

ON BROOM INDUSTRY

THIS YEAR BROOM CORN CROP IS A GOODLY ONE.

Central Illinois Raises Quality and Quantity—Oklahoma Now Forging Ahead—Cultivation and Manufacture.

Broom corn will flourish in only certain limited localities, is not, as we ignorantly supposed, a crop that can be counted on in all the corn states. Illinois is the great broom corn center; this state furnishes broom material for full half the world.

It was back in 1860 that Illinois began the growing of what has proved a very valuable crop, one Col. Coffey that year bringing from Tennessee some broom corn seed and planting it on his farm in Douglas county. The little experiment was successful, and neighboring farmers tried their luck with broom corn. An article in the Chicago Chronicle, which gives us much information about the broom industry, tells something of the result of the introduction here of the broom corn seed.

"Within a few years Illinois became known as the premier broom corn state of the country. Since then Okla-



A BROOM MAKER.

homa has forged ahead, but Illinois still produces the finer quality. Within a radius of 30 miles in Douglas county is grown the corn from which practically all the best brooms in the world are made, and this district is still regarded as the national source of supply. A colony of Swedes took up the cultivation of broom corn in Knox county, after it had been made a success in Douglas, and the Swedes introduced it later into Kansas. From Kansas the cultivation extended south into Oklahoma, and in the last five years the crop has increased in a remarkable manner.

Broom corn is spoken of as a "90-day crop." It develops much faster than Indian corn, is planted in June and July and harvested in early September. The cultivation is much the same as that of the Indian corn. The Illinois corn fields vary in size from 10 to 100 acres in area, the acreage ranging from 30,000 to 50,000. A great field is a very beautiful sight, the tall stalks and flowerlike blossoms en masse most picturesque.

"Lopping" the corn is also a picturesque sight, and the Swedish girls and boys down in Kansas make quite a festival of the work. In Illinois, too, lopping time is a time of gayety, the work of the day ending with a barn dance; or, if the budding American be too sophisticated for that, or not sophisticated enough, the town hall is called to do duty for ball room.

In "lopping" the workers begin at the end of a field and work backward, their task the bending of the bushy tops of two rows of corn down until they meet and overlap. "Lop." Broom corn is hopped soon after it has blossomed and the seeds begun to fill, and left until it has matured. This process depends on the weather. In cutting, the workers grasp big handfuls and whack off the brush in lengths of two and a half feet. The brush is then laid out to dry, sometimes in sheds, sometimes on rails on the ground, the layers piled in stacks and protected by canvas. Next the brush is seeded, an operator holding it within reach of a revolving cylinder that removes the seeds. Next it is tied into bundles and a baling machine packs it. Now the corn is ready to be sent to the factories.

At Paris, Ill., is located the largest broom factory in the world. This place has a daily output of 8,000. At Evansville, Ind., 6,000 are turned out daily. The next largest factory is at Amsterdam, N. Y., and there is one at the penitentiary at Jackson, Mich., another in the penal institution at Lincoln, Neb. Broom making furnishes employment for many of our blind. It is said that the United States consumes all the good brooms made in the country, only the cheaper grades being exported.

The broom corn is sorted after it reaches the factory, divided regarding length and quality. In building a broom the worker begins with a center, adds two equal shoulders, puts on the cover and the "huri." A winding machine securely fastens each new handful of brush that is placed about the handle. The embryo broom is scraped, pressed flat in a machine, then well sewed, sometimes by hand, sometimes by a machine; as a finishing touch it is trimmed straight. Handles must be of light weight, about three-fourths of a pound; they are made of white maple, basswood and ash, the maple is preferred. In the making of a dozen brooms something like 25 pounds of corn has been put.

Too Much Suspense.
"So you have persuaded your husband to quit playing the races?"
"Yes," answered young Mrs. Tom.
"I got tired of never knowing whether I was going to have a seal with coat or a cotton dress."—Washington Star.

MR. LOOMIS RETIRES

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE QUITS OFFICE.

Has Had Varied Experience in Diplomatic and Consular Service—May Be Confidential Adviser to the President.

Washington, Mr. Loomis, who retired from the office of assistant secretary of state the other day, has had an active and varied experience in public life and in diplomacy. After leaving college he entered journalism and spent several instructive years in that employment, leaving it for a time about 1886 to become state librarian of Ohio and to prosecute certain studies in which he was interested.

In 1890 he entered the consular service and in a short time his reports upon business and commercial affairs, upon industrial conditions and the labor problem in Europe, attracted more than ordinary attention and were frequently commented upon for their thoroughness and insight, both in this country and abroad.

After leaving the consular service Mr. Loomis was editor in chief of a daily paper in Cincinnati. In 1896 he went to Canton to represent certain newspaper enterprises and to assist Maj. McKinley, who was then a presidential candidate, in the matter of his relations with the newspapers.

