DLANDE

BY WILLIAM BLACK

र् पूर्व विकास मार्थ है कि कि मार्थ कि मार्थ है कि मार्थ विकास कि मार्थ है कि मार्थ है कि मार्थ है

CHAPTER XIV. telling on the higher slopes of the hills when she arose, and all the house was night had calmed her somewhat. Now she was chiefly anxious to get away; to seek forgetfulness of this sad discovery in the immediate duty that lay before In the silence of this pale, clear morning she sat down and wrote a mes-sage of farewell, the terms of which she had carefully, and not without some smitings of conscience, studied during the long wakeful hours:

'Allt-nam-ba, Wednesday Morning. "Dear Archie-A grave duty calls face was frightful. me suddenly away to the south. No doubt you can guess what it is; and you will understand how, in the meantime at least, all our other plans and arrangements must yield to ... Probably, as I am anxious to eatch the early boat at Foyers, I may not see you to say goodbye; and so I send you this message.

om your affectionate YOLANDE." She regarded this letter with much self-humiliation. It was not frank. Perhaps she had no right to write to him time was there now for explanation? and perhaps, as the days and the months and the years went by, there might never be need of any explanation. Her life was to be all different now.

There The household began to stir. was a crackling of wood in the kitchen; outside, Sandy could be heard opening put in an appearance, to finally close her young mistress' portmanteaus. And then, everything having been got ready, when she went downstairs to the dining room, she was surprised to find her father there. "Why did you get up so early?" said she, in protest.

"Do you think I was going to let you leave without saying good-bye?" he an-"You are looking a little better this morning, Yolande-but not well, not Are you sure you won't recon-Will you not wait a few days, accustom yourself to think of it, and then go, if you will go, with Mr. Short-

"Oh, no, that is all over, papa," said "That is all settled. I am going this morning-now."

It was almost in silence, and with a face overshadowed with gloom, that he saw the last preparations made. He folself would fasten the rug round her knees, the morning being somewhat stood there for a long time regarding them, until the dog cart disappeared at was gone. This, then, was the that he had hoped that peaceful security that he had hoped to find at Allt-nam-ba!

Yolande was not driving this morning; she had too many things to think of. But when they reached the bridge at the lower end of the loch, she told Sandy ed around. to stop and took the reins.

"Here is a letter for Mr. Lealla." she "You need not take it up to the house; put it in the letter box at the

Then they drove on again. When they had climbed the hill she looked over to a low voice. "Good-by." ynn Towers, but she could not make She was rather glad of that, he had waved his handkerchief to her, without further hypocrisy and shame? Little did he know what traitress was passing by. But indeed she was gradually ceasing to reproach herself in this way, for the reason that she was ceasing to think about herself at all. It was of his future that concerned ber. What would all his after-life be like? Would there be some reparation? Would time heal that as it healed all things?

When she got to Gress she saw that Mrs. Bell was in the garden behind the house, and thither she made her way. Yolande's face was pale, but her manper was quite calm and firm.

"Well, here are doings!" said the cheerful old lady. "And I was just hurrving on to get a few bit flowers for ye. Deed, ye're early this morning.

"It is very kind of you, Mrs. Bell; but please do not trouble. You expected me, then? Mr. Melville told you?"

That he did. And I'll just be delighted to be of any kind of service to ye that is possible. I'll be ready to go up Allt-nam-ba by midday; and I'm thinking I'll take one o' the young lassies wi' me, in case there's any needcessity for a helping hand. do very well to look after this place when ask?" both Mr. Melville and me are away." But is he going—is he going away?"

said Yolande, with a sudden alarm. "I think he is; though it's no my place to ask," said Mrs. Bell, placidly. "Lant night I saw he was putting some things in order in the house. And I jalouse he stopped in the laboratory the whole night through, for he never was in his bed; and this morning I caught a glint o' him go ing out before any o' us was up. I dare he was off to one o' the lochs to have a last day at the trout belike.

"He is not here, then?" the girl exclaimed, with dismay in her eyes. "Mrs. Bell, I must see him! Indeed, I cannot go until I have seen him."

