

The Mexican Presidency.

The Constitution of the Mexican Republic was adopted in 1857, during the Presidency of Comonfort. In most respects it is copied from that of the United States. The President is elected for a term of four years by the Congress. The Congress has its Senate and House of Representatives. The Senate is composed of two members from each State, elected, not like the Representatives, by popular vote, but by the State Legislature, as ours are. The Representatives must be 25 years, the Senators 30 years of age. Every Senator and Representative gets a salary of \$2000 a year. The Congress must meet every year. In the vacations of Congress a Council of Government sits permanently. It consists of the President of the Senate and one-half of the Senators. The Constitution of 1857 provided that the Chief-Justice of the Supreme Court should become President of the republic in case of the death, removal or disability of the President elected by the Congress before the expiration of his term. It was by this plan of succession that Juarez became President. He was the Chief-Justice when Comonfort was assassinated by the church party; and at the expiration of the term for which Comonfort had been elected, Juarez was re-elected to the Presidency. His second term expiring in 1865, when the French had possession of the country, he was again re-elected. Twenty years of experience has convinced the Mexican Congress that the plan of succession from the head of the Judiciary to the head of the Executive Department does not work well. It involves the Judiciary in politics more than is consistent with a proper regard for the sanctity of the Supreme Court. And now a change of the Constitution is announced, providing for a simpler, surer and better mode of succession. It is this: If the President dies or is removed, his successor shall be that Senator who presided over the Senate during the month next preceding such death or removal. And when the Senate is not in session the President of the permanent Senatorial Committee is to be the President of the Republic for the remainder of the unexpired term. This amendment, proposed by Congress, takes effect after ratification by the people at a special election.

Straw as Fuel.

In Russia, Wallachia and many other districts straw is so abundant, corn being so largely grown, that it is a perfect drug in the market, and has to be burnt in large stacks, merely to get rid of it. There are now engines made, more particularly the portable steam-engines used largely for farming purposes, which are so arranged that straw can be used as fuel for generating steam, without the employment of either wood or coal. The arrangement that is found most favorable is the engine on Head and Schemieth's patent—constructed by Messrs. Ransomes Head & Jefferies, Ipswich—in which the straw is automatically fed into the furnace by means of toothed rollers, very similar in action to a chaffcutting machine. To enable our readers to further understand the advantages of such an invention, we should add that in addition to straw almost every other description of vegetable refuse may be burnt; for instance, cotton and maize stalks, gorse, jungle grass, etc., and by simply removing the patent feeding apparatus the furnace can also be fired with coal and wood in the ordinary manner. It is hardly necessary to point out that by means of this invention steam-power can now be introduced into distant countries, which, on account of the absence of coal or other suitable fuel, have hitherto been debarred from its many advantages.

Cat Stories.

In the house of a clergyman in this city the "harmless, necessary cat" is a great family pet, the good domine following the example of Montague in beguiling many an idle hour with the graceful gambols of puss, and surreptitiously conveying dainty morsels to her from his own dish. On going to breakfast the other day, what was the parson's surprise to see in the very centre of his plate a young rat, placed there with almost mathematical precision by the cat, as if to express her gratitude for the many favors received from her master by returning the best gift in her power to make, denying herself a tidbit to prove her affection. It is needless to say that puss' breach of decorum was condoned in view of the spirit which seemed to prompt it.—*Lowell (Mass.) Mail.*

A Baltimore cat who has been kept in a cage with monkeys has become indispensable in the monkeys' social point of view. Once when she was taken out of the cage she, too, became inconsolable. For two days she moped around, grew thin and refused to eat, and the keeper was forced to put her back. Her delight was unbounded. She licked all the little monkeys and hugged all the big ones, and since then has refused to leave the cage.

Highbred Theatricals.

