

JAMAICA, A SECOND GIBRALTAR.

Interesting Facts About Great Britain's Chief West Indian Possession.

KINGSTON, Jamaica (Special).—As part of the scheme to convert Kingston Harbor into a great naval station in view of the expected early building of the Nicaragua Canal, the Admiralty has just bought Greek Pond, at the western end of the town, where the best equipped dockyard in the British



GRINDING ARROWROOT AND CASAREEP.

dominions is to be constructed immediately.

A naval authority says the intention is to make Jamaica "another Gibraltar to command the canal and be a rallying point for the naval and military forces of the Anglo-American alliance, when, by dominating both oceans, it holds the political and commercial balance of power in the hollow of its hand."

Jamaica, the chief island of the British West Indies, lies ninety miles southwest of Cuba, 600 east of Porto Rico and 700 northeast of San Juan or Greytown, the eastern end of the Nicaragua Canal.

Kingston Harbor is a large land-locked basin, available for the largest ships and capable of being impregably fortified.

The island has a coast line of 500 miles, indented with many excellent harbors. It is traversed by lofty mountains in all directions.

If Jamaica ever entertained any real hope of rehabilitating her industrial condition by political annexation to the United States, the aspiration has been finally quenched by the action of the imperial authorities. There was a time when it seemed as though the British Government was disposed to abandon Jamaica as a naval station, concentrating the military and naval forces in the West Indies at St. Lucia. It was even mooted that the War Office was prepared to dispose of the imperial real estate interests at Port Royal to the municipality of Kingston.

The decisive and obviously practicable plans of the United States to secure a waterway across the Isthmus into the Pacific have completely changed the policy of the British Government as to the strategic positions in the Caribbean—supposing that the modifications indicated were really contemplated. One thing is certain: Great Britain never for a moment credited the bona fides of Count de Lesseps's Panama tide-level canal scheme, and after the collapse of the undertaking she apparently did make the precipitate mistake of contemplating the execution of certain strategic changes among her West Indian strongholds, which eliminated—or did not account for—the element of the Isthmian waterway. These plans were, however, suspended, in view of the movement in France to begin work again at Panama on a lock system. If executed that would alter the aspect of affairs. Meanwhile the American war with Spain occurred, one of the issues of which is the recognition of the necessity for a canal controlled by America, and the probability, amounting to a certainty, of its prompt construction. In either event, Jamaica becomes the key to the canal in so far as actual strategy is concerned.

Port Royal itself for some time past has been the scene of busy operations



BARRACKS AT NEWCASTLE, JAMAICA, 4000 FEET ABOVE THE SEA.

in the direction of strengthening the old fortifications and extending new ones, which gives color to the present assurances that it was never really the intention of the imperial authorities to abandon the station. Fortifications of the most powerful modern type, equipped with all the recent developments in military defensive art, including electrical submarine mines, disappearing guns, etc., have been erected during the last year or two at all the salient vantage points commanding this, the safest and one of the largest harbors in the world. As it stands, Port Royal itself is one of the strongest strategic points in the Empire. But this is not all. Additional naval improvements are announced by the Admiralty on the lines suggested by Admiral Colomb.

The chief point in this scheme is to establish a naval depot and dockyard

inside of Kingston Harbor, and distinct from and independent of Port Royal, which is destined to be one of the most extensive and fully equipped in the British Empire, and worthy to command the Isthmian waterway when it shall have been completed. To this end Government engineers have been busily surveying the foreshores of the inner harbor for months past, boring to considerable depths at all likely places to ascertain the geological conditions most favorable for laying the necessary foundations. It has now been announced that a satisfactory site for the proposed dockyard has



CULTIVATION OF SUGAR CANE, JAMAICA.

been located at a place known as Greek Pond, to the westward of the city, a short distance beyond the railway terminus. The selection of the site was, of course, necessarily dictated by geological conditions. But, as it happens, none better, from a strategical point of view, could have been selected. The position is unique



CARIB GIRL.

for defensive purposes in every respect—even in the remote contingency of an enemy landing on the outcrops, marching on the capital, defeating the military forces and attacking the dock on the land side. More than this, the selection will prove a boon to the city of Kingston in two respects. In the first place, it will do away with a mischievous malarial swamp, and in the next conduce to the extension of the city westward.

The negotiations for the purchase of the requisite land having been completed, it is expected that the work of construction will be begun early in 1899, thus solving in a measure for some time to come the labor problem, for it is said that the works will entail the expenditure of over \$1,250,000 on local labor alone. What a good and timely thing this will be for the island only those can realize who are acquainted with its present condition of general industrial depression and social unrest.

