

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

News About the Various Departments at Washington.

Statistics of Vine Culture in the United States.

The Census Bureau has issued a bulletin upon the subject of viticulture in the United States. It shows the total area of vineyards in 1889 to have been 401,261 acres, of which 307,575 acres were in bearing.

direct tax, under the act of the last Congress, was received at the Treasury Department from Governor Hill, of New York, and the amount of money paid for about \$2,000,000.

What We Have Paid Foreign Ships.

A statement prepared at the Treasury for Mr. Farquhar shows that in the twenty-one years from 1870 to 1890 the revenue of the Government has been \$3,951,113,157.

First Spoliation Claims.

The first application under the law providing for the payment of the French spoliation claims was filed in the Court of Claims, Washington, by the attorneys for William Gardner, administrator of Caleb Gardner.

THE LABOR WORLD.

PIG iron is slack. DENVER, Col., has "5000 idle." OMAHA, Neb., has a labor palace.

THE West is taking the lead in labor legislation. NEW YORK has 40,000 Russian-Hebrew workers.

THE Indianapolis Trades Council has 6000 members. PITTSBURGH'S Trades Council holds open meetings.

BROOKLYN wood-workers will demand eight hours. UNION retail clerks at San Francisco, Cal., wear a button.

THE Massachusetts State fair has closed. SAN FRANCISCO has 28,300 unemployed workmen in Boston, Mass.

AUSTRALIA sent \$70,000 to the London dock strikers. A MACHINE threatens to throw hundreds of stonecutters out.

THE organized shoe trades are coming rapidly to the front. THE girls' shoe fitters' union of San Francisco has 300 members.

BOSTON paper workers want the State to prohibit Sunday work. INTERNATIONAL bakers and confectioners will meet at Indianapolis.

OVER 80,000 people are connected with the stage in London, England. GOVERNOR RUSSELL, of Massachusetts recommends labor legislation.

SAN FRANCISCO shoe hands want forty-five cents a pair for turned work. A SAN FRANCISCO shoe strike secured thirty-eight to forty-nine cents.

THERE are in the world 1,500,000 coal miners and 4,000,000 metal miners. BUTTE (Mont.) claims to be the best organized union town for its population.

TRADE union statistics show that 2,000,000 workers average \$130 a year wages. THE Brussels (Belgium) Co-operative Bakery will supply the city \$300,000.

INDIANAPOLIS colored plasterers won forty cents an hour and the eight-hour day. TYPESETTERS and stenographers are organizing unions throughout the country.

IT is thought few foreign delegates will attend the World's Fair Labor Convention. NEW YORK painters insist on the enforcement of \$1.50 and eight hours on April 6.

THERE are now over 1500 carpenters and planing mill employes idle in Indianapolis. NEW YORK slipper makers working from sixteen to eighteen hours a day get \$1.25 to \$1.50.

FINES were imposed on 350 miners at Durham, England, for leaving work without giving notice. THE general fund of the International Clear-Cutters' Union amounts to about \$200,000 at present.

A BILL to distribute \$50,000 among the unemployed of San Francisco is before the California Legislature. A CUT in wages of from thirty to sixty per cent has been made in an Akron (Ohio) moyer and reaper works.

ON the British railways 314 women were employed in 1889, and 15,465 were working in the coal mines of England. BY the efforts of union men \$1.50 will be the lowest pay for unskilled men on the World's Fair, work in Chicago.

THE average salary paid to men clerks in Washington is \$1231 a year, while that paid to women in the same departments is only \$869.

AN Indianapolis women's society will furnish coffee at two cents a cup, soup at three cents per bowl and bread and butter at a penny.

THE Constantinople dockers have formed a union, established a picket system, and threaten violence to other Turks who will not join the union.

DELEGATES from nearly every town and city in Massachusetts were present at a secret session of leather workers in Boston, and decided to continue the fight in Lynn.

DEED OF A BUTCHER.

