

TO INVESTIGATE NUT TREES.

Agricultural Department Will Endeavor to Make Their Cultivation Profitable. Secretary Wilson has arranged through the department of agriculture for a study of the native nuts of the United States with a view to making their cultivation profitable in regions to which they are adapted.

CORNER IN POLAR DOGS.

British Explorers Find Difficulty in Securing Necessary Animals—American Buys Early.

The latest form of trust is that of polar dogs. According to Sir Clements Markham, president of the Royal Geographical Society, Americans are responsible for forming such a corner in these animals that the pending British and other arctic expeditions are confronted with a difficulty nearly as great as the ice fields.

PARTY FOR HANNA'S GIRLS.

Miss Ruth, Who is 18, to Have a Notable Coming Out on New Year's Night.

Senator Hanna has hired the Chamber of Commerce building at Cleveland, O., for New Year's night for the coming out of his pretty daughter, Ruth. The party will be more national in its character than any similar event for invitations have been sent all over the country, and the young lady will have one of the largest coming-out parties ever enjoyed by an American debutante.

MONSTER PHONE AS A PASTOR.

Services Which Are Automatically Rendered Daily in a London Church.

A curious scene daily takes place at the Church of St. Mary-at-Hill, London. Between the hours of 1:15 and 1:45 heavy curtains are drawn up across the windows and a magic lantern throws on a large screen in the center of the church the name of the hymn which is being intoned by the fine old organ.

GIVEN DRINK THROUGH TUBE.

How a Drunk in a New York Village Looked Was Supplied with Liquor.

John Langdon, of Canaan Corners, New York, was sober enough the other day to stand trial. Arrested for intoxication on Monday, he remained in the village lockup for four days, getting more intoxicated all the time. The authorities were puzzled, and investigated. They saw a party of Langdon's friends, with a two-gallon jug of whiskey and a rubber tube, rap on the window of Langdon's cell. The window was raised and the tube, one end of which was in the jug of whiskey, was run through the grating of the cell. Langdon was fast putting in another day's supply of tanglefoot when the constable interfered.

ARMORED AUTOMOBILE TRAIN.

A large English constructor has recently furnished to the British government an armored automobile train, consisting of a number of cars towed by a series locomotive. This is the first of a series which is to be constructed upon the same principle. It will, no doubt, be of great service in the army.

A RICH ENGLISH COUNTY.

Lancashire is the next richest county to London. It is rated at \$24,000,000, against London's \$43,500,000.

ILLITERACY IN MEXICO.

Of every six Mexicans five are unable to read or write.

AN ELEPHANT PARTY.

Latest Society Innovation That Captivates India's Four Hundred.

Lady Curzon Makes a Unique Use of a Maharajah's Gift—Animals Gayly Decked Carry Their Fair Burden.

Elephant parties are the latest form of amusement to be invented by Lady Curzon to entertain India's 400. It seems that several of the native rulers have taken a great fancy to her, and the maharajah of Durbhanga recently made her a unique gift by placing at her disposal a magnificent herd of elephants.

The vicereine was at a loss to know just what to do with the gift at first. Then the idea occurred to her of giving an elephant party. She arranged it so that each animal was to bear a young woman and an attendant saint to a rendezvous, where tiffin was to be served to the assembled pairs.

Lady Curzon herself rode the largest elephant in the group, and in her howdah of silver was protected from the sun by an umbrella of white silk, bordered with pearls. Her mahout carried a silver good and fly fan. The trappings on her mount were embroidered in silk and gold, while festoons of pearls hung around the elephant's ears.

The humorous side of these affairs was supplied by the elephants themselves, who insisted on testifying to their affection by snatching treasures from passers-by, or from the bazars, and bestowing them upon the rider. This thoughtfulness on the part of the elephants several times became embarrassing, especially when the gift happened to take the form of a naked Indian child. One chubby little boy, the son of an elephant's keeper, wearing only a string of beads, was lifted into the vicereine's howdah, causing great amusement to the party.

FURTHER TEST OF LEMONS.

Importers Not Satisfied with the One Recently Made Which Favored the California Product.

Importers of lemons will have an analytical test made to show the relative quantity of citric acid contained in the imported fruit as compared with the California product. This is the latest development in the controversy between importers and handlers of domestic lemons, which arose over a test of California lemons made by the Earl Fruit company, and which showed, according to the claims of that company, that the domestic fruit contained a larger percentage of citric acid than imported lemons.

THE LAWSON CUP DEFENDER.

Work on the Yacht to Be Pushed—Will Be Launched About the Same Time as the Herreshoff Boat.

