

ASPHALT WORK IN VENEZUELA IS A BONE OF CONTENTION.



BERMUDEZ PITCH LAKE, VENEZUELA.



HOW THE PITCH IS TAKEN FROM THE LAKE.



OFFICE OF THE NEW YORK AND BERMUDEZ CO.



LOADING ASPHALT AT GUANOCO WHARF.

PREDICT WAR WITH AMERICA.

Venezuelan Officials See Only One Outcome of Asphalt Row.

War with the United States over fifty miles of swamp land is predicted by leading Venezuelan officials. The strip was under control of the asphalt trust until the beginning of the long series of difficulties that now may end in a contest with America.

All the turmoil, bloodshed, revolution and international controversies have their origin in this speck of territory. Upon its proper development depends the wealth of the nation; for it is the natural outlet for all the resources of a country so rich in the earth's treasures that the dreams of a Pizarro might be realized. It was granted to the asphalt trust with the agreement that it would be developed. Canals were to be dug so that the boats could sail up the river to the gold mines, the silver mines, the oil wells and the rich coffee plantations. Railroads were to have been built. One of the Venezuelan government's principal complaints against the American asphalt trust is that it never fulfilled any of these promises. All the trust did was to push its own boats into the pitch lakes, load them and take away the valuable natural product.

The district has remained impoverished because undeveloped. Its 3,000,000 people were poor because they could not get their wealth sold. The railroads and the canals promised never materialized into anything better than mule caravans and canoes. The customs which composed the chief income to the national treasury fell off, for the asphalt was free of duty.

Then the temper of this mixed race of Spanish, negroes, and natives reached the boiling point. They hated these 4,000 white men and their trust greed. They made life dangerous for the foreigners. Suits were filed in the shaky courts of the country to try to get back the asphalt wealth given away. Castro found he was fighting the most expert trust lawyers, men who knew other tricks besides those of the courts. Revolutionary leaders took advantage of the turmoil to start internal troubles. Everybody in Venezuela believes that the Matas rebellion was financed by the trust—and all Venezuelans insist that it was Castro's duty to the people to dispose of the trust.

Meanwhile this land of wonderful wealth lies like a shining diamond in a hill of sand. Its Brazil wood, coral trees, indigo, rubber, bananas remain in the forest. Its gold and silver and copper and marble and granite are still in the earth, valueless to Venezuela and the commercial world.

SEEING LINCOLN IN 1863.

How a Private Soldier Attended a White House Reception.

It was in the spring of 1863, when I was stopping for a while in Washington, says a contributor to the Boston Transcript. I attended, one day, a reception at the White House. The rooms were, of course, crowded with officers of the army, legislators and representatives of foreign courts in great abundance. Mr. Lincoln held his receptions in the blue room, opposite the main entrance. For a long time the passage to him was crowded, but later the crowd thinned out about him, so

that he had short spaces of rest. I had been wandering around, and at last found myself close to the main entrance. Soon I saw a common soldier come up to the hall. He was an exceedingly rough looking specimen. His clothes were worn and soiled, his boots outside his trousers, dirt beyond degree. You could hardly conceive a more unfit person to enter that great crowd. He evidently had a great desire to see the President, but knew his unfitness to enter. But it was not long before he mustered courage to push his way under the cover of others well into the hall.

Noting the anxious yearning look on his face, I became interested to watch his movements and note the result. It was not very long before I observed that Mr. Lincoln had an eye on him, as he came to the door of the reception room. Once and again I saw his eye search out this soiled and bespattered soldier with the most tender look. Then came a more vacant space between the two. At length Mr. Lincoln, with an enormous stride and a long outreaching arm, advanced, grasped this soldier by the hand, with a greeting that must have been seen and heard to be fully understood: "Come forward, my friend; we are all equal here."

With this hand grasp and welcome Mr. Lincoln's attention was turned elsewhere but I can remember no other incident that thrilled me as did that little scene. And the effect of it upon that soldier—it seemed to transform him in a moment. What a new manliness it put into his face and attitude. In a few moments he was gone, but it was plain that from that hour Mr. Lincoln had at least one man in his army who was ready to give his life to help Mr. Lincoln save the cause for which both of them were toiling and sacrificing. And it seemed at the moment that I could easily do the same.