Recently 500 ladies and gentlemen, forming the best society in Vienna, assembled in the palace of the German Ambassador, Prince Reuss, to witness the performance of a comic operetta, which had been a topic of interest for some time among those concerned in it. The operetta is called "Ten Girls and No Husband." Both words and music are by Viennese authors. A father has ten girls, who are all pretty, and whose talents have been carefully developed in every possible direction, so that they are even prepared to turn soldier if need be. The part of the father was played by Prince Lichtenstein. The daughters were impersonated by the Princesses Aersperg and Kinsky, the young Princess Metternich, the Baroness Rothschild, and six more young ladies of equal rank. The Princess Pauline Metternich had undertaken the part of a pert chambermaid, who mimics the drolleries of her master and mistress. There was a round of enthusiastic applause when the ten high-born ladies appeared in the uniform of an old Vienna crack regiment, and performed military evolutions at the command of their droll father, while the chambermaid was beating the drum. There is a scene in which each girl shows her special talent, which is different in each of the ten. Thus the Baroness Rothschild recited a comic monologue, the Countess Wilzsch sang a comic air, and the young Princess Metternich danced a cazarinas, the national dance of the Hungarians.

Agricultural.

Charcoal is highly recommended as a preventive of disease among sheep, and in an English pamphlet the following recipe for its use appears: The charcoal should be given mixed with the food, except in urgent cases, when it may be mixed in water or thin gruel, and given as a drench. The dose is 1 pint to every 25 head of sheep or lambs. One-quarter pint per head for full-grown cattle, horses or pigs; half the quantity for young cattle, and two teaspoonfuls to one dessertspoonful for young calves.

It has been discovered that potash for potatoes does little good unless applied early and thoroughly mixed with the soil. This may indicate either that the plant needs the potash in its earlier stages of growth or that the alkali serves other purposes in developing plant food in the soil, which requires a longer time. It is probable that crude potash is rarely or never used as plant food. As it absorbs nitrogen and becomes a nitrate of potash its virtues become available for plant nutrition.

Fattening horses is well understood by jockeys, and may well be studied by farmers who have horses to sell. A horse well fed and kept steadily at work will gain slowly and his flesh will be solid and enduring. This is best for the buyer, and has the advantage for the seller that the horse earns his keeping while being put into condition. The jockey method is to feed oil-meal, exercise little or not at all, and make a glossy coat, which will soon become rough and staring when the horse is put at hard work.

All kinds of fowls are natives of warm or semi-tropical climates. However long they have been domesticated, they retain their liking for warm weather, or at least warm quarters in cold weather. In the winter season they will do better in close houses, even with little ventilation, rather than exposed to severe weather. When a young chick will rest under its mother's wing in a summer's night at a temperature of 100, or more, there is little danger of smothering an old fowl in winter in a tight house.

Economizing Labor and Space.

There are few people who are more generally economical than the Germans, and an instance of their ability to make much out of a little has recently come under my notice which seems worthy of attention.

One of my friends has her garden worked on shares by a German. Early in the spring he put out a quantity of cabbage plants, giving a little more space between the roots than is usually allowed. The cabbages were easily worked with a horse. Later, when the time for setting celery plants had come he planted double rows of celery between the cabbage. The celery rows are not over eight inches apart, and in the same trench, so that when banked not more than half the work will be required to prepare them for bleaching that would be necessary if the plants were set in the usual way. The cabbages are nearly ready for use, and will soon leave the celery in full possession of the soil.

Every part of this garden is utilized. When the early potatoes were ripe they were dug and turnips were sown on the land. Vacant spaces in other parts of the garden have been filled with superfluous plants from the beet bed.

Where space is somewhat limited it richly repays the labor to fill the ground and keep something growing everywhere. The ground will need thorough fertilization when it is cropped so persistently

ly; and when one does not keep a pig to eat up the refuse from vegetables dishwater, etc., it is a good plan to have a compost heap where such articles may be turned to account. All the weeds (which should never be allowed to ripen seed) from the garden, fine chips, if wood is used, roots and fine brush, leaves and clippings from the lawn should go into the compost heap. These, with an occasional sprinkling of dry earth to prevent unpleasant odors, will absorb the slops from the house, and prove a valuable fertilizer at slight expense. The compost heap should be turned over once or twice during the season to insure decomposition, and it should not be placed too near the house.

