

OFFICIAL CROP REPORT.

ESTIMATES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

The Condition of Winter Wheat 2.1 Points Lower Than in April—Rye and Barley Have Also Suffered—Cotton Seed Scarce for Replanting Purposes.

The May returns of the United States Department of Agriculture on the condition of winter wheat show a reduction of 2.1 from the April average, being 75.3, against 77.4 last month and 84 in May, 1892.

Water rye, like wheat, has suffered a decline in condition since last month, its average for May being 82.7, against 87.7 for same date in April.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

M. PASTEUR, the great French scientist, is the son of a farmer.

The Archbishop of Canterbury receives a salary of \$75,000 a year.

LITTLE QUEEN WILHELMINA is the last of the princely race of Orange in the Netherlands.

RUDYARD KIPLING has abandoned short story writing to devote his time to longer works of fiction.

SIR JAMES ANDERSON, who was in command of the Great Eastern when she laid the Atlantic cable, is dead.

THE QUEEN of Greece is President of a sisterhood devoted to the reformation of criminals, and she personally visits prisoners.

EX-SENATOR JOSEPH E. BROWN, of Georgia, is seventy-two years old, and he is reported to be enjoying a "ripe and serene old age."

JOSEPH S. HARRIS, who succeeds Mr. McLeod as President of the Reading Railroad system, is a civil engineer by profession, and in early life was connected with the Coast Survey.

EX-PRESIDENT HARRISON will begin his course of lectures on international law at Stanford University, California, next October, when the new school of law will be opened.

GEOFFREY RUSSELL, of Massachusetts, relies on long periods of sleep to keep him in good physical condition.

SECRETARY SMITH has brought his favorite saddle-horse to Washington, and may be seen every morning taking a canter on the avenue.

EDWIN DEX, of Ohio, the new Minister to Japan, is a nephew of Gen. Sherman.

MRS. ELISE HEGEMAN DEWEY, wife of Chauncey M. Dewey, died in New York City after an illness from which she had been suffering for about three years.

JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE, the historian, is a tall, keen-eyed, handsome man, of singularly good manner, with a ruddy, clean-shaven face framed in a close-fitting, iron-gray side whisker.

DR. JOHN WILLIAM EVERETT, the prose-writer, who has just been elected to Congress from one of the Massachusetts districts, is accomplished in the art of dining, tells a good story, makes a rattling speech and is gifted with some pleasing personal eccentricities.

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY, the "Hoosier" poet, has a striking peculiarity—he talks in his sleep.

TRAMPS KILLED.

Beating Their Way on a Freight Train When It Was Wrecked.

While the first section of a north bound Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton freight train was taking water near Tadmor, Ohio, the second section dashed into it, making a bad wreck.

Of six tramps who were in one of the cars of the first section beating their way towards Lima, Ohio, only one survived.

WORLD'S FAIR NOTES.

The magnitude of the Exposition is a perpetual wonder—a source of ceaseless amazement.

Here and there at long intervals will be found completed exhibits. The Austrian section is completed and shows a dazzling display of Bohemian glass.

The "brick man-of-war," made of wood on a brick foundation, is attracting considerable curiosity.

At the Paris Exposition of 1878, which is considered the most successful in practical results ever held in that country, the greatest attendance for one day was 200,613, which was on June 10.

The World's Fair Directors by a vote of twenty-two to seven decided to open the Fair grounds Sundays and charge twenty-five cents admission.

The warm, sunny days are causing the landscape gardeners to turn out in force and cover the immense beds outside of the Agricultural Building and in the wooded island with blooming plants.

CHIEF BUSHMAN has resolved not to allow any processions through the World's Fair grounds, even though the routes chosen may be along roadways on the edge of the Fair.

In the different buildings many little booths have been opened with an endless display of novelties.

A WHOLESALE expulsion of Hebrews from Poland has been ordered by the Russian Government.

DURING last year 1046 elk were killed in Norway, and 1674 in Sweden, about the average number.

A RICH gold strike has been made within a mile of Central Point, Oregon, and the greatest excitement prevails.

THE cold spring and late rains in Egypt have compelled the cotton planters to sow their cotton over again.

A GIRL, seventeen years old, has been rescued at Bogorodskia, near Moscow, Russia, after being buried in the snow fifty-one days.

