

## FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

### ITEMS OF TIMELY INTEREST TO THE FARMERS.

**The Home Garden. Self-Sucking Cows. Flax on Soil. Smut in Wheat. Keeping Sheep.**

#### THE HOME GARDEN.

Remove the dead leaves from plants every day and spray the foliage with water. This will give the plants a fresh appearance and will, in great measure, keep down insects. Tie up neatly to stakes all straggling growing plants. Cleanliness of this kind helps to keep the air of the room pure and contributes to the vigor of the plants. Turn the pots frequently so that the plants may not grow one-sided.

#### SELF-SUCKING COWS.

Professor W. Saunders, of the Canadian experimental farms, has been making experiments in flax growing. He states that "the difference in exhaustion effect of these several crops (wheat, oats and flax) on a rich soil would scarcely be perceptible, and would not justify the opinion that flax is a very exhausting crop." When grown for fiber, flax is pulled at a cost of \$4 to \$5 per acre, the yield of fiber averaging one and a half tons, and of grain eight to nine bushels per acre. The average yield in Manitoba when grown for seed in 1895 was 15 1/2 bushels per acre.—American Farmer.

#### FLAX ON SOIL.

A bulletin on the subject of self-sucking cows has been issued by the North Carolina Experiment Station. Two remedies are proposed: Boil a handful of quassia chips (can be got in drug stores) for several hours in about one gallon of water. Wash the cow's teats in this after every milking for ten days. Always wash every teat before milking, using a gallon of clean water in which a spoonful of powdered soap has been dissolved. If the milk tastes of quassia, feed it to pigs. The bitterness of the quassia remains in the cow's memory and prevents further trials at sucking after the ten days.

The other method consists in splitting the tongue near the point used to draw up toward the teat in the act of sucking. Fasten the cow securely, and drawing out the tongue, cut it a little to one side of the middle and one-half to two inches out toward the front and near the point. Then feed on soft bran washes for a few days until the wound heals, and it will be impossible for the cow to suck after that. One correspondent tried chair frames and side bars until tired out and desperate, when the mutilated tongue cured the habit.—Ohio Farmer.

#### SMUT IN WHEAT.

The Minnesota Station has been experimenting in preventing smut in wheat. The experiments with the copper sulphate consisted of either sprinkling the grain with the solutions or dipping the grain into the solutions, and after each treatment part of the seed was limed and part hot limed. In the hot water treatment the temperature employed were, for first dipping, 120 degrees F., and for the second 130 or 135 degrees, the times of immersion varying from two to ten minutes. The best results obtained were those in which the seed was dipped until thoroughly wet in a solution of one-half pound copper sulphate to sixteen gallons of water, after which it was dried in lime and in the hot water treatment, where the grain was soaked in water at 120 degrees for ten minutes and then for ten minutes at 135 degrees. In each case 0.1 per cent. smutted plants were grown from the seed as compared with from 11 to 20.6 per cent. in the check lots. Soaking the seed in cold water for fifteen minutes gave 10.4 per cent. smut, and in a saturated salt solution 3.3 per cent.

#### KEEPING SHEEP.

Manage your warm feed for sheep so that you don't have to feed much timothy to them. Dr. Galen Wilson calls timothy the "bane of sheep feed," writes "J. W. P." of Matamoras, Pa. (Slaver is tip-top, and we feed cornstarch a great deal. They will eat considerable of rye straw, but possibly too much of rye heads would not be best. They will also eat through buckwheat straw. They are fond of turnips, and will also eat cabbage, pumpkins and small potatoes. If the hay that you feed your horse is not pure, the sheep are very fond of picking over the bushes, etc., that the horses may leave.

Give your ewes a little grain a winter, rather than only at breeding time. If you use corn you can feed it on the ear, and by so doing save expense of shelling or grinding. It is said not to pay to grind grain to feed sheep. A neighbor of mine feeds a little buckwheat. We keep salt before the sheep winter and summer. Sheep are very useful in eating young bushes and weeds in pastures.