She looked at her watch. Well, she had nearly half an hour to spare, and she could scarce believe that it was herehe was determined to stay till the last self she saw in those recurrent scenes, so minute if it were needful, was no figure coming along the road, no was all over. Already it seemed far living thing visible on these vacant hill- away. sides, nor a sign of life along the wide ful for Mrs. Bell's talking: it lessoned the overstrain of the suspense somehow; she had to force herself to listen in a

ing down the hill. I wish to speak a The pale, clear glow of the dawn was lling on the higher slopes of the hills ben she arose, and all the house was Bell, cheerfully. "I'm just going indoors The heart-searching of that long to put a bit string round the flowers for ye. And there's a wee bit basket, too, ye mann take; I made a few sweets, and comfits, and such things for ye last night, that'll help to amuse ye on the

journey. She did not hear; she was regarding him as he approached. His features were as pale as her own; his lips were thin and white. When he came to her he stood before her with his eyes cast down like one guilty. The pallor of his

"I-I could not go away without a word of good-by."

Here she stopped, fearful that her self-possession would desert her. Her hands were tightly clinched, and unconsciously she was nervously fingering her engagement ring.

'I do not see why the truth should not be said between us-it is the last time. I did not know, you did not know; it was all a misfortune; but I ought to have known-I ought to have guarded so, without telling him of what had hap myself; it is I who am to blame. Well, pened the day before. And yet, again, if I have to suffer, it is no matter, it is

you that I am sorry for-"Yolande, I cannot have you talk like that!" he exclaimed.

"One moment," she said-and strangely enough her French accent seemed more marked in her speech, perhaps because she was not thinking of any ac-"One moment. When I am gone the doors of the coach house. Then Jane away, do not think that I regret having met you and known you. It has been misfortune for you; for me, no. It has been an honor to me that you were my friend, and an education also; you have shown me what this one or that one may be in the world! I had not known it be fore; you made me expect better things. It was you who showed me what I should Do not think that I shall forget what I owe you; whatever happens, I will try to think of what you would expect of me, and that will be my ambition. I wished to say this to you before I went away," said she, and her fingers were trembling somewhat, despite her enforced calmness. "And also thatthat, if one cannot retrieve the past, if one has the misfortune to bring suffering

"Yolande, Yolande," said he earnestly, and he looked up and looked into her eyes, "do not speak of it-do not think owed her out to the dog cart. He him- of it any more! Put it behind you. You are no longer a girl; you are a woman; you have a woman's duties before you. And when they drove away he Whatever is past, let that be over and gone. If any one is to blame, it has not been you. Look before you; forget the turning of the road, and Yolande what is behind. Do you know that it is not a light matter you have undertak-

> garded her calmly, though still his face was of a ghastly paleness. She hesitated for a moment or two; then she glanc-

> "I wish you to—to give me a flower," she said, "that I may take it with me." "No," he said at once. "No. Forget everything that has happened here, ex-

cept the duty you owe to others."
"That I have deserved," she said, in

She held out her hand. He to out any one at any of the windows. held it, and there was a great compas- say how we came by the information. There were one or two stable lads about sion in his eyes. To her they seemed Now what else can we do for you? Let tressingly heavy, but it is safe to asthe out-houses, but otherwise no sign of glorified eyes, the eyes of a saint, full of me see. If your poor mother will go sert that farmers themselves-who, If a sad and yearning pity.

"Yolande," said he, and the tones of could she have answered that signal his voice seemed to reach her very heart, her health?" "I have faith in you. I shall hear of you. Be worthy of yourself. Now, God

bless you and good-by."
"Adleu—adleu!" she murmured; and then, white-faced and all trembling, but still dry-eyed and erect, she got through another that she was thinking. It was the house somehow, and out to the front, where Mrs. Bell was awaiting her by the side of the dog cart.

When she had driven away, Mrs. Bell remained for a minute or two looking after the departing vehicle-and perhaps rather regretfully, too, for she had taken a great liking to this bright young Engish lady who had come into these wilds: but presently she was recalled from he reveries or regrets by the calling of Mr. Melville. She went into the house at

"Now, Mrs. Bell," said he, and he seemed in an unusual hurry; think one of the girls could hunt for me the waterproof coat that has the strap attached to it for slinging over the oulders? And I suppose she could pack me some bit of cold meat or something of the kind, and half a loaf, in a ittle parcel."

"Dear me, sir, I will do that mysel" The other one will but where are ye going, sir, if I may

> The fact that it was so unusual for Jack Melville to take any precautions of this kind-even when he was starting for a long day's fishing on some distant moorland loch-that Mrs. Bell instantly jumped to the conclusion that he was bent on some very desperate excursion.

