

RAILROADS IN CHINA.

A Missionary's Account of the Difficulties Under Which They Are Conducted.

A missionary writing from China to a friend in this city recently described the difficulties under which the newly-completed railroads are conducted in that country, says the New York Sun.

Passengers in the first-class coaches, he said, exhibited so strong a desire to carry off various articles from the cars as souvenirs of their trip that the coaches were speedily stripped of those things that contribute to the comfort of the passenger.

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It was charged that the boy sold liquor to the negroes, and, having no license, prosecution followed.

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TITLED LADIES AS FARMERS.

The Sisters of English Peers Who Are Engaged in Raising Ponies and Cattle.

Lady Dorothea and Lady Estella Hope are demonstrating that a peer's sisters can be successful in the practical business of pony and cattle breeding.

"We started with one pony," said Lady Dorothea Hope, "and showed him successfully, and so we went on. Of course, we bought largely from Lord Londonderry's stud farms in the north; although our first pony did not come from him, as a matter of fact. We only go in for Shelties, not at all for Gallows, and we only breed show ponies, and not—as does Lord Londonderry—pit ponies, although, of course, we sell to all buyers. We are very successful with our ponies, and we take the greatest possible pleasure in breeding and showing them. It is very nice, if one is fond of the country, being able to live the greater part of the year there, although I like being in town, too."

"At Edinbridge we have also a small herd of Jersey cows, which we have shown rather successfully. At one time we went in for fox terriers. But the fashion in these dogs changes so rapidly that we found we could not quite keep up with it. So, as we only like to have the very best, we gave the dogs up. We take great pleasure in our farming and are very proud of it, and glad that people should know how successfully we have proved that ladies can make this sort of thing pay—if they have a taste for it."

Animal Hire in Some Parts of Russia Exceeds That Paid for Human Labor.

In Russia the wages of a horse are higher than those of a man, and hence, of course, very much higher than the wages of women. Thus, says Gunton's Magazine, in the Nishni-Volga section, we find the average pay of man and horse to be about 72 cents per day; of man alone, 34 cents; that is, 38 cents for horse and 34 cents for man. The women receive from 10 to 20 cents. In the central agricultural region the average is: Horse, 23 cents; man, 20 cents; woman, 13 cents. In the southern steppe: Horse, 36 cents; man, 25 cents; woman, 16 cents.

This is an interesting commentary on the standard of living of Russian agricultural laborers. Its meaning is, simply, that human beings are cheaper than draft animals. In other words, it costs less to keep them alive. In the southern steppe five women can be employed more cheaply than two horses. It is difficult to imagine the condition of home life, the dearth of refining influences, the sodden, hopeless stagnation that such a state of affairs reflects? Is it any wonder that the products of such a wage status as this are individual degradation, social barrenness, meager education, political despotism, religious intolerance, and, generally, a type of civilization scarcely above barbarism?

A Rising Family. They Live in a House Whose Corner Posts Are Growing Spruce Trees.

Bangor has an eight-cornered house, a house shaped like a piece of pie, a house with no front door, and a half house (one side having been burned off); but the queerest dwelling in all Maine is in the town of Dennysville, Washington county, says the New York Sun.

There are instances seeming to prove that parsimony is in exact proportion to one's income; the larger the one, the larger the other. A woman possessed of several millions in her own right is pleased to pose as patron of a young woman in "reduced circumstances."

A Wealthy San Francisco woman who had undergone an operation successfully performed by the physician she employed was surprised when a bill of only \$50 was presented to her. She remonstrated, saying an exchange for the work done for one in her circumstances. But the doctor persisted that \$50 was his charge for that sort of operation, and her circumstances had nothing to do with it.

Change in Steamships. A writer in the Engineering Magazine says during the last 50 years the size of the steamships has been multiplied twentyfold, the horsepower employed to drive them has been multiplied fortyfold, and the speed with which they traverse the sea has increased threefold.

Olds Against Fatal Accident. The usual odds laid by an accident company are 1,000 to 4 that you do not die from an accident in a year.