We have never had much success in raising lambs on the bottle, when they are disowned by the ewes. If you wish the tails to be docked it should be done as soon as the young lamb begins to frisk and play about. If it has to be done later, when the tail is severed, put on pulverized bluestone, which can be obtained of the apothecary. To succeed well with sheep, of course, one should have a liking for them. If you wish to butcher a sheep, the hide can be easily cured by sprinkling a teaspoonful of fine salt on the flesh side of the hide at once, and rubbing it in with the hand, especially where a little of the meat is left on the skin.

Sheep manure is said to be very valuable as a fertilizer on the farm. We have been very free of sheepclips in our flock of late, and I attribute it to my mixing a little spirits of turpentine with their salt.—New York Tribune.

#### TREE FARMING.

The importance of tree farming in the lands which, either from lack of food material in them or from location, as on steep hillsides, are fit for nothing else, and the money to be made in it, is being quietly proved in hundreds of localities. Tree planting, to prevent the loss of fertility and the loss of moisture, is rarely appreciated even by those whose farms are washed away by driving rain. The forest covering protects the soil in the following ways:

1. By preventing rain from falling directly upon the soil, the foliage of the tree crowns intercepting and breaking its force, the water reaching the soil more gently from the leaves along the branches and trunks of the trees.
2. By interposing a loose cover, a mulch of litter, formed by the fall on branches and leaves, which breaks the direct force of the raindrops, and keeps the soil from being compacted or padded by their blows.
3. The deeply penetrating roots and holes left from decayed stumps and roots of trees assist in this underground drainage.
4. The litter, with the stumps and protecting roots and trunks of trees, prevents the water from rapidly running over the ground, and from gaining the momentum and force which is necessary in order to gully the soil, and prevents the drifting and the rapid thawing of snow, thereby insuring more even distribution of the waters, and increases the time during which it can be absorbed into the soil.

Wherever the ground in hilly country is not fit for agricultural use it should be kept and set as forest, not only to make it produce a timber crop, but to prevent the washing. The forest should occupy all hill-tops, which, as a rule, have too thin a soil for profitable agricultural use; it should be kept growing on the steeper slopes, where the water acquires the greatest momentum, and the loosening of the soil by the plow favors erosion, and it should be on all rocky and uneven spots, because producing useful material even on such unfavorable situations.—The Silver Knight.

#### REASONS FOR DRAINING LANDS.

A Canadian monthly called Farming publishes the following from Mr. Munro McNabb, of Ontario, who has laid over eight miles of drains on his own farm, with a constant improvement in the crops yielded as the consequence:

At the present period in our agricultural history, when we are all studying how best to produce a larger quantity and a better quality of farm products, if we were to ask ourselves what are the essentials necessary to the successful production of crops, we should certainly answer, "Drainage, tillage and manuring."

The first place must, however, be given to drainage, for every one will admit that in order to grow crops successfully, we must have a dry soil.

There are people who will still assert that draining heavy clays will injure them, and to any one who is unacquainted with the effect of draining, it appears to be a contradiction to state that drained land is dryer in wet weather and more moist in dry weather than undrained land, but experience proves this to be the case. The object in draining is not to get the water off the land, but to get it to pass through the land. This is in order that the soil may have the opportunity of catching hold of and retaining what fertilizing constituents of the water the soil does require may not pass off with the water through the drains.

Also, when the water passes through the soil it leaves perforations or channels through which the air is enabled to penetrate the soil and act upon the vegetable matter contained therein, and render it available for plant food.

On the other hand, in undrained land the water is stagnant and fills up all the pores of the soil, and the land remains cold; also the heat which is in the atmosphere above cannot get into the soil until the water in the soil is evaporated; hence, we find that the temperature of undrained soils is lower than that of drained soils. Careful experiments conducted in England have shown that there is a difference of seven degrees of temperature in favor of drained land.

