To Gather in the Grain Would Be Tantamount to Throwing Good Money After Bad-A Severe Agricultural Crisis

Anticipated. Cries of despair are coming from Russian farmers and landowners because of the abundant wheat harvest, says the London Telegraph. For weeks past the Russian press has been devoting its leading articles to a discussion of the measures best calculated to neutralize the effects of the coming plentiful harvest, and now, curiously enough, the question has reduced itself to this simple issue: Should the wheat be reaped and garnered in, or would it not be wiser to turn sheep and cattle into the fields and thus lessen the quantity of the produce? It seems well nigh incredible that a people who, two years ago, were in the throes of a famine and publiely offered up prayers to Heaven for an abundant harvest, should be now concerting measures for the purpose of counteracting the effects of the wishedfor abundance. But it is none the less true, and stranger still, some organs of the press, in reply to the question "Should the wheat be reaped?" have deliberately given it as their opinion that "for numerous districts it would be advisable to solve this problem in the negative." Nay, more, it now appears that many landowners refused last year to gather in the harvest, and are determined not to remove it this year either. One landlord, for instance, who owns a large estate near Odessa, and whose facilities for export are therefore exceptionally numerous foreseeing the fall of prices, purchased one thousand sheep and unhesitatingly turned them into his fields of wheat. He is said to be so satisfied with the result that he means to do likewise now that a further fall in prices is probable

The Odessa Novosti, a journal which is usually very well informed upon agricultural questions, has published a series of articles to show that to gather in the harvest this year would be tantamount to throwing good money after bad, for it can only be done at a heavy loss to farmers. A pood (thirtysix pounds) of barley, for instance, when it reaches the port of Nikolaieff from the neighboring government of Poltava costs the producer thirty-six and one-fourth copecks, whereas the market price is at present thirty-six copecks, and is bound to become less as soon as the abundance of this year's harvest is generally known. A very severe agricultural crisis is anticipated in consequence, and the well meaning efforts of the government to keep down the price of the ruble with a view to facilitating exportation, will avail nothing. The results of such a crisis may be gauged by the circumstances that Russia is an agricultural country. which cannot hope to find in the increased profits of manufactures a compensation for the falling off of corn exports. The situation is critical, and will make itself sorely felt in more than one form before the end of theyear.

of the causes that have combined to bring about the present crisis fails t bring to light a single consideration which would warrant hopes of a brighter prospect in the near future. Some authorities maintain that the prohibition to export grain which was issued by the government during the famine enabled American farmers to triumph over their Russian competitors by leaving European markets without Russian grain for a year. But most Russians hold that this was no more than the occasion; the real cause lay deeper, and is to be sought for in the manner in which the Russian producer is handicapped by domestic laws and conditions, in the negligence of Russian grain merchants, who sought to enrich themselves rather than acquir a high reputation for the native produce and in the resulting inferiority of Rusian grain. Thus Russkaia Chisn, a well-informed agricultural organ. unhesitatingly declares that the "foreign demand for Russian grain was the result of a misunderstanding, for the grain itself, owing to its quality. could not compare with that of Amer ica or even Australia and East India. and those who transacted the sale, i judged by the standard of conscien tiousness or by the commercial methods they employed, would lose by compar ison with their foreign colleagues. The journal then goes on to say that the export from Russia was artificial due exclusively to the mistaken agricultural policy of the government, which made it impossible to forward grain from the farthest corners of Russia to Germany, England and Belgium for nominal freights, while it was practically impossible to distribute it in the neighboring Russian districts where people were dying of hunger. Thus on the one hand it was scarce at home, where sorely needed, and plentiful abroad, where it; was not really

#### TORTURING TURTLES. How the Poor Reptiles Are Deprived of Their Shells.

"I never see any of the pretty arti cles made out of tortoise shell," said a citizen of Oakland, Cal., recently, "without thinking of the probable torture the poor turtles had been subjected to in order to procure the material for their manufacture. The natives in the West Indies lie in wait for the turtles as they come to the shore to deposit their eggs, then they catch them and turn them over on their backs, so that they are absolutely helpless. The operation of divesting these

creatures of their shells is cruel in the extreme. The tortoise shell that we value is merely the scales that cover the bony shield of the turtle. These scales are thirteen in number, and a large turtle will furnish about eight pounds. In order to detach this shell from the living animal (for they don't want to kill them, as in that case they would be exterminated in a few years they fasten him down, and then put dry leaves and grass under his back, to which they set are. Ine neat causes the scales to separate at the joints. They then insert a large knife beneath them and lift the shell from the back. Many turtles die under the operation, but they have been known to be eaught a second time with an outer coating reproduced, but in such cases there was only one piece, instead of

She Hated Dogs.