Bones, old boots and shoes, broken utensils and the like should be burned, and their ashes spread around the peach trees. Should there be a clay spot in the garden, that is the place for the fire. Coal ashes seem to be of no use except for garden walks and carriage drives; but wood ashes benefit almost any kind of vegetation.

Recent Legal Decisions.

RAILROADS—CARRYING FREIGHT—CONTRACTS FOR THROUGH FREIGHT.

Melons were shipped at Galveston to Chicago in refrigerating cars under an agreement that they should be carried to Chicago in the same cars, but at the end of the first line the cars were broken open, shipper having retained the keys, and the melons were put in the cars of the connecting line which were less adapted to their safe transportation. For the loss of the goods, which rotted, the owner sued the first line, and recovered a judgment. The company carried the case in error—Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad Company vs. Allison—to the Supreme Court of Texas, where the judgment was affirmed. The Chief Justice, Willier in the opinion, said: "There is a conflict in the testimony as to whether or not the plaintiff agreed with the company that it should be held liable for any damage and the Court charged the jury that if they believe that the company was not to be liable beyond its own route it would not be responsible for any damage beyond its terminus unless it agreed that the melons should be carried in the same car. It has been generally held that where there is no express statute forbidding it a carrier may contract not to be liable for damages which do not occur from the negligence of himself or his servants or agents. But when he undertakes to carry goods not only over his own route but over connecting lines as well he cannot contract that his responsibility may terminate at the end of his own line. He will be responsible for the negligence not only of himself and his servants but for the connecting lines, they being considered his agents for carrying out the particular contract. An exemption from liability, except for negligence, is, however, available when the carrier forwards the goods consigned to him in the manner and by the route with reference to which the contract is made. If he deviates from his route, or forwards the goods by different conveyances from those contemplated by his agreement, he becomes an insurer of the goods, and cannot avail himself of any exceptions made in his behalf in the contract. The contract to forward the melons in this case through from Galveston and Chicago on the cars in which they were loaded was an entire contract. By changing the cars after they left the appellant's road the risk of the sale transportation of the melons was assumed by its agents, the connecting line where the change occurred, for the company, and it becomes liable notwithstanding the stipulation against beyond its own terminus."

MALICIOUS PROSECUTION—PROBABLE CAUSE.—A railroad officer and his company were sued in an action for malicious prosecution in causing the arrest and trial of a dealer in railroad tickets, whom they charged with uttering, altering and forging one limited excursion ticket. The prosecution had failed. In this case the plaintiff recovered a judgment and the defendants carried the case in error—Thelin vs. Dorsey—to the Court of Appeals of Maryland, where the judgment was reversed. Judge Irving, in the opinion, said: "The defendant knew the business of the plaintiff, and it was natural for him to suppose that he could not have sold the ticket without seeing what was in the respect to the limitation. And, besides, the ticket bore discernible marks of the erasure of the limitation. He therefore had reasonable ground for suspicion and belief, upon which he could act in prosecuting the plaintiff. He cannot be held accountable for his prosecution, though the plaintiff was innocent of the charge. The test of want of probable cause is that the defendant must act in bad faith. The evidence that the plaintiff had been engaged in dealing in fraudulent tickets before, to the knowledge of the defendant, was competent, because the defendant might have been influenced by such knowledge to suspect guilt in the prosecution."

Economy of the Household.

BREAD STEAKS.—Add a little milk, pepper, salt and spice to an egg and beat well together. Cut some slices of bread of even size and shape and fry a light brown in butter or oil. Drain on paper, pile on a dish, and serve with tomato sauce.