In 1897 he was sent as minister to Venezuela by President McKinley for the express purpose of trying to build up a market for American goods in that country and to point out to our exporters the truth about the markets of that country, real and potential, and to do what he could to induce Americans to take an interest in the country which would cause American interests there to be at least as potent as that exercised by citizens of certain European countries who were trying to dominate those markets to the exclusion of American products.

Mr. Loomis was publicly thanked in a formal resolution by the National Association of Manufacturers for the assistance he gave that organization and other American enterprises which



FRANCIS B. LOOMIS, (Assistant Secretary of State Who Has Retired.)

were seeking to establish commercial relations with Venezuela in a broad way for the general interest and benefit of American producers and manufacturers.

In 1901 Mr. Loomis was appointed minister to Portugal and a year later assistant secretary of state. While in the foreign service he devoted special attention to the consular work and to a comparative study of the consular systems of the leading foreign countries, and he has written and spoken a great deal upon that topic.

He is the first person that had practical personal knowledge of the consular business and experience in both consular and diplomatic work abroad that has ever filled the office of assistant secretary of state. That, naturally, has been a great advantage to him, and has enabled him to deal quickly and intelligently with the vast number of questions which have come to the department of state from the 300 or 400 consular offices scattered throughout the world.

Mr. Loomis has perhaps a larger acquaintance with public men abroad than any other official in Washington, and during his recent trip in Europe had interesting interviews with several of the leading statesmen of the old world.

He has been the acting head of the department of state perhaps more frequently than any of his predecessors. He was called upon to do a great deal of diplomatic work of the most important and significant character. His knowledge of trade conditions and his intimate acquaintance with the personal needs of our consular service, coupled with his knowledge of Latin-American affairs, made him extremely useful to Mr. Hay, whose confidence he always enjoyed and to whom he always gave faithful and unswerving loyalty and support.

Mr. Loomis is engaged in the manufacture of agricultural implements in Ohio, being the vice president of one of the oldest industrial enterprises of that sort in the country. He is also engaged in ranching and mining in California. One rumor says he will be given another appointment under the state department. It was reported that he would retire to private life, but it is now said that he will be made a confidential adviser to the secretary of state and the president, taking the place formerly filled by John A. Kasson, who, with a salary of \$10,000 a year, enjoyed the title of special commissioner plenipotentiary under the tariff act. Mr. Kasson, who is an Iowa man and an expert in tariff matters, was employed in the negotiation of reciprocity treaties, but retired when it was demonstrated that congress would not approve the treaties.

Foot George.
"Now, Miss Elderberry, this last hamper in the boat and we'll be ready for our sail. Can you give me a hand?"
"Or, Mr. Hayward—Dan! What a sudden, impulsive boy you are! But you may ask papa and I just know what his answer will be."—Houston Post.

PEOPLE RESPONDED

The opening of a November Sale at Murphy & Blish's was one of the greatest successes that has been seen in the clothing business in this valley.

The Big Store was thronged with customers all day yesterday. Legitimate cut prices on high grade goods did the business. You'll miss the opportunity of your life if you fail to get in line and follow the crowd.

November Sale of Fall and Winter Clothing and Gents Furnishings at Prices That Will Startle the Economic Buyer Into Activity. Early Buyers Will Find Choice Picking.

A legitimate sale at reduced prices of fall and winter clothing at this season of the year is a hitherto unheard of proposition, but Murphy & Blish, the Clothiers and Haberdashers of Sayre, have decided to make an innovation and therefore Monday Nov. 13, will launch what will prove to be without question the grandest and most gigantic sale of Men, Boys and Childrens Clothing that has ever taken place in Northern Pennsylvania or Southern New York. Every garment in their select stock of Clothing will be marked from 40 to 50 per cent. Below Regular Selling prices

and in some instances the knife will be plunged even deeper. You ask why? Read this announcement and you will learn the reason. Never before have the conditions so favored a November sale of fall and winter clothing, and right in the beginning, while you are interested in knowing the whys and wherefores we are going to give you a reason that is not only logical but which bears the indelible stamp of truth. In fact you will wonder why you have not thought of it yourself. The weather conditions in October were mild, and the cloth-

ing business was seriously retarded. In other lines normal conditions prevailed, but people just wouldn't buy clothing. They thought they didn't need it. Result: Manufacturers are loaded to the gunwales. So are the retailers. We bought heavily for the fall trade, and the stock must be moved. Hence we have inaugurated this sale with a cut in prices that will eventually result in the major portion of our vast stock finding its way into the hands of the public while we will turn the money into new spring goods. Every garment in the store will be included in this sale, nothing reserved.

The line of clothing which will be offered at this magnificent sale is manufactured by W. S. Peck & Co. of Syracuse, N. Y. They employ union tailors and every garment bears the union label. It is the same line that we have been offering our customers during the four years we have been in business in Sayre. It is the identical line that we bought to supply our fall and winter trade, and is not a job lot of "shoddy," badly cut and made, secured for the express purpose of swindling a gullible public.