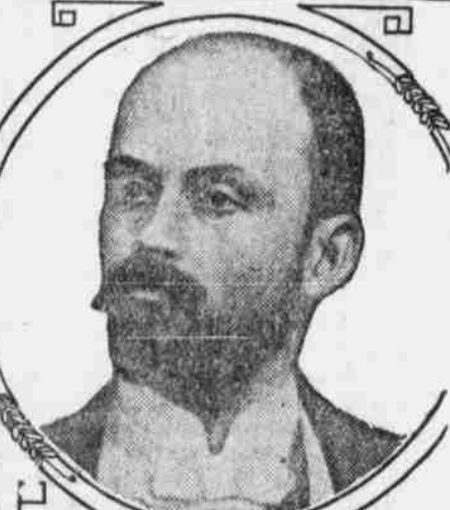
A Marriage Fiction.

The polite fiction obtains that marriages are made in heaven. This romantic viewpoint is particularly popular in America, where it is held to be highly improper for parents to make any move toward securing good husbands for their daughters and immoest for girls to manifest any interest in the subject themselves.

The conventional theory is that the matter is on the knees of the gods and that in due season husbands will be provided like manna in the wilderness for sustenance of the faithful. Unfortunately this miracle does not always come off for every woman. The supply of manna gives out. There are not enough husbands to go around, and these are unevenly divided. Some women get three or four, while others get none. But neither the old maids nor their parents realize that the reason that they did not share in the dispensation was their own fault, because they did not put themselves, as old fashioned Methodists used to say, in an attitude to receive the blessing.—Dorothy Dix, in *Ainslie's*.

Maple Syrup.

Maple syrup which has fermented and become sour can be freshened by heating to the boiling point and adding a little soda. Stir thoroughly, then skim.



PRES. CASTRO OF VENEZUELA.

ZUNI INDIAN BASKETS.

Made by Expert Women and Colored to Suit Intended Use.

The Zuni Indians make great use of baskets, especially in connection with grinding flour. They commonly employ for this purpose wicker baskets which they obtain by trade from the Apache and Plute, and value highly. They, themselves, manufacture wicker baskets which are not much esteemed. The industry is entirely confined to women. They employ an awl of deer bone, and use some six kinds of willow, which they make into circular trays and bowls, ts-lal. One kind, salt willow, is used for baskets to hold paper bread in the house, the willow giving it a salt flavor, and another kind, "smooth" willow, for baskets to hold bread at meals; white and yellow willow baskets are used for corn meal; those of red willow as colanders for washing wheat and hominy, and those of mak-tsu-l as sieves for wheat and beans. White willow baskets are painted with white clay, stained red, yellow or black with native dyes or now dyed with aniline dyes, for use in dances. Either white willow, or all the different kinds of willow mixed together, are employed for this purpose. Sacred baskets, ts-l-l-nal, are used to hold plume sticks and masks.

The women have a dance in the fall, called Ah-yuna, in which they use baskets painted with different colors. It is said that the name is Pima, and that the dance, which is to secure rain, was brought to Zuni not many years ago by two old men who visited the Pima with Mr. Cushing. An inverted painted basket, corresponding with the box or gourd resonator of the Hopi, is put under the notched stick, ki-wi-a-nanal, which is scraped with a stick as an accompaniment to dances.

The Zuni also manufacture small globular baskets of salt willow in which they collect locusts used as food. Panniers to carry peaches, melons, cucumbers and other fruit are made of red willow. Twilled baskets of yucca, similar to those seen at other pueblos, are used to dip up salt from the Salt Lake. The art of making these baskets, which are called ho-tsi-lal, was learned from Acoma. The Zuni also make a rectangular twilled tray of the same material, with an edge of cedar or oak, which they use to put paper bread on, or to lay long plume sticks or images upon at the yellow and blue corn dances. Swallowing sticks were formerly placed upon such trays at the stick-swallowing dance.

The Zuni formerly had a number of old colled globular and jar-shaped baskets, the origin of which is not definitely known. The pitch-covered water bottles, which they use come from the White Mountain Apache or the Navajo.

The Old Masters.

"I make more money in a day than Michael Angelo made in a month," said a popular illustrator. "I've been studying up the wages those old chaps got. It is amazing."