It is expected that the Crowninshield designs for the Lawson cup defender will be in the hands of the builder, George F. Lawley, so that the work of laying down the boat can be completed before the first of the year, or about three weeks behind the Herreshoff boat. The lead, angle iron and plating have already been ordered, and if there are no delays there seems to be no reason why the Boston boat will not be launched about the same time as the one at Bristol.

In fact there is something like a race already between the two yachts. It looks as if the Lawson boat would be built at the Atlantic works in East Boston, under the supervision of Mr. Lawley. No dimensions will be given out until the boat is fully under way, but after that it is understood that free access will be afforded anyone who desires to look at the work on the new boat.

LEARNING HOW NOT TO SNEeze.

Sir F. Hastings Doyle, in his autobiography, relates how during the '30's Lord Halifax was walking with Lord Dundas, when the latter suddenly began to make hideous faces to such a degree that Lord Halifax became seriously alarmed and gasped out: "Shall I run for a doctor?" Lord Dundas gave a peremptory "No" as far as he was able. When he had recovered from his paroxysm he said: "I was only in the agonies of trying not to sneeze. The awful court etiquette in regard to this matter has made me really ill many a time. Nowadays, I cannot, from long habit, really sneeze, but the sensation that brings about sneezing simply agonizes me."

SYMPATHY WITHHELD.

It is reported that Joe Mulhatten is insane, but the public will not be likely to sympathize very much, says the Chicago Times-Herald, until it can be positively known that he isn't working another hoax.

MOHAMMEDANS IN AFRICA.

Africa contains 80,000,000 Mohammedans to about 200,000,000 inhabitants.

TO SHUT OUT OUR WHEAT.

Agrarian Party of Germany Pushing Effort to Increase Import Duties on All Grains.

The agrarian party in Germany, having successfully brought about a law at the last session of the reichstag prohibiting, in effect, the importation of American canned meats, is now using its powerful influence to increase heavily the import duties on all grains entering the empire, notably on wheat, reports United States Consul Diederich, at Bremen, to the state department. The aim of the agrarians, according to the consul, is to make Germany entirely independent of all countries for its breadstuffs and food supplies.

"It is difficult to see," says Mr. Diederich, "how the proposed national legislation can have any other effect in the long run than to enhance the price of the daily bread so needful to every man, woman and child in this country." It is impossible to understand, he says, how the proposed duty can increase the crops of wheat throughout Germany, or decrease the appetite of the German people.

At present, however, says the consul, there seems little doubt that the proposed law will be passed by the reichstag. As a large portion of the importation of wheat is American grown, this will seriously affect the interests of the American farmer. "A duty of 40 or 50 cents on every bushel of wheat," concludes Consul Diederich, "cannot fail to be well-nigh prohibitive, and the consequence will be more limited markets, fiercer competition and lower prices to the producers."

FASTER THAN COLUMBIA.

Yacht Designed by Crowninshield Will Be Speedier Than the Last Successful Cup Defender.

There is more or less speculation among local yachtsmen on the probable speed of the big yacht that Crowninshield will design for a cup defender, based on a statement credited to him that he would expect to be five minutes faster than the Columbia over the cup courses in an average breeze. It is understood that the designer has had a full set of the working plans of the Columbia for a long time and is therefore qualified to make a prediction. Mr. Crowninshield is making the defender's plans at his own residence and will deliver the next plan to Mr. Lawley, possibly next Monday. The lead keel, however, is expected to be in shape by January 1. In laying down the yacht the mould loft at Lawley's will be used and from there the work can be changed either to the boatshed or, if it should so happen, to the Atlantic works yard, in East Boston, although this latter course may be an expediency.

It is quite definitely learned that Capt. Watson has nothing to hinder his acceptance of an offer to sail the boat.

CUBA'S FUTURE.

Capitalist Returns from Island and Enthusiastically Declares It Will Be America's Riviera.

Sir William Van Horne, who is at the head of the syndicate of capitalists engaged in building a system of railroads to develop the eastern half of Cuba, has returned to New York from a visit to that island. He went directly to the office of the Cuba company, where he busied himself all day approving lists of material to be contracted for by the new road. In the evening he left for Montreal. "Each time I go to Cuba," said Sir William, "I am surprised at the improvement since American occupation. This was particularly true this time in Santiago and in Havana. Yellow fever has become almost a thing of the past in Santiago, which used to be a pest hole, and the time is not far distant when it will be stamped out entirely. When the fear of yellow fever is gone Cuba will become the American Riviera. It can offer all the delights of climate and an infinitely greater variety of scenery."