An aged lady, who died recently in  ${\bf a}$ **JOB PRINTING** Connecticut town, left the income of one hundred thousand dollars to be used in house painting. All who applied to have their houses painted should have it done free, provided they could prove they had not kept a dog in two years and made an oath that they would not keep one in future. The will adds: "No habit has a more deadly hold on mankind than that of dog keeping, which is itself a proof that it

A Thorough Confession. "Herbert," she said, "tell me one thing, and tell me truthfully. Were you ever intoxicated?" "Well," replied the young man, "I was air-tight once."

ought to be crushed out."

"What do you mean?" "I had a tooth pulled and took laughing gas."-Toledo Blade.

A SMART OCULIST.

He Acts as Scientific Detective and Exposes an Attempted Fraud. Here is an interesting account of a very clever bit of detective work by an

It appears that in a large factory in which were employed several hundred rsons one of the workmen in wieldhis hammer carelessly allowed it to slip from his hand. It flew half way cross the room and struck a fellow workman in the left eye. The man averred that his sight was blinded by the blow, aithough a careful examination failed to reveal any injury, there being not a scratch visible. He brought a suit in the courts for compensation for the loss of half of his eyesight, and refused all offers of compromise, says

an English paper. Under the law the owner of the factory was responsible for an injury resulting from an accident of this kind, and although he believed that the man was shamming and that the whole case was an attempt at swindling, he had about made up his mind that he would be compelled to pay the claim. The day of the trial arrived, and in open court an eminent oculist retained for the defense examined the alleged injured member and gave it as his opinion hat it was as good as the right eye. pon the plaintiff's loud protest of his nobility to see with his left eye the oculist proved him a perjurer and satisfied the court and jury of the falsity

of his claim. And how do you suppose he did it? Why, simply by knowing that the olors green and red combined make black He procured a black card on which a few work were written with green ink. Then the plaintiff was orlered to put on a pair of spectacles with two different glasses, the one for the right eye being red and the one for the left eye consisting of or linary glass. Then the card was handed him and he was ordered to read the writing on it. This he did without hesitation. and the cheat was at once exposed. The sound right eye, fitted with the ed glass, was unable to distinguish the green writing on the black surface of the card, while the left eye, which be pretended was sightless, was the one with which the reading had to be done.

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NO TIME TO SPECULATE. Prompt Action of an Engineer Saves the

Life of a Child "To do the right thing at the right moment is a great faculty," said a well-known railroad man to the Lewistown Journal man. "I saw this illustrated once. I was on the engine with Ed Chase, who was for many years ensincer on the Dexter branch of the daine Central. Now as one comes into writing village from the south there is a long down grade that makes a heavy freight or mixed train a pretty hard thing to handle there. We were sooming along at a good speed with a heavy load behind us. I was chatting arelessly with Chase, when all at once he jumped and whistled on the brakes with a vim at the same moment reversing his engine. There is something ahead there on the track,' he exlaimed. 'It' may be a dog, but may be it's somebody's body. "The breaks were put down hard and

the train slowed up and pretty soon we tween the rails playing in the gravela baby too small to think of danger It seemed certain that the train would not be held before striking her, and Chase ran out on the pilot to snatch her out of harm's way. The big engine came to a standstill only about three feet from where she still sat. She looked up, laughing merrily, as if she thought it was a fine thing to stop

"It was Chase's instantaneous action, when he didn't know whether it was child or dog, that saved the little one's life. A delay of five seconds would have been too late, for the train would certainly have gone over her. I have seen men act many times in emergensies, when cool and quick judgment was required, but never a happier in-

GETTING AROUND THE OLD MAN An Unrelenting Papa Carries His Daughter's Love Letters.

There is a business man of this city who has a very pretty daughter with whom one of papa's office staff has allen hopelessly in love, says the Detroit Free Press. As the young man is not invited to the paternal mansion. and the young woman has been notified to keep away from the paternal office. the course of their love does not flow very smoothly. However, they have hit upon an expedient which gives them a channel of communication, and they will continue to employ it if papa's eyes do not rest on this expose. It was the girl who thought of it-it always is the girl who finds a clew to the situ-

It is this way: When papa enters the office in the morning he hangs his hat on a certain nail among a row of other hats and proceeds to business. Then the interested clerk, while the head of the firm is reading his morning mail. takes the hat from the nail where it inung, looks inside, slips his hand under the lining and takes out a tiny missive. which he at once conveys to his own pocket, and the contents of which delight and amuse him all day.