> "Where am I going?" he said. ' across the hills to Kingussie, to catch the night train to London."

CHAPTER XV

The train roared and jangled through the long black night; and always before Yolande's shut but sleepless eyes rose vision after vision of that which she leaving forever behind-her girlhood. So quiet and beautiful, so rich in affection and kindness, that appeared to her now; But there glad and joyous and light-hearted.

Toward morning she slept a little, but orland of the village. She was grate not much; however, on the first occasion of her opening her eyes, she found that around her. For an instant a shock of fear overcame her-a sudden sense of Perhaps he is not going away," said helplessness and affright. She was so to offset that amount. And then she added, suddenly, strangely situated; she was drawing near and with her face grown a deadly white: the great, dread city; she knew not what If you reach a gree "Mrs. Bell, that is Mr. Melville com- lay before her; and she felt so much of the bunko steerer.

Despite herself, tears began to الإسطياف المراف المرافعة المرا trickle down her face, and her lips were tremulous. This new day seemed terriand she was helpless-and alone.

"Dear me, miss," said Jane, happening to wake up at this moment, "what is the

"It is nothing," her young mistress said. "I—I have scarcely slept at all these two nights, and I feel rather weak and-and-not very well. It is no matter.

But the tears fell faster now; and this sense of weakness and helplessness pletely overpowered her. She fairly broke down.

Yolande had resolved, among other things, that, while she would implicitly obey Mr. Melville's instructions about making that appeal to her mother entirealso prudently follow her father's advice a writer in the Ohio Farmer. The derand get such help as was necessary, with rick or pitcher will cost the man regard to preliminary arrangements, from on the farm about \$5 in cash. It is his solicitors; more especially as she had met one of those gentlemen two or three The base of the frame is 10 by 10 feet times, and so far was on friendly terms with him. Accordingly, one of the first things she did was to get into a cab, upanied by her maid, and drive to the offices of Lawrence & Lang in Lincoln's Inn Fields. She asked for Mr. Lang; and by and by was shown into that gentlemban's room. He was a tall, elderly person, with white hair, a shrewd, thin face, and humorous, good-natured smile.

"Take a seat, Miss Winterbourne," said he. "Very lucky you came now. another ten minutes I should have been off to seek you."

"But how did you know?" "Oh, we lawyers are supposed to know everything," he answered, good-natured-'And I may tell you that I know of the business that has brought you to London: and that we shall be most happy to give you all the assistance in our

"But how can you know?" the girl id, bewildered. "It was only the day said, bewildered. before yesterday I decided to go; and it was only this morning I reached London. Did my papa write to you, then, without

"My dear young lady, if I were to an swer your questions, you would no longbelieve in the omniscience of lawyers!" he said, with his grave smile "No, no; you must assume that we know everything. And let me tell you that the step you are taking, though is a bold one. I hope so. But you must has been ill.

"Ah!" said Yolande-but no more.

She held her hands clasped.
"I say she has been ill," said this elderly suave person, who seemed to regard the girl with a very kindly interest. 'Now she is better. Three weeks ago day or two and see; and fortunately, she things too numerous to mention." got a little better. However, you must be prepared to find her looking ill: and -and-well, I was going to say she might be incapable of recognizing you; but I forgot. In the meantime we shall be pleased to be of every assistance to you in our power, in fact, we have been instructed to consider you as under our that need not alarm you. Your friends may be anxious about you, no doubt; but the very worst that can happen will be a little impertinence. You won't mind that. I shall have a policeman in plain clothes standing by; if your maid should consider it necessary, she can easily summon him to you. She will be inside; he outside; so you have nothing to fear." "Then you know all how it has been

arranged!" she exclaimed. "Why, yes; it is our business here to know everything," said he, laughing, "though we are not allowed sometimes to with you, you might wish to take her to obviously, ought to know as much of some quiet seaside place, perhaps, for this phase of the matter as anybody-

from London at once!" Yolande said, eag- greater were the scientific knowledge

erly. "Well, a client of ours has just left some lodgings at Worthing-in fact, we have recommended them, on one or two occasions, and we have been told that they gave satisfaction. "Will you give me the address, if you please?

(To be continued.)