DISCOVER AN IMMENSE CAVE.

Arkansas Explorers Stumble Across a Great Subterranean Passage.

An immense cave, filled with stalactites and stalagmites, and containing a subterranean river, has just been discovered 20 miles southeast of Eureka Springs, Ark. The discoverers had no means of crossing the river, but by light of their torches saw that the cave's proportion grew in magnitude with distance. Provided with a boat and other equipments, they will make a systematic exploration. It is now believed that this cave was the hiding place of George Denny, escaped convict from the Missouri penitentiary, four years ago.

TO OCCUPY SHERMAN'S RESIDENCE.

Representative J. C. Sibley, of Pennsylvania, has rented the house which was formerly the home of ex-Secretary Sherman, says the Chicago Tribune. This house will thus again this winter be the scene of important social events, as it was in former days during the lifetime of its late owner.

MORE THAN SHE BARGAINED ON.

The Countess de Castellane knew she was marrying a lot of debts, but she did not expect, says the Chicago Record, to be obliged to live with them all her life.

EIGHTY MULES EATEN.

During the siege of Peking the members of the diplomatic corps and the missionaries who were shut up in the Chinese embassy ate 80 mules.

SAVES LIFE AT SEA.

Automatic System of Signaling to Prevent Wrecks.

The Secret of Wireless Telegraphy Is Utilized in Warning Vessels Seven Miles from Shore of Dangerous Coast Lines.

An invention which is expected to be of much value in the prevention of shipwrecks was shown the other day at South End-on-Sea, London, before the marine authorities and navigators. They were all much struck by the possibilities of that invention.

It is an automatic system of signaling, and will warn ships of their approach to dangerous rocks and coasts in all weathers, when a flashlight might not be seen and the boom of the fog-horn might be unheard.

A metallic conductor is fixed on an elevation ashore or a lighthouse or a reef of lighthouse. From this ethereal waves are transmitted over a zone which has a radius of seven miles. All vessels within that area fitted with receivers are warned of their proximity to danger. A bell rings and the receiving instrument records the name of the place which is being approached.

The automatic part of the machine consists of steel bearings, with a number of teeth which pass over a Morse transmitter. No operators are needed at all. The machine works automatically. In its elementary principle the system resembles Marconi's wireless telegraphy, but in detail the system is essentially different.

A syndicate is already taking up the invention, which will shortly be put on the market.

NOT UNITED STATES CITIZENS.

Ruling of Treasury Department Affecting the Standing of Certain Wealthy Chinamen in Hawaii.

A treasury department ruling in the matter of Chinese citizenship has created excitement and surprise among the Chinese population here. It declares that the Chinese who were naturalized citizens of the republic of Hawaii did not become American citizens by virtue of the provisions of the territorial act. Section four of that act declares that "all persons who were citizens of the republic of Hawaii on August 12, 1899, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States."

Under this section citizens of the late republic were supposed to be Americans and they were allowed to vote. The question arose here when some of the supposed American citizens wanted to leave Hawaii for the United States. Collector Stackable wrote to Washington and received the new ruling on the 20th of last month. The number of Chinese affected by the ruling is small, but they are mostly wealthy merchants.

HAS A LESSER CHINESE SEAL.

Trophy Taken from Peking Held by Fred Weitzenberg, of San Jose, Cal.

A story from San Jose, Cal., which has been given wide circulation, says that Fred Weitzenberg has in his possession the great imperial seal of China. As the loss of the seal has been put forward as one of the reasons why the Chinese government was unable to give official significance to its edicts and orders some of Weitzenberg's friends have supposed that he was the man responsible for tying up the kingdom of the dragon.

What the San Jose man has is one of the jade seals "lifted" at the time the "foreign devils" visited the Imperial city. It is not, however, the great imperial seal of the emperor, for that is of pure gold. The empress dowager and every member of the imperial household has several seals, the insignia of office, and necessary to the exercise of various powers in different directions. All these seals are of jade and are exceedingly valuable.

NEW MARVELS OF ROCKIES.

Great Glaciers and Falls of 1,300 Feet Are Found in Canada.

Canadian Pacific railroad engineers have returned from an exploring expedition in the field region of the Rockies, and they report the discovery of magnificent falls, one dropping from a height of 1,300 feet; also several glaciers, one of which rivals the great glaciers of the Selkirk in area, and surpasses it in the magnificence of its surroundings of mountain lakes of unusual beauty and of lofty peaks, which will offer great temptations to mountain climbers. These hitherto hidden marvels of nature can be made accessible by the construction of trails, and these will be built early next spring.