THE Cuban rising appears to have been an utter fiasco, and the leaders easily yielded, having, it is said, been bought over.

PHYSICIANS who have made an examination of the mental condition of William Townsend, who is suspected of having had designs on the life of Mr. Gladstone, certify that he is a lunatic.

A LIGHTNING rod agent who attempted to put a rod on the house of Thomas Salter, a farmer near St. Augustine, Fla., against Mr. Salter's wishes, was brought down by Mrs. Salter with a Winchester.

THIS has been a "tough" year for the candidates for admission to the West Point Military Academy. Of 166 candidates designated to appear before the examining boards only forty-three were successful.

A PLACARD has been placed in the Russia section, explaining the cause of the delay as due to an ice blockade in the Baltic Sea.

THE camera "fiend" is barred from the Fair. Any one carrying one of these instruments is stopped and the camera examined.

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THE Princeton ball team was defeated by the Harvard nine, seven to nothing.

THE fielding being done by the different League teams is remarkable this early in the season.

MURPHY, the Yale short-stop, will probably add baseball as a profession after this season.

TWO baseball clubs, composed entirely of young ladies, have been formed in East Lake, Ill.

PRESIDENT N. E. YOUNG tendered to President Cleveland and his Cabinet several passes to the ball games at Washington.

BASEBALL has reached its 1899 stage at last. The teams are so evenly matched that the old-time walk-aways are out of the question.

NEWSY GLEANINGS.

PARIS is full with visitors.

ENGLAND is suffering from a drought. CARBIDE, Mo., ships trees to Scotland.

ITALY is adopting co-operative farming. FRANCE is building twenty-five warships.

In the United States 5,500,000 live-are inured.

LOWELL (Mass.) mills were damaged by floods.

THE great naval parade at New York cost about \$250,000.

A NEW Panama-New Orleans steamship line will be established.

CHINA'S tea crop promises to be large and of excellent quality this year.

COLD and frost have made necessary much replanting of the cotton crop.

THERE is a revival of interest in Doctor Brown-Sequard's elixir of life.

MRS. A. HARRISON, while resting on a sofa at Bristol, Penn., rolled off, dead.

THE increase of population in the whole of Australia last year is placed at 85,000.

THE railroad traffic and receipts throughout the entire country are rapidly increasing.

POTTSVILLE (Penn.) soldiers made a satisfactory test of a new and quick cooking stove.

ONE HUNDRED and FIFTY-ONE new National banks have been authorized since the first of the year.

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THE LABOR WORLD.

MASSACHUSETTS has 26,765 K. of L. UNCLE SAM has 4,000,000 unemployed.

LONDON hospitals employ 6000 persons. BROOMMAKERS will form a National body.

LOWELL (Mass.) city laborers get \$2 a day. ST. LOUIS is to have a \$250,000 labor temple.

NEW YORK CITY has a Spanish waiters' union.

NEW YORK stonecutters get \$4.50 for eight hours.

PITTSBURGH's new Mayor is a union iron molder.

In Germany Sunday work is general among iron workers.

BRAZIL is about to undertake public works that will attract immigrants.

WOMEN clothing workers in San Francisco are paid from \$5 to \$12 a week.

THERE are only a few carpenters' unions outside the pale of the Brotherhood.

THE annual eight hour labor demonstrations were held throughout Europe.

THE Prussian Government has erected 26,000 dwellings for the Government railway hands.

At Naples, Italy, 160 women cigar workers struck against making cigars without tobacco.

At Cincinnati, Ohio, a bureau of justice collects wages from the bosses who fail to pay their hands.

A CLOAK which sells for \$20 in London shops is sewed by women who receive two cents per cloak for their labor.

At Detroit, Mich., reduced rates of fare are allowed workmen by the railroad company between 5:30 and 7 a. m.

THE Lake Shore Railroad will give every employee transportation to the World's Fair and a vacation on full pay when the trip is taken.

In Germany every employer of a servant girl is obliged to contribute five cents per week, exclusive of wages, to provide a sick fund for her.

NEAR Alfred, Me., there is a woolen mill that pays twenty per cent. higher wages than any other concern in the State, and the work is correspondingly superior.

