts copper, 2.34 parts tin, 1.82 parts lead, and 1 part antimony.

—Any odd pieces of silver may be utilized, if for plating metallic articles, by placing them in an ounce of nitric acid, boiling them for an instant. The acid having dissolved the silver, throw in a good handful of common salt to kill the acid, then make into a paste with common whiting. The paste is to be applied with wash leather dampened in water. The silver surface will be maintained for years.—*American Stationer.*

SPONGES AT DINNER.

Primitive Creatures That Are All Mouth and How They Feed.

The sponge has an advantage over the coral polyp in its method of feeding. The coral has a large mouth—in fact, like a frog, its head is all mouth. While some fish are greatly gifted in the matter of mouth, the sponge beats them all in being able to open a mouth or pore at any point where a particle of food appears and attracts the animal. There is no indication of when or where a pore is about to open, for the creature is all mouth, and, whenever its appetite is excited at any point, it simply opens itself and takes to the food that happens to be handy; then shuts up its temporary mouth again until another occasion offers, a state of being which undoubtedly, to the sponge, has its advantages.

The kinds of sponges of commerce are numerous. There are the rough grass sponge, the coarsest variety known to commerce; the Key West sponge; the hedgehog sponge, found covered with prickly points, whence its name; the wine-colored sponge, the bouquet sponge, so-called probably because its odor when brought up from the bottom is not that of a bouquet; the finger sponge, the smallest sponge, and last and most costly of all, the delicate cup sponge; all of which may be seen for sale, some in stores where the sponge is a specialty and others only in the curiosity shops. In the West Indies the method of sponge-fishing is uniform, a water glass or a large tube with a piece of glass in the bottom, locating the sponges, then a pole armed with a hook being employed to detach and bring them to the surface. In some parts of the world divers find sponge fishing a profitable industry, and descend to considerable distances, bringing up the sponges in their hands and under their arms, but in general the method already described is that employed both in the West and East Indies.

The sponge is not yet cultivated, only because the natural supply is as yet great, and probably will always continue so; because the sponge is of very quick growth, and in tropical seas found everywhere on the bottom. Over 5,000,000 sponges of all sizes and all varieties are every year shipped from the Bahama Islands, bringing in an annual income to the islanders of over \$500,000. Should the natural supply of sponges diminish, there is no reason why they should not be raised artificially, as oysters are, and, perhaps in future, should the demand increase or supply fall off, sponge reservations will be employed, for the uses of the sponge are manifold, and the demand is constantly enlarging.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

A DANGEROUS LUNATIC.

Crime in Montana. Robbers of Indians Arrested. Arrested for Murder.

DEATH BENEATH A HEAVY TRUCK.

A Dangerous Lunatic.

Charles A. Centner, of Olympia, W. T., was adjudged insane and sent to the hospital for the insane at Stella com. He believes that certain parties are trying to do him an injury, and that he has to defend himself even at the risk of killing them. Heretofore he has been a quiet, peaceable man.

Robbers of Indians Arrested.

J. Williams and M. Burns were arrested at Seattle, W. T., for grand larceny, and bound over to appear before the grand jury. They are charged with having stolen two trunks from a Siwash camp on the beach, opening the same and stealing \$70 therefrom. The Indians had just returned from the hop fields, where they had earned the money stolen from them.

A Horrible Tragedy.

For about a year past a middle-aged man has been living the life of a hermit in a canyon a few miles from Crescenta Conyado, Cal. Little was known of him, and he went by the name of "John." For a few days nothing had been heard from him, and a party, alarmed at his continued absence, searched through the canyon. Just as they were giving up the search they came upon John's body, horribly mutilated. The head was nearly severed from the body, and the body was cut open across the abdomen and the entrails were strewn over the ground. It is not known whether it was suicide or murder.

Thirteen Buildings Burned.

A fire broke out in J. G. Ackerman's store at Cataaugus, N. Y., which destroyed thirteen buildings. The loss is large.

Crime in Montana.