James Chadwick Murders a Woman and Then Kills Himself. A horrible tragedy occurred at Bury, England. For seven years James Chadwick, a butcher, and Mary Stott lived together as man and wife.

THE President Home With His Spots. President Harrison returned to Washington from his duck hunting expedition to Benning, Md. He brought with him a testimonial to his superior marksmanship forty red heads and canvas backs.

When the War Began and Ended. In connection with the act of Congress authorizing a retired list for privates and non-commissioned officers of the army who have served thirty years and upward, the Secretary of War has issued a general order in which it is held that the war began April 15, 1861; that "war service" includes service rendered as a commissioned officer; that the war ended August 30, 1866; but to entitle the applicant to double time for service after April 3, 1866, it must appear affirmatively that such service was rendered in the State of Texas.

Our Exports of Mineral Oils.

The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics reports that the total value of the exports of domestic mineral oils from the United States during the month of February, 1891, and during the eight months ended February 28, 1891, as compared with similar exports during the corresponding period of the preceding year, were as follows: February, 1891, \$7,190,026; February, 1890, \$3,130,448. Eight months ended February 28, 1891, \$26,485,516; eight months ended February 28, 1890, \$25,435,411.

New York Calls for the Tax Refund.

The first application for repayment of the

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

EMPEROR WILLIAM thirsts for travel. SENATOR HOAR is growing a full beard. SIR AUGUSTUS FAHET receives \$40,000 a year as British Minister to Austria.

AT the close of the war General Sherman was able to call 5000 officers by name. The late Senator Hearst's son expects to start a daily newspaper in New York City.

GOVERNOR HILL, of New York, made his first speech when he was seventeen years old. The Prince of Wales has been re-elected Worshipful Grand Master of the English Free Masons.

HENRY M. STANLEY has been granted a judgment of \$50,000 against Tippu Tib, the notorious African slave dealer. CARDINAL NEWMAN's estate, valued at \$16,000, was bequeathed to three clergymen connected with the Edgemonbury oratory.

THE wife of Chief Justice Fuller does all of her marketing herself. Her carriage is well known at the old Central Market in Washington. LAFRACIO HEARN, the Louisiana author, has succumbed to the fascination of life in Japan, and is about to transport his lares and penates there.

KYLE, the new South Dakota Senator, is more than six feet tall. He is only thirty-seven years old, and will be the youngest man in the Senate. SENATOR EDMUNDS is very fond of horticulture, and finds agreeable summer recreation in working among the fruit trees at his home in Burlington, Vt.

GENERAL DEODORA D. FONSECA, who has just been elected President of the Brazilian Republic, is fifty-seven years old. All his life since his boyhood has been passed in the army. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FOSTER is a youthful-looking official. His form is lithe and agile, his hair dark and his eye bright.

He has easy and engaging manners and is affable and approachable. JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS, the Southern humorist, has the largest eye orchard in the South, and is particularly proud of the fact that he bought it with money accruing from the sale of his books.

EX-CONGRESSMAN MARTIN, of Texas, says that during his four years in Washington he never allowed his expenses to exceed \$50 a month. He takes a very respectable fortune saved from his salary. MRS. HEARST, the California Senator's widow, is yet in the prime of life. She is a handsome woman, and has become celebrated as one of the most elaborate entertainers in the National capital.

Her home is usually filled with guests. MRS. MARGARET CUSTER CALHOUN, who has been appointed State Librarian of Michigan, is a sister of General Custer. In that fearful massacre of the Little Big Horn she lost not only her brother but her husband as well as two younger brothers and a nephew besides.

MRS. FRANK LESLIE, of New York City, has made a new will, by which the bulk of her fortune, amounting to at least \$600,000, will be left in trust for the establishment of a great institution for the instruction of women and the advancement of higher education of the sex.

FOUR REACHED LAND.