"Michael Angelo was paid \$40 a month while doing the cartoons of the battle of Pisa, and Leonardo, who helped him, got the same rate. They were both docked for lateness and off days, but there was no overtime allowance. Correggio got for his 'Christ in the Garden' \$7.25. Carracci's 'Resurrection' only brought the painter \$6.50. Albert Durer for his pen and ink portraits was not paid in cash. A bag of flour, a hundred oysters, a pair of boots—Durer would gladly do your portrait on such a system of remuneration.

"Rembrandt's top notch price was \$475. He got that for his 'Night Watch.' "Velasquez worked chiefly for the Spanish government. He was paid at the average rate of \$35 a picture. Think of it! Thirty-five dollars for the 'Rokeby Venus!'"—*Minneapolis Journal*.

Worse than Foolish.

The man who forgets his friends may be ungrateful. The one who forgets his enemies is foolish.—*Chicago Record-Herald*.

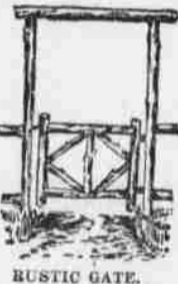


Making Butter on the Farm.

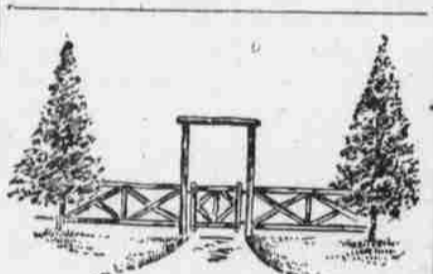
There are two prime essentials in making butter on the farm a profitable business. In the first place, one must have plenty of pure, cold water, and then a good enough grade must be turned out to make and hold customers. The trouble with nine out of every ten farm homes is they are not equipped to take care of milk and cream. When one goes into this work to make money, better put up a milk room, where pure water may be had from pumping or from a spring. Concrete floor and walls may now be built as cheaply as with lumber, and it is a great deal better than lumber. Don't stop here. A barrel churn and a butter maker will be necessary in turning out a uniform product. It looks easily—simply separating the cream, churning till the butter comes, and salting, and the trick is done. That is where so many fail. The cream must be churned at the right temperature; it must be neither too sweet nor too sour. Working and salting butter to secure uniform color and flavor is a very nice art. Don't try to learn to do it infallibly in two or three weeks, but by all means don't practice on your customers. That means loss. It is better to wait two or three months before you seek customers. And, before you ship, find out how your commission man or private customers prefer to have their butter put up. Sometimes the package means a difference of two or three cents a pound.

An Attractive Gateway.

This rustic gateway, which was built at a small cost, may be worth imitating, modified, of course, to fit the surroundings. This one is between two cedar trees, and from it a winding path leads to a pretty rustic cottage. Such a gate would be entirely out of place at the entrance to a stately or formal building. The cuts give an idea as to how the gate is made. The two uprights and the cross-piece on the top are of locust. All the rest is of cedar. Parts of the smaller branches have been left on the pieces that go to fill up the gate. A gateway like this would not prove effective against pigs or chickens, but would turn larger animals. It is not only cheap and durable, but decidedly attractive, because



RUSTIC GATE.



TWO CEDARS STAND GUARD.

so perfectly in harmony with its surroundings.—E. E. Miller, in *Farm and Home*.

Color of Eggs an Asset.

One of the most potent factors, perhaps, that should be considered when selecting a breed for producing eggs for market is the demand of the market at which the eggs are to be disposed of, says *The Outing Magazine*. Some markets, notably New York City and cities immediately adjacent, prefer white-shelled eggs, and the best trade in these markets will accept none other. Boston prefers brown eggs, and pays a substantial premium for them; and, taking the country over, the preference is for brown eggs by a large majority. However, in many markets no preference at all is expressed; in fact, those just mentioned are practically the only markets in which the color of the egg receives attention to the extent of influencing prices. Where there is a preference, and whichever the preference is, one should keep a variety of fowls that lay eggs of the preferred color.

Measuring Land by Weight.