CONNECT CUT'S HAPPY LOT, State Has No Debt and Never Had One

Except During the War. Connecticut has about as many distinctive peculiarities, in relation to usually the land from which the larg-Massachusetts, as if it were situated in est yields are taken. The land breaks another part of the country and had well. No clods to mash, no packing to been settled by people of different or- do late in August. When the ground as well as contingent, and would not seed. be able to reorganize ourselves withcorporations.

But Connecticut is peculiar. It may be said not to know what a State debt is. It never had such a debt at all. apparently, until the civil war, when one of some \$10,000,000 was contributed in aid of suppressing the rebellion. is not enough cream to do this. If How the good old commonwealth ever churning is done but twice a week came, even then, to be shaken out of good butter can be made if the cream its steady, debtless habits is a ques- has been kept cool and then ripened tion-one testifying to the profound properly. Some farmers that keep but upheaving influences of that conflict as no other single bit of evidence is able week; under such conditions, great money then, and issue some bonds, to fifty degrees Fahrenheit, if possible, However, it has never done so since. as it never had done so before, and ture for a long time, the butter will now that debt is practically extinguish- have an old flavor. If cream is kept the gray light of the new day was ed. It amounted only to about \$200,000 much below fifty degrees Fahrenhelt. net several months ago, and the treas- it is likely to develop a better flavor, ury now has cash on hand sufficient

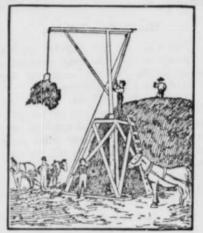
If you reach a green old age bewsre



Improved Hay Devices

The man who has stood with his back to the stack pitching hay by hand under a hot July sun will aply unaided and unaccompanied, she might preciate the picture here shown, says mounted on runners twelve feet long. square and the top 5 by 5 feet. The telephone pole in the center is twentyfive feet high. The arm is fourteen feet long and the brace about twelve feet. The pole and arm can be turned in a complete circle by means of a crowbar inserted in the pole near the bottom.

> An entire haycock can be easily lifted straight from the ground to a



A HAY DERRICK

level with the top of the stack, then is a bold one, deserves to be successful; level with the top of the stack, then perhaps it will be successful because it carried over and dropped at any place on the stack. It will keep two men be prepared for a shock. Your mother busy on the stack all the time, and they will not have to reach over the edge of the stack to help get the hay Besides, it does not drag up the side of the stack, as many pitchers do, nor does it make the stack heavier on one side than the other. A round my clerk found her unable to sign the stack can be built twenty feet high receipt that he usually brings away with and easily made to hold from twelve him; and I was about to write to your to fifteen tons. It saves time, money, father, when I thought I would wait a help, muscle, patience "and other

Costly Crop Pests.

The proceeds from the wheat crop, the average annual farm value of which may be roughly put at four hundred million dollars, have in more than one year been cut down as much protection. As for your personal safety, as fifty per cent. as a result of the ravages of the chinch bug and the Hessian fly. King Cotton alone was damaged to the extent of nearly fifty million dollars by the so-called Mexican bell weevil, in the single State of Texas, in 1903, according to a carefully compiled report issued by the Census Bureau. The apple crop has been reduced as much as twenty-five per cent in many seasons through the operations of the codling moth and other insects. So one might go through the entire list. The burden is diswill agree that their losses, in practi-"Oh, yes; I wish to take her away cally every instance, would be far of the Department of Agriculture's staff not put to account. A careful survey of the facts leads to the conclusion that the total damage each year would be from two to four times as large were it not for the Department of Agriculture's unremitting warfare He wrote the address on a card, and against the pests, and that a maximum annual destruction of two billion dollars, or nearly one-half the whole yearly value of the country's crops, at present, would be possible.-C. Arthur Williams in "Success Magazine."

Breaking for Wheat. The early broken wheat ground is

igin, says the Springheld Republican. becomes hard and breaks into large One of these peculiarities is its free-clods a great deal of labor is required dom from a State debt. We in this to get the seed bed fine and well State have a large public debt, direct packed for the proper germination of

Then again the doubling up of work out one. It is accepted here as an indication of progress. Every energetic, worry may be prevented later on at wide-awake, progressive State, we are sowing time. Instead of having to apt to reason with ourselves, has a debt break land, harrow, drag and roll, then and usually a large and growing one, immediately follow with the drill. A and the same is generally to be said surface harrowing may be all that the of municipalities and private business seed bed needs before sowing the seed. The work of sowing wheat need not come in a lump, if taken in time.

