

MISCELLANEOUS.

Pittsburg Carpenters Propose to Withdraw from the Federation of Labor.

The Dominion Commons has refused to put binding twine on the free list. The City Treasurer of Boston dismised more than \$1,800,000 on July 1. Washington authorities have ordered the work of renovating the Boston navy yard begun.

China absolutely refuses to accept ex-Senator Blair as Minister from the United States.

There is apprehension at Ottawa that the sealing agreement will cause destitution among the Indian seal hunters.

It is stated that the Canadian Pacific Directors are to be put in the Grand Trunk directory at the next meeting.

Twenty-one nations thus far have accepted invitations to come to the World's Fair at Chicago and show themselves.

E. T. Jordan, natural gas inspector for Indiana, predicts the failure of the gas supply of Findlay, O., within two years.

The wheat yield in fifty counties in Kansas along the line of the Rock Island road is estimated at 24,000,000 bushels.

It has been estimated that the Vermont maple-sugar crop for the season is 17,000,000 pounds. About 40 per cent. is syrup.

Lat gold will command a premium in New York before many months seem to be the conclusion of an English financial writer.

It is thought at Washington that the Charleston will be ordered to Samoa, as trouble is likely to arise between Malaita and Mataifa.

The Treasury Department has made a revised decision on the importation of lottery tickets through the mails to the effect that it is illegal.

The anti-pool-room law passed by the Missouri Legislature last winter has gone into effect, and all but one room in St. Louis have closed their doors.

The London and Colonial Financial Corporation has bought the Chicago Cold Storage Exchange Company's building and plant, paying \$4,500,000 for them.

The Illinois Central railroad has begun the wholesale discharge of passenger and freight conductors. No cause is assigned. It is supposed to be the work of spotters.

Fifty ex-Union and fifty ex-Confederate soldiers, uniformed in blue and gray respectively, will organize into a company at Kansas City and visit the Chicago Fair.

A successful raid has been made on illicit distilleries in the mountains of Virginia and West Virginia. Several notorious violators of the revenue laws have been brought in.

Assistant Secretary Nettleton has decided that a carpenter cannot come from Canada, engage work, and upon his return with his tools enter upon such work without violating the contract-labor law.

The carpenters of Pittsburg propose to withdraw from the Federation of Labor and organize themselves into a Knights of Labor Assembly. There is a strong fight against G. O. P. at Pittsburg.

In order to protect the body of Sir John Macdonald, nine ghentia two detectives live near the cemetery, and an excavation has been made around the grave and filled with cement and cut wire.

A telegram has been received at Washington from Iquique, Chili, by Senator Montt, which says that the steamer Mapo arrived at that place with a complete cargo of arms for the Congressional party.

Bank Commissioner Drew has been notified by Secretary Foster that his services are no longer required by the government. He had had some connection with the Keystone Bank of Philadelphia.

For the protection of public health the Ohio State Board of Health has ordered quarantine, of forty days against smallpox, diphtheria and scarlet fever and twenty days against measles and whooping cough.

The verdict in the New York "Jack the Ripper" case was guilty of murder in the second degree. This was because no premeditation to murder was shown. The spectators and the public were astonished at the verdict.

A Chicago man has invented a new gas generator. By his process a ton of coal makes 1,000,000 feet at a cost of 2 1/2 cents per 1,000 feet. It is to be furnished to the public at 15 cents per 1,000 feet. This is important if true.

A decision has been rendered against the New York Central and Hudson River railroad in their claim to the water front on the Hudson river from Albany to Spuyten Dyvill. The value of the property involved is estimated at about \$5,000,000.

SPORTING NOTES.

The Double-Scull Race Will Take Place on August 8.

The only people making money at the Chicago races are said to be the jockeys and bookmakers.

The ladies' lawn tennis game for the English championship at London resulted in a triumph for Miss Dod, who defeated Mrs. Dildyard.

In the Turnell Park (London) games Quock, barner of the Manhattan Athletic Club threw the hammer 132 feet 7/8 inch, beating the best English record of 130 feet.

