

MEMBERSHIP OF RUSSIAN DUMA.

Only 28 Out of 400 Will Come From the Cities.

The 400 members of the Russian Imperial Duma must have certain property qualifications. They must be able to speak Russian and they must take the oath of allegiance, on election. They will draw \$5 a day during the session of the Duma, and mileage at the rate of two and a half cents a mile to and from the capital. As first designed these members were to be elected in rather a roundabout way. Groups of electors were first to be chosen from three great classes of Russian society; the land-owners, the village communities and the municipalities. The first extension of this scheme further admitted large numbers of the artisan class, the latest developments will, it seems, admit everybody, including the army and navy. It is worth noting, as showing that Russia is still a vast, sprawling village, that of more than 400 members to be returned to the Duma, only twenty-eight will represent cities; six for St. Petersburg; four for Moscow, and one each for the following eighteen towns: Astrakhan, Kishinev, Vilna, Voronej, Rostov, Ekaterinoslav, Kazan, Kieff, Riga, Nijni Novgorod, Orel, Samara, Saratoff, Tula, Kharkoff, Odessa and Yaroslavl. Compare this vast rural representation with that of England, where the city and county members exactly counterbalance each other, and we get a measure of the difference between the two nations.—Harper's Weekly.

Not a Subject for Legislation.

A bill making it a misdemeanor to fee any waiter, servant or porter connected with any hotel, restaurant, luncheon or public service corporation is to be introduced in the Maryland legislature. The measure is not to be a one-sided statute, however, but will provide punishment alike for him who proffers the tip. It can safely be predicted that should such a foolish law be enacted it will remain a dead letter and soon be utterly forgotten. However disagreeable the tipping practice may be to some people—and there is no doubt that it has come to be something of a nuisance—it is certainly not a crime, and the criminal courts can employ their time much more profitably disposing of murderers and highwaymen, of which there is a superabundance, than by wasting it on "tipping" cases.—New Orleans Picayune.

Jimmy Wanted to Know.

Jimmy was riding in an elevator for the first time. He wasn't more than four, and he was a bright youngster. The trip to the fourteenth floor was made in safety and excited no comment. Jimmy and his mother caught an express elevator on the downward journey. They had slipped past four or five floors when Jimmy caught his mother's hand.

"Mamma," said Jimmy in an excited tone.

"Yes, Jimmy," answered the mother. "What makes the pavements go up like that. Where do you suppose they're going, mother?"

"And of course she couldn't tell.

FITS seem to be on the increase. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer, 82½c. per bottle. Sold everywhere. Dr. R. H. Kline, Ltd., 381 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

Smallest of all the armies in Europe is that of the principality of Monaco.

A Guaranteed Cure For Piles. Heber, Blind, Bleeding, Protruding Piles. Druggists are authorized to refund money if Pains or Discomforts fail to cure in 6 to 14 days.

The year 1905 broke the Patent Office record.

Cure Rheumatism with Botanic Medicine. Send no money, simply write and try Botanic Blood Balm at our expense. Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. B.) kills or destroys the poison in the blood which causes the awful aches in back and shoulder blades, shifting pains, difficulty in moving fingers, toes or legs, bone pains, swollen muscles and joints of rheumatism, or the foul breath, hawking, spitting, droppings in throat, bad hearing, specks flying before the eyes, all played out feeling of catarrh. Botanic Blood Balm has cured hundreds of cases of 30 or 40 years' standing after doctors, hot springs and patent medicines had all failed. Most of these cured patients had taken Blood Balm as a last resort. It is especially advised for chronic, deep-seated cases. Impossible for any one to suffer the agonies or symptoms of rheumatism or catarrh while or after taking Blood Balm. It makes the blood pure and rich, thereby giving a healthy blood supply. Cures are permanent and not a patching up. Cures are permanent and not a patching up. Cures are permanent and not a patching up. Cures are permanent and not a patching up.

Abraham Lincoln was nine years old when his mother died.

How's This? We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.

