BITS FROM ABROAD.

The value of the fruit consumed in Great Britain every year is estimated at £10,000,000.

The queen of Italy, says a gossip, weighs 176 pounds; Queen Victoria, 171 pounds; the queen of Spain, 147 pounds, and the queen of Belgium, 143 pounds.

There is a quicksilver mine in Peru 170 fathoms in circumference and 480 feet deep. In this profound abyss are streets, squares, and a chapel where religious worship is held.

It appears that they are to have a new form of field sport in England, as several gentlemen are busying themselves in the process of training man-hunting bloodhounds. As the sport is followed on horseback it will probably be supplementary to—if not a substitute for—fox-hunting. It is not mentioned what is to be done with the man when he is run down. He can hardly be treated in the same way as the fox now is.

It is apparently almost as difficult for a tradesman to gain entrance to Marlborough house, the London residence of the prince of Wales, as it is to get within the lines of an armed camp. A narrow glass door in the right wing of the palace is reserved for such visitors, and only those having an appointment previously arranged for by the prince's valets are admitted, while several soldiers and minor officers of the law are close about to prevent the admittance of undesirable persons.

A Misfit.

The young man who prefers to owe a tailor rather than to wear a suit which has been taken from the counters of a clothing store, says that he never cared for a counter fit anyway.—Boston Advertiser.

A silk factory in which only women are employed has been opened in a suburb of London.

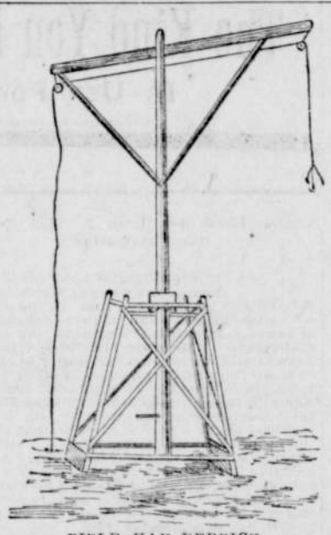
There was a young man from Lenore,
Who boldly went off to the war;
The "beef" made him sick,
He recovered quite quick
By the prompt use of old Jesse Moore.

Reports from 22 British towns show that London, the only one supplied with river water, has almost the lowest death rate from fever—67 per million. The rate at Plymouth is 40, while at Glasgow it is 184, and at Belfast it reaches 1,667.

Nearly 20,000 pounds of bread are daily eaten in the Sultan of Turkey's household.

Derrick for Hay.

This hay derrick for field stacking is reported by a correspondent of the National Stockman as having worked satisfactorily. The frame can be bolted together if the maker wishes to take it down and put under shelter for use in after years or spiked together if he wishes to let it stand in the field. A pulley is used at each end of the long arm across the top. The pulleys can be best attached to the arm by clevises of suitable size. A third pulley is attached to one of the lower corners of the frame as most convenient when the derrick is in position for stacking. The base of the frame illustrated is 10 feet square, 10 feet high and 5 feet square at the top. Three sides are cross-braced. The fourth side is not, as it



FIELD HAY DERRICK.

makes it more convenient to take the pole down. The pole is 25 feet long. It should be 7 inches in diameter at base and 5 inches at top. Across the runners at center use a piece of timber 2 inches by 12 inches, 10 feet long, with 2-inch hole—or larger—in center for tenon, cut at end of pole to rest in, the shoulder around the tenon resting on the timber. The long arm is 15 feet long, and the correspondent thinks it should be two feet longer. Short end is 5½ feet long, long end 11½ feet.

About three feet from the base of the pole will be noticed a projecting rod. This is one inch iron about four feet long, fitting in an auger hole in the pole. This is used as a lever to turn the arm around over the stock when loaded. The high end of the long arm as shown in the illustration is about 28 feet from the ground. The frame must set close to the butt of stack or rick, the bulge of the stack coming out against the frame.

To Stop Growth of Horns.