The Wreck of the Steamer Mirama, off Start Point, England. The steamship which was wrecked off Start Point, near Dartmouth, England, during the severe gale which swept over the southern part of England, was the Mirama, of Liverpool, from London for Colombo.

When the steamer struck upon the reef off the Point the crew took to the boats, though the heavy sea and the huge breakers made the attempt to reach the shore a desperate one. One of the boats, containing the Captain and the steward, the three mates and the steward, was struck by a heavy sea and foundered, and all the officers were drowned.

The lifeboat, containing the sailors and firemen, twenty-two men in all, capsized twice and twice righted herself. Each time she went over a number of the men were drowned, while others succeeded in re-entering the boat, which was almost filled with water, but which kept afloat by reason of her water-tight compartments. Finally she was washed off and drifted across four strokes. The men were afterward washed ashore and had to climb a precipitous cliff. One of them died from exhaustion. The three survivors were terribly battered by the heavy surf, and were half-dead.

At Straubing, in Bavaria, some Celtic tombs have been opened and found to contain most interesting bronze ornaments and iron weapons belonging to the people of Rhetia before the Roman conquest. The long sought-for Roman cemetery has also been discovered—through the unearthing of a Roman tomb containing cinerary urns—banking the old military road from Servidurum (Straubing) to Abusina, both situated on the Danube.

THE MARKETS.

Table of market prices for various commodities including Beef, Mutton, Pork, Eggs, Butter, Flour, etc., with prices listed for New York and Buffalo.

WATERTON (MANS.) CATTLE MARKET.

Table of cattle market prices for Beef, Mutton, Pork, etc., with prices listed for Water-ton.

PHILADELPHIA.

Table of market prices for Flour, Corn, Oats, etc., with prices listed for Philadelphia.

SABBATH SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON FOR MARCH 22.

Lesson Text: "Elisha's Defenders," 2 Kings vi. 8-18—Golden Text: 2 Kings vi. 16—Commentary.

"Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp."

"Between the story of Naaman and Gehazi and this lesson the Holy Spirit has written the record of a house building near Jordan by the sons of the prophets, and the miraculous recovery of a lost ox, from which we see the need, humanly speaking, of the money which Naaman offered Elisha; but the prophet prefers to rely wholly and only upon the God of Israel, who can make even such an ox to swim, and to whom nothing is impossible. And now see the king of Syria, the captain of whose host had been healed by Israel's prophet, making war against Israel, as if the God who could heal the leper and make iron to swim could not defeat his enemy and render him powerless. How full of ingratitude the human heart!

"And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place, for thither the Syrians are coming down." How often we are reminded that "All things are possible unto them that love Him with whom we have to do," and that "The eyes of the Lord are in every place beholding the evil and the good" (Job. iv. 13; Prov. xv. 3). But here Jehovah's grace and continued grace to a wicked man. The king of Israel was Jehoram, son of Ahab, and he wrought evil in the sight of the Lord, cleaving unto the idols of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, chap. ii. 25-28, and yet he is not the first time that God has shown through Elisha his power and grace. In chap. iii. 16-19. God would if possible win this wanderer back to Himself. He would by goodness lead him to repentance (Rom. ii. 4) for He is not willing that any should perish (II Pet. iii. 9).

"And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him, and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once, not twice." "God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this, that power belongeth unto him that speaketh, and finally being put forth on behalf of a sinful man to bring back his soul from the pit, but though God speaketh once—yes, twice—yet man perceiveth it not" (Ps. cxlii. 11; Job xxxiii. 14, 29). How loving God is! How hard and blind man!

"Therefore sent he thither horses and chariots and a great host, and they came by night and compassed the city about." "Surely he had their man now, and escape was impossible. Thus it seemed to human eyes. But on a previous occasion the armies of Judah were encompassed by the enemy, and when they cried unto the Lord He delivered them. And a little later, Jehoshaphat was surrounded by the Syrian soldiers, who were about to kill him, but he cried out and the Lord helped him, and God moved them to depart from him" (II Chron. xii. 13-16; xviii. 31).