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Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price, 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Drugists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

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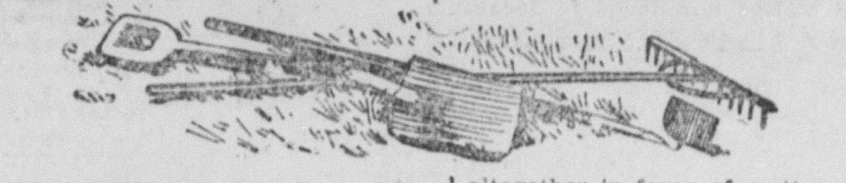
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Taylor's Cherry Remedy of Sweet Gum and Mullen is Nature's great remedy—Cures Coughs, Colds, Croup and Consumption, and all throat and lung troubles. At drugists, 25c., 50c., and \$1.00 per bottle.

The Sixth International Congress of Applied Chemistry will assemble at Rome on April 16, Easter Monday, 1906.

FARM AND GARDEN



THE HORSE STILL WITH US.

Let no one imagine that the horse is soon to become an object of curiosity. Bicycles have come and gone, and the automobile has been making considerable noise the last few years, and cutting up capers and people, while the horse has been quietly eating oats, until now the farmer with a pasture full of the right kind of horses can sell them and buy a bank. Horses have been steadily going up in price, which is much better than blowing up, as the automobile has been doing. Automobiles will come and go, may puff in and speed out, but his majesty the horse remains monarch of the road against all competition. No machine ever built or still unvented will successfully dispute his reign. He has withstood the locomotive, merely permitting it to do the heavy work and give him an easier lift.

Inventions will crop up from time to time, but none that will dispute the horse's place in the people's hearts, for, always, excepting the human race, the horse is the most beautiful thing made of flesh and blood; and perhaps the human animal scarcely deserves to be excepted, when we consider how men and women deform themselves by foolish habits.

Fashionable horse shows are frequent all over the country, extraordinary inducements being offered for fine animals, and I see in this and other facts signs of increasing interest in the horse beautiful, with an attendant interest in breeding. Buyers are today searching the country for good horses of all kinds, and are offering better prices than were offered six months ago. Another important factor to be seriously considered is the foreign demand for American horses, which is increasing at a phenomenal rate, a shipment of horses being exported weekly. England, Germany, France, Scotland and in fact all Europe concedes that America can raise better horses for less money than any other country in the world, and Europe may be depended upon to take all the surplus stock in the country at fair prices.

Haphazard breeding is the order of the day among farmers; too often they breed without a purpose, not caring what is crossed with what, so that the result is a colt which can be marketed. The average farmer is, above all others, the man who must market his produce at a good price in order to make both ends meet, to say nothing of making farming pay; and yet he persistently neglects to take the one step which will bring him good prices. It is only by repeated admonitions, urging and prodding that he will ever be induced to take forethought enough to control by proper breeding the quality of stock he markets. Not until he does this will he make breeding pay. I will say that I am not afraid that the horseless age is upon us; not while the automobile remains blind to your actions of kindness and dumb to the sound of your voice, not while the horse is the delightful company he is, whether in the stable, under the saddle or in the harness. Certain it is that as far back into the ages as we can trace his association with human beings the horse appears as the friend and intimate companion of man. He steps down the ages decked with the flowers and wreaths of love, poetry, romance and chivalry no less than with the stern trappings of heroism and war. "Man's inhumanity to man" and beast is justly lamented; but so associated with the sentiment and necessities of man is the horse that motorcycles and automobiles will be powerless to displace him.—J. W. Grand, in the Tribune Farmer.

SHEEP ON EVERY FARM.

The percentage of farms in this province (Ontario) on which sheep raising cannot be made a profitable industry is very small indeed. There are a number of reasons why sheep should be kept on every farm. Farming has changed wonderfully during the last fifteen years. We then sold our raw products direct. Now we have become manufacturers as well as farmers, and are putting a more finished product on the market. We are using animals as machines to increase the value of our farm products. I believe that through the sheep we can get more from the feed we grow than through any other animal. Ten years ago I ventured the statement that we could double the annual value of the farm products of Ontario by selling our grain in the form of livestock rather than in the raw state. What I then predicted has come to pass; our output has doubled. I do not believe there is any class of animal that can do more toward still further increasing the wealth producing value of Ontario farms than the sheep.