The aboriginal inhabitants of Ja-

and arrow root. The cassava may have been brought by their ancestors from South Africa, but it is apparently indigenous to the West Indies, having been found in use by the natives by their first discoverers. It has almost as many uses as the cocoa palm, which waves above all the huts along the coast, and the Caribs make it available in a variety of forms.

The Carib, by the way, was the inventor of the casareep, which forms the basis of the famous West Indian pepper pot, that concoction sought by all gourmets in the tropics. The juice is evaporated until all the poisonous quality is driven out, when it becomes an antiseptic capable of preserving meats of every kind for a long period. This is placed in a big jar or earthen pot, and into it are thrown odds and ends of meat from time to time, which the juice of the manioc preserves and to which it imparts a peculiar and agreeable flavor.

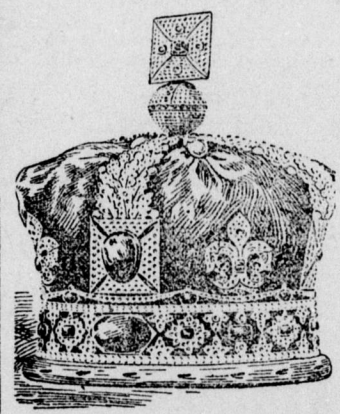
In Jamaica the chief cultivation of the Caribs is the arrow root, which reaches perfection there on the sloping hillsides overlooking the Atlantic



QUEEN VICTORIA'S CROWN.

and Caribbean waters. They grate the tubers on a big wheel, driven by water or hand power, and their little root mills may be found in every ravine and water course on the windward side of the island. The Carib type is that of a strong, well-shaped individual, with robust body, small hands and feet, pleasant countenance, somewhat flat nose, high cheek bones, coarse black hair, and a complexion rather yellow than red or copper-colored. It is probably the lightest in tint of any of our aborigines, being a clearer yellow bronze almost, and in certain individuals approaching "old gold." The men are said to pluck out whatever vestige they may have of a beard or mustache, but the hair of the girls and women is long, glossy black and abundant. They take great pride in their coiffures, and almost any time some maiden lady may be seen seated on a rock in midstream, with sunlit water sparkling around her and tree ferns interlaced overhead, intent on arranging her shining tresses.

Queen Victoria's crown, or, to give it its full name and style, "The Imperial State Crown of Her Majesty Queen Victoria," was specially made in the year of the Queen's accession, and as it contains so many of the



IMPERIAL CROWN OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY VICTORIA.

jewels of the older historic crowns, it may fairly claim to be the representative emblem of English sovereignty. In sheer costliness, if not in magnificence of design, it is unrivaled by any other diadem in Europe. Its weight is exactly 39 ounces, 5 pwt., troy, and its value has been variously estimated at from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000.

The body of the crown consists of a crimson velvet cap lined with the finest white silk and finished with an ermine border.

There is on the crown a grand total of upward of three thousand one hundred jewels. Moreover, unlike many European crowns, the stones are really precious stones and not glass imitations. The Koh-i-Noor, the most world-famous of all diamonds, is not, as many people suppose, set in the English crown. It is sometimes worn by her Majesty in a bracelet and on other State occasions as a brooch.

In the Weather Bureau. The youthful prophet was plainly mortified. He had just been appointed and his first prediction had not been verified.

"The reason we didn't have that storm," he explained, earnestly—"Hush!" interrupted his aged superior. "In this business we never stop to apologize. Just guess again."

Each of the thirty-two cities in Massachusetts has one or more public libraries, and only eighteen of the 321 towns are not so supplied.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

What Calves Want.

If a calf has a ration of half oats and half corn and half a feed of it or a little more—that is, a little more than half of what it would eat up clean if it had a chance—and if the place of the grass is taken by good clover hay, with shelter from storms and protection from excessive cold, with plenty of salt and pure water, the calf will pay for it all, even if corn were 40 cents a bushel. We would not feed an all-corn ration, because the calf requires muscle-forming material, and oats and bran are the cheapest foods of this kind. We would not feed all oats or bran, especially in severe weather, because corn is needed to keep up the heat and round out the muscles.—Wallace's Farmer.

Fattening Foods.

Buckwheat is very fattening and seems to have a whitening effect upon the flesh. It is much fed by the French, who are quite successful turkey growers, and it is thought by them that this grain imparts to the flesh a delicious nutty flavor much liked by their epicures.

Barley is also a fattening food, but should not be given in large quantities as corn, nor fed as often, as it is not so easily digested, but it is very useful to feed occasionally for a change. Sweet potatoes contain sugar and are consequently fattening and are a valuable addition to the fattening ration when fed in moderate quantities. When fed in large quantities it is said they will impart a yellow tinge to the flesh.