HODCARRIERS are on strike in Kansas City, Mo., and several wealthy contractors, who could not get anybody to take the place of their strikers, took up the hod and carried mortar and bricks for several days.

THE British Royal Commission on labor says in a recent report that the annual rate of remuneration for farm labor in the United States is \$25, compared with \$150 in Great Britain, \$125 in France, \$100 in Holland, \$90 in Germany, \$60 in Russia, \$50 in Italy, and \$30 in India.

THE German Army bill was rejected in the Reichstag at Berlin by a majority of forty-eight. The vote stood 162 in favor of the measure and 210 against it.

Immediately upon the announcement of the vote Chancellor von Caprivi read the Imperial message decreeing the dissolution of the Reichstag.

Great confusion and uproar followed. The Social Democratic members displayed the wildest enthusiasm and for the result they hurrahed repeatedly, following cheer with cheer.

The new elections, which, under the constitution, must take place within sixty days after dissolution, are ordered by the Emperor's decree to be held June 15.

The new session must open within ninety days after dissolution.

Chancellor von Caprivi went to Potsdam directly after the receipt was promulgated to offer his resignation.

FERRETS IN NEW YORK.

OVER A THOUSAND OF THEM IN USE IN THE CITY.

They Drive Away Rats—Harmless as Kittens When They Are Not Hungry—Their Habits.

FERRETS are becoming popular as pets in many of the big business houses of New York, and in houses in the city and suburbs.

It is not necessarily the ferocious little animal it is supposed to be when it is brought up amid quiet surroundings and is fed regularly every day.

Its fighting qualities, however, when attacked by the big rats that are brought to this port from South America, are shown to great advantage.

There is no pluckier little fighter in the animal kingdom.

It is estimated that over 1000 ferrets are owned or hired by the proprietors of big buildings in New York and Brooklyn that have been infested with rats.

These animals, which have been trained carefully to do their work, will answer a call or a whistle the same as a faithful dog, and will not leave a building in which they have been placed until taken away.

They are affectionate little animals and appreciate good treatment.

The ferret's original home was in Africa, and some come from Kentucky, but many of the ferrets now in New York have a pedigree that runs back to the importation of ferrets from Ireland nearly a quarter of a century ago.

They breed twice a year, from one to ten at a time. The mother resents the handling of her young. If one of them is touched when it is only a few days old, she will at once devour it.

From seven to ten years is the ordinary life of the ferret, but after five years' existence it becomes stupid, passing most of the time in sleep, and is no longer useful or interesting.

In order to be valuable in ridding a building of rats the ferret is trained not to catch the rats, but only to drive them away.

The ferret's presence is soon detected by the rats, and unless the latter are particularly large and vicious they will scamper off in short order.

The use of ferrets to chase rabbits out of holes is well known, although it is against the law in this State. Many ferrets, however, are sold from Thanksgiving to Christmas, and after the ferret has routed out the rabbit from a hole a fox terrier out-side does the rest.

If a ferret, in the course of training, persists in biting rats it becomes necessary to muzzle it or cut its teeth. The reason is that ferrets do their best work on a comparatively empty stomach and if one of them ate a rat it would make it so sluggish it wouldn't do any work for three days.

THE KAISER BEATEN.

German Legislators Tire of the Reign of Militarism.

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THE MARKETS.

Late Wholesale Prices of Country Produce Quoted in New York.

Table listing prices for various commodities including Beans, Creamery, Butter, Eggs, and Poultry.

EGGS.

Table listing prices for different types of eggs.

FRUITS AND BERRIES—FRESH.

Table listing prices for various fruits and berries.

CHEESE.

Table listing prices for different types of cheese.

LIVE POULTRY.

Table listing prices for various types of live poultry.

DRESSED POULTRY—FRESH KILLED.

Table listing prices for dressed poultry.

VEGETABLES.

Table listing prices for various vegetables.

GRAIN, ETC.

Table listing prices for grain and other commodities.

RECORD OF THE LEAGUE LEADS.

Table listing league records and statistics.

CLUBS WON. LOSS. CLUBS WON. LOSS.

Table listing club win and loss records.

TRAMPS KILLED.

Beating Their Way on a Freight Train When It Was Wrecked.

While the first section of a north bound Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton freight train was taking water near Tadmor, Ohio, the second section dashed into it, making a bad wreck.