The next point in their favor is that no class of livestock can be handled with so little labor, and one of the greatest difficulties on the farm during the last five years has been this question of labor.

The third, and perhaps the greatest, point in favor of sheep, is their quality as money makers. There is no class of meat producing stock that can be prepared for market so cheaply as the sheep. The cost of producing mutton as compared with beef is

altogether in favor of mutton. I am satisfied that you can produce one hundred pounds of lamb at a cost of \$1 to \$2 less than it costs to put one hundred pounds of weight on a steer when winter finishing is practiced, and at the same time the average selling price of well finished lambs in February and March has been from 75 cents to \$1 a hundred-weight more than the selling price of export cattle in April and May.—John Campbell, before the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association in Tribune Farmer.

POULTRY NOTES.

Remember that a warm poultry-house will lessen the feed bill.

Over-crowding the poultry-house is dangerous business and should never be practiced. By crowding too many living bodies in a limited space it will surely bring disease and disaster. We know it is a great temptation to keep all the nice pullets over but we should not unless we can properly accommodate them.

Excessive cold and heat are two very important factors for us to study, for they are both very productive of disease. We should strive to make the house as warm as possible without the use of artificial heat, allowing them enough ventilation to keep the air pure. Over-heating is usually caused by over-crowding.

Fowls must have grit to digest the food. When taken into the gizzard, it grinds up the food in a rotary motion which is part of the process of digestion. Keep gravel on hand, burn clam-shells and bones, pound up all the broken dishes and give the coal ashes for a dust bath occasionally.

If the combs of your hens become frozen, do not expect them to lay until they are healed. Melt a little fresh lard, into which put a few drops of turpentine and saturate the combs with this, being careful not to use too much turpentine, this mixture will remove the soreness and help them to heal.

By having the furnishings of the poultry-house such as nests, roosts, and troughs so arranged as to permit of their being taken outside when it is desirable to clean up the premises, as the floor and house can then be more conveniently renovated and the appliances can be better cleaned outside. When building make everything about the house as simple as possible, so it may be easily and thoroughly cleaned.—M. D. H. in Indiana Farmer.

GRINDING CORN FOR SWINE.

We believe in feeding swine so that they will have something to keep them busy as well as for the best results to be obtained from the grain, so we feed the corn whole and usually on the cob until it gets hard and flinty, when it is either shelled and soaked a little to soften it or soaked on the cob. All other grains are ground because it has been demonstrated that the smaller grains go through the animals and do them but little good. Carrying out the plan of keeping the swine busy, we always have something for them to chew on—cornstalks, squares of sod, apples, potatoes and other vegetables, and we do not see that they take on fat any slower because of this plan of feeding. Pure water is given them in clean troughs twice a day, and we know they thrive better for having it.—Indianapolis News.

BUILDINGS FOR CHICKENS.

To get eggs, suitable buildings must be provided for the chickens. Do not force or allow them to roost in trees not in the barn or on the farm implements and vehicles. A definite plan and arrangement with reference to the farm poultry, coupled with a small amount of energy, will work wonders.

Coleridge's Comparison.

So great has been the affection of readers for the books that have given them delight, that literature is full of proofs of gratitude toward noble books. There have been countless comparisons and metaphors used to make clear the relation between the book and the reader. Perhaps the most original was hit upon by Coleridge, who compares an excellent book to a well-chosen and well-tended fruit tree. He says "We may recur to it year after year, and it will supply the same nourishment and the same gratification, if only we ourselves return to it with the same helpful appetite." But, though his simile pleases the fancy, it does not quite satisfy the judgment. While the fruit of a tree must yield much the same flavor always, the gratification we experience from reading must always differ according to the condition of mind of him who reads. It has been said that a traveler can bring home only what he takes with him, which means that the pleasure derived from traveling is entirely dependent upon the capacity of the traveler's mind. One's taste may change, and one's ability to understand and appreciate is constantly changing. All of which points the moral that it is an excellent thing to read a good book often, provided the intervals between readings are fairly long.—St. Nicholas.

Buddhism is the religion of about one-third of the human race.

FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE.

FERTILIZING FIELDS WITH NITRATES FROM THE AIR.

