

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., January 10, 1908.

ENORMOUS CROPS IT GROWS.

Nineteen Counties in the Two States Produce an Average of Twelve Million Bushels a Year—The Way the Toothsome Goobers Grow.

Suffolk, Va., is the greatest peanut shipping point in the world. More of the delicious goobers are raised in Nansemond county, of which Suffolk is the capital, than in any other county on earth.

If one takes the map and draws a pencil mark around nineteen counties in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina he will put a fence, so to speak, around the greatest peanut section of the world. Those counties are: In Virginia, Nansemond, Norfolk, Isle of Wight, Southampton, Sussex, Greenville and Prince George; in North Carolina, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Gates, Hertford, Chowan, Northampton, Halifax, Edgecombe, Martin, Pitt, Bertie and Washington.

This territory, which is within a radius of 150 miles from Norfolk, produces 3,000,000 bags of peanuts every year. Every bag contains four bushels, so that 12,000,000 bushels is the average annual production. The shipping centers of this belt are Suffolk, Norfolk, Petersburg and Smithfield, all in Virginia. Some peanuts are raised in Tennessee and California, but the crop of those states is a bagatelle as compared with the production of the Virginia-North Carolina territory.

The shelled peanuts are planted about the middle of May by means of a drill, similar to a corn drill, which drops one or two kernels in a place, about twelve inches apart. The soil that raises the best peanuts is light, sandy loam. It need not be rich. In fact, a great deal of Virginia land that was considered in the antebellum days too poor to raise anything on is now producing great quantities of peanuts.

Very little cultivation is required. Peanut lands are usually plowed only once or twice when the plants are small to choke out the grasses.

The digging time is October, when the peanut leaves turn yellow. A plow is run under the peanut vines and throws up the goobers after the fashion of digging potatoes in the north. Poles seven or eight feet tall are struck into the ground, and the vines are shaken around them, with the peanuts next to the pole, so that the leaves and vines form a protection from the weather. If the weather be bright and cloudless while the peanuts are curing, so much the better. If rain sets in, the hulls become blackened and mildewed, which lessens the value of the crop.

Formerly all peanuts raised were picked from the vines by hand. Now machines similar to thrashers separate fully 75 per cent of the peanuts from the vines. No machine has been invented, however, that will do this work perfectly. The tendency of machines is to crack the hulls, and peanuts with cracked hulls are likely to spoil.

When the peanuts are separated from the vines the farmer sacks them and hauls them to a factory, and his work ends there. Delivered at these so-called "factories" his nuts bring 3 to 5 cents a pound (each bushel containing twenty-two pounds) for the best grades and 1 1/2 cents to 4 cents a pound for lower grades. The nuts still have on a generous coat of dirt.

At the "factory" they are dumped first into a drum where the dirt is removed and a powder is mixed with them to brighten and polish them. At the same time two fans separate the light and shrivelled nuts from the perfect ones. The nuts are then dumped on slowly revolving tables, where negro women and girls continue the process of separating the good from the bad.

When the nuts are cleaned and separated they are carefully sacked and graded according to quality and are then sold at 4 1/2 to 6 1/2 cents a pound to jobbers all over the country. From the jobbers they find their way to street vendors, candy manufacturers and factories that make peanut butter and salted peanuts.—Exchange.

Empress Eugenie's Playfulness. Some years ago the Empress Eugenie was a capital hand at whiling away her own and other people's time when residing at obscure watering places

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THE REGISTRAR, State College, Centre County, Pa.

where the accustomed resources of royal gaiety were at fault. One game which she invested and which gave much delight was this: A costly jewel was placed upon a saucer and covered with an inverted teacup. A lady then tossed them to a gentleman seated on the opposite side of the room, and if he caught the flying utensil with such a steady hand that the jewel was not displaced from under the cup the gem became the property of the lady. Of course the gallant who was to "catch" felt an intense solicitude, inasmuch as the prize for the lady which his adroitness might gain or his awkwardness lose had a value which rendered its possession exceedingly desirable and made its loss acutely felt. It is said that the emperor was the best "catcher" of them all, and when he was present the game was played with an enthusiasm which would rival that of a thickly populated nursery.

GOLD COINS.

Why Bankers Don't Like Them and Prefer to Handle Paper.

"Of the different kinds of American money now in circulation the gold coins of all denominations are the most disliked in my business," said a prominent New York banker.

"Take a greenback, a silver or a gold certificate or a national bank note to your bank and it is received and placed to your credit without a moment's delay. Not so with gold. A few days ago a gentleman brought to our bank upward of \$3,000 in gold of different denominations and was much provoked because we would not receive it and give him credit with the amount the face of the coin represented. This we could not do because the law requires that gold shall be redeemed only at its actual value. Coins carried in the pocket for any length of time naturally lose something by abrasion—probably but a fractional part of a cent on a ten-dollar piece, but it is a loss nevertheless—and therefore bankers cannot give credit for gold deposits until the coin shall have been weighed. In the case mentioned my friend took his gold to the subtreasury and was compelled to wait there nearly an hour before he could get notes for it.

"Every coin had to be passed through the scales, and after the weighing process had been completed three of the coins—two five dollar pieces and a ten dollar piece—were returned to him as short in weight. Before returning short weight coins the department stamps on the face of each coin a cross. The owner is either left to send the coins to the United States mint for redemption or again put them into circulation. Eventually the coins with crosses on their faces will go to the mint and be redeemed at their actual value. In many instances there may be not more than several cents' shortage on \$50 worth of coins. Business men, however, naturally object to the inconvenience and get rid of their gold as fast as possible."—New York Press.