At night when papa returns home his pretty daughter slips into the hall and makes a raid on that hat, always finding there an answer to her missive of the morning. How much longer papa will occupy the position of Cupid's mail-carrier remains to be seen. He will be madder than a hatter when he finds it out.

Antiquity of the Pump-The common water pump of to-day is but an improvement on a Grecian invention which first came into general use during the reign of the Ptolemies, Philadelphes and Energetes, 283 to 221 B. C. The name, which is very similar in all languages, is derived from the Greek word "pempo," to send or throw. The most ancient description we have of the water pump is by Hero of Alexander. There is no authentic account if its general use outside of Egypt previous to its introduction into the German provinces at about the opening of the sixteenth century. Pumps with plungers and pistons were invented by Morland, an Englishman, in 1674; the double acting pump by De la Hire, the French academician, some twenty years

A family of dwarfs has been living at Applecross, in the west of Rosshire, Scotland, for over balf a century Mary Finlayson, one of them, died there recently. She was the youngest of the family, which consisted of herself and two brothers, and had reached the age of sixty-five years. The members of the family vary in height from three feet to three and one-half feet and have appeared before the queen at frequent intervals during the past forty years.

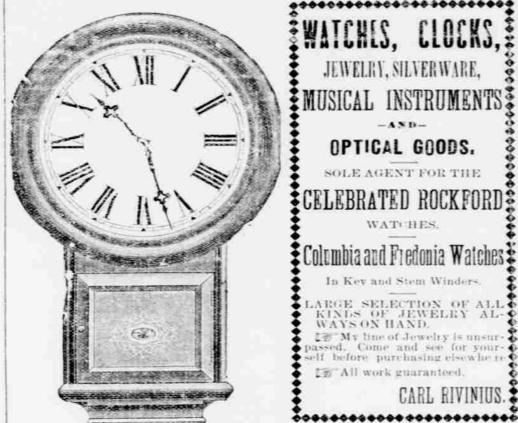
Royalty and Home Industry. The ladies of the British royal family show a commendable feeling in their patronage of home industries. Several of them were British silks at the court this summer, and now the queen has ordered some Irish poplins for the trousseau of Princess Alix of Hesse, the bride-to-be of the czarowitz of Russia. They are supplied by a Dublin firm, and the designs contain small gold to E Lawrence st., Cascinant, o. 560 shamrocks in profusion.

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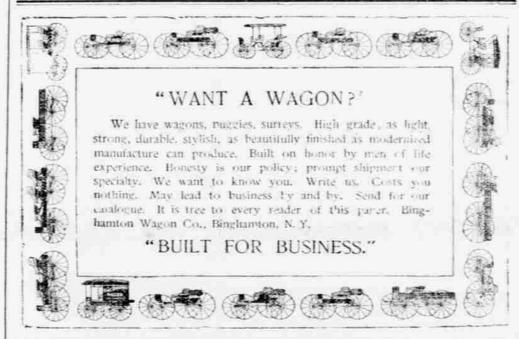
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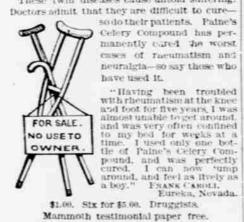


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CELESTIAL PHOTOGRAPHY. The Hazy Light of the Milky Way-Myriads of Stars.

Sensitive as are the salts of silver in the gelatine plates, they do not equal in this respect the living matter of the retina, on which images of objects are continually being formed and obliterated, says Longman's Magazine. Notwithstanding this, celestial objects can be photographed that will never be seen by the keenest eyes, aided by the most powerful telescope that can se made. One reason of this is that the photographic plate is sensitive to far greater range of vibrations than the eye. Not only is it acted upon, to slight extent, by the visual rays, but those as rapid as 40,000,000,000 a

Another reason is that, while the human retina can only retain an impression for about one-seventh of a second, the feeblest light that falls upon the sensitive plate is not lost, but is stored up. Hence, the photopher's plate was well called by metal "the ratina that forgets not." hat cannot be seen by the eye at a race will not reveal itself, though gaze an hour; whereas, the emical action on the plate at the end of an hour is 3,000 times what it was at the end of a second. The countless millions of waves of light striking persistently upon one point of the an image of the star. In this way aparently blank parts of the heaven ave been shown to be crowded with

The total number of stars visible to ac unked eye in the whole heavens is nly about 6,000; with our large teleopes this number becomes more than 0.0,000, while with the photographic ce it cannot be less than 160,000,000. sided, according to Dr. Roberts, it come as if the photographic plate would become simply a mass of stars f sufficient exposure were allowed. This is well illustrated by photographs of portions of the milky way, "that brend and ample road, whose dust is gold and pavements stars." They show has its hugy light, which tenses the eye and cludes the skill of the artist, is imply the efforts of myriads of stars beyond our range of vision.

