OFFICIAL CROP REPORT.

ESTIMATES OF THE AGRICUL-TURAL DEPARTMENT.

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

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. The averages of the principal winter wheat States are : Ohio, 88; Michigan, 71; Indiana, 79; Illinois, 62; Missouri, 72; Kansas, 51. The average of these six States is 68.3, against 74.2 in April, being a decline of 5.9 points since the first of last month. In California the condition has advanced ten points, while in the principal wheat producing States there has been considerable deterioration. In Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska, where planting was back ward and germination slow, owing to con-tinual drough and much of the plant being winter-killed, large areas have been plowed up and devoted to other crops. The same has been done in Missouri, Indiana and Illi nois, where the plant was badly winter-killed and greatly damaged since by the continued wet weather. In Michigan the severity of the winter greatly damaged the plant, and the weather since has been too cold and backward to admit of recuperation. Damage from Hessian fly in some of the counties of the latter State, Indiana and Ohio is reported, and from the chinch bug in Kansas. In some of the principal wheat States the plant on the uplands is reported in good condition, while on lower and undrained lands the conditions are poor and much of the crop was destroyed by drown-

Winter rye, like wheat, has suffered a decline in condition since last month, its average for May being 82.7, against 85.7 for same date in April. The average condition of bar-ley is 88.6, against 92.8 last year. The proportion of spring plowing done May 1 is re-

portion of spring plowing done May 1 is reported as 73.4 per cent., against an average
of 77 per cent, for a series of years.

The cotton report to the department for
May relates to the progress of cotton planting and contemplated acreage. The proportion of the proposed breadth already planted
on the first of May was 85.3 per cent., which
approaches very closely the area usually
planted at that date, which is estimated at
86 per cent. It some districts correper cent. In some districts corre-ndents report drouth, while in others the returns show the retarding causes to be frost and excessive rain. Germination has been slow and the growth of plant backward. Some indications have been given as to the con templated acreage, as compared with that of last year, which was considerably below the average for a series of years, but they are of an uncertain character, and therefore it is impossible to base any satisfactory predictions thereon, and the figures relating thereto are only given to indicate what the correspondents believed to be the intention as to screage. There will be less replanting than usual, owing to the great scarcity of seed. Estimate of acreage will be made on June 1

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

M. PASTEUR, the great French scientist, is the son of a tanner. 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 Nether-

RUDYARD KIPLING has abandoned short write; to devote his time to longer works of fiction.

SIR JAMES ANDERSON, who was in command he Great Eastern when she laid the At

lantic cable, is dead. THE Queen of Greece is President of a sis-terhood devoted to the reformation of crimi-

nals, and she personally visits prisoners. EX-SENATOR JOSEPH E. BROWN, of Georgia, is seventy-two years old, and he is re-ported to be enjoying a "ripe and serene old

JOSEPH S. HARRIS, who succeeds Mr. Mc-Leod as President of the Reading Railroad

system, is a civil engineer by profession and in early life was connected with the Coast Ex-President Harrison will begin his

course of lectures on international law at the Stanford University, California, next October, when the new school of law will be

GOVERNOR RUSSELL, of Massachusetts, relies on long periods of sleep to keep him in good physical condition. This and his peri-odical trips to the woods are the secrets of his splendid vitality.

SECRETARY SMITH has brought his favorite saddle-horse to Washington, and may be seen ery morning taking a canter on the ave-es. He is at his office desk by 8:30 o'clock

refreshed for a hard day's work. In view of the frequency of such dents to him, it is of interest to note that there is a popular superstition in Germany to the effect that the Kaiser will ultimately

meet his death through a carriage accident EDWIN DUN, of Ohio, the new Minister to Japan, is a nephew of Allen G. Thurman. He is a farmer and has never been heard of in Ohio politics. He has lived in Japan since 1873, and married the daughter of a Japanese

MRS. ELISE HEGEMAN DEPEW, Wife Chauncey M. Depew, died in New York City after an illness from which she had been suf-fering for about three years. She had never fully recovered from an attack of the grip three years ago.

"BILL NYE's" income is probably the largest of any humorist alive, for besides the im-mense amount he realizes from his annual tours, he has a yearly income from his books of over \$20,000-his full income being estimated at \$50,000.

JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE, the historian, is a tall, keen-eyed, handsome man, of singularly genial manner, with a ruddy, clean-shaven face framed in a close-fitting, irongray side whiskers. He is seventy-four years old and looks ten years younger.