A double-scull race between O'Connor and Hanlan and Gandaur and Mackay has been arranged for August 8. It is not yet decided where the race will be rowed.

Arthur Upham of Galveston, Tex., and Paul Gorman of Australia, middle weights, have been matched by the Occidental Athletic Club of California for a fight to take place the latter part of August for a purse of \$1,500.

The prize fight for the heavy-weight championship of England and \$10,000 between Jim Smith and Ted Pritchard was won in the fourth round by Pritchard, who had the best of the fight from the start. Smith weighed 185 pounds, and was in perfect condition. Pritchard, who was within the middle-weight limit, looked hard as nails. It was a bloody and fierce fight, but Pritchard outgeneraled and outfought his powerful opponent. From the start Pritchard had the best of the battle. Smith was badly punished, but Pritchard was only slightly bruised, and was fresh and strong at the finish. London rules governed the contest, the hands of the men being uncovered and wrestling being permitted.

FARM AND GARDEN

An Article on Curing Clover Hay.

SOME AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

Cooling by Evaporation—Late Wheat Always Poor—Overestimate of Night Soil.

The thick stems of a rank growth of clover make it hard to cure by the ordinary means of exposure to the sun. Long before these stems are dried through, the tender thin leaves will be shriveled up and broken off. This necessitates curing clover by heating, and with as little stirring as possible, and that only when freshly cut. The best way is to follow the mower with the hay tedder with on only the least interruption, and then, while only the leaves have dried, rake the clover and put it in cocks. It may seem dry because the leaves will rattle, but leave it twenty-four hours, or if needed, thirty-six or forty-eight. Then open, and it will be found moist inside. This moisture has come from the stems, and when this has dried off the hay will be cured sufficiently to go into the barn or stack. The slight heating which hay thus gets not only does not injure it, but really makes it more palatable to stock. The coarsest clover cured thus will be eaten more greedily than that grown so thin and fine that it can be cured without heating. It is sweeter and more nutritious, as well as more palatable, than clover that either does not go through the heating process or that is put in large stacks without being previously put through the sweat, and thus is subjected to more violent fermentation that blackens and ruins it. When clover turns black it is a sign that heating has changed to coal or carbon much of the more valuable nitrogenous nutrient that it originally possessed.

Agricultural Notes. The younger and tenderer the beet the better its flavor. Even the coarse mangels are excellent when used young, tops and all, as greens. Beets always need thinning, and if their use as greens does not remove the surplus fast enough, the beets will be greedily eaten uncooked, if fed to hogs or pigs, and there is scarcely a better feed possible for sows that are suckling young, especially if they were too fat when their pigs were dropped.

Cooling by Evaporation. In the hottest weather vessels of water for drinking may be kept cool by surrounding them entirely with some porous substance kept constantly wet. The evaporation from this will dissipate heat so rapidly that only slight changes of temperature of the liquid inside the vessel will be noted. It is dangerous, however, to keep one's self cool in this way, as the chilling of internal organs is scarcely ever done without serious injury, often resulting in disease and death.

Supports for Melon Vines. Cucumber and melon vines need something for their tendrils to cling to, so as not to be blown about by the wind. Small pieces of brush stuck into the ground between the hills will all at the way to be used and keep the land free from weeds, and will insure the vines against being torn and injured by winds. This is a great deal better than the practice of allowing weeds to grow for this purpose, as some old-fashioned farmers used to do.

Late Wheat Always Poor. About the time wheat begins to head out is a good time to judge as to its probable yield, as the dangers are not past. If much of the crop is late, the yield will be poor. The same causes that retarded it will also lessen the crop. Time of sowing winter wheat has little to do with its lateness or earliness next season. There may not be three days' difference in ripening in pieces sown a month or more apart, and the latest sown, if on very rich ground, may be earlier in ripening.

Eradicating Sorrel. Wherever fields are red with sorrel at this season of the year it indicates some defect in the land, which prevents the seedling of more valuable grasses and clover. Sorrel is easily kept in check where a good catch of clover is had, as the clover outgrows and smother it. On sandy soil clover often fails from lack of mineral elements, lime or potash, and application of one or both will insure its success. The sorrel does not need either lime or potash, and only comes in where more valuable plants cannot be grown.