Warm the Milk.

At this time of year it is often a difficult matter to churn cream and extract its butter fat. Warming the milk to 140 degrees is an effective remedy for this. It will also enable the dairyman to get a greater amount of cream from the same milk than he otherwise would. But the milk should not be allowed to become much warmer than 140 degrees or it will make the butter soft. As the warmed milk is cooled pretty much all the cream will rise at once. It should be skimmed before the top hardens into a crust, as it speedily will. When put away to await churning at this season cream should be stirred once a day, so as to mix all its parts together and prevent mould forming on the surface.

Colt Training.

The training of colts should begin when they are quite young, when they are easily handled and submit more readily than when left until older. I keep small halters which I put on them when they are from one to two years old, and begin by leading them about; or, if working the mare, I tie them beside her and it is very seldom that they fail to go along without any trouble from the first. There is no trouble about their getting behind and running back when meeting other teams. A colt broken to the halter when young never forgets it, and is half broken to work. After it becomes accustomed to the halter a bit can be tied to the halter and the colt will soon become bridle-wise before it is old enough to work! This will save trouble for both man and beast.—J. W. Shup in the Epitomist.

Sewers and Farm Drains.

While the underdrain on the farm of deeply laid is seldom liable to get out of order, it is very different with the city sewer. Yet in the latter the greatest care is taken to fit the pipes into each other, so as to allow no water in the soil to get in. The city drain pipes are always glazed for the same purpose. We think this is a mistaken policy in those who lay the sewers. They cannot keep dirt from coming into the sewer through the gratings in the streets, and unless this has enough water to flush the pipe frequently, some of this material will remain and obstruct the flow. The idea seems to be that a connected and glazed pipe is necessary to keep the water from coming out at the joints if the pipe is full. We have had experience with many underdrains, and are sure that there is no such danger so long as the sewer has a fall throughout its entire length. Where the fall is greater the tile will not be full. When it comes to a small fall the pipe may be full, but it will not run out through the cracks, as there is a strata of soil or gravel that holds it back. If there were such joints between sewer pipes water would flow into them at other times than when the sewer is flushed, and it would bring with it enough air to help purify the sewage, which, as it contains the refuse of houses in cities, is often very offensive. If the city sewers were made porous they are deep enough to drain much land on each side of them.—Boston Cultivator.

Is Sweet Clover Valuable?

To answer this question something must be known of the character of the plant. It grows spontaneously along tramped roadsides, even to the wheel ruts in abandoned roadways, and in tramped or sodden land anywhere. When found in meadow lands it appears not to occur except when the ground has been tramped by stock when wet. It grows by preference in old brick yards. It may be grown in fields by proper tillage. Viewing it in no other light we thus see that sweet clover grows luxuriantly in places where few or no other plants flourish. But it belongs to the great class of leguminous plants, which are capable, by the aid of other organisms, of fixing atmospheric nitrogen and storing it in the plant tissues (Ohio experiment

station). It belongs with the clovers and it may thus be used to improve the land upon which it grows, and this appears to be its mission. It occupies lands that have become unfitted for good growth of other forage plants. Its rank then is as a useful plant, capable of increasing fertility of land.

How shall sweet clover be treated? The plant is the farmer's friend, to be utilized and not to be outlawed. The plant grows and spreads rapidly. So do red clover, white clover, timothy, blue grass and other forage plants, but sweet clover grows where they do not. Its presence indicates lack of condition for the others. Viewed in this way it is to be treated as preparing unfitted lands for other crops. It may be mowed a short time before coming into bloom and cured for hay. Stock will thrive upon it if confined until accustomed to it. The roadsides, if taken when free from dust, may be made almost as profitable as any other area in clover by cutting the sweet clover and curing for hay. If this is regularly attended to while stock is kept from other lands that it invades, sweet clover will be found doing always the good work for which it is adapted.—American Agriculturist.

Advantages of Dishorning.

The losses from abortion, directly and indirectly caused by the useless and dangerous horns, is enormous in the aggregate. The lessening of danger to the attendants is an important factor in favor of dishorning. Scores of accidents have occurred where persons have been badly injured or killed by cattle, not always bulls either, but young cattle and even milch cows have been known to turn on their attendants and injure them severely. It is unwise to run any risks when the instruments of danger can be so quickly and easily removed. In the matter of saving of space in stabling there is much in favor of dishorned cattle. Milch cows need no stalls, even when fastened with chains, and certainly not if fastened with stanchions. As they do not quarrel, they can be placed closer together. Young cattle can be turned into a stable loose, and will be as peaceable as so many sheep. The same may be said of fattening cattle. I have seen over a carload of fat cattle, averaging 1700 pounds each, eating peacefully together at mangers, all loose.