The advantages we gain from draining are the following:

1. It enables us to work our land much earlier in the spring. The benefit which is to be gained from early seeding is evident to every one in this country of short seasons. Experiments have shown that the crop obtained when the seeding is done early is very considerably greater than that obtained when the seeding is done ten days later.
2. After heavy rains in summer our land dries more rapidly when drained than when undrained, and this allows our hoed crops to be cultivated more thoroughly, and causes our grain crops not to be liable to rust or blight.
3. Our crops are less liable to be injured by summer frosts.
4. We obtain an earlier harvest and a better quality of grain.
5. When we grow fall wheat it is not so liable to be heaved by the action of the frost; also we are more likely to secure a catch of clover, and the liability of the clover to heave is almost entirely overcome.
6. On heavy clay soils tillage is rendered much easier, as nothing is more injurious to these soils than to work them while they are in a wet condition.

7. On drained soils manure gives much better results than on undrained soils; it can be applied on the surface, and its fertilizing constituents are washed down into the soil by rain.

8. If our land is drained, we can have greater comfort in all our farm operations than we can have if our land is undrained, and therefore in wet weather heavier and more sodden, and in dry weather harder and more impacted, than it ought to be. For a similar reason the health of all our farm animals and also of ourselves is better on drained than on undrained land.

#### HOW THE "CHINOOK" COMES.

Even the Cattle Recognize the First Breath of the Benign Wind.

Picture to yourself a wild waste of snow, wind-beaten and blizzard furrowed until the vast expanse resembles a billowy white sea. The frigid air, blowing half a gale, is filled with needle-like snow and ice crystals which sting the flesh like the bites of poisonous insects, and sift through the finest crevices. The sun, low down in the southern horizon, looks like a frozen globe, with halos, crescents, and bright prismatic bars encircling it.

Great herds of range cattle, which roam at will and thrive on the nutritious grasses indigenous to the northern slope, wander aimlessly here and there, or more frequently drift with the wind in vain attempts to find food and shelter; moaning in distress from cold and hunger, their noses hung with bloody icicles, their legs galled and bleeding from breaking the hard snow crust as they travel—they appear to the hardest heart for pity. It is sure death for human beings to be caught out in one of these awful blizzards, with the temperature down to 30 or 50 degrees below zero, unless rescue is speedy.

Yet, such conditions frequently exist in this latitude, as they did for fifteen days in November, 1896, when it seemed as if the elements had conspired to bring about another ice age, and annihilate every living thing.

Would the "chinook" never come? The wind veered and backed, now howling as if in derision, and anon becoming calm as if in contemplation of the desolation. The fact of manure, while the poor dumb animals continued their ceaseless tramp, crying with pain and starvation. At last, on December 1, at about the hour of sunset, there was a change which experienced plainmen interpreted as favorable to the coming of the warm southwest wind. At sunset the temperature was only -13 degrees, the air scarcely in motion, but occasionally seeming to descend from overhead. Over the mountains in the southwest a great bank of black clouds hung, dark and awesome, whose wide expanse was unbroken by line or break; only at the upper edge the curled and serrated cloud, blown into tatters by the wind, was seen to be the advance courier of the long-prayed-for "chinook."

How eagerly we watched its approach! How we strained our hearing for the first welcome sight of the gentle breeze! But it was not until 11.35 P. M. that the first influence was felt. First, a puff of heat, summer-like in comparison with what had existed for two weeks, and we ran to our instrument shelter to observe the temperature. Up goes the mercury, 34 degrees in a few minutes. Now the wind has come with a twenty-five mile velocity. Now the cattle stop travelling, and with muzzles turned towards the wind look with satisfaction. Weary with two weeks' standing on their feet they lie down in the snow, for they know that their salvation has come; that now their bodies will not freeze to the ground.

The wind increases in strength and warmth; it blows now in one steady roar; the temperature has risen to 38 degrees, the great expanse of snow, 30 inches deep on a level, is becoming damp and honeycombed by the hot wind, and we retire satisfied that the "chinook" is a genuine and lasting one.

Twelve hours afterwards there are bare brown hills everywhere; the plains are covered with floods of water. In a few days the wind will evaporate the moisture, and the roads will be dry and hard. Were it not for the "dry nook" winds the northern slope country would not be habitable, nor could domestic animals survive the winters.—United States Weather Review.