A colored man named Wheeler, a member of the Twenty-fifth regiment band at Fort Missoula, Mont., was shot and killed by Charley Fisher, another colored man, who keeps a saloon. A loaded shotgun was kept in the dive, and these men, who were constantly playing practical jokes on each other, were in the habit of pointing it at each other and threatening to shoot. Wheeler went through the act in the forenoon. He was passing by the saloon in the afternoon, and Fisher called him in. As he entered the door the latter leveled the gun at him. It went off, the charge of shot taking effect in Wheeler's head. He died in a few hours. Fisher claims it was accidental. He was arrested.

A Soldier's Body Recovered.

The body of James W. A. Grange, the soldier who was drowned off the Presidio, in San Francisco, on the 15th of this month, was recovered by another soldier. It had been washed ashore half a mile below where the accident occurred. Grange was enlisted as a musician in battery A, First United States Artillery. He was a native of Jamaica.

Three Murderers.

The jury in the cases of J. H. Myers, John Olsen and Wm. Drager, on trial for the murder of Lowell near Sacramento, Cal., last winter, returned a verdict of finding all three guilty of murder in the first degree. All the prisoners bowed their heads. Olsen for a short time was affected to tears. Drager took it the most philosophically. After their return to prison Myers' cries and sobs could be heard on the street. Myers stated to the officers that he intended the crime when he left Sacramento, and he got Olsen and Drager to accompany him on a hunting expedition, not letting them know his purpose, until he himself committed the crime.

Found Drowned.

The body of a middle aged man was found floating in the bay near San Francisco, and conveyed to the morgue, where it awaits identification. It had not been in the water more than a few hours, and is plainly dressed in a suit of drab color. Hair and moustache black. There was nothing found in the pockets to give any clue to the identity of the deceased except cards containing the addresses of Abel Swanson, Seattle, and Mrs. Christian Olfson, Comptche, Mendocino county, Cal.

Shot Himself.

Henry Croner, 60 years of age, committed suicide at his home in San Francisco. He took a pistol, placed it in his mouth, and blew his brains out. Ill health is the cause assigned for the act. Until a year ago he worked in the mint, but had to resign through a severe attack of asthma, which developed other diseases, and for some time past he has been unable to sleep. His wife gave him his dinner about 1 o'clock, and went out. When she returned she found the man lying dead on the floor, with a pistol in his right hand.

An Old Schooner Wrecked.

News was received at San Francisco that the schooner Scio Page went

ashore on the rocks near Point Reys, but that her crew succeeded in making their escape by going ashore through the breakers. The Page was a very old vessel, and was several times condemned and refitted. At the time of her loss she was engaged in the lumber trade. Her value was probably about \$3,000.

An Audacious Young Thief.

The clerks in the Quebec bank at Montreal got a surprise, when a youth walked in with a soap box under his arm, put the box down on the floor, stepped upon it, reached over, grasped a parcel of bills valued at \$1,000, and went out of the door before the clerks realized what had been done. All of the employees got to the door as quickly as possible, but the thief was nowhere to be seen, and no one can give any description of him.

Death Beneath a Heavy Truck.

A boy about 12 years old, attempted to cross Mission street in San Francisco, in front of a four-horse truck, driven by P. J. Horan. He slipped and fell, the hind wheels passing over his head, and killing him instantly. His name was unknown to persons living in the vicinity.

Engine Ditched.

There was a serious accident on the Lake Valley railroad near Rowlands, Cal., caused by malicious persons turning a switch. An engine was derailed and badly wrecked, the engineer and fireman receiving several bad cuts and bruises.

Went Ashore During a Fog.

The schooner Gracie B. Richardson went ashore near Fisk's mill, Sonoma county, Cal., during a heavy fog, and became a total wreck. No lives were lost.

Killed by the Cars.

Tyson J. Wood, son of Rev. Jesse Wood, editor of the *Chico Chronicle-Record*, was killed on the narrow gauge road in Chico, Cal. The young man jumped from the train as it passed Julian street, and in doing so fell to the ground. His foot flying up as he fell, caught in the truss under the car and he was dragged along with the train. He died shortly after.

Arrested for Murder.

Michael Cunningham was arrested at San Francisco, charged with the murder of Joseph Fay, who was picked up on the streets a few days before. Cunningham says he knocked Fay down with his fist in self defense, after he and a friend had been set up by roughts.