Practical.

The great Marchesi, like other famous singers, was the recipient of valuable gifts from an admiring public. Many of these were of a perishable nature, and some were rich and rare. One only bore the character of absolute practicality. During a concert tour in Switzerland there was one concert in which the prima donna was especially brilliant. She sang a varied programme—a song from Handel, an Italian air, some German songs—and not only through the greatness but the diversity of her gifts roused the audience to a tremendous pitch of enthusiasm. Many persons crowded up to her when the concert was over, overwhelming her with the profusion of

Medical.

A GOOD NAME AT HOME

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the flowers they brought. After the crowd had dispersed a bashful looking girl came up, holding a parcel in her hand.

"You delighted me so very much at your last concert," said she, "that today I should like to express my admiration for you in person. Flowers, however, fade. I therefore beg to offer you a lasting and practical souvenir which will keep me in your memory."

With these words she unwrapped a silver spoon ladle, presented it and disappeared.

Shakespeare and His Plays.

The Shakespeare-Bacon controversy is right where it began many years ago. The man from Stratford is still in possession, though there are many learned men who seriously question his rights. It has not been proved that Bacon wrote the plays or that Shakespeare did not write them. One thing the controversy has done, however—it has immeasurably heightened the mystery of the fact, if it is a fact, that the plays were written by the historical Shakespeare. Between the Shakespeare we know in history and the man who wrote "Lea," "Hamlet" and "Macbeth" there would seem to be an unbridged distance.—New York American.

The Way of New York.

In New York you buy your theater tickets from a speculator for two prices, and after the show you bribe a waiter to bring you food for which you pay the jolly innkeeper two and one-half prices, after which you may be hauled home by a rheumatic horse if you pay the driver once for hauling you home and once for not getting down from his perch and booting you out of the hansom.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Its Discovery in the River Lena and How It Was Lost.

In 1940 a young Russian engineer, Benkendorf, saw the river Lena in Siberia release a dead mammoth frozen ages ago in the bog. There had been exceptionally warm weather in the north of Siberia, and the river, swollen by melting snow and ice and torrential warm rains, swept out of its old channel and carved a new one, carrying to the sea vast quantities of its former banks and furrowing up the head of a mammoth appear above the flood. Rush upon rush of water more and more released the body. Its hind legs were still imbedded when he saw it, but twenty-four hours liberated these. The mammoth had sunk feet first into a bog. The ooze had frozen over it. Successive tides had heaped soil and vegetation upon it. Bone and flesh and hair were perfect. They secured it. They cut off its tusks. They dissected it and found in its stomach the last meal it had eaten, young

shoots of the fir and pine and masticated fir cones. They were still at their work when the river, spreading farther, engulfed them. The men escaped, but the waters surged over the mammoth and carried it for carrion to the sea.

The Chrysanthemum.

Both in China and Japan is the chrysanthemum a great favorite. It is said that Chinese gardeners to whom the plant was first known will allow nothing to deter them from its culture. They will even give up their situations if forbidden by their employers to grow it. Chinese emigrants, too, take this "flower of their hearts" with them to other lands and cultivate it affectionately in their exile as a reminder of their native country. There is a Chinese "Everything comes to him who knows how to wait" which has been Anglicized as follows:

In the second month the peach tree blooms. But not till the ninth the chrysanthemums. So each must wait till his own turn comes.

Fighting Geese.

In Russia pits for cock fighting are unknown, but "goose pits" some sixty years ago were common throughout that mighty kingdom. The effect of this can be seen today in the geese which are indigenous to the country, the Arsamans and the Tula varieties particularly showing to a marked degree the fighting characters of their ancestors. The Arsamans gander has a bill which is entirely different in form from that of the geese known in any other part of the world. This special structure enables the bird to take a firm grip on the neck or back of its antagonist.

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Hair Dresser.

FOR THE LADIES.—Miss Jennie Morgan in her new room on Spring St., lately used as offices by Dr. Locke, is now ready to meet any and all patients wishing treatments by electricity, treatments of the scalp, facial massage or neck and shoulder massage. She has also for sale a large collection of real and imitation shell pins, combs and ornaments and will be able to supply you with all kinds of toilet articles including creams, powders, toilet waters, extracts and all of Helmut's preparations. 50-16

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Travelers Guide.

CENTRAL RAILROAD OF PENNA.

Condensed Time Table effective June 17, 1908

Table with columns: READ DOWN, Stations, READ UP. Lists routes and times for various stations including Bellefonte, Altoona, and others.

(N. Y. Central & Hudson River R. R.)

Table with columns: READ DOWN, Stations, READ UP. Lists routes and times for various stations including Jersey Shore, Altoona, and others.

BELLEFONTE CENTRAL RAILROAD.

Schedule to take effect Monday, Jan. 6, 1908.

Table with columns: WESTWARD, Stations, EASTWARD. Lists routes and times for various stations including Altoona, State College, and others.

Fauble's Great Clothing House

Advertisement for Fauble's Great Clothing House. Features a decorative border and text: WHAT IT MEANS ONE-THIRD OFF The Price of the kind of Clothes that the FAUBLE STORES SELL means that you are buying The Best Clothes made in this country, for LESS MONEY than the best store in Central Pennsylvania can buy them in quantities FOR CASH. The sale is a Fauble Store Sale, hence an honest one. Jan. 18th is Positively the Last Day that reduction will be allowed. M. FAUBLE AND SON. Shoes for Men and Boys at a Big Saving.