#### Origin of Game of Chess.

For years the origin of the game of chess has been a mooted question with enthusiasts and scientists. All suggestions, however, have been done by a discovery made in Egypt. Until recently it was assumed that the ancient Indians had invented chess, and that it was introduced from India to Persia in the sixth century by the Arabs, and in consequence of the crusades was spread over Europe. It is true the Chinese assert they can trace chess in their own country to 200 years before our era, but late excavations in the pyramid field of Sakhara have brought to light a wall painting which represents a high official playing chess with a partner at the time of the government of King Teti, who belonged to the sixth dynasty.

Prof. Lepsius assigns King Teti to 2700 B. C., but Prof. Brugsas puts him back to 3300 B. C., so that chess must have been known in the mysterious land of Egypt more than 5,000 years ago. North of the pyramid of King Teti, two grave chambers are to be found. The walls are covered with well preserved bas reliefs and pictures representing several scenes. No less than twenty-seven halls and corridors have been discovered. There are beautiful columns, and in the chief room is a niche which is a statue of the King seven feet high. There are hunting and fishing scenes, a group of mourners, Mera and sons, and Mera playing chess.

#### An Amusing Rate War.

Two rival blacksmiths have an amusing rate war at Smithville, which is told about by the Taylorville (Ky.) Courier: "There are two blacksmith shops at Smithville, one on the west side of Salt River and the other on the east side. There is a toll-gate at the west end of the river bridge. Each shop is fighting hard for the several cents on the west side puts on a pair of horse shoes for seventy cents and pays the customer's toll each way, while the shop on the east side shoes a horse all round for sixty cents and pays all patrons through the toll-gate five cents charge."

#### SAVING THE LAST DIAMOND.

The Remaining One of an Heirloom Cluster in a Man's Tooth.

A new way to keep a diamond from being lost or stolen has been discovered by F. Van Craenbroeck with the aid of a Hyde Park dentist. Instead of having the gem set in a ring or stud, Mr. Van Craenbroeck caused the precious stone to be placed in a cavity in one of his teeth, where it will be both ornamental and useful, and probably in no danger of falling into the hands of thieves.

This particular diamond has a known history that extends back through the French revolution and four generations of the young man's family. It was to preserve it, and not because he needed it as a toothfilling, that he had the stone set in an upper bicuspid.

The diamond is a small one, weighing only an eighth of a carat, but it has been carefully cut. Originally it was set with twenty-six others in a gold band ring belonging to Mr. Van Craenbroeck's great-great-grandmother, who was a native of France. The ring went through successive generations, and each new possessor lost some of the gems. Finally, when Mr. Van Craenbroeck obtained the ring from his mother several years ago there was only one diamond left.

Some time ago Mr. Van Craenbroeck's mother died, and he was especially anxious to preserve the diamond as a memento of her. The ring, having lost its setting, was of little value as a keepsake.

Dr. Frédis A. Thurston, whose office is in the same building as that of Mr. Van Craenbroeck, volunteered to set the gem in a tooth, where it could not fall out, probably would not be found by thieves, and would be a pleasing addition to a smile.

A hole was drilled in the front of the crown upper bicuspid tooth in such a position that the precious diamond was set it would sparkle in plain sight whenever the young man smiled. The cavity was drilled round, but the stone had been cut with one large facet and many small ones. The hole was only deep enough to admit a part of the stone, the remainder being allowed to project from the tooth like the setting of a ring.

The cavity was finally filled full of tooth cement, and the diamond was pressed into it. The large facet was left on the outside. Then the dentist took a small mallet and a bit of wood and pounded the diamond into place, just as is customary in filling teeth with gold. When the pounding was complete the setting of the stone was ended, with the exception of scraping away the cement from the edges of the diamond, which will be done later.

It required the most careful handling to keep the diamond from getting lost. Whenever it dropped out of the cavity during the fitting process the sparkle was all that enabled the dentist to find it. Once or twice it dropped to the floor, and the owner of the diamond and the dentist had a long search for it.

The precious tooth-filling shines best by lamp light, when it is visible across a good-sized room. Even by daylight, however, the sparkle of the gem will be sufficient to attract attention whenever its owner parts his lips. As it is placed at the front of the tooth the setting will last a lifetime.