#### BROKE UP THE SHOW.

The Man in the Box Office Wanted a Cross-Eyed Man to Pay Double. "I once had an idea," said the showman. "It was brand-new and a corker. I went to see a three-ring eir eus one day, and while I was there it struck me that if I put a variety show on the road with two separate and distinel turns going on at the same time the people would be tickled with it are I would make money. I figured it out that there are many times when a men, goes to a variety show and yawns through a turn because he has seen it before or something of the kind. Now, if there were two turns going on the man could look at the other one, you know, and would come away saying it was a great show. It would be only occasionally we would strike a man who would be bored by two turns at the same time. The plan seemed a tiptopper, and I got a partner who had money and we started to put it into exput on a show that was a pretty good one. We had eighteen turns, and we ran them two at a time. For instance if there was a serio-comic on the stage we would have a trapeze net from the dome of the theater, and things went along as if they had been greased The partner I had was a man who had never been in the show business before, and he didn't know a great deal about it, as a matter of course. Seeing that he had put up the money. I let him have a few words to say about the front of the house. On the fifth night out we had a row and the show bustes

"What was the row about?" asked the Buffalo Express reporter. "Oh, my partner was in the boxoffice and he tried to make a cross-evec man pay double, claiming that he could see both turns at once and would get twice his money's worth. The cross-eved man wouldn't have it. and there was a fight. That fight marked the death of the greatest idea in the show business since the tank was invented, for my partner pulled out and bought an interest in a church furniture concern."

then and there. Since then I have

never found anyone who would go into

#### NOT THE LIQUOR HE WANTED. The Tipsy Man Not Yet Ready for a Dose of Embalming Finid.

It was 4 o'clock a. m. and as yet there was not a saloon open in town. An Indianapolis Sentinel man was out for a ride on his bicycle as an appetizer before breakfast, and as he passed along he met a poor traveler who was search-"Shay," said the traveler, "I'm dry;

can ye telerfeller where he can get sompin' t'drink?"

The reporter could not but slowed up and talked to the man as they went along together. Soon the man spied a light ahead at a place where he knew there was a saloon, or had been the "Now I'm fixed" he said. "Zere's a

friend of mine," and he started at a more rapid pace in the direction of the light. He rushed into the place and found a young man straightening the furniture about. To the reporter it was evident that there was no saloon there, but to the half intoxicated man the sight of the bar was sufficient, and, squaring himself, he said: "Give me some of your best likker;" and then, "what's yours, pardner?"

"Well," said the boy, "our best is pretty good, but not what you need at present. The only liquor we have is embalming fluid.

An undertaking establishment was moving in where a saloon had just discontinued business. The man with the appetite for drink bowed politely, and as he edged for the door said: "Seuse me, but you'r got the wrong feller. I'll no doubt see you later, but not now. Ta, ta."

In 1850 the proportion of lawyers to the male population in this country was one in 494 and in 1880 it was one in 398. The number of lawyers in legislatures has always been greater than their proportion of the population would warrant. In Maine there has been on the average one lawyer for each ten members; in Vermont and Rhode Island, one for each twelve; in Connecticut and in New Hampshire, one in sixteen, and in Massachusetts, one in nine. Of the entire number of Cnited States senators since 1787, 2,068 out of 3,122 have been lawyers. Of the twenty-four presidents of the United States nineteen have been lawrers. Seventeen of the twenty-three vice presidents and 218 of the 232 cabinet officers have been members of the

The Fish's Power.

A fish exerts its great propulsive power with its tail, not its fins. The paddle wheel was made on the fin theory of propulsion, and the screw propeller had its origin in noting the action of the tail. It is now shown that the fins of the tail actually perform the evolutions described by the propeller blades, and that the fish in its sinuous motion through the water depends on the torsional action of the | 201, 203 & 205 Market St. tail to give it power.

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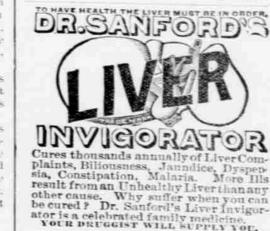
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