Overestimate of Night Soil. The quite common belief that human excrement is the richest of all manures is not borne out by practical experiment or by chemical analysis. It has greater value than the solid excrement of horses or sheep, but much less than the liquid excrement of either, and has little more than half the value of fresh hen manure. It is possibly one indication of man's superiority that he gets more nearly all the good out of the rich food he eats than do domestic animals. Nor is it certain that the food which men generally eat contains so much of the elements of either nutrition or fertility as most animals choose for themselves.

Alskic Clover and Timothy. To secure a thrifty stand of timothy, which will remain good for two or three years, there is nothing better than seeding it with the alskic clover on a winter grain crop. The alskic does not smother down the timothy quite as badly as red clover does, and if cut in June, just as the alskic begins to fade, the alskic will produce a full seed crop and then entirely die out. This leaves the soil entirely to the grass, and so stimulates its growth that often a second crop of timothy of a ton and a half per acre can be cut the same season. With the common red clover the timothy does not do much until the second year.

P. T. Barnum after making his will in 1852 summoned several prominent physicians to examine his mental condition and to make affidavits to his sanity, which they did. This was to guard against any possible contest on the plea of incapacity.

A FEW HEALTH HINTS.

Wearing Night Clothes—Dressing the Neck. Outer Wraps—Foot Coverings.

It cannot be generally known that we practically breathe through the skin—in other words, that the skin has a function something like that of the lungs. It can absorb or release by active or passive means. But in other ways than by neglect of cleanliness its usefulness is impaired. Tight clothing cripples it and keeps the poisons which should be thrown out at the surface locked up in the system, and also shuts out pure air which should reach the skin. In purchasing underclothing, therefore, it should be so large that, even after frequent washing and shrinking it will still be loose and permit of a volume of air being in and the body. It naturally follows that the outer garments should also be comparatively large, and at least enough so to permit every movement to be made with as much ease when they are on as when they are off.

There is a habit which all, without exception, should practice, and yet it is safe to say that not one man in ten of our people do follow it. Reference is made to the removal of the underwear at retiring, and the substitution of one kept for night wear alone. The underwear, during the day, becomes filled with emanations from the body, and must be well aired regularly every night, otherwise it becomes to a considerable extent poisonous, and the noxious matters are again absorbed by the skin. This self-poisoning is sure to go on unless the rule given is observed.

Safety from "colds" depends in no slight degree upon how the neck is dressed. Nothing should be worn about it which interferes with its freedom of movement, nor should it be encumbered with handkerchiefs, which so many wear as much for appearance as for comfort. Let each one now choose a certain kind of collar, and wear no other style until spring comes. Even a very slight variation in this important article of dress will favor a sore throat. The habit of wearing the fashionable handkerchiefs—silk neckties, or an exceedingly light one to get into, and, as a rule, the more they are used, the more they will favor troubles. Practically the collar and necktie will be sufficient protection for the throat. When the cold is intense, turning up the coat collar will be a sufficient additional protection, unless one is riding far in a strong wind.

When leaving the cold air and entering warm rooms, remove the outer wraps at once, and do so before the rule is broken. If one is in a room that has been long enough in warm rooms to become heated, they should not leave them, and at once enter their carriage or street car. Under these conditions they are chilled even by a short ride. Before attempting to ride they should walk a few blocks, until the body is accustomed to the change and circulation is active. After one has been exposed to intense cold and is even slightly chilled, a cup of hot tea is the best thing to "warm up." Alcohol, so often taken for the purpose, is more active, but seldom better than the simple harmless beverages mentioned. During prolonged exposure to cold, as on a long drive, hot drinks should not be indulged in, for they render the body yet more sensitive to cold.

A word about foot coverings. Woolen stockings, of course, should be worn by all. Wear now heavy shoes and delay to put on overshoes as long as possible; when once they are on, keep them in service until next spring. Car drivers, conductors and other men out all day in the cold will be far more comfortable if they discard leather boots and shoes and wear cloth shoes inside their overshoes. Then their feet will be better ventilated, perspire less and hence keep much warmer.—Boston Herald.