For stopping the growth of horns upon calves this mixture has been successfully used in experiments conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture Bureau of Animal Industry. Take fifty parts caustic soda, twenty-five parts of kerosene oil, and twenty-five parts of water. An emulsion is made of the oil and soda by heating and vigorously stirring, and this is then dissolved in water. The mixture should be placed in a bottle with a solid rubber cork. The calves should not be over three weeks old, from five to twenty days being the proper age. A horn will sometimes be killed that is even from four to six weeks old, but it can not be depended upon with certainty. In applying the solution the following directions should be observed: With a pair of scissors clip the hair around the embryo horn so as to expose a spot about the size of a nickel. While an assistant holds the calf securely drop two or three drops of the mixture on the horn, and with the ends of the rubber cork rub it thoroughly in over the bare spot. Apply the fluid first to one horn, then the other, until each has received three or four applications. The rubbing should be continued until the caustic has softened and removed the hair and surface skin around the horn. Care should be taken that the fluid does not spread over too large a surface or run down the side of the face.—The Jersey Hustler.

Moisture and Strawberries.

Although strawberry plants will not thrive where the soil is permanently wet, they do require abundant moisture both during the growing and fruiting seasons. The non-observance of this requirement is the occasion of heavy losses. In the first place, the ground for strawberries is often left until planting time before plowing, and breaks up in clods, occasioning much labor in preparation with harrow and roller. Although it may be possible to put such a soil into fairly good condition for planting, the water which has been lost cannot be restored, and weeks may elapse before sufficient rain falls to keep the plants alive.

It has been shown that more than 1,500 barrels of water per acre may escape from unplowed ground in one week in excess of the quality which will pass off from an equal area which has been plowed early and harrowed at frequent intervals. Moreover, the ground which has been plowed late will continue to dry out during the season at a rate in excess of the early plowed. This shows plainly that plowing and frequent harrowing are essential in order to retain soil moisture, even though planting may be delayed.—Ohio Agricultural Station.

Orchard Treatment.

Good drainage, natural or artificial, is essential to success. Trees are impatient of wet feet.

Good tillage increases the available food supply of the soil and also conserves its moisture.

Tillage should be begun just as soon as the ground is dry enough in the spring, and should be repeated as often as once in ten days throughout the growing season, which extends from spring until July or August.

Only cultivated crops should be allowed in orchards early in the season. Grain and hay should never be grown.

Even hoed or cultivated crops may rob the trees of moisture and fertility if they are allowed to stand above the tree roots.

Watch a sod orchard. It will begin to fail before you know it.

Probably nine-tenths of the apple orchards are in sod, and many of them are meadows. Of course, they are failing.

The remedy for these apple failures is to cut down many of the orchards. For the remainder, the treatment is cultivation, fertilization, spraying—the trinity of orthodox apple growing.

Potash is the chief fertilizer to be applied to fruit trees, particularly after they come into bearing.

Potash may be had in wood ashes and muriate of potash. It is most commonly used in the latter form. An annual aplication of potash should be made upon bearing orchards, 500 pounds to the acre.

Phosphoric acid is the second important fertilizer to be applied artificially to orchards. Of the plain superphosphates from 300 to 500 pounds may be applied to the acre.

Nitrogen can be obtained cheapest by means of thorough tillage (to promote nitrification) and nitrogenous green manures.

Barn manures are generally more economically used when applied to farm crops than when applied to orchards; yet they can be used with good results, particularly when rejuvenating the old orchards.

Cultivation may be stopped late in the season, and a crop can then be sown upon the land. This crop may serve as a cover or protection to the soil, and as a green manure.—Prof. Bailey, Cornell University.

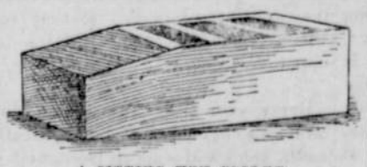
The Farmer Boy's Advantage.