Recognize Gambling Debts. Gambling debts are recoverable by law in France, Spain, Venezuela, and in some cases, in Germany.

FRENCH AND GERMAN TRADE.

Comparative Statistics That Present a Very Discouraging Outlook for France.

Under the title of "The German Invasion," M. Jules Roche, formerly French minister of commerce and industry, writing in the Paris Figaro, draws a very discouraging picture of the present position of French commerce. Taking the statistics of the custom-house administration just published for 1897, he shows that the imports last year amounted to 4,000,000,000 francs, and the exports to 3,670,000,000 francs, which was an increase compared with 1896 of 201,000,000 francs in the imports, and 275,000,000 francs in the exports. M. Jules Roche admits the progress is considerable, but he contends that to form a just opinion of the commercial situation of France it is requisite to compare it with that of other nations, and especially Germany. Taking the year following the Franco-Prussian war as a starting point for his comparison, M. Jules Roche points out that in 1872 the exports of France amounted to 3,762,000,000 francs, and those of Germany to 2,900,000,000 francs. In 1896, however, the exports of France were only 3,401,000,000 francs, while those of Germany had increased to 4,892,000,000 francs. Consequently, between 1872 and the end of 1896 the exports of Germany had increased by 1,992,000,000 francs, and those of France had diminished by 361,000,000 francs—that is to say, an increase of 68 per cent. for Germany, and a decrease of nearly ten per cent. for France.

Mr. Greeley was not an orator in any scholastic sense. He had a poor and somewhat squeaking voice; he knew nothing of gestures, and he could not take an orator's pose, which adds such emphasis to the matter and argument to be set forth.

And the Strange Thing About It Was His Being Asked to Pay It Himself.

A Georgia farmer so pleased a patent medicine firm with a certificate he had given as to the merits of the particular nostrum that they offered to have his picture painted, with the certificate, on the town hall. The farmer was tickled with the idea, and regularly sat to the artist until the latter had transferred his rugged lineaments to the weather-board of the most prominent building in town. The picture was full length, says the Atlanta Constitution, and scattered the town hall to the four corners of the country. People in different localities picked up sections of the farmer's portrait, which had been blown their way, and one man, knowing how the farmer deplored the disaster, wrote him as follows: "I'm sorry the cyclone blew yer picture so far, but I've got good news fer you; Bill Jenkins found yer left leg, Mart Wilkins is got a hunk o' yer back, Dan Jones found yer right arm, an' I understand that Sister Molly Brown is got 'o' ther arm, likewise yer right leg. All the pieces I seen fit together good. What I want ter know now is how much will you give fer yer head?"

HUNTING IN THE KLONDIKE. One Who Has Been There Says It is a Perfect Paradise for Sportsmen.

"The Klondike country isn't covered with snow all the time by any means, and it has been a wonder to me that sportsmen haven't visited it. It is a perfect paradise for hunters. I saw a drove of hundreds of caribou at one time, and there is no end to sheep, moose and caribou. There are plenty of bear, too, grizzlies, black bear, and silver tips. I killed a grizzly myself about a month ago. We were on the Stickeen river, going up slowly, when a big grizzly crashed through the brush and stood in plain view about 50 yards away. "I felt a little uncertain about trying him with my 30-40 Winchester, but he seemed to be getting nervous, and I took steady aim at him at a point just behind his shoulder and fired. He didn't move from his tracks, but slowly sank in a quivering heap, and by the time we reached him he was dead. He must have weighed 1,200 pounds. I never saw such a terrific thing as those steel, lead-pointed bullets. When they strike, the soft lead flattens out over the steel and makes a fatal wound."

The Longest Arch in the World. A steel arch is to be thrown across the Niagara river near Clifton which will be 840 feet span—a greater distance than was ever yet spanned by an arch.

Bulletin Financier.

Vendredi, 12 août 1898.

COMPTOIR D'ÉCHANGES (CLEARING HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

ÉTAT HEBDOMADAIRE DU CLEARING-HOUSE.

Compté par Thos C. Herndon, Directeur.

Statistique de la semaine dernière.

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