Churn Often. The best butter is made by churning every day, but upon most farms there two or three cows churn but once a But Connecticut did borrow some care should be taken to keep the cream When cream is kept at a high tempora-

Essentials are that the land be clean. warm, and in a fine moldy state to rereive the seed. The rows may be did not make a large yield.

drilled, if that is the method of sowing. fifteen inches apart, the seed slightly covered with harrows, and a very light rolling given to level the surface, so that all plants have equal chance of starting together. There is a good deal in this latter, for where irregular ilrst growth is made there are always enemies to take the plants as they ap-

A Good Stock Tonic,

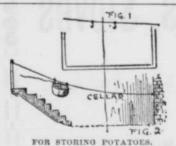
has its own particular composition, go Tribune. and it is better, both from the points impossible the following recipe may be originated.-Washington Star. safely adopted: Turmeric, one-nait pound; cumin, one-half pound; gentian, three-fourths pound; ground ginger, one-half pound; grains of paradise, one-half pound; bi-carbonate of soda, six ounces; fenugreek, six ounces; blood root, four ounces; asafoetida, four ounces, brown sugar, five pounds; fine salt, 1 3-4 pounds. The above ingredients should be well ground by the druggist and be thoroughly mixed with one thousand pounds of finely ground meal, or, if desired, it may be fed without the meal. When mixed with maize meal the quantity to be ton Transcript. fed to a horse, cow, or ox at each feed is one pint, and to each caif, it should be admitted as a State, but foal, sheep, or hog, half a pint. When does it expect the United States Senfed without the meal it should be giv. ate to be swayed by mere reasons?en in the proportion of a tablespoonful Chicago News. to a horse, cow or ox, and half that Despite his latest gift of \$10,000,000, quantity for each of the smaller farm there is reason to believe Mr. Rockeanimals.

Indigestion in Cows.

to indigestion wholly, and may be Rockefeller to attend some of the colproper diet. Usually this trouble oc. money.-Norfolk (Va.) Landmark, curs most frequently in the winter, The beef trust can expect little symsummer who are on the range, but are to escape trial on the charge that it is a good plan is to cut out the grain ra- Pittsburg Dispatch. some good hay, and gradually get her "why pay rent" sign follows his trail, on to the grain. A day or two after -Washington Star. the grain ration has been cut off the cow should have a single dose of one pound of Epsom salts and two ounces of ground ginger root mixed in two quarts of warm water. In the winter reduce the grain ration one-half, give her the medicine named above at the beginning of the treatment, and make up the ration with roots or ensilaze.

To Put Potatoes in Cellar. Here is an excellent device for use in unloading apples of potatoes from a

cart to the cellar. Take a piece of No. 12 wire (telephone wire) and run it from a stake in front of the rollway down through the rollway, or potato bin. String two iron hooks on the wire and hook the loaded basket upon these, when the load will slide smooth-



ly down and across the cellar, where the helper can empty the basket. A can be formed at this distance, we light cord attached to the basket allows the man outside to pull the bas- Mayor Weaver has wiped up the ket back for another load. This earth with the gang in Philadelphia. saves a large amount of heavy lifting There may be some fragments, but and saves time also, since two baskets they are not able to sit up and take can be kept going. Fig. 1 shows the hooks on the wire. Fig. 2 shows the device in action.

Selecting Brood Stock.

of good breed there are probably sev- carriers. They're certainly not comeral among them that will make good mon carriers, nor even common The individuals should be carefully common plunderers.—Pittsburg Times, watched as they grow and when the selection is made the pigs should be that M. Trepoff is the real Czar of about five months old. From then on Russia, then Nicholas Alexandrovitch they should be separated from the market stock, and until the end of the is relieved of the responsibility for a season, placed on the best grass possible. All females intended for breed. cruelty. Whether the creature can be ing purposes should have less carbon- greater than the creator is a question accous food than that given to those for casulsts, however.—Chicago Chronintended for market. From one-half to lele. two-thirds corn is enough in the ration | How providential it seems that the from the time the young sow begins only man in America who is known to eat grain.

The Brood Sows.