MEXICAN ROSE-GARNET.

It is reported by the bureau of American republics that an extensive deposit of rose-garnet, situated near Cuautlay, in Mexico, is to be worked on a large scale. It promises to bring in the market a price equal to that of the finest onyx, which it surpasses in beauty. This roseite, as it is otherwise called, is a white sandstone filled with beautiful little crystals of garnet, which are too soft to be useful as gems.

CHANCE FOR AN IMPROVEMENT.

A millionaire widow of New York is about to marry a penniless young man, not, as she frankly explains, for love, but to secure a manager for her estate. It is hoped, says the San Francisco Bulletin, he may be something of an improvement on the manager Anna Gould got.

FOUND IN AN OLD STUMP.

Original Manuscript of the Book of Mormon Is Discovered in Illinois.

Considerable excitement has been created recently in southern Illinois over a discovery made by Marshal Penrod, who lives on a farm close to the village of Dongola, in Union county, says the Chicago Inter Ocean. Penrod, in digging a black stump out of a potato field, close to his residence, found a stone which was about a foot long and eight inches in diameter. The peculiar shape of the stone, which resembled a pocketbook, attracted his attention, and upon close examination he found carved on its face in English the following words: "This stone contains the original manuscript of the book of the Mormon." Joseph Smith.

The ravages of time had apparently made little headway on the stone, and upon close examination he found the stone was hollow. A hole had been drilled entirely through it, and at both ends red cedar plugs had been driven. Upon removing one of the plugs several sheets of paper, containing writing in hieroglyphics that could not be deciphered, were found. The characters are peculiar, following no known line of ancient writing.

At the bottom of the last page was found written in English: "The finder of this manuscript will deliver the same to the elders of the Mormon church." The stone still remains with Mr. Penrod, and already communication has been made with the Salt Lake church, giving the incidents of the find. It is thought the Mormon church will take steps at once to secure the stone and also the manuscript.

ARRESTS AT PARIS FAIR.

Police Report Also Tells of Strange Articles Found in the Grounds of the Exposition.

The exposition police report, just out, shows a total of 13,907 arrests on the fair grounds. The causes are thus divided, says the Chicago Tribune: Murder, 4; murderous assaults, 115; crimes against morals, 362; minor assaults, 1,192; defacing property, 401; theft, 4,803.

Strangers arrested were 1,159. Of these 44 were Americans, which was less than any other nation, except Denmark and Polynesia, which had one each. The total number of articles found and turned over to the police was 65,117, including a satchel containing \$45,700 in American money, which never was claimed; more than 6,000 umbrellas, one set of false teeth, 245 single garters, 22 corsets wrapped in newspapers or otherwise, three burglar's kits, five crosses of the Legion of Honor, 14 foreign decorations, one pair of lady's russet slippers, only slightly used, and many other queer articles.

This museum, with the exception of what may be claimed before May 1, will be sold at auction for the benefit of charity.

QUEER ACCIDENTS TO GUNS.

Mishaps on a British Battleship That Caused Fear Among the Crew.

While the British battleship Thunderer was off Milford Haven, Wales, not long ago a curious accident to one of her guns caused much alarm among her crew. A target had been put out for practice with the ten-inch breechloading guns. When one was fired by electricity only a portion of the projectile was discharged, the base plate of the shot and a portion of the frame being left in the gun. When the plate was removed the pressure of gas forced a portion of the projectile from the breach of the gun. On the second gun being fired a hole about three inches in diameter was blown through the projectile, the other part of the base plate being left behind. The base plate was in this case separated from the rest of the projectile.

Such accidents are believed never previously to have occurred on board any ship. There was much alarm among those in the turret, as the bursting of the guns was for a time feared. It is suggested that either the powder in the projectiles was damp or there was water in the guns. So far as can be seen both guns are sound.

FINDS BOOK OF MORMON.

Illinois Farmer Makes the Claim That He Dug Up the Original Manuscript.

Interest has been created at Carbonale, Ill., over a discovery made by Marshal Penrod, who lives on a farm near Dongola. Recently Penrod grubbed a black oak stump out of a potato field close to his residence and found a stone about a foot long and eight inches in diameter. The peculiar shape of the stone, which resembled a pocketbook, attracted his attention, and upon close examination he found carved on its face in the English language the following words: "This stone contains the original manuscript of Moroni (Mormon).—Joseph Smith." The ravages of time had apparently made but little headway on the stone and upon closer examination he found the stone was hollow and a hole drilled entirely through it and at both ends red cedar plugs had been driven in. Upon removing one of the plugs several sheets of parchment were found containing writing in hieroglyphics that could not be deciphered.