The Problem of Revolutionizing Agriculture Seems to Have Found a Practical Solution in Norway—Utilizing Vast Water Powers—German and Italian Experiments.

The problem of revolutionizing agriculture by taking nitrogen from the atmosphere through chemical processes, and employing it as a fertilizer, is undoubtedly one of the largest and most important tasks that modern chemistry has undertaken. An American company began operations several years ago at Niagara Falls, claiming to have found a successful electrical process, but its practical results have been disappointing. The problem, however, seems to have found a practical solution in Norway. According to a writer in the Cologne Gazette, plans are on foot to utilize the vast water power of that country on a large scale in producing nitrogen. One establishment of 1,000 horsepower near Christiania has already been in operation for some time, and Norwegian farmers have begun to fertilize their fields with the nitrates there produced. Still nearer to that city a much larger concern is building. It will begin with 10,000 horsepower, but will later be increased to double that amount.

A far more ambitious plan, even outranking the immense waterpower hitherto developed at Niagara, is taking shape nearly 100 miles west of Christiania on the Manly, where it drops 800 feet perpendicularly into a chasm. Above this fall, the Rjukanfos ("smoking waterfall"), will be built a dam which will make a reservoir of nearly 800,000,000 of cubic yards as a guarantee against the fatal summer shrinkage of all Norwegian streams. It is proposed here to develop 220,000 horsepower. French and Dutch capitalists are interested in the undertaking, the former through the great Paris bank, the Credit Lyonnais.

The method of separating nitrogen from the atmosphere used in Norway is that of Professor Birkeland, a chemist of Christiania. He uses electricity, but only indirectly for creating the intensely high temperatures needed to force the atmosphere to give up its nitrogen. With a current of 500 volts, yielding an energy of from 50 to 200 kilowatts, he heats a furnace to a maximum of 2,500 degrees Celsius, which produces a roaring flame four to six feet high. A current of air passed through the furnace gives off 2 to 3 per cent. of its volume in a nitrogenous oxide, which is converted into nitric acid, by conducting it through water. For fertilizing purposes this product is manufactured into nitrate of lime, though some chemists say that nitrate of soda would be preferable owing to its lower volatility.

Through Birkeland's method, a ton of nitrate of lime can be made yearly with one horsepower. The establishment at the Rjukanfos will therefore be able to make 220,000 tons annually. When it is mentioned that Germany alone consumes yearly 580,000 tons of Chilean nitrate of soda, it is evident that the new industry has a most promising outlook for the sale of its output. Moreover, it is estimated by competent authorities that the supply of nitrate of soda in Chile and Peru will be exhausted in fifteen or twenty years, after which the artificial product would be left in sole possession of the world's markets. The recent high advance in the price of Chilean nitrate, too, puts a premium upon the success of Birkeland's system from the start.

His method is also attracting considerable attention outside of Norway. It is reported that a German concern has acquired his patents for Germany; and experiments with a German system have already been made in Gladbeck in Westphalia, but great secrecy is maintained concerning the results reached. At least two German chemists, Professor Mühmann of Munich and Dr. Otto Scheuer of Darmstadt, are engaged in working out the problem of utilizing atmospheric nitrogen. In Italy a great establishment, which will apparently employ Birkeland's method, is in course of construction at the falls of the Tiber, at Terni, above Rome. The nitric acid to be produced here, however, will not be used in making fertilizers, but explosives. Here and at the Rjukanfos, power will be created at very low cost, not more than \$6 to \$7.50 per horsepower yearly, cheapness of power being necessary to the success of Birkeland's method.

WINNING HIS COOK.

The Brief Story of How One Captain Barnes Won a Wife.

In his article on "Tollers of the River" in Harper's, Thornton Oakley tells an amusing story of two river captains—Captain Barnes and Captain Sparks. Sparks had made his boat popular through the excellence of his cuisine.

"Captain Barnes struggled vainly against this tide of popularity, says Mr. Oakley, which threatened to strand him high and dry. In vain did he try cook after cook of various nationalities and of various degrees of efficiency. In vain did he advertise French chefs and imported Portuguese. In vain did he squander his carefully cherished hoard upon five musicians of Teutonic origin, who, clad in cloth of gorgeous blue and glittering buttons, would group themselves upon the deck on moonlight

nights and blow uncertainly through asthmatic instruments. It was useless. In spite of all inducements Susan and her chicken still proved irresistible. Something has to be done and done at once, or the captain would have to sell the Hurricane.