Collision in San Francisco Bay.

The ferryboat San Rafael collided with the tug Frolic in San Francisco bay, off the Washington street wharf. The tug was towing a barge and was struck on the side by the prow of the other boat. A large hole was made in the Frolic, but she managed to reach her landing.

Gangled Himself.

A marine named Fritz Oppinger, who has been confined for drunkenness at the Marine barracks, near Vallejo, Cal., hanged himself with a piece of his coat from the grating in his cell.

A Bad Butcher's Crime.

Two butchers, Oscar Gabriel and Charles Kline, quarreled while feeding cattle in a slaughter house at Spokane Falls. Gabriel accused Kline of being lazy, at which the latter seized a butcher-knife and nearly disemboweled Gabriel. Kline is in jail, and Gabriel lives, with small hopes of recovery.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

A Youthful Murderer.

Frank Randall's 16-year-old boy, of Fort Ripley, Minn., has been arrested for the murder of an inoffensive German, named Ziegler, who disappeared several days ago. Randall's cousin John Sumner confessed that he and Randall were out hunting, when the latter, who had a grudge against Ziegler, went to the bank of the river and called the German, who was on the opposite side, to come across, as a man wanted to see him. When Ziegler was half way across, in a boat, Randall shot him with a rifle, killing him. The body fell into the river. Sumner kept quiet until yesterday, as he claims Randall threatened to kill him if he told. Randall will not talk.

Spiritualism Exposed.

The once celebrated Fox sisters, who are patentees of the medium spiritualists, appeared before a large audience at the academy of music in New York, to expose the frauds of spiritualism. Mrs. Margaretta Fox Kane, read a lecture in a flattering voice, and produced the famous rappings so they were plainly audible by a movement of her big toe joint. She thanked God she was able to expose spiritualism.

Large Fire in Wisconsin.

Fire at Washburne, Wis., destroyed the business portion of the town. The aggregate loss is \$150,000, with small insurance. Thirty buildings burned.

Destitution in Dakota.

M. J. Harpman, of Minneapolis, who has been investigating the condition of the farmers in Ramsey county, who were reported to be starving to death, returned. He says that seventy families are absolutely destitute of food and fuel, and something must be done immediately. The condition of the people is beyond description. Men, women and children are in rags, and

have not a cent of money in the world. Their crops were totally destroyed by frost in August, and their land, stock and farm implements are mortgaged. Absolute distress prevailed everywhere.

Paupers to be Returned.

Among immigrant arrivals on the steamship Spain at New York was a party of destitute men and women, sent over by the Duke of Buckingham, from England. They will be sent back. The steamer Britannic brought the Chinaman, the first who has attempted to land at this port in years. He will be returned. Work was slack on the other side and the duke was appealed to with the above result. Some were sick, and none had money. So the whole party will be returned to his grace in a few days, with Collector Magone's compliments.

Murderous Deserters.

Two soldiers at Jefferson barracks, St. Louis, under arrest for desertion, escaped, after making a deadly assault upon sentries Welch and Kennedy. The deserters were Thos. Lynch and a recruit named McCurdy. Sentry Kennedy was cut down with an ax in the hands of Lynch, while McCurdy beat Welch into insensibility with the butt of a revolver he had taken away from the sentry. The men will die.

Suicide of an Arson Fiend.

John Nutz was arrested on suspicion of setting fire to the Capitol hotel, also to a livery stable, at Salinas, Cal., both of which were put out with but slight damage. After Nutz was lodged in jail the officers searched him and took everything from his pockets with the exception of a two ounce vial, which Nutz said was cough medicine. Later it was discovered the medicine was laudanum, and the prisoner had taken it. He died the next morning.

Killed His Wife and Children.

Near Columbus, Ind., James Ford, a farmer, while suffering from delirium caused by fever, sprang from his bed and made an attack upon his wife and two children. He seized a chair and killed the youngest child, and fatally injured his wife, and his 10-year old son was so badly injured that he will die.

Train Wrecked.

The westbound special freight train was wrecked seventeen miles west of Tucson, Ariz., and seven cars and the engine were badly wrecked.