The area of any piece of land, no matter how irregular the boundary lines, may be accurately ascertained by means of a delicate balance as follows: Make a drawing of the plat of ground on pasteboard to a given scale, say 4 square rods to 1 inch. Cut from some part of the sheet of pasteboard a piece exactly 1 inch square, which represents one acre, or 4 square rods. Also cut out the plat as drawn. Weigh the square and the plat. The number of times the weight of the square is contained in the weight of the plat indicates the area of the land. For example, if the square which represents one acre weighs 20 grains, and the plat weighs 240 grains, then the plat contains twelve acres.—*Scientific American*.

The Curse of Weeds.

It is for the conservation of moisture that we keep up the cultivation of the crops in the summer, but the evaporation which can be checked by this means is small when compared with the amount of water taken up from the soil by an ordinary growth of weeds. We can hardly estimate the importance of killing the weeds.

Labor of the Horse.

Some one has figured out that it costs on the average only one-half as much to feed a horse as it does to feed a man; and that the horse will do ten times the amount of work that it is possible for the man to do. If this estimate is correct, then a dollar's worth of food given the horse will produce twenty times as much results as the same amount of money will if expended in feed for a man. Therefore, when man domesticated the horse he immensely increased his own power of securing results. When much farm work is to be done there should always be enough horses to do it. Farmers try to economize on the number of horses and have to leave much work undone. In the event of hired help being scarce, it is sometimes possible to offset this lack by increasing the number of horses kept. In some parts of the West and Northwest, declares the *Farmers' Review*, the scarcity of help has resulted in more horses being used. Five are hitched to a double plow, and one driver is thus enabled to turn two furrows at a time and practically double the work that one man has to do. This is the result of the complete utilization of horseflesh.

Guide for Drag Saws.

A very simple method by which one man can manipulate a drag saw to cut down trees has been devised by a western timber man. In using these saws two men have heretofore been necessary, one at each end of the saw. According to the new invention, there is rested against a tree a rod from which is suspended a cord.



ONE-MAN SAW.

At the end of the cord is an adjustable clamp, to which one end of the saw is secured. At the other end of the saw is a handle. In operating the saw to cut the tree, the end opposite the handle is supported by the cord in the same position as if operated by hand. With the employment of this guide the necessity of an extra man to manage one end of the saw is eliminated.

Loss of Fertility by Leaching.

Land kept constantly as a garden loses much of its fertility by leaching. A clover rotation is the best preventive of this. There should be at least two or three garden spots on each farm kept rich enough so that one year's extra manuring will bring it into the finest possible condition for garden truck. If farmers could always plant gardens on two-year clover sod they would raise better crops and with less stable manure and other fertilizers than they now require. The clover does much more than furnish green manure to ferment in the soil. Its roots reach down into the subsoil, thus not only saving and bringing to the surface plant food that would otherwise be wasted, but also by enlivening the subsoil, allowing the roots of crops to go deeper. Clover sod to begin with, if well enriched, is best for such crops as cucumbers and melons, that are always most likely to suffer from drought. It is quite impossible to make a good garden crop unless the land has previously been enriched by a series of heavy manurings. The fertility lost by leaching must be constantly renewed.

A Feed Combine.

Feeding sheep and lambs for the market is very much of a lottery at best. It is the purpose of the feeder to buy thin stock and, after feeding it from sixty to ninety days, return it to market at a profit. This is the hope that impels him to put in his time and labor, else he would not do it. There are three important factors that enter into the operation. The cost of the sheep or lambs on the market, the price of the feed that is to make them fat, and the condition of the market when they are returned for slaughter. The first element is a known quantity, but the second and third are often a chance. They have proved to be very much of a chance this season. The original cost of the feeders was the greatest on record, feed was high and market conditions have not panned out as good as generally expected.—*Drovers' Journal*.

Idaho Man Finds New Wheat.

A new variety of wheat has been discovered by a farmer living near Jullietta, Idaho. He says he found a few kernels of the wheat growing wild in Alaska, and being struck with their plumpness, hardness and other apparent good qualities, he brought home a few kernels and planted them. From those few kernels he harvested enough the first year to plant several square rods of ground the second year, the yield from this planting being at the rate of more than 100 bushels per acre, well-filled heads; the kernels are large, plump and hard and millers say it makes good flour.

To Canvass Hams.