"When the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots." While Elisha slept the enemy encompassed him about, but Elisha's God neither slumbers nor sleeps, and Elisha rested to Him, and feared no evil. His servant, however, had not the faith of his master, and we may imagine his fears at this sight met his eyes.

"And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? He probably felt something like Israel when they saw the hosts of Pharaoh, pursuing them, the mountains on either side of them and the sea before them. It was another case of man's utter helplessness, to do anything for himself, but "The Lord knoweth how to deliver his servants" (II Pet. ii. 9).

"And he answered, Fear not." From Gen. xv. 1, to Rev. i. 17, how often that precious word "Fear not" has stilled the troubled soul!

"They that be with us are more than they that be with them." What is it that Elisha's servant cannot see? Is he giving utterance to a hope or to the assurance of a reality? We shall see that he means just what he says and is fully persuaded of every word of it.

"And Elisha prayed and said, Lord, I pray Thee, open his eyes that he may see." What a simple prayer, how short, how comprehensive! No preliminaries and no conclusion, not even an amen; just a single petition, asking as from a familiar friend for just what he needs. "And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw; and behold the young man was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." Now we know why Elisha said, "Fear not," and why he said to his servant that their helpers were more numerous than the enemy.

Let no one dare to explain away these unseemly realities of God's love and care and power. But rather let the weakest believer rejoice that he is ministered unto, and that these unseen helpers are sent to do the will of God (Heb. i. 14), and let us joyfully anticipate the day when we shall take part in a great triumphant march of heaven's cavalry for the rescue and redemption of multitudes of Israel (Rev. xii. 14). "And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the Lord and said, Smite this people, I pray Thee, with blindness." Another brief prayer; a single petition. Can this man ask and receive anything he desires? A river divided, a spring healed, oil multiplied, a Son given, life from the dead, food multiplied, a leper healed, a man made leprous, iron to swim, eyes open to see angels, eyes dimmed to see not at all or to see as if by sight, how can he obtain all this power? Whom is he to call his partner? Ah, dear reader, if he would cling to Jesus, as Elisha clung to Elijah, for a double portion of the Spirit, then he too might know the meaning of such words as these: "Whatsoever he shall ask the Father in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

"And he smote them with blindness, according to the Lord's Elisha." So did the angels to the men of Sodom (Gen. xix. 11). In him we live and move and have our being. Read the next four verses and see how royally Elisha treated these his enemies and conquered them with kindness, so that they came no more into the land of Israel. "But in us it is the love that conquers"—Lesson Helper.

THE FARM AND GARDEN.

CULTURE OF VIOLETS.

A New York correspondent writes to the Florists' Exchange that light soil is most suitable to violets, which ought to be planted in ground that has a fair drainage. He planted them where they will receive the benefit of rain, dew and sun; keeps them warm and grows them in a place quite by themselves. He says: "Violets do not care for company and half the failures come from placing them with other plants."

PAINTING WAGON WHEELS.

It is asserted by those who have tested the matter, says the Farm Journal, that painting wagon wheels once in two years answers as well as soaking in boiling oil to keep them in shape and avoid the expense of resetting tires. A quart of raw linseed oil and ten cents' worth of cheap paint, and you have the cash expense.

Take off the wheels and lay them on a bench and paint the upper side, allowing the paint to work in between felise and tire. By the time all four are treated, the first will be dry enough to turn over for painting on the other side. Laying them down is much better than painting with the wheel on the wagon.

SHEEP BITING THEIR WOOL.