Dropped Eight Hundred Feet.

J. H. Berryman and John Fiddell were instantly killed at Leadville, Col., in a shaft of the Wolfstone mine, the cable parting and letting them drop 800 feet.

Shot His Wife and Himself.

Sam Scanlon shot his wife three times and himself once, at Louisville, Ky. Scanlon had been on a continuous spree since his brother, Jim Scanlon, a race-course sport, was killed at St. Paul about a month ago.

Drowned at Niagara.

Two bodies were seen in the whirlpool, Niagara Falls, which are supposed to be the remains of William Robinson and Harry R. Wilson. The former's hat was found near the whirlpool.

A Jealous Man's Crime.

Sylvester Grab, of Oklahe City, Ind., fired three shots at Miss Gertrude Dowling, of Francisco, inflicting fatal wounds. The deed was done in the presence of thousands of people. Jealousy was the cause.

A Large Hotel Burned.

The Occidental hotel, the largest in Tombstone, A. T., burned, with its contents. Loss, \$30,000; insurance, \$10,000. The Spanish opera troupe lost all its wardrobe and a lot of valuable jewelry.

Fatal Wreck on the Wabash.

A wreck of a Wabash freight train occurred at St. Louis. George Hendricks, engineer, and George Cotler, fireman, were killed. Chas. Williams, conductor, and Rudolph Stenfal, a shipper, were badly injured.

A Scientist Asks: "How was man distributed on the earth?"

Perhaps a banana peel did it.—*N. Y. Morning Journal.*

They call the celebrated "fry in a box" oysters a la botbail car because the fare is dropped into the box.—*Harper's Bazar.*

—Husband—"I want rooms for myself and wife." Hotel clerk—"Suite?" Husband—"Of course she is—perfectly lovely. The sweetest girl in America!"—*Time.*

—There was a young lady of Vassar, And in knowledge but few could surpass her; But she made the mistake Of learning to bake.

And now with the stupid they class her.—*Texas Siftings.*

—First Mormon missionary—"How did you leave Baxter County, Smith; by rail?" Second Mormon missionary—"Yes, fence rail. And I can smell the tar yet."—*Hurlington Free Press.*

—An embarrassed young man who had just been married by a clergyman of a city, not knowing how to express his gratitude, in handing over a small fee, said: "I hope to give you more next time."

—Children, who had been cautioned not to tease their little brother Elmer, as he was cutting a tooth, waited expectantly a few minutes. Then Ned spoke up: "I say, auntie, has he cut it yet?"—*Harper's Young People.*

—"My poor man," said a woman who had given some breakfast to a tramp, "you eat slowly and in evident pain."

"Yes, madam," sadly responded the tramp, "I had to sell the gold filling in my teeth last week for food or starve."—*Epoch.*

MARKET REPORT.

RELIABLE QUOTATIONS CAREFULLY RE- VISED EVERY WEEK.

WHEAT—Valley, \$1 40@1 42; Walla Walla, \$1 32@1 35.

BARLEY—Whole, \$0 85@1 00; ground, per ton, \$20 00@21 50.

OATS—Milling, 32@34c.; feed, 28 @30c.

HAY—Baled, \$10@13.

SEED—Blue Grass, 12@15c.; Timothy, 7@8c.; Red Clover, 11@12c.

FLOUR—Patent Roller, \$5 00; Country Brand, \$4 50.

EGGS—Per doz, 25c.

BUTTER—Fancy roll, per pound, 32c.; pickled, 34@32c.; inferior grade, 27@30c.

CHEESE—Eastern, @13c.; Oregon, 13@14c.; California, 14c.

VEGETABLES—Beets, per sack, \$1 00; cabbage, per lb., 1c.; carrots, per sk., \$ 75; lettuce, per doz, 10c.; onions, \$ 85; potatoes, per 100 lbs., 30@40c.; radishes, per doz., 15@20c.; rhubarb, per lb., 6c.

HONEY—In comb, per lb., 18c.; strained, 5 gal. tins, per lb. 8c.

POULTRY—Chickens, per doz., \$2 50@3 50; ducks, per doz., \$3 00@6 00; geese, \$6 00@8 00; turkeys, per lb., 12c.