DOCTOR WILLIAM EVERETT, the preacherpolitician who has just been elected to Con-gress from one of the Massachusetts dis tricts, is accomplished in the art of dining tells a good story, makes a rattling speech and is gifted with some pleasing personal ec-

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY, the "Hoosier" poet, has a striking peculiarity—he talks in his sleep. At a hotel where he is known he is always assigned to a room as far away from the other guests as possible. Not long ago on a Southern sleeping car he gave one of his complete lectures in his sleep. He was awakened by the applause of the other

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 Tadmer, Ohio, the second section dashed into it, making a

bad wreek. 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.

WORLD'S FAIR NOTES.

THE magnitude of the Exposition is a perpetual wonder-a source of ceaseless amaze-

ment. 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. Uncle Sam's collection of models of ships is an interesting one.

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 buildings, however, will be closed.

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 BURNHAM 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. This decision is likely to upset all international celebrations.

In the different buildings many little booths have been opened with an endless display of souvenirs. Numerous lunch counters, all maintaining high prices, have been opened, and altogether the side show feature may now be said to be in full blast.

THE tight shoe store, with a brass band, is novelty. When a customer is buying a pair of shoes the band is silent. It is silent until the shoes are paid for. Then it strikes up a giddy waltz, and the buyer does not notice whether his shoes are comfortable or not.

Many of the passes issued to exhibitors who claimed that it would be necessary for them to be continually on the ground have been confiscated because their exhibits are in the hands of agents. They will hereafter have to pay fifty cents each time they wish to visit the

Exposition. HEAVY rains have again revealed the existence of numerous leaks in the great build-ings. In the Brazilian section of the Manufactures Building a stream of water came down, doing considerable damage to the ex-hibits, and in the Government Building there was the same trouble.

THE archæological and ethnological exhibits are exclusively representative of the North and South American continents and are more interesting than some exhibits in the central portion of the park, yet they have been relegated to the backyard of the Exposition for ome reason which does not appear on the

THE camera "fiend" is barred from the Fair. Any one carrying one of these instru-ments is stopped and the camera examined. If it is a single lense a tax of \$2 is levied on it; if it is a double lense the visitor is not permitted to enter. This is to prevent any one from poaching on the preserves of the official photographer.

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. Directly opposite Russia is the Denmark tion, also a vacant space, in front of which is the announcement: "Shipment of exhibits and material delayed six weeks by ice and four weeks by accident to steamer Hekla."

THE NATIONAL GAME.

BASEBALL has regained its old time popu-

Ladies are admitted free to all games in CARUTHERS has been released by Chicago

Tucker, of Boston, is playing a wonderful

game this season "Buck" Ewing is very solid with the Cleveland cranks.

CHILDS, of Cleveland, made the first ho run of the season. ALLEN has succeeded Clements as Captain

of the Philadelphias. CAPTAIN WARD, of the New Yorks, signed Pitcher Frank Foreman. BROOKLYN won all three of the games with

New York in the first series. WARD, of New York, has played ball prossionally for sixteen years.

THE Bostons made eighteen runs in one inning at Charlottesville, Va. Last season the Bostons won twenty-five and lost ten games by one run.

No player in the Eastern League can be paid more than \$150 per month. CHICAGO paid the Atlanta (Ga.) Club \$500 for the release of Pitcher Mauch.

THE bunt hit is not being tried as often as was expected under the new rules. 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

MURPHY, the Yale short-stop, will probably adopt baseball as a profession after this Two baseball clubs, composed entirely of ladies, have been formed in East Lake, Ala.

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

BASEBALL has reached its 1889 stage at last. The teams are so evenly matched that the old-time walk-aways are out of the ques-

UMPIRE LYNCH enforces the new balk rule very strictly. He will not allow the pitcher raise his forward foot in throwing to a

STAFFORD, of the Chattan egas, of the Southern League, threw from deep centre to the home plate, 110 yards, putting out his THE new pitchers of the League this year

are Garry, Hastings, Williams, Mauck, McGinnis, Jones, Darby, Hill, Taylor, Donahue, Clarkson and Sullivan—all good men and all likely to hold their positions.

STIVETTS and Stratton are the heaviest batting pitchers in the League, Doyle the best batting catcher, and Brouthers, Childs, Lyons, Dahlen, Hamilton, Burns and Duffy the best batsmen in the other positions.

THE real baseball season for 1893 was inaugurated under the most auspicious cir augurated under the most auspicious circumstances. Over 50,000 people witnessed the opening games of the National League, and all previous records in point of attendance at opening games in New York City, Pittsburg and St. Louis were beaten.