A sturdy American of the self-made stock is Tilly Haynes, known the country over. He said in Atlanta the other day, of the degeneracy of the Boston youth of Yankee stock: "Just look at that sign on Washington street. The first name is the patronym of a Massachusetts family which has been prominent since colonial days. The second is that of a young German whom he has taken into partnership. When he dies the German's name will have first place. Our young men have begun to part their hair in the middle, and do not know how to roll a barrel. The young German and the young Irishman can lift up the barrel and carry it off—later they carry off the business, too."

There is a point here for youth in both city and country. The world wants workers—young men who mean business, who are reliable and who will develop capacity with experience. The farmer boy has a great advantage over the city lad in being "raised" among surroundings that bring out this spirit of industry, that develop ability. The older we grow and the more we see of life the more do we realize that the country-bred man has a tremendous advantage in the battle of life. The boy is indeed fortunate who is a farmer's son.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Way to "Cool" Sitting Hens.

If rightly handled, the hen may be induced in a few days to go to scratching and give up all idea of sitting, without being cruel to her, either. Get a grocery box, or something similar, and convert it into the affair shown in cut. It has no botom, but one end has a sloping top to throw off rain, and also protect the hen from the sun. The



A SITTING HEN COOLER.

remainder of the top is covered with slats. The two holes at the side give the hen, or hens, access to dishes of water and food, which, by the way, should be light and small in quantity, to reduce "bidy's" condition. Oats are about the best substiute for "bread" when refractory hens thus have to be placed on "dungeon diet."—Ohio Farmer.

Mustard Chow-Chow.

Freshen 100 small cucumbers until they reach the proper state for pickling. Boil in one-quarter gallon of vinegar for twenty minutes, having previously added to the vinegar one-half ounce white mustard seed, one-half ounce black mustard seed, one-half ounce celery seed, one-half ounce juniper berries, one-half dozen small green peppers, one pound sugar, three small onions and a piece of alumn the size of a pea. Let vinegar stand on pickles for twenty-four hours. Turn off heat, putting it on again for twenty-four hours longer. Again heat the vinegar, add one-quarter pound mustard, turn over the pickles and seal.

A GENEROUS WOMAN.

Gives $1,000,000 Worth of Property to the Institute She Founded.

The Bradley Polytechnic Institute of Peoria, Ill., has been handsomely remembered by its founder, Mrs Lydia Bradley, who has deeded all of her property in Peoria County to the institute, making a gift of over $1,000,000. Mrs. Bradley a few years ago provided twenty acres of ground and $500,000 for buildings and equipment, and now she has endowed the institute so that the work can be enlarged.

During her lifetime Mrs. Bradley reserves the rents, issues and profits of

MRS. LYDIA BRADLEY.

her estate, which comprises 1,000 different pieces of real property. On her death it all passes over to the sole and exclusive possession of the institute.

END OF WAR ROMANCE.

A Wife Who Followed Her Soldier Husband to the Philippines.

Capt. F. E. Buchan's return home from the Philippines on the United States transport Valencia was a sad one. He brought with him the body of his wife, who succumbed to the climate in the Philippines. Mrs. Buchan had been a bride but a few months when the Kansas regiment left home to fight its country's battles in the Philippines there was an understanding between Capt. Buchan and his sweetheart, Miss Lucinda M. Smith, of Lawrence, Kan. Separation was more than the two could stand, so with the exchange of letters came a determination to join their lot in the fortunes of war.

MRS. BUCHAN.

They were married and the young bride followed her soldier husband to San Francisco. Here the first cloud fell across their honeymoon. The officers were not permitted to have the company of their wives on the transports and separation seemed inevitable. But the Kansas girl had pluck. With the wife of another officer, Col. Fred Funston, she became a stowaway on the Indiana, and although the Government tried to prevent it she journeyed as far as Honolulu on the way to Manila before she was parted from her husband. Though compelled to leave the transport, she followed Capt. Buchan within a few days on the regular steamer and shared his lot up to the time of her death.

A MIRACULOUS SPRING.

Fresh Water Gushes from an Oak in Switzerland.