RICE CHICKEN PIE.—Cover the bottom of a pudding-dish with slices of broiled ham; cut up a boiled chicken and nearly fill the dish; add chopped onions, if you like, or a little curry powder, which is better. Then add boiled rice to fill all interstices and to cover the top thick. Bake it for one-half or three-quarters of an hour.

MOCK CREAM TOAST.—Melt in one quart of morning's milk about two ounces of butter, a large teaspoonful of flour freed from lumps and the yolks of three eggs beaten light. Beat these ingredients together for several minutes strain the cream through a fine hair sieve, and when wanted beat in constantly with a brisk movement.

RIZ A LA TOMATE.—Boil half a pound of rice with one very small onion chopped fine; when done and nearly dry stir in two tablespoonfuls of grated cheese, three of nice tomato sauce, one teaspoonful of chopped parsley, a teaspoonful of sweet herbs, a little cayenne pepper and salt and a large tablespoonful of the best fresh butter. Form into a mound and serve very hot.

FRENCH BEANS A LA POULETTE.—Choose some young and tender French beans and remove all fibres by breaking off the ends; wash, and boil in boiling water; when done toss them in melted butter seasoned with chopped chives and parsley; stir in a little flour, a pinch of salt and some stock; reduce the sauce, thicken with yolks of eggs, flavor with a few drops of lemon, and serve.

SARDINE TOAST.—Divide some sardines lengthwise, removing skin, bones, and tails; add a little of the oil from the tin and put into the oven between two plates, letting them get quite hot. Take some thin strips of bread, the exact length of the sardines, fry them in butter, put half a sardine on each slice, sprinkle on cayenne pepper and salt and a squeeze of lemon juice, and serve very hot.

VEAL CUTLETS.—Put a piece of butter into a stewpan with a small sprig of chopped parsley; stir over the fire until very hot; then pour over a cupful of white sauce—the yolks of three or four eggs well beaten. Stir constantly until as thick as cream, but do not let it boil. Dip each cutlet into it covering it thickly with the sauce and again set away to cool. Then egg and bread-crumbs them. Fry lightly.

SWISS MEAT OMELETS.—A good way to use cold meat is to chop it fine with raisins, nutmeg, salt, lemon and juice; and add one egg, one tablespoonful of sugar, cloves. The above mixture is the middle of the omelets. Three eggs, one pint of milk, two teacups of flour; make the batter thin. Fry it in a little lard, put a spoonful of chopped meat in the centre, and fold the fried batter around it once.

MARMALADE FRITTERS.—Spread two lines thick of peach marmalade on two-inch round cuts of wafer bread, lay other cuts of the same size over, press gently with the hand and smooth the edges; dip in a flour batter (first adding to the batter some whites of eggs, beaten to a froth), fry slightly brown in hot lard, drain on a cloth, besprinkle with powdered sugar, dish up on a folded napkin and serve.

BEEF STEW.—To make an appetizing beef stew take out the bone and bind the pieces of beef tightly, putting a lemon, pared and cut in two, and some herbs in before binding. Place it in as small a stewpan or kettle as will allow of its being covered with water. Let it cook slowly and gently; do not add any water unless absolutely necessary. Slice a large onion and fry it brown, and add to the water also any sliced vegetables you choose, or cook the vegetables in a kettle by themselves and serve on the platter with the beef. If you do not add any water you will have a very rich gravy, and a portion of it may be reserved for soup stock.

The Farmer's Lawn.

Most farmers appreciate the beauty of a large, level, clean-shaven lawn. It is one of the most attractive features to any estate. The pure, vivid green of the even sward cannot be imitated by any artifice. There are few farmers, however, who have the time or means to ornament extensively. A good lawn can be made at very little expense, and can be kept in good order even without the aid of a lawn mower. In the first place, one should learn that it is poor taste to plant flower beds directly in front of the house. They give a much better effect if planted at one side and a little in the rear. Have the yard in front of the residence a smooth plane of grass, with a few neat shrubs or trees scattered regularly upon it. Make no

pretensions to geometrical forms in walks or flower-beds. Trees look best in the yard if not set in regular rows. If thus set one vacancy or one ill-looking tree will spoil the effect of the whole row. The simpler and more natural the arrangement the more pleasant the effect.