PROVISIONS—Oregon ham, 12c per lb.; Eastern, 15@16c.; Eastern breakfast bacon, 13c per lb.; Oregon 10@11c.; Eastern lard, 10@11c per lb.; Oregon, 10c.

DRIED FRUITS—Apples, \$ 35 @ 50c.; Sicily lemons, \$6 00@6 50 California, \$6 00@6 50; Naval oranges \$6 00; Riverside, \$5 00; Mediterranean, \$4 25.

DRIED FRUITS—Sun dried apples, 4c per lb.; machine dried, 10@ 11c; pitless plums, 7c; Italian plums, 10@12c; peaches, 10@11c; raisins, \$2 40@2 50.

WOOL—Valley, 15@18c.; Eastern Oregon, 10@15c.

HIDES—Dry beef hides, 12@13c.; culls, 6@7c.; kip and calf, 10@12c.; Mairrin, 10 @12c.; tallow, 4@4c.

LUMBER—Rough, per M, \$10 00; edged, per M, \$12 00; T. and G. sheathing, per M, \$13 00; No. 2 flooring, per M, \$18 00; No. 2 ceiling, per M, \$18 00; No. 2 rustic, per M, \$18 00; clear rona, per M, \$20 00; clear P. 4 S, per M, \$22 50; No. 1 flooring, per M, \$22 50; No. 1 ceiling, per M, \$22 50; No. 1 rustic, per M, \$22 50; stepping, per M, \$25 00; over 12 inches wide, extra, \$1 00; lengths 40 to 50, extra, \$2 00; lengths 50 to 60, extra, \$4 00; 1 1/2 lath, per M, \$2 25; 1 1/4 lath, per M, \$2 50.

BEANS—Quote small whites, \$4 50; pinks, \$3; bayos, \$3; butter, \$4 50; Limas, \$4 50 per cental.

COFFEE—Quote Salvador, 17c; Costa Rica, 18@20c.; Rio, 18@20c.; Java, 27c.; Arbuckle's roasted, 22c.

MEAT—Beef, wholesale, 2 1/2@3c.; dressed, 6c.; sheep, 3c.; dressed, 6c.; hogs, dressed, 8@9c.; veal, 5@7c.

PICKLES—Kogs quoted steady at \$1 35.

SALT—Liverpool grades of fine quoted \$18, \$19 and \$20 for the three sizes; stock salt, \$10.

SUGAR—Prices for barrels; Golden C. 6c.; extra C. 6c.; dry granulated, 7c.; crushed, fine crushed, cube and powdered, 7c.; extra C, 6c.; halves and boxes, 7c. higher.

—With the exception of the composing room Jennie June has worked in every department of a newspaper office.

—The two sons of Joel Chandler Harris, Julian and Lucien, are called "Brer Fox" and "Brer Rabbit" by their friends.

—Helen Mathers, the English authoress, wrote the novel which made her reputation in the hope of bringing back her lover, who had left her in a fit of anger.

—George W. Childs, the Philadelphia editor, keeps three houses always in readiness for occupancy. He can sleep, therefore, in Philadelphia, at Long Branch, or at Bryn Mawr, and still be at home. He stops at any of his homes just as the fancy seizes him.

—A. W. Longfellow, brother of the late poet, is a prominent figure in Portland, Me. He closely resembles his famous brother, both in manner and person. He is nearly seventy years of age. He is described as a great literary student, spending a large part of his time in his study.

—The statement that no book has been burnt publicly for over a hundred years is contradicted by a contributor to the *London Star*, who says: "Not, perhaps, by legal authority, but plenty of books have been burnt in popular fervor of one kind or another. If I am not mistaken, Mr. Froude's 'Nemesis of Faith' was so burnt by High-Church students at Oxford in 1848."

—Mrs. Julia D. Grant is reported to have received from the General's book about \$450,000, and has a pension of \$5,000 from the Nation. She also has the income from the \$250,000 raised by George Jones from Jay Gould, James Gordon Bennett and others. She also has the income from \$100,000 raised by George W. Childs. In other words, she has the income on not far from \$1,000,000.

MEN AS REFORMERS.