When sheep are found biting their wool or nibbling the skin they should be examined at once. The cause may be that they are infested with ticks or that the skin is irritated and inflamed as the consequence of dry feeding or lying upon damp beds or upon manure. If the ticks cause the trouble, the sheep should be dressed with a strong decoction of tobacco, one pound in a gallon of boiling water (not boiled), adding two ounces of flowers of sulphur, and stirring frequently until the heat is reduced to 120 degrees. The liquid is then poured along the back and guided down under the wool along the sides. Buttermilk used in the same way has been found useful. If no ticks are found or any vermin give the sheep two drams of hypsulphite of soda daily in some scalded bran, feed some sliced potatoes or turnips, and use no musty hay, which often causes this trouble. When sheep are fed upon clover hay, which is mighty nitrogenous, they are frequently thus troubled, and some oily or starchy food as linseed meal or potatoes will be found useful.—New York Times.

PROFIT FROM KEEPING GEESSE.

If geese are allowed to run everywhere, as used to be the general practice, they speedily become a nuisance and destroy more than they are worth. But they pay for care and feeding as well as any other farm stock. They may be plucked every six weeks through the season, beginning with the first warm weather in spring, when a portion of the feathers become loose and will fall out of themselves. One-third of a pound of feathers may be taken from a full-grown goose at each picking, and if well fed afterward no injury results from plucking one each six weeks until cold weather puts a stop to this work. Watch for the times when the feathers appear to come easily. They are then said to be "ripe." If this goes by, it will be hard to make a satisfactory picking through the year. Besides the crop of feathers, each female goose should hatch out a dozen or more young, which will pay their keep by their growth of feathers, and be a cash article in the poultry market during the holiday season. A flock of geese gives in feathers, eggs and increase a greater proportionate profit than most kinds of farm stock.—Boston Cultivator.

LIMED AND UNLIMED POTATOES.

It is quite often recommended to dust potatoes with lime when storing them away in the fall, as a protection against rot. To determine the effect of this treatment, with more than the ordinary degree of exactness, a trial was made at the Hatch Experiment Station of the Massachusetts Agricultural College last season.

From a pile of potatoes found to be rotting badly after being dug, four samples of a bushel each of apparently sound tubers were selected. These were placed in bushel baskets and two baskets were put into a dry cellar and two into a well ligated and dry granary. The tubers put into one basket in each lot were thoroughly sprinkled with air-slaked lime as they were put in, the other basket was untreated. This was done on September 17, and the tubers remained undisturbed until December 3, when they were carefully examined.

From the results as shown in a table with careful exactness it appears that the differences in the amount of rot were very small. In the case of the cellar samples the tubers untreated kept slightly better than those which were limed; in the granary samples the difference was in favor of the liming. It thus appears that the experiment was not sufficiently decisive to justify pronouncing either for or against the treatment. It is, however, thought that the quantity of lime used (six pounds for the cellar and four for the granary sample) may have been too small, and when the opportunity offers the experiment will be repeated with varying amounts of the substance.—New York Times.

PROPER FOOD FOR FARM HORSES.

A great many farm horses are injured, and some of them are utterly spoiled, by improper feeding. In many cases the material used is not specially adapted to the needs of the animals, while in others it is actually injurious. Many cases of the "heaves" are caused by feeding musty hay, and even more serious ailments may be traced to the use of damaged grain. There are also many cases of disease resulting from the improper use of good materials. While a few farmers feed too little hay, there are many who give their horses altogether too large a quantity. They fill the mangers, or racks, and when the animals have disposed or what they received, a new supply is given. In this way, when the horses are in the barn most of the time, they are, as far as quantity is concerned, greatly overfed. When these horses are required for work, and really need food more than when they are comparatively idle, they receive a much smaller quantity. The safe way to do in this matter is to feed the horse regularly, giving him an abundant quantity, but not overfeeding him. When work is required, grain should be added to the hay in proportion to the work required. Even when the horse is idle, small quantities of grain fed with his hay will be better for him and will be more profitable for the owner than the use of hay alone. But, even if the grain is omitted, regular feeding with proper limitations as to the quantity of hay supplied will be a great deal better than the constant stuffing to which so many farm horses are subjected.—American Dairyman.