Took Her at Her Word. A queer episode in Connaught life was the case of the king at the relation of Dennis Bodkin versus Patrick French. The plaintiff and defendant were neighbors. The latter was of the "cold shock," full of airs, and possessed of an intolerable temper. He and wife had received a dervish, for Mr. Bodkin, who entertained an equal aversion to the Frenches. Bodkin had happened to offend the squire and lady. That evening they entertained a large company at dinner, when Mrs. French launched out in abuse of her enemy, concluding her wish "that somebody would cut off the fellow's ears, and that might quiet him." The subject was changed after a while, and all went on well till supper, at which time, when everybody was happy, the old butler, one Ned Regan, who, according to custom, had drunk enough, came in. "Joy was in his eye, and whispering something to his mistress which she did not comprehend, he put a large snuff box into her hand. Fancying it was some whim of her old servant, she opened the box and shook out its contents, when lo! a pair of bloody ears dropped out on the table. The horror of the company was awakened, upon which old Ned exclaimed, "Sure, my lady, you wished that Dennis Bodkin's ears were cut off, so I told old Georgegan, the gamekeeper, and he took a few handy boys with him, and brought back his ears, and there they are, and I hope you are pleased, my lady." The gamekeeper and the "boys" left the county. French and his wife were held in heavy bail at the Galway assizes, but the guests proved no such order was given, that it was a mistake on the part of the servant. They were acquitted. The "boys" and their leader never reappeared in the county until after the death of Bodkin, who lost his ears many years before his death.—Argonaut.

The Magnificence of Civilization. Talking about the early days in California, there was an old fellow down in the country who was the first senator to go to the legislature from his district. His district was a rural one, and there were no houses—only cabins there—rough wooden cabins, with nails for bar racks and a rope for a wardrobe and a cracked looking glass for a dressing table. He went to Sacramento, and when he got back the entire district came in to rail upon him, and he gave them a wonderful account of the magnificence of civilization in the capital of the state. "Yes, boys, I had a china basin an' a cake o' soap scented by gosh; smelt like the flowers, an' there was a little place in the wall with a row of big books in it, an' I said to the waiter, 'What's that for?' 'To hang your clothes in,' says he, an' 'well, I didn't have any clothes to hang in it; but it was nice, but, boys, that was not it.' 'What do you think I had?' A real bureau, a real, carved bureau, with a looking glass bigger than this window in it. It was gorgeous, gorgeous."—"Under-tones" in San Francisco Chronicle.

Death foreseen never came.—Italian Proverb.

KRAKATOA'S ERUPTION.

SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF THE NOTED VOLCANIC EXPLOSION.

Preliminary Performances of the Volcano. When the Crisis Came—Noise of the Great Crash—Effects of the Explosion—Optical Phenomena.

In 1880 there were earthquakes along the shores of the Straits of Sunda, but Krakatoa gave no sign of reawakening until May 20, 1883, when there was a sudden and violent eruption, by which a column of dust and steam was thrown to a height of seven miles, and some of the matter ejected was carried as far as 300 miles before it descended to the earth. This eruption was accompanied by noises which in Batavia, 100 miles away, sounded like the booming of cannon, while doors and windows were shaken. The force of this outbreak soon subsided, and such things are so common in that part of the world that little attention was paid to it. On May 28 an excursion party from Batavia visited the neighborhood and obtained a photograph of the mountain as it then appeared. In the middle of June another crater opened, and the dense pall of vapor that had been hanging over the region was perceptibly increased. After that the island became every day the scene of greater activity. On Aug. 11 there were three principal and eleven smaller volcanic fires visible upon it.

When the Crisis Came. The climax came on the 27th of August. On the afternoon before it could be seen that a crisis was approaching. The story as told from the logs of various ships that were in the neighborhood shows that frequent explosions then occurred, and that the air was filled with vapor, pumice and dust, illuminated by a glow from the volcano below, and by continuous flashes of lightning from above. The sound of frequent explosions was heard at great distances, and waves were started that were felt hundreds of miles away.