Of six tramps who were in one of the cars of the first section beating their way towards Lima, Ohio, only one survived.

The engineer and fireman of the second section saved their lives by jumping an instant before the crash.

The crew of the first section had neglected to display the proper signals.

MANY COOKED ALIVE.

The Boiler of a Mississippi River Steamer Bursts.

One of the worst catastrophes which has occurred in that region for years took place on the Mississippi River at Wolf Island.

Twenty-four miles below Cairo, Ill., at 7:45 the other morning, a rear end of one of the boilers of the steamer Ohio, a Cincinnati and Memphis packet, blew out, filling the deck cabin with steam and boiling water.

Several of the deck hands and deck passengers, who were eating breakfast at the time, were literally cooked alive, and a large number were rendered seriously injured.

Following is a list of the dead: William Hurstman, colored, fireman, St. Louis; Hampton Collins, colored, Memphis; Thomas Woods, colored; Cyrus Meyers, white, second mate, of Cincinnati, jumped into the river and was drowned; two colored men, unidentified.

The wildest consternation reigned on board the boat, and the screams of the passengers and the groans and appeals of the victims made the scene a terrible one.

FATAL FLAMES.

An Indiana Village Almost Entirely Destroyed by Fire.

The village of North Galveston, Ind., has been almost totally destroyed by fire.

The residence of J. J. Jackson, among others, was consumed, and the entire family, consisting of himself, wife, two sons and a daughter, perished in the flames.

Several families lost their entire earthly possessions, and made their escape clad only in their night clothes.

AMERICAN STUDENTS IN FRANCE.

There are from 1500 to 2000 American students in France.

Some of these are working to perfect themselves in the language, some are studying vocal music, some architecture and a few sculpture, but the majority are working at the easel.

The schools and studios of Paris are open to the whole world, and with a few exceptions, even the prizes of the Grand Salon are accessible to foreign students.

The art student may connect himself with a private school, or, if his drawings are satisfactory, he may obtain admission to the Ecole des Beaux Arts.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

WOOLEN APRONS.

Woolen aprons are recommended either to cooks or other women who are constantly about a hot stove.

The aprons may be made from a light weight, loosely woven woolen, and are certainly a wise precaution against those accidents from fire that happen every few days.

At the large stores there are ready-made woolen petticoats, the cheapest of which are fifty cents, that may be cut open and used for aprons.

They need only be used for cooking and ironing, and the gingham apron used at other times.

Washed in water containing a little ammonia, they are as easily cleansed as aprons of cotton.

HOW TO COOK A STEAK.

This is the proper way to cook a beefsteak: The first requisite is to get a steak that has been kept long enough—the proper time is two months.

The very sight of this as it comes from the refrigerator would effectually deter any woman from buying it, for it is covered with a repulsive mold and looks as though it were fit only for the garbage wagon.

The sides and ends trimmed off, meat of a dark, blood-red color is disclosed. This should be sliced about two inches thick, the end known as waste cut off, leaving the solid tenderloin and sirloin.

The trimming of a porterhouse takes about one-third its weight. Reduced thus, the steak should then be liberally seasoned with salt and pepper.

A test of the condition of the steak is a pressure of the finger. If it is tender the impression remains on the meat.

RECIPES.

Strawberry Custard—Make a custard of one pint of milk, the yolks of three eggs and four tablespoons of sugar.

Set it aside to cool. Beat the whites of the eggs until stiff, add to them four tablespoons of powdered sugar, and beat again until stiff and white.

Put about a pint of strawberries into a glass dish, pour over the custard, heap the whites in spoonfuls over the top, dust with sugar, place in the oven a moment to brown. Serve ice-cold.

Strawberry Dumplings—Make a dough as for short cake, roll into a thin sheet and cut with a large round cutter; put three strawberries in the center of each round, fold the dough over so that you have a neat dumpling.

Stand these dumplings on a buttered plate, place them in a steamer and steam twenty minutes. Serve with a strawberry sauce.

Meat Turnovers—Stew the dry, tough portions of cold beef until tender, letting the water stew nearly all away. Chop fine, and mix with it twice as much hot mashed potato, and to each cup of the mixture add a tablespoonful of green tomato pickle, minced fine.

THE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL.

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