GOLD PRODUCTION.

Australia and California have each averaged a production of \$45,000,000 worth of gold a year, and the maximum production—\$65,000,000—has also been the same. Each country also has almost exactly the same number of mines.

A VALUABLE REPUTATION.

We Had Been Lying for Twenty Years and Had Made a Name for Himself.

"A business matter took me out west last fall," said the well-known attorney, who was in a reminiscence mood, relates the Detroit Free Press, "and I took advantage of the opportunity to make a trip into the mountains for a week's hunting. I hired an old man to act as a guide and do the cooking, and I enjoyed myself to the utmost. The mountains were full of big game, but the state had lately passed a law prohibiting the killing of deer, which was particularly aggravating, as we were continually running across them. Now I am a respecter of the law—unless I am retained on the other side—and I found it hard work to refrain from shooting at the deer that presented themselves as if they knew that they were free from danger. But along toward the last our man ran out, and I told the old man that we would have to have some fresh meat even if we had to kill a deer. He agreed with me, and it wasn't ten minutes later that a deer sprang up ahead of us. I wasn't prepared for him, but the guide was, and he made a clean miss, much to his disgust. That was the last deer that we saw, and we returned without having broken the law. But no sooner had we started from the point where we had arrested for killing a deer, and I took it upon myself to defend him, as I knew him to be innocent. I took the stand in his behalf, and thinking it best to make a clean breast of the matter, I admitted that he had shot at a deer, but missed him. Then I put the old man on the stand to corroborate my testimony.

"You admit having shot at the deer?" said I, when the old man took the stand.

"That's what! he answered.

"And you missed him?" I continued.

"No, siree!" he shouted. "I killed him, b'gosh!"

"That took the wind out of my sails and I collapsed, the result being that the old man was fined \$25."

"After the trial I took him aside and asked him what he meant by swearing to a lie and convicting himself."

"See hyar," he answered, "I've bin lyin' fer 20 years about never havin' missed a deer that I shot at, an' ye don't think that I would ruin my reputation fer \$25 do ye?"

MAINE'S CANNING INDUSTRY.

Our Hundred and Seventy-Five Factories That Pay \$1,400,000 a Year in Wages.

According to the report of Hon. S. W. Mathews, state industrial and labor commissioner, the Pine Tree state is the champion sardine canning community of the country and it third on the list of states that can sweet corn. In fact, Maine is the only state engaged in the industry of putting up small herring and other suitable fish as sardines. There are about 175 canning factories within its borders, the value of which is about \$1,214,000, and give employment to 15,000 operatives. The amount of wages paid in 1899 was about \$1,400,000; to the farmers for corn, \$331,000, and the value of the entire output of all the factories was \$5,306,059 during the year, quotes the New York Sun.

Over 11,000 acres were planted to sweet corn in 1899. The canning of clams, blueberries, apples, beans, squash, pumpkin and small fruits seems to be on the increase, according to Mr. Mathews' report, and he does not see any good reason why the industry should not increase largely in the packing of these articles. He also says that it appears to be generally conceded that the corn, apples and berries of Maine are superior in quality to the same products in other states, owing, doubtless, to climatic conditions. In every kind of canning men, women and children are paid remunerative wages, and the canning factories give to many poor families their only opportunity for earning money.

WILL LAST TWENTY YEARS.

Durability of a New Kind of Cloth to Be Manufactured by Mills in England.

If the plans of certain English capitalists do not miscarry it will be possible ere long for the economical parent to purchase a suit of clothes which may be passed along among his sons for the fifth of a century, says the Chicago Chronicle. Mills are now being built in England for the manufacture of this kind of long-wearing material, which can be turned out in almost any color wanted. Think of getting a suit of clothes that will last for 20 years; that will cost only a third more than a suit costs now, and that will be absolutely waterproof without appearing to be so. Revolutionize is rather an overworked word, but it fits this case exactly. Instead of saying: "Papa's pants will soon fit Johnnie," the refrain will run: "Johnnie soon will wear pa's pants." These extremely useful articles before Johnnie has got out of dresses he may continue to wear them for the next 20 years, and by that time Johnnie will have grown up to them. The same with little Mary and her mother's skirts. Instead of cutting down the garments for the girl the mother will wear them for a generation or so and then turn them over to her daughter.

OIL FROM THE OCEAN.

Eight million gallons of rock oil are pumped each year from under the bed of the Pacific ocean.