Cricago is now carrying sixteen men, and two will be released. Boston has fourteen, and one will probably go. New York has fifteen; Brooklyn, fourteen; Cincinnati, sixteen; Baltimore, sixteen; Pittsburg, fifteen; Cleveland, sixteen; Louisville, fourteen; St. Louis, fifteen, and Washington, fourteen.

LECORD	OF THE	LEAGUE CLUB!	Marie Control
Clubs. Won.	Lost, ct.	Clubs, Won,	Per Lost, et.
Cleveland, 5		New York. 5	6 .455
St. Louis 7 Washingin, 8		Boston 5	6 .455
Brooklyn. 6	4 600	Baltimore . 5 Philadel 4	7 .417 6 .400
Pittsburg. 5	4 .556	Chicago 4	8 .333
Cincinnati. 6	6 ,500	Louisville. 2	6 .250

PRESIDENT Low, of Columbia College, has announced that the sum of \$2500 has been placed in his hands for the assistance of meritorious students who desire to visit the fair at Chicago, but could not on account of

It is estimated that 70,000 pounds of maple sugar and 6000 gallons of syrup have been produced in Western Michigan during the season just closed.

NEWSY GLEANINGS.

Pauls is full with visitors.

ENGLAND is suffering from a-drought. CARTHAGE, Mo., ships trees to Scotland. TTALY is adopting co-operative farming. FRANCE is building twenty-five warships. In the United States 5,500,000 lives are in-

Lowell (Mass.) mills were damaged by floods.

THE great naval parade at New York cost about \$280,000. 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. HARRIGAN, 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

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

A wholesale expulsion of Hebrews from Poland has been ordered by the Russian Gov-

During last year 1046 elk were killed in Norway, and 1672 in Sweden, about the aver-age number.

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

THE cold spring and late rains in Egypt have compelled the cotton planters to sow their cotton over again. The crop will be a A GIRL, seventeen years old, has been res

eued at Bogorodska, near Moscow, Russia, after being buried in the snow fifty-one days. She subsisted on snow and a few crusts of

The Cuban rising appears to have been an utter flasco, and the leaders easily yielded, having, it is said, been bought over. All danger of a revolution is now considered at

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

put a rod on the house of Thomas Sailer, a farmer near St. Augustine, Ill., against Mr. Sailer's wishes, was brought down by Mrs. Sailer 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,

THE MARKETS.

Late Wholesale Prices of Country

Prod	uce Quoted in New York	
19	REANS AND PEAS.	
Beans-M	arrow, 1892, choice#2 40 @\$2	45
	, 1892, choice 1 92 @ 1	
Pea, 18	2, choice 18734@ 1	90
	ney, 1892, choice 2 60 @ 2	
White k	dney, 1892, choice. 2 10 @ 2	
Lima, (al., # bush 2 10 @ 2	1234
Green per	s, 1892, ¥ bbl 185 @ 1	90
	BUTTER.	
Canana	Ct & Down orten 991/49	20

BUTTER,			
eamery-St. & Penn, extra	293	60	30
St. & Penn., first	- masser	6	-
Western, firsts	28	0	29
Western, second	27	60	2734
Western, third	25	0	26
ate dairy—half tubs and			
pails, extras	293	(6)	30
Half tubs and pails, firsts	28	6	29
Half tubs and pails, second	27	0	2734
Welsh tubs, extras	- market	@	mage
Welsh tubs, firsts	28	0	29
Welsh tubs, seconds	26	0	27
estern-Im. creamery, firsts	26	0	27
W. Im. creamery, seconds.	23	0	24
W. Im. creamery, thirds	receive.	6	22
estern Factory, fresh, firsts.	25	0	26
W. Factory, seconds	22	0	23
W. Factory and dairy, thirds	20	0	

CHARA		
State Factory—Full cream, white, fancy. Full cream, colored, fancy. Full cream, good to prime. Part skims, choice. Part skims, good to prime. Part skims, common. Full skims.	11%@ 11%@ 10%@ - @ 4 @ 2 @ %@	12 12 11
EGGS.		
State and Penn—Fresh Western—Fresh, fancy Duck eggs	一 @ 16%@ 16 @	16) 16) 21
PRUITS AND BERRIES-Apples-King, P bbl	FRESH.	9.05

Stat

oles—King, ₱ bbl	anne.	0	-	occurred in that region for years to
aldwin, # bbl	2 50	0	3 25	on the Mississippi River at Wol
usset, 7 bbl	2 00	0	3 00	twenty-four miles below Cairo, Ill
pes, up river, Del., 5 fb	886690	(6)	-	
rida oranges, # box	2 00	0	5 50	the other morning. A rear end of o
nberries, Jersey, crate	-	0	***	boilers of the steamer Ohio, a Cincir
HOPS.				Memphis packet, blew out, filling cabin with steam and boiling water.
e-1892, choice	21	6	2134	of the deck hands and deck pa
92, prime		6		who were eating breakfast
92, common to good		0	1934	time, were literally cooked alive, an
ld odds		6	10	number were considered seriously
LIVE POULTRY.				Following is a list of the dead : Willia

Fowls-Jersey, State, Penn. - @

DRESSED POULTRY-PRESH KILLED. White, ₹ doz..... VEGETABLES.