It is not difficult to make a good lawn. In the first place, a good foundation should be provided for the grass. Though this is the most important, yet this is the part usually neglected. The ground should be made rich and level, even if it occupies two or three years. Plow it up, harrow and rake it over carefully, manure well and manage to have the whole thoroughly subdued. This done, sow a very liberal quantity of grass seed, and sow it by itself. It will do just as well or better than if sown with oats or wheat; under such a practice no stubble will remain on the ground. Sow grass seed at the rate of a bushel or more to the acre. The more the better, for the sooner the sod will be grown. It does not pay to sod the yard unless one is in a hurry for the lawn. Sodding is expensive. The borders of the walks may be sodded, however. The sods should be cut about ten or twelve inches wide and rolled up from beneath with a spade. Ten or fifteen feet of sod may be rolled up into one roll, and it can be unrolled again on the border.

Sod is usually cut too thick. An inch and a half is thick enough. When the sod is laid it should be pounded down as much as possible. A very heavy block of wood with a handle is good for ramming down the sod, and the latter will be much more apt to grow if well attended to in this respect. The sod borders should be lower than surrounding lawn, for the loose soil back of them will be sure to settle an inch or more. If the sod is cut thin and well laid it will be sure to grow well. June-grass sod is the best for a lawn. This is the same as that sold under the name of Kentucky blue grass. Timothy and orchard grass are not good for lawns, as they form clumps and soon make the ground uneven.

A light dressing of fine and well-rolled manure every spring is desirable. It is useless to apply manure when the ground is frozen, as it is usually washed away before the ground thaws out. The lawn once made, the grass should be cut frequently. This can be nicely done with a sharp scythe. The oftener the grass is mowed the stiffer and more even the sod will become, and the more the grass will tiller out. A lawn prepared and kept in this manner is not expensive. Children soon become interested in work of adornment and will keep the yard clear of all the rubbish, and the flowerbeds, if there be any, in good order. Such work is an educator and an element of refinement.

A flower garden or a fountain is by no means essential to a beautiful lawn. Indeed, they often mar its best effect. Too few in number of ornaments on a beautiful sod is better than too many. Two or three small, neat patches of flowers at one side contrast nicely with the sward. Too many look crowded. It is best to raise only the well-tried and hardy garden flowers. Three or four kinds are better than twenty. The farmer should learn that simple ornamentation is not expensive. A simple neat arrangement is cheaper and more pleasing than a cumbersome pretentious and expensive system.

Vine Grafting.

The planting and grafting of grape vines this year in the northern vineyards of California is marked by a universal demand for noted and rare foreign varieties.

Many of the oldest and best vineyards in Sacramento, Napa, San Joaquin and Santa Clara counties are extensively grafting on the old stocks, using the finest and most valuable cuttings procurable from French, Spanish and German vineyards. Different varieties do not flourish equally in the same soil, after ascertaining whether a vineyard is best adapted to raisin or table grapes, a specialty should be made of these varieties. Until this subject is studied with more care and labor than it has yet received, our grape-growers cannot know the full capacities of our varied soils. The most famous European vineyards, some consisting of only a few acres, having attained their world wide celebrity through the perfect adaptability of variety of vine to soil, in some instances, the effect changing at a distance of a few rods. It would be wise for vineyardists to exercise judgment in improving as far as possible the tone, flavor, quality and richness of present bearing vines before planting new ones.—*Santa Barbara Press.*

At a recent meeting of the Leeds and West Riding Medico-Chirurgical Society, Mr. Margeton, of Dewsbury, exhibited an incandescent electric lamp, designed by himself and used by himself since October last in examining the mouth and throat. The globe was about half the size of a walnut. It can be held in the mouth for two minutes without discomfort from the heat.

The Latest.