"Captain Sparks was surprised one morning by a visit from Captain Barnes. 'Cap'n,' said Captain Barnes, 'that old boat of mine is gettin' kinder tuckered out. Her bottom's all but done fer by them bloomin' snags, an' Pete says he won't answer much longer fer her engines. He says they're wheelin' something terrible. So I reckon I'll put her up on the docks an' let her have a right good goin' over; an' I thought while she was gettin' fixed I'd come over here a bit, an' maybe get a bite of them things of Susan's I've heard so much about.'

"Captain Sparks was greatly pleased. Nothing delighted him more than praise of Susan, and especially when it came from Captain Barnes. So it came about that while the Hurricane lay high and dry upon the ways, Captain Barnes was to be found on board the boat of Captain Sparks. But the river-men wagged their heads knowingly when they gossiped of Captain Barnes. 'Old Sparks must be blind,' they said, 'not to see what Sam Barnes is up to, pottin' round in the kitchen there all day with Susan. The Hurricane don't want her bottom fixed. You kin see that with one eye closed, an' her engines wuz put in only a year ago last Christmas.'

"The river-men were right. When the Hurricane resumed her regular trips up the Monongahela, the following lines appeared in the daily advertisement of the steamer's sailings: 'It is hardly necessary to state that the cuisine of the Hurricane is unexcelled. It is under the sole management of Mrs. Susan Sparks Barnes.'

IRON VERSUS STEEL.

A Comparative Discussion, Their Durability and Usefulness.

Dr. C. B. Dudley, the chemist of the Pennsylvania Railroad, has just discussed before the American Institute of Mining Engineers the relative merits of wrought iron and steel as constructive materials. His observation leads him to think that where tension or compression is involved steel is better, but where bending strains alone are to be considered iron is preferable. To illustrate the latter conviction he mentions the following circumstances, which are presumably derived from the experience of the company with which he is associated. A car axle composed of steel of which the tensile strength is from 65,000 to 70,000 pounds to the square inch will give no better service than one made of wrought iron with a tensile strength of only 48,000 or 52,000 pounds to the inch. To match iron of the quality here specified, he says, it would be necessary to use steel whose tensile strength was between 80,000 and 85,000 pounds to the inch.

Though the facts submitted by Dr. Dudley are comparatively new, they will not excite much surprise. Within the last few years steel has proved to be distinctly inferior to wrought iron for a number of purposes. The wire nail, for instance, will not withstand the action of the weather nearly so well as the cut nail. For interior work one will give about as much satisfaction as the other; but steel nails which have been employed in shingling a barn roof have been known to fall before the shingles which they were intended to fasten. Again, farmers have been greatly annoyed by the rusting of fence wire, which is also made of steel. By observing certain precautions in the processes of manufacture the tendency to rust can, no doubt, be diminished, but whether these can be adopted or not, the history of fence wire like the history of the wire nail, furnishes plenty of precedent for the warning now given concerning car axles. Car builders and practical railroad men may desire corroborative testimony before accepting Dr. Dudley's statements at their face value, but they cannot be regarded as incredible.—The New York Tribune.

Photography in Russia.

The amateur photographer in Russia must be an enthusiast indeed if he perseveres in his sad, for, like most everything else, the photographer is subject to police espionage and that of the most pronounced sort.

The possessor of a camera must first of all take out a license. This requires him to make a record of every plate exposed and a copy of each negative must be filed with the police bureau, a second copy being placed in his private file for reference should the police at any time require it.

He is liable at any time to a visit from a police spy, who must be permitted to make a complete inspection of the premises, and should it be found that his photographs might be regarded as a pictorial map of the fortresses or royal palaces there is an excellent chance that the photographer will be sent to Siberia.

More than this, every dry plate imported into Russia is examined by the police, who frequently develop a plate selected at random in order to convince themselves that there have been no exposures made before the plate was shipped that might smuggle into the country interdicted literature or other matter.

Six pounds per annum is the average consumption of soap in France.

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