GRAIN, ETC.

LIVE STOCK.

THE LABOR WORLD.

MASSACHUSETTS has 26,755 K. of L. UNCLE SAM has 2,000,000 unemployed. Lordon hospitals employ 6000 persons. B'ACOMMAKERS Will form a National body, Lowell (Mass.) city laborers get 82 a day. Sr. Louis is to wave a \$250,000 labor tem-

New York City has a Spanish waiters

NEW YORK stonecutters get \$4.50 for eight PITTSBURO'S new Mayor is a union iron

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 demonstra-tions were held throughout Europe, THE Prussian Government has erected 26,000 dwellings for the Government railway hands.

Ar Naples, Italy, 10'0 women cigar workers struck against making cigars without to

Ar Cincinnati, Ohio, a bureau of justice collects wages from the bosses who fail to pay 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 workingmen by the railroad company betwen 5:30 and 7 a. m.

THE Lake Shore Railroad will give every employe transportation to the World's Fair 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. Hodcarries 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 \$282, 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 KAISER BEATEN.

German Legislators Tire of the Reign of Militarism.

The German Army bill was rejected in the Reichstag at Berlin by a majority of fortyeight. 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 over the result. They hurrahed repeatedly, following cheer with 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 ses-

sion must open within ninety days after dis-Chancellor con Caprivi went to Pottsdam directly after the rescript was promulgated to offer his resignation. The Emperor summoned Count Botho von Eulenberg, the

Prussian Premier, to Potsdam.

Count Botho von Eulenberg took the place of Chancellor von Caprivi as Prussian Premier about a year ago, when the Chancellor resigned, owing to the Kaiser's decision to withdraw the Education bill from the Prus-The last attempt at compromise having

failed, Chancellor Caprivi refusing to sanction a proposition to make the two years' active service permanent, the Emperor became impatient of further delay and pressed for a ision by the Reichstag.

The failure of the Army bill makes it necessary for the Kaiser to defer for the present his projected reform of the higher military commands and of the posts in the War Office.

MANY COOKED ALIVE.

The Boiler of a Mississippi River Steamer Bursts.

One of the worst catastrophes which has ook place olf Island, Il., at 7:45 one of the nnati and Several asengers, d a large man, 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. The boat could proceed no further, and for several hours it lay on the bank, while the tims lay on the deck writhing in agony and

calling aloud for aid. At last the tug Aegus hove in sight, She was hailed, and the sufferers, twenty-two in number, were transferred to her deck and she immediately steamed to Cairo. been telegraphed of the accident, every physician in town was on the wharf to meet her. The suffering of the victims was alleviated as much as possible, but before they could be removed from the boat four of them were dead. The remainder were transferred to the United States Marine Hospital. Another one died soon after reaching there, and the surgeon declared that ten of the sixteen in the hospital would die.

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 fiames. Soveral other per-sons were badly burned. many lamilies lost their entire earthly pos-sessions, and made their escape clad only in their night clothes. The village had no fire extinguishing apparatus, and being off the line of a railroad, it was impossible to secure aid.

A school teachers' famine is causing much A school teachers famine is causing nuce anxiety among the school directors in Greene County, Iowa. In fourteen districts in the county the schools are closed for the simple reason that no teachers can be found to open their doors. In several districts school teachers' salaries have been advanced \$5 a month and a general advance is looked for.

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.