It is said that this is the first case of a diamond being used in Chicago as a tooth-filling. The experiment has been tried in New York in one or two instances, and in Europe, but there is no known instance where a gem with the historical interest of this one has been set in such a queer place to preserve the stone and not the tooth.—Chicago Tribune.

#### A Plethora of Diamonds.

"It is no secret that the supply of diamonds is more than the demand at the present commercial value of the diamond," said a mining engineer recently returned from Kimberley, South Africa, to a Philadelphia correspondent, "and millions of cut and uncut stones are kept back in the great steel vaults of the diamond companies, which, if put on the market to-day, would flood the world with precious stones that would soon cease to be precious."

"If the hoard of treasures of the South African Mining Company were indiscriminately shipped to England, Russia or the United States, the standard price of the diamond per karat would decrease 80 per cent. The marketing of the entire product of the diamond fields of the world, Brazil, Austria, South Africa and India, at the present time would make diamonds as cheap as rhinestones. As the big syndicate knows this, it is acting accordingly. White and yellow diamonds would become particularly common, but the blue diamond is bound to maintain its value for all time, owing to its scarcity and extreme beauty. That is, of course, unless some volcanic upheaval opens up hidden strata of the matrix or mother rock containing these almost priceless specimens of crystallized carbon."

"In South Africa the output of the diamond mines is carefully scheduled, and a bond or agreement exists between the great syndicates that the supply shall not exceed the demand. By this means they are able to sell the stones at a fair price without glutting the market. The uncut stones are packed away in immense fire and burglar proof vaults that are impregnable. Size and quantity are carefully sorted, and a perfect system prevails for keeping up the supply of each particular size and quantity without exceeding it."

#### A Clever Silversmith.

The late Bob Whitehead, the silversmith, will be much missed by magicians, remarked an attaché of a professional magic man, "for he could always be depended upon to fix up our properties and apparatus so to keep the secret of their operation to himself. He was very, very clever at tinkering with metal, as many in our business found to our satisfaction. Whitehead made much of the apparatus with which Heller started on the road as a magician. Heller, you may not remember, was named Palmer when he originally resided in this city, when he was the organist at Epiphany Church. He did nearly all his practicing in the room over the drug store at the corner of Thirteenth and F streets. As he thought out the apparatus he needed he gave his orders to Whitehead, who put them into shape. The latter did many hundreds of dollars' worth of work for Heller than all afterwards. White-

head also did considerable jobbing during the last twenty-five years for the late Professor Herrmann and Professor Wyman, the father of magicians, and Professor Anderson, the wizard of the north, who was such an attraction years ago.

"Among the odds and ends recently sold at auction in Whitehead's old curiosity shop—and it sold for old metal, by the pound—was the plant for one of Heller's famous tricks. It never worked satisfactorily, and was sent back to Whitehead to be remade. It was nearly completed when word was received here that Heller had died. It was the apparatus by which Heller apparently grew a tree of oranges from a pot located in the midst of the audience. The flower pot was filled with tubes attached to the end of which was a rubber balloon bag, which when blown up resembled in color and size an orange. The growing was done by pumping air into the rubber oranges until they were sufficiently large. The pump was a bellows at the bottom of the pot, the magician using the bellows. Whitehead had done over one hundred dollars' worth of work on the apparatus."—Washington Star.

#### A LIVELY SCENE.

A Glimpse of the Busy Time in the Kitchen of a Great Hotel.

It is a large, brilliantly lighted place, full of people; cooks that shout at each other in shrill French, and perform wonderful feats with copper skillets, and waiters with their black clothes, in strong contrast to the white caps and aprons of the cooks, that stand in and out, holding a tray in one hand and an order card in the other, dodging other waiters and shouting their wants to the chefs in French, who wouldn't pay any attention to them if they were not in French; while farther down the room are vegetable preparers, mashing potatoes by the tubful, and on the other side a rabble of scullions rattling silver and scraping plates and cleaning dishes at the rate of several thousand an hour by aid of the self-drying process, which makes a cloud of steam.