Why Youth and Old Age May Be Called the Hope of Mankind.

In his remarkable novel, "Diana of the Crossways," Mr. Meredith represents his heroine as writing to a friend: "The very young men and the old are our hope. The middle-aged are hard and fast for existing facts. We pick our leaders on the slopes, the incline and decline of the mountain—not on the upper table-land midway, where all appears to men so solid, so tolerably smooth, save for a few excrescences, roughnesses gradually to be leveled at their leisure; which induces one to protest that the middle age of men is their time of delusion. It is no paradox. They may be publicly useful in a small way. I do not deny it at all. They may be near the gates of life—the opening or the closing—for their minds to be accessible to the urgency of the greater question."

We are inclined to think that Diana Merion was right. The impulse to reform comes generally from the younger men, who are taking their first clear outlook upon the field of social institutions and established customs. Habit is a dominating force in intellectual processes, and dulls the keenness of moral perceptions. Conservative, and, therefore, preservative, influence, though it be in society, it is a dead weight to be overcome in any social reconstruction. But it is only the finer and rarer natures that, by middle life, have not succumbed to the habits of their own ways of thought or the stronger organized habit which we call social convention. The advantage of taking things as they are commends itself to the man in middle life, who is bearing the burden and heat of the day. Things may not be as he would wish them to be, but he knows, at least, the conditions under which he must make his battle, and the reformer's purpose throws conditions into a confusion from which he shrinks. He has come to look with tolerance, if not with complacency, upon manifest evils on all sides of him, and his stolid acceptance of them springs partly from such acceptance by others, partly from mental inertia, and partly from the decline of hopefulness.

With some men, however, the impulse of a reformatory principle carries them far into middle life, and perhaps through life, as reformers. They may be men of one idea, social or political "cranks," agitators and propagandists, but they have at least a thoroughness of conviction and a tenacity of purpose which the world badly needs to counterbalance the dead weight of indifference and blind conservatism. Indeed, it is to be deplored when a man does not start with radicalism enough on at least one subject to last him through life, and so preserve to him some sense of sympathy with the reforming spirit.

The army of young reformers find some appreciation and encouragement among the old, among those who are "near the closing gates of life." They have fought their way through, taking practicalities as they found them, and they have come to a time when they can look backward without personal anxiety, but with the sympathy of experience for those who are at the threshold. The veterans of life know that life can be made better for the trying; the victims of society know that social and political conditions can be made juster and more honorable. The young are hopeful and anxious to work reform for themselves; the old are willing to help on the young champions of reform for the sake of posterity. And so it comes about that the stimulating influences of society are strongest at the extremes of age, strongest among those who stand near the opening or the closing gates of activity. In a sense it is true that the middle age of men is their time of delusion.—*Boston Courier.*

RIVERS AND VALLEYS.

How Trees Form a Natural Reservoir for Rain Waters.

The valleys of most rivers are forest-clad. While these forests have the gigantic growth characteristic of fertile districts in the tropics and the temperate zones, or take the shape of stunted woods, such as extend far toward the poles, they in all cases form beneath their branches, and above the soil, a thick, spongy coating, which forms a natural reservoir for the rain waters. In most regions, this forest-sponge has a depth of more than a foot; it not infrequently attains a thickness of two feet or more. It can commonly take into its interstices a rain-fall of three or four inches in depth, or from one-sixth to one-tenth the ordinary annual supply. This water is slowly yielded to the brooks; it often requires weeks for a single torrential rain entirely to escape into the open channels which bear it to the sea. Moreover, the fallen trunks and branches of the trees clog the forest-shaded rivulets, making little pools, which serve still further to restrain the outgoing of the waters. Our beavers, at one time the most widely distributed of our larger animals, at first making avail of these natural ponds formed by fallen timber, learned in time to construct more artful dams so as to retain extensive basins of water. Thus, in the natural condition of the North American rivers, as well as those of most other countries before man began to clear away the forests, the woods constituted a great system of reservoirs, in which the rains were retained into the period of intervening droughts.—*Scribner's Magazine.*

—"What has there?" is the farmer's greeting to his field hands.—*Merchant Traveler.*