

SILK ON THE FARM.

Agricultural Authorities Convinced That It Can Be Raised with Profit.

Although the United States agricultural department has made several well advertised attempts to start silk growing on an extended scale in this country, none of the experiments has proven successful. Now the government experts have started on a new tack that may meet with better results.

Dr. Howard is convinced that silk raising to be profitable in this country, must be pursued by many families and on a small scale—as a sort of "side line." as it were, to other agricultural undertakings.

While on a trip to Europe last summer Dr. Howard visited the silk-raising countries and found the industry highly profitable, even on the large estates. The work was performed largely by the women and children, while the men labored at harder tasks.

Two women were brought from France to operate the machine in the department building, and their work is one of the most interesting sights in the capital at present.

NATION'S BIGGEST BUSINESS.

More Than 745,000,000 Pounds of Mail Delivered by Uncle Sam Last Year.

I asked Postmaster General Payne how in his opinion the United States post office compares in efficiency with private business organizations and foreign post offices.

"How do I know?" said he; "I've been postmaster general only a year." An assistant postmaster general was once invited to address a convention of postmasters.

"If a man attends closely to his work he can learn to manage one of these departments in about 40 years. Then he goes out and another pupil comes in—the chances are a politician. A business? Why it is simply a training school!"

Through 75,234 post offices, and in such mass as to require for railroad transportation 31 trains each a mile long traveling 203 times around the equator, more than 745,000,000 pounds of mail matter was delivered last year.

Play Stages in Child Life. Dr. Hutchinson divides the child's life into six play-stages, corresponding to primitive civilization, which he calls the "root-and-grub, the hunting, the pastoral, the agricultural and the commercial."

May Criticize Art. The right of a newspaper to criticize the work of an artist was maintained by Judge Halsey at Milwaukee recently. Paul Kupper sued a paper and its critic, John M. Handley, because the critic had said that a horse Mr. Kupper had modeled in competition for a statue had bovine characteristics.

Coal from Japan. The coal production of Japan was almost trebled during the years from 1892 to 1901, and the amount exported a little more than double in the same time.

TO IMPROVE POTATO.

Englishmen Hope to Keep Choice Varieties from Deteriorating.

National Society to Culture Tuber Being Planned—Value Lessened by Poor Cooking—Education Needed.

There are nearly 40,000,000 potato eaters in the British Isles, and the majority of them do not get the full value of the tuber because of bad cooking and the culture of bad varieties.

This year has been a remarkable re-encounter of the attempt to produce a perfect English variety. It has been successful in at least three new sorts, and their disease-resisting power, their great fruitfulness and their eating qualities have led to extravagant prices being asked for single tubers—prices ranging from 1,500 to 2,000 a ton.

The suggestion has been made, however, that now is a fitting time for the formation of a National Potato society, to further the culture of the potato. A central council will be formed in London, with county committees whose duties will be to conduct trials of new or not generally known varieties.

The reform of restaurants is apparently hopeless, because they treat the potato as a vegetable which can be cooked and kept hot indefinitely.

SPEAKER CANNON'S CIGARS.

Recent Incident Which Shows He Does Not Yet Realize Fully His Change of Office.

Uncle Joe Cannon hasn't fully come to a realization of the fact that he is the speaker of the house of representatives, or, if he has, he occasionally has a lapse of memory.

One day recently, after the house went into committee of the whole, he came down from the rostrum and absently walked through the corridor to the room of the committee on appropriations, of which he was chairman for many years.

"What is it, Mr. Cannon?" asked one of the clerks. "Why, my box of cigars," said the speaker.

"Didn't you take it with you into the speaker's room?" replied the clerk, pleasantly. "By Jove, that's right!" exclaimed Uncle Joe, with a characteristic gesture of his left hand. "I had forgotten."

But the fact which he had forgotten was not where he had placed his box of cigars, but that he had been elected speaker and had changed his office from the committee of appropriations room to the speaker's room.

BOYS MAY WEAR SWEATERS.

Scholars in Philadelphia Schools Are Happy Over Recent Decision of Hygiene Committee.

The objections of his teacher, notwithstanding, the small boy of Philadelphia may wear a sweater to school if he desires. The board of education committee on hygiene has so decreed.