Give brood sows the freedom of the pasture fields when with young pigs and as soon as the pigs are old enough to eat, feed a little shelled corn and man like John D. Rockefeller.—Kandry middlings with a mash of wheat sas City Star. middlings and milk. Sows with pigs If the exclusion law is to be so conshould always have access to a good strued or modified as to admit Chiblue grass pasture and should not be nese students, we'll probably find that fed too much corn. The largest part about 100,000,000 Chinamen have sudof the ration should be made up of denly become inspired with the most oats and bran with a little oil meal, intense desire to study everything in Have plenty of charcoal and ashes con- the books from Confucius down to stantly available. An occasional feed Laura Jean Libbey and Mary Maclane. of salt will be found profitable.

Top Dressing Forage Crops. a very marked increase due to the ap- up."-Norfolk Landmark. crops except the barley, which, owing with the fact that the prison contains



Uncle Sam's secretary of state is usually a \$25,000 or \$50,000 man who Each of the many stock foods, or condimental spices now on the market, serves his country for \$8,000 .- Chica-

The Sultan of Turkey is beginning of view of economy and cleanliness, to to wonder how those reports that he make use of these, but if this is quite had the worst government in Europe

The Kansas convict who was paroled and sent to work in the harvest field now has an idea of what real punishment means .- Washington Post,

When the beef trust remembers how Commissioner Garfield lured it on with false hopes it is not surprised at any governmental knocks.-Chicago Mr. George J. Gould is going into

poultry farming. Of course, his experience with geese that lay golden eggs will be a lot of help to him .- Bos-Oklahoma shows strong reasons why

feller has laid away enough in a safe spot so he will not suffer during his It is a common expression to speak old age.—Detroit Free Press. of a cow as losing her cud when she stops ruminating. The trouble is due force it might be a good thing for Mr.

easily remedied, in most cases, by a leges which he is helping with his when the cows are heavily grain fed, pathy in its battle for the markets of but sometimes occurs with cows in the the world as long as it is endeavoring

receiving some grain. In such cases robbing the American consumer,tion entirely for a few days, or until Peary says that his expedition may the cow again chews her cud. For a open up 3,000,000 square miles of time after she resumes ruminating country hitherto inaccessible. It will feed her largely on the grass with be some time, however, before the

> Abdul Hamid, Sultan of Turkey, is reported to be in a critical condition. The case wouldn't be so bad if the Sultan could only feel sure that the doctor wasn't trying to poison him .--Chicago Record-Herald.

In the light of past performances on the part of Russian gunners, it would At all times cows should have free ac. have seemed safer for those Odessa cess to rock salt, for it is a great diges. mutineers to bid defiance to the rest of the fleet and take chances on being sunk .- Detroit Free Press.

Secretary of the Navy Bonaparte has rejected "Nestor" and "Orestes" as names for colliers. He points out that one suggests antiquity and the other insanity. Another one of "them literary fellows" in office.-Syracuse Herald.

Undue attention is being given to the Missouri judicial decision that a wife is entitled to "frisk" her husband's trousers and take any money she finds. No judicial determination could alter or affect that custom .-Washington Times.

The Chinese officials who were once regarded as being pro-Russian are fast vanishing as the situat They are all entertaining grateful feelings toward Japan. Diplomatically there will be some subterfuge played, but on the whole Japan will get all she wants .- Tokio Asahi.

According to the best judgment that are unanimously of the opinion that notice.-Montgomery Advertiser.

The State of Kansas has reached the conclusion that it has no power to control the traffic of the Pullman If one has raised a litter of fine pigs cars, as the Pullmans are not common brood sows if properly brought up. charges-they're just plain, ordinary

vast amount of folly, stupidity and

to have two hearts is a plain, industrious carpenter who earns his livelihood with his hands at New Rochelle, N. Y. Just contemplate for a minute the effect on society of two hearts in a

-Los Angeles Times.

"Tear this up," enjoined Statistician At the New Jersey Experiment Sta- Holmes, of the Department of Agrition tests have been made of nitrate of culture, in one of his incriminating letsoda as a top dressing on forage crops ters. There is no known preservative in connection with the manures and of written matter whose action is so fertilizers generally used. In all cases sure as "burn this letter" or "tear this

plication of nitrate occurred, ranging The warden of the Ohio State prison from 34.1 per cent for corn to 96.6 per discovered recently that some of his cent for barley-a profitable return charges had been making counterfeit from the use of the nitrate on all money. Can this have any connection to unfavorable weather conditions, a baker's dozen of ex-bankers?-Spokane Spokesman-Review.