This is not an optical delusion, but a fresh water spring in the trunk of a healthy oak tree, situated in Onchy, Switzerland. It is more than a passing mystery how it has succeeded in making this outlet for itself, and it

FRESH WATER FROM A TREE.

is hardly to be wondered at that the villagers regard it as supernatural and having some miraculous powers, especially in cases of courtship. The water was found so pure that a pipe was introduced to assist its flow, and a tank made to receive the sparkling liquid. The spring is the trysting spot of the adjacent villages.

Hirsute Statistics.

Blonde hair is finer than that of any other color. By actual count it has been ascertained that 400 hairs to the square inch grow upon the head of a blonde beauty. The brown comes next with 350, then come the black with 325, and the red with 250 or 260. After counting the hairs growing on an inch square it has been estimated that on the head of a blonde there will be about 149,000 hairs, while a brown suit of tresses will have 109,000, a black 102,000, and a red 90,000.

Good opportunities are lost to the lover who knows not how to embrace them.

Economy may be wealth, but you can't use it in politics to much advantage.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Production of pig iron in Russia is estimated to have increased from 600,000 tons in 1887 to 2,194,000 in 1898.

Belgium had 103 strikes last year, involving 14,266 laborers. Only in 12 of these cases did the strikers win a complete, and in eight a partial, success.

New York made between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 fewer cigars in the year ended April 1, than in the previous year, and more than 129,000,000 fewer paper cigarettes.

A machine that will greatly reduce the cost of harvesting has been invented for the harvesting of sugar beets. This means a few more laborers will be looking for work in the cities.

It is reported that Dr. Linde, one of the inventors of machinery to liquify air, is engaged in work on a small piece of apparatus which will weigh less than 2½ pounds and will produce liquid air in 18 minutes.

The United States a Power for Good.

A distinguished historian writes, while referring to our advent as a colonizing power, that our influence for good over European spheres will be immense. This result was just as inevitable as is the cure which follows the use of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. It cures indigestion, constipation, and tones up the whole system.

Chicago business men are urging a system of municipal pawnshops to lend money at 1 per cent.

Durham capitalists are preparing to build a $1,000,000 mill at Lockville, N. C.

About 4,000,000 bottles of pickles are consumed weekly in the United States.

At Fayetteville, N. C., a new $100,000 spinning mill is under construction.

The tax on coffee amounts in France to about 14 cents a pound, while in England it is only 3 cents a pound.

He Is Learning Now.

Agent—The Barlows haven't asked for a cent's worth of repairs this spring. What do you think of that?

Landlord—I'm not surprised. Barlow got a house through a trade a few weeks ago and is so busy filling the wants of a tenant of his own that he has forgotten about bothering us.—Chicago Evening News.

It is stated there are an average of 450 men employed to every 100 miles of railway in the United States.

By the passage of the Moran act Fall River can borrow beyond her debt limit $25,000 to build a textile school.

Hunt for Dewey Relics.

The house in Montpelier, Vt., which Dr. Julius Dewey occupied and in which all of his children were born was originally small, but was several times added to. Within the last two or three years, wishing to replace this modest structure with a handsomer, more modern edifice, Edward Dewey, the second son, sold the dwelling and barn (retaining the grounds) for $150. Three days afterward the buildings were resold for $400, the last purchaser, who paid the cost of removal, placing them on a lot on State street. Since the battle of Manila this house, as the birthplace and early home of its hero, has been an object of interest to tourists and relic hunters. The latter, indeed, have threatened to carry it away piecemeal, a souvenir fiend in one instance wrenching off a silver-plated faucet and leaving the water running in the bathroom with the pressure of the full system of 158 pounds.—Boston Transcript.

A Reasonable Doubt.

Judge—Prisoner, you are accused of stealing this watch. Are you guilty or not guilty?

Prisoner—I's guilty, yo' honah; but I's 'spicious dat ain't de same watch what I stole.—Jeweler's Weekly.

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