Some time ago the teachers of the Twenty-fourth ward appealed to the sectional board to adopt a rule forbidding the wearing of a garment called a sweater in the school rooms. Unwilling to overstep its power by legislating concerning a pupil's wearing apparel, the sectional board referred the matter to the central board, and that body in turn saddled it upon its committee on hygiene.

The right of a newspaper to criticize the work of an artist was maintained by Judge Halsey at Milwaukee recently. Paul Kupper sued a paper and its critic, John M. Handley, because the critic had said that a horse Mr. Kupper had modeled in competition for a statue had bovine characteristics.

A Cleveland woman who secured an injunction restraining her husband from eating at her table must expect the poor man to patronize the free lunch route.

BAN PUT ON CORSETS.

English Women Waging a Crusade Against Time-Honored Article.

The Rainy-Day Skirt Is Popular, But Its Use Reveals the Awkwardness of the Average Woman in Walking.

Perhaps it is too much to say that the "new woman" has inaugurated a campaign against feminine traditions, but it is certain that from Leeds and Birmingham blasts have been sounded upon the trumpets of the anti-corset crusade.

That women are bad walkers—many being pigeon-toed—is declared to be one revelation of the new skirt. Physical culturists, discussing the question, say the greatest offender is the "mannish girl," whose attempt to assume man's ease and freedom is an absurd mimicry.

Wary of the best cigars the world affords, tired of cigarettes presented to him by the sultan, the emperor had taken to smoking a pipe before the surgical operation on his throat was performed.

Apparently there is no very keen desire on the part of Tommy Atkins to study the art of chiropody. The class for introducing noncommissioned officers and men to the mysteries of corn-cutting was to have met for the first time the other day at the Station hospital, Rochester row, London.

EMPEROR TAKES TO THE PIPE.

His Favorite Is a Meerschaum Made After His Own Design, with a Cherry Wood Stem.

The permanent residents of Radley hotel after these two experiences had grown rather accustomed to strange things prowling about, but were still unprepared for the next encounter.

"Good afternoon, gentlemen. Will you be kind enough to inform me if there is any town around here?" "Town? Town?" repeated the captain. "Why, man, do you know where you are?"

SOLDIERS AS CORN DOCTORS.

Tommy Atkins, However, Evidently Tries to Dodge the Study of Chiropody.

Apparently there is no very keen desire on the part of Tommy Atkins to study the art of chiropody. The class for introducing noncommissioned officers and men to the mysteries of corn-cutting was to have met for the first time the other day at the Station hospital, Rochester row, London.

The first lesson was therefore adjourned to a later day, when it is hoped that a few more soldiers will be present, eager to earn the additional six pence a day which is to accrue to all qualified battalion chiropodists.

NAPOLEON'S WILLOW DOOMED.

Famous Tree Near the Chapel at Windsor in the Way of Modern Changes.

Napoleon's willow at Windsor, England, is doomed because of changes about to be made in the chapel grounds. A branch was cut from the weeping willow that sheltered Napoleon's grave at St. Helena, and planted at the beginning of the nineteenth century near the chapel at Windsor.

According to statistics collected by the police at the close of last year, Tokio has now a total population of 1,839,738 persons, living in 332,039 houses. Tokio is growing enormously.

A movement is on foot to restore much of the lost splendor of the Louvre. Recent excavations in the garden on the Rue de Rivoli side show that about a third of the entire palace is underground.

BIG GAME IN A HOTEL.

Guests in Singapore Hostelry Are Startled by Mysterious Addition to Their Number.

Singapore is possibly the most humid place on earth. The atmosphere is almost always "sticky" from the combination of heat and rain. Animals and reptiles of all kinds abound in the Malay peninsula, as they do in India and other tropical countries.

The permanent residents of Radley hotel after these two experiences had grown rather accustomed to strange things prowling about, but were still unprepared for the next encounter.

"Good afternoon, gentlemen. Will you be kind enough to inform me if there is any town around here?" "Town? Town?" repeated the captain. "Why, man, do you know where you are?"

NO FREE COPIES.

"The Hustler" Was Ready to Do Business on the Spot, But for Spot Cash Only.

"I never read of a case on newspaper enterprise without it bringing up a recollection of 30 years ago," said a city hall official, as he laid aside his newspaper to stroke his gray locks.