The investigations of the committee have proved conclusively that these eruptions of the afternoon of Aug. 23, by shattering the island and tearing away great fragments from it down to below the level of the sea, were the direct cause of the terrible outburst of the following morning, by which the island was nearly destroyed, and the vast tidal wave started that overwhipped all the islands for a hundred miles about.

Through the breaches made by these explosions in the walls of the crater the sea rushed in torrents. The first effect, as when dirt or stones are thrown into the mouth of a geyser, was to deaden the violence of the eruption, and produce a season of comparative calm. This lasted through the night of the 25th and well along into the morning of the next day. But the terrible energy that smothered was merely suppressed for a time. It accumulated deep in the earth beneath the small cone, and quickly filled up the crater above, and the longer it was confined the greater became its power. At 5:30 o'clock in the morning came the first outbreak, but it was not enough; the water poured in faster than the power below could throw it out, and the forces of fire below were held in subjection by the sea. There was another outbreak at 6:44 o'clock, but this, too, the sea subdued, driving the boat of the volcano back once more into its subterranean caverns, where it raged and fumed for nearly four hours. Then, at 10:02 o'clock, it burst out with an awful violence, flinging the ocean back in waves a hundred feet high, that rolled on for thousands of miles before they wholly subsided.

Noise of the Great Crash. The noise of this last great crash of the conflict between the forces of the water and of fire was heard over an area equaling one-third of the surface of the globe. People a thousand miles away thought a vessel in distress was firing minute guns, and sent out a ship to her aid. At Ceylon, 2,000 miles away, people thought that ships were practicing with their heavy guns somewhere in the neighborhood, and even as far as Rodriguez, 3,000 miles from Krakatoa, a sound was heard as of the roar of distant artillery. More than this, the air waves which accompanied the sound spread after the sound itself had become inaudible and delicate instruments at various observatories and other stations in all parts of the world recorded the passage of uncountable atmospheric impulses, not once, but time after time, until it is a scientifically ascertained and proven fact that the air wave from the explosion passed seven times around the world before it became so faint that it produced no effect upon the instruments that record such incidents. At Batavia, 100 miles distant, windows were blown in, gas put out, a gasometer lifted from its wall, and even walls were cracked merely by the vibrations of the air.

The sea waves launched out from the volcano in all directions were more disastrous, if less far reaching, than the air waves. Thirty-three miles from the volcano some of the waves were 135 feet high. Towns, villages and lighthouses were swept away. A man of war was carried up the Telok Belong valley nearly two miles inland and left stranded thirty feet above the sea level. The wave was a very perceptible one all the way across the Indian ocean, and at Ceylon, Natal and the Cape of Good Hope its passage was made a matter of record long before anything was known of the explosion.

Effects of the Explosion. In the immediate vicinity of the island the effect of the explosion was almost inconceivable. Two-thirds of the island of Krakatoa and the whole of a neighboring island disappeared entirely. Lang Island was increased by an addition to its northern end, and Verlaten Island was enlarged to three times its former dimensions. The mass of matter which was blown away from Krakatoa has been calculated at 200,000,000,000 cubic feet. One of the incidental effects of the explosion was the exposure of a magnificent section of the island, nearly 2,000 feet high, showing admirably the formation of the interior of a crater.

The most curious part of the report is that devoted to the optical phenomena that followed the eruption, including the remarkable colored sunsets in all parts of the globe, which were almost certainly the result of it. The Hon. H. H. Russell and Mr. Douglas Archibald had charge of the preparation of the parts of the report devoted to this subject. They found that at the time of the explosion so great a mass of dust and vapor was thrown into the air to heights estimated at from 12 to 23 miles that for 150 miles around darkness prevailed at midday. Much of this matter fell quickly to the earth, masses of pumice stones covering the sea likely for a long distance about, and were carried by the ocean currents to all parts of the world, so that even yet they are being washed ashore in places far remote from the straits of Sunda.—New York Sun.

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