When hams are smoked, roll them in stiff paper, cut your brown muslin to fit them and sew it on with a large needle and twine; then make a starch of flour and yellow ochre, and with a small whitewash brush cover them with it. Hang them up to dry.

Poultry Notes.

Clean the droppings from under the coosts frequently. Buckwheat is excellent for both young and old poultry. A laying hen should have constant access to lime or gravel. Grit is the hen's teeth. Provide her with plenty of it, so that she may digest her food.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



- 1190—Mahomet II. besieged Constantinople.
- 1578—William Harvey, discoverer of the circulation of the blood, born.
- 1644—Maisonneuve defeated the Iroquois at the Place d'Armes, Montreal.
- 1785—Field Marshal Viscount Hardinge, an early governor general of India born in England.
- 1806—Joseph Bonaparte made King of the Two Sicilies.
- 1814—Napoleon Bonaparte sent in exile to island of Elba.
- 1833—Treasury buildings at Washington destroyed by fire.
- 1843—Sir Charles Metcalfe appointed governor of Canada.
- 1847—Covent Garden theater, London, opened for Italian opera.
- 1854—Commercial treaty concluded with Japan by Commodore Perry of the United States navy.
- 1855—Planet Circe discovered by M. Chacornac.
- 1856—Treaty of Paris, ending the Crimean war.
- 1858—British force under Sir Hugh Rose defeated the Indian mutineers and took the city of Jhansi.
- 1862—Gen. Albert S. Johnston of the Confederate army killed at Shiloh. Born 1803.
- 1865—Confederates evacuated Richmond. Federal troops occupied Richmond, Va. United States transport General Lyon burned with great loss of life.
- 1866—First national encampment of the G. A. R. met at Indianapolis. Spanish fleet bombarded Valparaiso, Chile.
- 1867—United States bought Alaska from Russia for \$7,200,000.
- 1868—Uniform postage rate of 3 cents per letter adopted throughout Canada.
- 1885—Battleford, in Saskatchewan, besieged by Indians.
- 1891—Baron Fava, Italian minister to the United States, recalled.
- 1898—China leased Wei-Hai-Wei to Great Britain.
- 1902—Large section of Atlantic City destroyed by fire.
- 1905—Explosion in a cartridge factory at Bridgeport, Conn., resulted in a number of deaths. Simpson tunnel formally opened.
- 1907—Fred A. Busse, Republican, elected Mayor of Chicago.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Supt. Maxwell of the New York City Board of Education, in his annual report urges the formation of a department of school hygiene. Such a department, he thinks, should be under the direction of a medical man, who would rank as an associate superintendent, and who should have a sufficient number of physicians to examine all the children in the public schools at least once a year, and a sufficient number of nurses to visit the homes of sick children and to care for slight ailments in school. He says that New York is the noisiest city in the world and that children lack a proper amount of sleep. Owing to crowded quarters in the tenements and in some of the public schools as well many children are crippled by lowered vitality, defective sight, defective teeth and other evils, many of which could be overcome. The report says that there are 158,494 pupils in the schools over normal age; in other words, they are backward in their lessons because of physical defects.

The National Civic Federation has made arrangements to send 500 or more public school teachers next fall to England, Scotland, Ireland and the continent to inspect the system of teaching and school methods generally in foreign countries. This idea was suggested by the success of a similar expedition of English teachers to the United States in 1905-6. The teachers who make this trip will have an opportunity to examine at first hand what is being done for children abroad, both in the common schools and in the special schools. President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University has been appointed chairman of an advisory committee to carry the plan through. In this connection it may be noted that Mr. Butler has accepted the invitation of the University of Copenhagen to deliver three lectures there next September, the subject matter of the lectures to be "Some Aspects of American Civilization." He will leave for Denmark in August, returning in time for the opening of college next fall.

Chancellor Dewitt C. Huntington of the Nebraska Wesleyan university at Lincoln has tendered his resignation, and it was accepted by the board of trustees with the understanding that Chancellor Huntington shall remain until the end of the school year.

At Chippewa Falls, Wis., Supt. Swartz ordered the members of the Greek letter fraternity Alpha Delta Omega to disband the organization or suffer expulsion from school. He declared that no secret organization of pupils would be tolerated. The members promised to heed the warning.