BRAN FOR FEEDING.

Wheat bran is a concentrated food and possesses considerable nutritive value. It contains rather an excess of ash, and for this reason it is good to feed to young or growing stock, as it develops bone and muscle. It is a splendid feed to use in connection with poor bulky feeds, like straw, fodder and roots; fed with them it will aid materially to make up a complete ration. By using it, the objection to selling grain, rather than to feed out to stock, is largely overcome. Wheat and potatoes can be grown and sold off the farm if bran is purchased and used in connection with other materials, as bran retains a large proportion of the mineral elements.

In feeding, the animals take out certain parts that contain animal nutrition and leave considerable plant food that is saved in the manure and can be added to the soil to retain its fertility. During the winter it can be mixed with corn-meal, weight for weight, to good advantage, lessening the cost of feeding and at the same time adding to the fertility of the farm. It is desirable, to a large extent at least, if the fertility of the soil is to be kept up, to plan and carry out a good system of rotation, and in doing this there will be more or less products that ought to be marketed to good advantage. But in doing this something else should be used to take the place of what is marketed. If this is not done, nearly or quite everything that is grown should be fed out to vigorous, thrifty stock and the manure be saved. If any is sold a sufficient quantity of other materials should be purchased to take its place; bran and oil meal are the two principal materials that can be used in this way, and where this is done a good supply of coarse rough feed can be purchased and used, even if it is necessary to sell a portion of the grain.

This is especially the case in feeding growing stock, and with milk cows, if fed in connection with corn meal and oil meals, it will aid to increase both the quality and the quantity of the milk. One of the best ration that can be made up for the milk cows during the winter is clover or millet hay with corn and oil meal and wheat bran. Roots can be added when they can be had conveniently, and in doing this have the manure increased.

At the price bran can usually be secured at, it can be used at least through the winter to a good advantage and more stock be kept in proportion to the grain than would otherwise be possible.—Farm, Field and Stockman.

FARM AND GARDEN NOTES.

Set all the hens possible now. Castor-oil is a remedy for warts. Do not let the duck-eggs get chilled. Feed the ducks plenty of bulky food. Whitewash is better than paint in the poultry house.

Geese need a good pasture and plenty of water to thrive well. When currying the horse do not rub too hard, for it is painful.

The all-the-year-round cow is the one that generally best fills the bill. If your neighbor succeeds better than you do, find out how he does it.

Never break off a limb on a valuable tree; always make a smooth cut. Some one asks: "Are we going to the dogs?" No; but the sheep are.

Don't be satisfied with merely raising a few hogs, but raise good ones. A bushel of potatoes often commands as high a price as a bushel of wheat.

A good farmer will drive his work instead of having his work drive him. The farmer has heretofore scattered his energies over too large a surface.

In judging wool, the rest of the fleeces is compared with that on the shoulder. It pays to grind grain for the stock; and it pays to feed it with cut fodder.

The older the tree the more difficult to transplant and the more uncertain of success. The farmer that has eggs, poultry and good butter to sell does not need to go into debt at the stores for the little necessary running expenses. But, of course, good management is necessary.

A good rule in farming is to use the land that every crop shall make a margin of profit, and shall leave the land richer at the close of the course of rotation than it was at the beginning. After this has been accomplished during one rotation it will be easier during each succeeding one.

In the face of depressing circumstances the brood sow may prove to be the most valuable animal on the farm before the year closes. About the worst move the farmer may make will be the neglect of his brood sows. This is an "off" year in the business, but the man who keeps steadily on at his work with his breeding stock will come out best in the end.

Among the farmers of central Illinois there is nearly a unanimous verdict that grain-farming does not now yield any margin of profit; but among the agricultural industries which do give good returns they mention sheep raising, horse breeding (one man engaged in this says that every horse grown to maturity will average \$50 profit), planting orchards, and raising garden products.