The chefs of the various departments along the range snarl out directions to the under cooks, and the under cooks jerk sizzling things off the fire and slap them back again with the apparent carelessness that deftness brings, reminding one of the seeming unappreciatedness of bank clerks typing packages of bonds. And when they fresh another portion or two to fill a waiter they shout across the room to the garde manger, and those at the garde manger repeat the order and shout "Bon!" and three of four of them yell in concert, sometimes. Each tries to put more spirit into it than the other. Everything is organized bustle and orderly disorder, with the chef standing calmly in the centre of the room watching everything. Occasionally he confers in a low tone with the head waiter as to the time to send up the three hundred casseroles of Terrapin Maryland to the banquet-room, where these same noisy waiters will presently enter sedately and speak in whispers.

The chef is the acting commander, not only of these scenes of activity, but of the bake-shop and sweet-shop departments, with their various heads and sub-heads, and he is just as important as he is generally imagined to be, and wears pearl buttons on his coat.

#### Tricks of Clairvoyants.

A clairvoyant has been telling some of the tricks of her trade and how she dupes women. When a victim seems worth working she says: "I ask for the usual fee and go into a trance." Very shortly I awake with a start. "I am very sorry, I remark, but the electrical and magnetic conditions to-day are very bad. Will she call again to-morrow?" She usually is impressed by my sincerity and promises to come back. When she leaves, a negro servant, who has been earned by an electric buzzer, follows her wherever she may go. When he returns he has the woman's residence number. From this it is an easy matter to identify her, and a few inquiries in the neighborhood—at the nearest grocery, perhaps—are sufficient to give me all the information I need. Very often as soon as I find out about her which will give me a clue to what she wants to know. When she calls again I go into a trance, and this time the 'conditions' are all right. I surprise her inexpressibly by describing the appearance of her own residence, giving the street and number and finally spell out her own name. Nine times out of ten this is all that is required. The caller is convinced that I have learned her name and residence by occult power, and therefore is ready to believe anything else I may tell her. It is easy when you know how.—New Orleans Picayune.

#### School Gardens in Europe.

While almost every imaginable branch of education is being supplied to the young in this country, the teaching of horticulture has been remarkably overlooked. In this respect Russia, which is not generally regarded as a very far advanced country in educational matters, can give points to the United States.

School gardens, or small model farms, are rapidly becoming a feature of the primary schools of Russian villages. A report for the southern province of Ekaterinoslav states that 27 out of 504 schools in the province already have small model kitchens, orchards, tree plantations, or farms, averaging a little more than an acre in size, at which gardening, tree culture and silkworm culture are done by the schoolmasters, who receive special instructions at summer schools from local specialists. This province being nearly treeless, much attention is given to tree culture, silkworm rearing next in importance, and beekeeping and vineyards being studied at some of the schools. In Central Russia the culture of cereals takes first place at the school farms, while in Caucasus the greatest interest is felt in silkworm culture and vine culture.

#### The Trans-Siberian Road.

St. Petersburg authorities announce that the Siberian Railway will be completed by Jan. 1, 1900, if men and money can do it. The main line will be over 4,700 miles long. This project was begun in the spring of 1891. Up to date about 1,500 miles have been laid. About 70,000 men are now employed in the construction. It will terminate at Port Arthur, on Chinese territory.

#### DENSITY OF POPULATION.

The Most Thickly Peopled Spot in the World is in New York City.

"In the Century is a paper by Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer on "Places in New York," in the course of which the author says: Cross the Bowery now, and you will enter the famous Tenth Ward—a true tenement-house district, forming part of the most crowded city quarter in all the world. As a whole, the city of New York below the Harlem River (the Island of Manhattan) is more densely peopled than any other city in the world, counting 143.2 persons to the acre, while Paris counts 120.2. Then one-sixth of the entire population of all New York (reckoning now with the parts above the Harlem too) is concentrated upon 711 acres of ground. Here, on the lower East Side of our town, in the summer of 1894, there dwelt some 324,000 souls, averaging 476.6 to the acre; and a certain section of this great area—the Tenth Ward—showed a local average of 626.26. The most thickly peopled spot in Europe is the Jew quarter in Prague, but it is only one-fifth as large as our Tenth Ward, while it shows a density scarcely greater than that of the whole of the 711 acres in which the Tenth Ward is concentrated—457.2 per acre. Nor is this the worst that 711 acres can reveal. Sanitary District A of the Eleventh Ward (bounded by Avenue B and Second street, Columbia, Livingston and Clinton streets) contains 32 acres, and in the summer of 1894 each of them bore 986.4 human beings. This is the very thickest, blackest conglomeration of humanity in all the known world. No European place of anything like the same size even approaches it, and its nearest rival is a part of Bombay where the average population over an area of 46.06 acres is 759.66.