YERRETS 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 king.'om. 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, and have been raised not far from New York. 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

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 outside 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. Trained ferrets bring \$7.50 a piece, and untrained ones

\$2,50. "The details of the training of ferrets," said B. Isaacsen, who has been training these little animals for a gen-'are, in a measure, a business secret, and no two persons train them in precisely the same way. But I will tell you about one good method. Put some rats in a cage in a room and then turn the ferret loose in the room and don't give him anything to eat until he finds the rats. He will soon learn on what his meals depend. These ferrets here answer as I call their names, and are glad to see me. The best of the three, the dark one with brown eyes and very bushy tail, and the two lightcolored ones with pink eyes, are as gentle as pet cats or rabbits, and any child may play with them without the slightest danger, especially after they have been fed. If they have not eaten anything for a number of hours pre paratory to setting out on a ratting expedition, they may snap a stranger's fingers placed near them, but they do not give a poisonous or painful bite. If the teeth closed on a finger, they would let go at once on pinching the bottom of one of their feet, which are

very sensitive." Ferrets are quite blind in the daytime, but are guided swiftly and accurately by their keen sense of smell. When they are attacked by the big sewer rats they quickly get a fatal hold and exhaust the life blood of their assailants. Then they will eat the brains of the rats if not called off. On one occasion, Mr. Isaacsen used six ferrets to rid a vessel of a large colony of rats, some of which ranged from a pound to a pound and a half in weight, and were big enough to look like small rabbits. About 100 rats showed fight against the six ferrets, who pluckily kept their ground for a time and killed at least a dozen rats, but they would have been overpowered if reinforcements had not come to their rescue. After the rats were scattered, the ferrets succeeded in driving them from

American Students in France.

the ship .- New York News.

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 l'Ecole des Beaux Arts. In the Julian schools a work-room is furnished in which the student can work for a certain number of hours each day, and can have the best of artistic criticism twice a week for about five dollars a month. - Public Opinion.

The Pennsylvania Hospital, in Philadelphia, is the oldest hospital in the United States. It was built in 1755.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

WOOLEN APBONS.

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 apronused at other times. Washed in water containing a little ammonia, they are as easily cleansed as aprons of cotton. -New York Post.

SPRINGTIME GREENS.

Spinach is one of the springtime vegetables that should stand near the top of the list in healthfulness. But it is seldom properly cooked. It should be thoroughly, perfectly freed from sand and dust by many washings, in cold water, and then put in a close saucepan and covered closely, without one drop of water, over a moderate fire. In an hour or more it will be perfectly cooked; then it should be drained and chopped, and butter and salt added. The old fashioned way was to almost drown it in the liquor from corned beef-and thus half its nutriment and medicinal properties were lost, and the other half so disguised that the luscious leaves might just as well have been cabbage, or any other sort of "greens." Young beets and the "foliage thereof," are considered fine by many; but we have been told, and found it true, that if the leaves are held up to the light, looked through and examined, so much life is seen between the outside and the lining of them that no one will care to eat "beet greens" thereafter. Our own eyesight is generally convincing .-- New York Independent.

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 butcher and the beefsteak expert know better.

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. Prepared thus the steak is placed on a common broiler and put in the gas stove, the flame of which is above and from one and a half to two inches from it. It takes about twenty minutes to cook such a steak-ten for each side. It should be cooked slowly, for the meat has just come off the ice and takes time to get heated through. The dripping-pan beneath catches the juice that used to fall in the coals and burn

The juice is afterward poured over the steak, and its saving is possible only by the gas stove. This manner of cooking steak is being adopted by all of the best restaurants in New York. Besides the charring of steak by coals and dripping grease, the heat cannot be kept uniform under any other system than gas. Natural gas is considered the best. -St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Strawberry Custard-Make a custard of one pint of milk, the yolks of three eggs and four tablespoonfuls of sugar. Set it aside to cool. Beat the whites of the eggs until stiff, add to them four tablespoonfuls 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

strawbezry sauce. Meat Turnovers - Stew the dry, tough portions of cold roast beef until tender, letting the water stew nearly all away. Chop fine, and mix with it twice as much hot mashed potato, and te each cup of the mixture add a tablespoonful of green tomato pickle, minced fine. Add salt to taste, and moisten with meat water. Shape into flat, thin cakes, brown in sausage fat,

and turn when brown on one side. Noodles for Soup-Best three eggs well without separating, add three tablespoonfuls of milk and as much flour as the eggs and milk will mix; roll out as thin as possible, cut into strips and dry half an hour. Boil for twenty minutes in plenty of boiling, salted water, drain dry. Brown delicately in a frying pan with one table-

spoonful of butter. Tripe Lyonnaise—Cut up half a pound of boiled tripe into nest squares. Put two ounces of butter and a tablespoonful of chopped onion in a fryingpan and fry to a delicate brown; add to the tripe a tablespoonful of chopped parsley and a little strong vinegar, salt and cayenne; stir the pan to prevent burning. Cover the bottom of the platter with tomato sauce, add the contents of the pan and serve,

The United States have about 1700; different and distinct railways.