Here are a few Prices That Will Set You to Thinking. Read Them Carefully. Compare Them With Other Sales Still Fresh in Your Recollection. Come to Our Store, Inspect the Goods Carefully, and You Will Learn That Every Word that We Have Said concerning This Remarkable Offering is True in Every Particular.

<p>Men's Suits</p> <p>Every suit we show is well worth consideration. Every new and snappy style, single and double breasted coats with new collar, wide lapel, broad athletic shoulders and shape retaining front, beautifully tailored and finished with careful attention to detail, made of Scotch chevots, tweeds and worsteds, in the noblest patterns and colorings the markets produce.</p> <p>Single and double breasted sack suits for men, in black and blue chevots, tibets and undressed worsted, former price 18.00, sale price \$12.62</p> <p>Men's sack suits, single and double breasted styles, made of excellent fabrics in handsome patterns that were 15.00, now \$10.98</p> <p>\$10.00 and 12.00 suits, sale price \$7.98</p> <p>Black and blue chevots containing all the fashion kinks and style changes that expensive clothing boasts \$3.90</p> <p>Coats</p> <p>Single coats for men in all sizes, in black and gray, worth \$4.00, sale price 2.25</p> <p>Men's all wool reefers, were \$5.75, now 3.75</p> <p>Black Irish frieze, made with extra high collar, double breasted, wool lined, \$8.00, now 6.90</p> <p>Heavy canvas coats in black and brown, wool lined, were \$1.50, now 97c</p> <p>10 dozen boys' vests, former price 50c, now 27c</p>	<p>Overcoats for Old and Young</p> <p>Overcoats, medium length for men, very popular and dressy styles which have many admirers, cut single breasted with full skirt, fine velvet collar, broad shoulders, beautifully lined throughout, made of meltons, friezes and kerseys, \$18.00 and 20.00, now \$13.25</p> <p>Long overcoats for men and young men, handsomely tailored and lined, \$12 and \$15, \$9.50</p> <p>Double breasted overcoats for men and young men, the season's dressiest style, cut long, loose and roomy, with or without belt, \$8 and \$10, sale price \$6.75</p> <p>Men's smart overcoats that were formerly \$7, now \$5.00</p> <p>Suits for Young Men</p> <p>Young men's single and double breasted suits brimfull of all the character that the most particular young man could wish for, \$12.00, 15.00 and 16.50, sale price \$8.75</p> <p>\$8.00 and 10.00 suits, sale price \$6.25</p> <p>\$6.00 and 7.00 suits, sale price \$4.50</p> <p>Young Men's Pants</p> <p>Young men's pants \$3.50 and 4.00, now \$2.75</p> <p>\$2.50 and \$3.00 pants, now \$2.00</p> <p>\$2.00 pants, now \$1.35</p>	<p>Haberdashery Department</p> <p>Heavy fleeced lined shirts and drawers, former price 50c, now 27c</p> <p>10c mixed gray hose 3c</p> <p>75c and \$1.00 dress shirts 28c</p> <p>Red and blue 10c handkerchiefs, now 2c</p> <p>35c suspenders, now 8c</p> <p>Boys' knee pants, 50c and 75c, now 38c</p> <p>\$1.50 black derby hats, fall and winter styles 92c</p> <p>Men's black sateen and black and white shirts, 50c, now 27c</p> <p>Heavy wool hose, 25c, now 17c</p> <p>Boys' Clothing</p> <p>Boys' suits sizes 3 to 17 years made of warm serviceable fabrics, sturdily tailored and very smart styles, regular value 5.00, 6.00 and 6.50, Sale price \$3.50</p> <p>\$3.00 and 3.50 suits cut in mannish lines in single and double breasted styles \$2.25</p> <p>\$2.00 and 2.25 suits, containing every kink and wrinkle that the most fastidious young boy can wish for, from \$1.40 to \$1.25</p>
--	---	---

We have not launched this sale for the purpose of going out of business. We intend to remain at the old stand and be prepared to back up our guarantee which accompanies each garment that you purchase.

Although mild weather conditions prevailed in October a change must be expected. Winter is approaching. You will need suits, overcoats, and heavy underwear. We offer you an opportunity to secure them at prices so ridiculously low that there is no necessity for your going without.

Bring along your little boys. We have the finest line of boy's clothing ever shown in this or any other valley, but as we need the room for our other lines we intend to close out the boy's clothing and in order to do so will smash the prices.

Again let us firmly impress upon your mind the fact that this sale is not planned for the purpose of fleecing you out of your hard-earned money, but is a business necessity on our part, arising from natural conditions over which we have no control.

There is still another thing we wish you to remember. We had almost forgotten it. There will be nothing charged at this sale. The prices which we have placed on the goods are CASH. Please remember this when you visit the store.

MURPHY & BLISH

AMERICAN CLOTHIERS AND HABERDASHERS

Next Door to Postoffice.

Sayre, Pa.