Yet it should be remembered that, while our acres are thus more heavily burdened than any other, there can be found in European, and in Asiatic, towns where people are more uncomfortably crowded within doors. There the houses are low, but New York tenements are very lofty, and thus our floor-space to the acre is much more extensive. Moreover, although we are now more crowded than ever before, our sanitary state is steadily improving. During the decade which closed with 1874 our death-rate was 39.27 per thousand; during the one which closed with 1894 it was 24.67.

#### Holidays the World Over.

A computation made a short time ago showed that among the European countries the two in which wages were highest and the hours of labor least were England and France, whereas the two countries in which wages were smallest and the hours of labor longest were Italy and Russia. In some countries of the world an explanation of the apparent dearth of progressive industry among the inhabitants is to be found, perhaps, in the recurrence of holidays of a religious, patriotic or purely social character, and many persons who are familiar with the industrial usages in some cities of South and Central America say that there the number of holidays seems to exceed the number of working days. There are some countries usually not noted for a dozen church festivals, and there are besides patriotic festivals. A similar state of affairs exists in all Latin countries. Deducting the Sundays and holidays, the number of working days in the United States, exclusive of the gulf states, is 305. In Russia there are 277 working days; Great Britain has 278; Portugal, 283; Spain, 290; Austria, 292; Italy, 298; Bavaria, Belgium and Brazil, 300 each; Denmark, France, Norway, Saxony, Switzerland and Wurttemberg, 302 each; Sweden, 304; Prussia and Ireland, 305; the Netherlands, 308; Hungary, 312.

It has been found impossible to get any accurate figures from the South American countries, but 290 is the maximum estimate of actual working days in many of them. Of course, if the number of Sundays be subtracted from the total number of days in a year there are left 313, and if one-third of the other days available for work are set apart for holiday purposes it is perfectly clear why there should not be more than 200 working days in a year. In Anglo-Saxon countries and in the United States the special effort of working men has been not to reduce the days of labor, but the hours of labor in each day, and thus there has been within the last few years a larger reduction, really, of working time in the United States and in Great Britain than in the Latin or Latin-American countries.—Detroit Free Press.

#### A Shower of Meteors.

People who were fortunate enough to be up at an early hour yesterday morning witnessed one of the most interesting celestial phenomena ever displayed to wondering eyes. It was a meteoric shower or a bombardment of the earth by shooting stars. Several persons who saw it say the shower commenced, or was noticed first, about 5 o'clock, and continued for about an hour. The sky was clear with the exception of a bank of clouds around the horizon. At first there were a few shooting stars and then suddenly the whole heavens lit up with a flash like lightning and it grew brighter and brighter until there appeared across the whole sky a trail of fire like the trail of a huge comet and from it in all directions shot stars or meteors.

The light gradually formed itself into a long streak like lightning and then moved in a slow zigzag, snake-like movement across the heavens and finally shaped itself into a perfect letter "Z," in which form it remained for a long time and then slowly faded away. During all this time there were numerous shooting stars and the whole earth was lighted up almost as bright as day. The display lasted for the greater part of an hour, but the great light described was of much shorter duration. The phenomena frightened many people and several instances are related where horses were almost paralyzed with fear at the strange sight.—Anaconda (Montana) Standard.

#### A Horned Rabbit.

J. C. Rutledge, of Kansas, is reported to have killed a horned rabbit. The animal did not differ materially from the ordinary cottontail found in nearly every part of the country, except that at the base of the ears there cropped at two horns, each a little over two inches in length and about an inch in circumference.