"Well, it was the Montana Weekly Herald ten days ago. In another ten it may be the Idaho Hustler. We've got press and type and everything necessary to get out a lively sheet. Jim, better get the pack off. I've got to write a salutary and leading editorial to-night. Westward the Star of the Empire, and so forth. The office of the Hustler is now open for business.

REMARKABLE OLD WOMAN.

Although 123 Years of Age and Usually Billed as an Invertebrate Smoker.

Mrs. Mary McDonald, familiarly known as "grandmother," has begun what is claimed to be the one hundred and thirty-fourth year of life. For 14 years she has been an inmate of the Home for Aged and Infirm Colored Persons, at Philadelphia.

Perhaps no monarch has a more curious hobby than the shah of Persia, who is a veritable enthusiast at cat collecting. He has a specimen of every kind of cat of every country—cats of all sizes, all colors and all shapes.

PARIS NEWSPAPERS WARNED.

Government to Put End to Prize Guessing Contests Which Have Greatly Exalted Populace.

The guessing competitions and treasure contests started by a number of Paris newspapers are not to be allowed in future. M. Bulot, procurator general, has called a meeting of all the newspaper proprietors and intimated to them that the minister of justice had determined to suppress such things in future as infringing the lottery law.

According to statistics collected by the police at the close of last year, Tokio has now a total population of 1,839,738 persons, living in 332,039 houses. Tokio is growing enormously.

The coal production of Japan was almost trebled during the years from 1892 to 1901, and the amount exported a little more than double in the same time.

A Salt Lake City man has invented an airship with which he expects to carry passengers to the St. Louis exposition. After they get there the exhibition will seem mighty tame, says the Chicago Daily News, if they happen to encounter a Nebraska cyclone on the way.

DEATHS ON THE RAIL.

Number of Persons Killed During Last Fiscal Year.

Figures Given Out by Interstate Commerce Commission Show Heavy Increase—Due to Great Bulk of the Business.

The railroads of the United States killed 3,534 persons and injured 45,977 during the year ending June 30, 1903. The total number of casualties, 49,511, cost the railroads \$9,594,977 property loss, as compared with \$7,445,406 for the previous year.

These facts are shown by accident bulletin No. 8 issued by the interstate commerce commission for the fiscal year and for the second quarter of the present calendar year. Although the report shows a large increase in casualties it is noted that the number killed in train wrecks is three less, although the number thus injured increased by 525.

It is stated that the number of men employed in the train service on June 30 last was about 12 per cent greater than on June 30, 1902. On the roads of densest traffic, where liability to accident is greatest, the increase has been more than this.

The expansion of freight traffic led to the employment of men so rapidly that the percentage of inexperienced men in service this year is larger than ever in the history of railroads.

The report further shows that out of the total number killed 321 were passengers and 3,233 employees, and out of the total number injured 6,873 were passengers and 39,094 employees. During the months of April, May and June last 844 persons were killed and 11,451 injured, which is a decrease of 83 fatalities over the previous quarter.

IRELAND LOSES IN RESIDENTS.

Decrease of Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty-Seven in the Past Year, Exclusive of Emigrants.

Ireland is a country which still loses thousands of its natural increase of population by emigration, in which more boys are born than girls, and the most fatal epidemic is influenza.

The population of Ireland in 1902, according to the registrar general's return, was 4,432,274. The marriages, numbering 22,942, and the births, 101,863, show a trifling increase on the average of ten years; the deaths, 77,576, were a trifle below the average.

NEW STYLE SMOKER.

French Railway Officials Test an Improved Pattern of Cigar for Users of Tobacco.

An effort is being made to introduce a new type of railway carriage on the Metropolitan railway, in France, suitable for smokers, the glass of the windows being replaced by metal plates pierced with square holes.

Many officials were present at a trial at Paris. Police Prefect Lepine appeared with a box of cigars, and soon all were smoking merrily. The smoke passed through the holes, and the ventilation was excellent, but it was rather chilly in the car.

NEW MASK FOR AUTOMOBILISTS.

The difficulty automobilists find in protecting their faces has at last been satisfactorily solved.

Ugly masks and goggles are now likely to be cast aside for a new mask, which is strong and transparent, and modifies in no way the appearance of fair complexions.

It is constructed of transparent horn, with the usual spectacle glasses, and thus obviates the danger of fire so much feared with inflammable celluloid masks.