UNIQUE BRIDAL ROBES.—Some charming conceits are illustrated in wedding dresses, which are far more attractive than the regulation marriage garments, with their everlasting orange blossoms.

Most exquisite is a dress for a lovely blonde bride in silver white satin, with the plain front perpendicularly trimmed with graduated bands of net, embroidered in wild roses, with crystal beads, the golden hearts being formed of amber beads. The drapery is in folds over the hips and forms train; above the hem in front and about border of train at irregular intervals are placed sprays of golden-hearted wild white roses, with buds and leaves, and the loopings of the over-drapery are secured beneath larger sprays of the same flowers.

The pointed corsage, which is laced in the back, has about its lower edge a band of the crystal and amber bead embroidery, in smaller wild roses than those decorating the front width of the skirt. Frills of handsome Brussels lace finish neck and sleeves, with wreaths of small artificial wild roses below the lace at the throat and above on the sleeves. A garland of roses, buds and leaves is secured on the left shoulder and is passed diagonally across the corsage front and allowed to fall in a cluster of spray over the edge of the waist, below the right hand. The Brussels net veil reaches the edge of train and is secured on the head beneath the wreath of wild roses. The gloves are of white kid, stockings silk and shoes of the dress material.

A perfectly superb toilet had the trained skirt of embossed velvet in floral effects, the heart of each flower being embroidered in clear diamond-cut beads. The edge of skirt was finished with fine side pleatings of satin headed by a flounce of Brussels lace. The bodice consisted of a white satin waist, over which was worn a jersey jacket or corsage knitted in diamond figures, the point of each figure being tipped with one of the clear-cut beads. The effect of this robe was most brilliant, for the prismatic beads radiated with every movement of the wearer in gas or electric light. The rich lace veil was secured by diamond pins and diamond necklace and earrings perfected the magnificent toilet. The combination costumes in brocades, velvets and plushes with rich plain silks and satins are now very fashionable for bridal purposes. These fabrics are not always in white, pale tints being in favor.

PRETTY EVENING DRESSES.—A most becoming dress for a brunette can be made after a foreign model, of pink Bengaline, with its short skirt covered with alternating flounces of white lace and white gauze, embroidered with white silk. The paniers are of pink Bengaline, with a pink satin sash low on the puff at the back. The high bodice is laced in the back; pink roses are worn—also pink silk stockings and pink satin shoes.

An entirely novel evening toilette has the short skirt of lilac satin, pleated at the lower edge and trimmed up the entire front with puffs of a plain sheer lilac fabric. The back is formed of embroidered gauze, in large polka dots, arranged in a deep puff, with the fullness forming a deep overskirt, reaching to the skirt pleating. The waist is of purple velvet, trimmed across the front in festoons with tasseled ends. Square-cut neck, short sleeves, both finished with lace frills and red roses.

Flowers are much used as evening dresses. Garlands of flowers reach from the left shoulder to the point of bodice, and often is carried round the figure, over one hip and down to the bottom of the skirt at the side. On short dresses for dancing, garlands are placed over the hems. Favored flowers are wild roses, daisies, heart's-ease, lilies and vine leaves, such as grapes and small-leaved vines.

Great Mortality among Foundlings.

Unhappy is the lot of the infant deserted by its natural protector and cast upon the mercies of Chicago charitable institutions. Of 125 foundlings admitted into the home for the friendless during the year 1882, no less than 97 died in the institution, and several died after being given away to private individuals. For this reason the directors of the home have decided to accept no more babies, and as the foundling's home is already over crowded, the waifs of the doorsteps will have nowhere to go. It is evident that some immediate action must be taken for the care of these unfortunate infants, and a magnificent chance for the exertion of practical benevolence is opened to the charitable public.

Lieutenant Dunwoody, U. S. A., Disbursing Officer of the National Board of Health, complained to the police that his desk had been robbed. He accused the watchman. The latter was arrested, searched and released. He said it was a "put-up-job" on Dunwoody's part.