Stockmen are beginning to see the advantage in handling dishorned cattle. Dishorned feeders and fat cattle sell higher than horned cattle of like quality. While it is advisable to have all cattle dishorned, it certainly is much more necessary to have all bulls dishorned. When thus dishorned there is no danger in handling them. They become obedient and tractable. A horned bull is a dangerous animal, always liable to be treacherous. He may be safe one moment, but angry and furious the next. Calves can be dishorned very easily when a week or two old. Trim the hair from where the horns are beginning to grow, wet it, and apply caustic potash. This will blister it and kill the embryo horn. If carefully done, no scar will be noticed afterward. The potash comes in sticks, and should be handled carefully to prevent injury to the hands. If the blistering is done during the summer, apply pine tar to the wound to heal it quicker and keep the flies from it.—O. J. Vine in Practical Farmer.

A Winter Attack on the Bugs.

The winter months afford a good opportunity for the busy fruit grower to give his orchard a sort of "house cleaning." And unless he wishes to be overrun with all sorts of insect vermin, this should not be neglected.

First, sharpen the ax, and use it freely in cutting out all peach trees that have shown signs of yellows, which trees should have been marked before the leaves fell; plum trees affected with black-knot, peach trees tunneled by bores, and any trees covered with the gummy exudations of the little fruit bark-beetle.

Upon old trees it will be well to give the bark a good scraping and in this way catch many of the chrysalids of the Codling moth, hibernating pear psyllas, oyster shell and scurfy scales.

When pruning, all the cuttings should be burnt, as the crotchets and buds of the small twigs harbor countless eggs of the plant lice, especially the apple aphid on apple, and the hoplouse on plum trees.

The eggs of several orchard pests are quite conspicuous in winter and they may be easily picked by hand and then burnt. The hard, gray mass of the tent caterpillar's eggs, the pendant cases of the bag-worms, and the flat, white cluster of the Tussock moth's eggs, may all be readily seen, and these pests are best controlled by such attention in winter.

If any trees are badly infested with the oyster shell, scurfy or San Jose scale insects, the winter is the best and almost the only time to advantageously destroy them. Spray the trees thoroughly with a solution of potash whale oil soap, two pounds to the gallon of hot water. Remember that the scales will not be killed unless they are hit, and the trees should therefore be carefully sprayed from all sides.

Lastly, don't forget to rake up all the leaves and rubbish around the orchard. Many an insect, like the plum curculio, hides in such refuse over winter and could be easily caught.

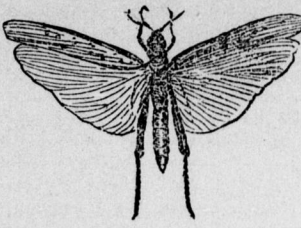
Don't wait until they are upon you, to do battle with the bugs; but steal a march on them and clean them out by a winter attack.—E. Dwight Sanders, Maryland Agricultural College.

Customs receipts of the United States treasury department now amount to one-half the ordinary expenditure of the government.

ARGENTINE'S LOCUST PLAGUE.

Many Believe That the Country Can Never Be Free From Them.

The Argentine Republic is subject to droughts, and the crop rises and falls according to the weather. The worst thing, however, that the farmers have to contend with is the locusts. The pest that infests the Ar-



THE ARGENTINE LOCUST WHICH DESTROYS THE WHEAT CROP.

gentine is fully as bad as the locust plague with which the Lord afflicted Pharaoh.

Many people believe that the situation is such that the number of locusts will increase from year to year, and that the country can never be free from them. They argue this from the location of the Argentine. It is, you know, situated in the temperate zone, with a delightful climate and a fairly good soil. Just above it lies Brazil, which is covered with tropical vegetation and vast areas of which will never be different from what they are now. In this country it is claimed that the locusts have their breeding grounds. They are produced by the millions there every year, and as a swarm thinks nothing of a flight of 500 miles you can see that an army starting out from there is a dangerous enemy. They say that the locusts breed in Brazil and annually start out for the south, eating up everything as they go.

It is hard to realize what a terrible thing such an invasion is. The locusts appear in great swarms, which often darken the sun if they fly between you and it. They light on every thing green and begin eating. The branches of the trees bend down with their weight and you can hear the snapping of their jaws as they crunch the leaves. They often eat the flesh from the fruit, leaving the stones of the peaches hanging to the bare branches. They will clean the crops from the fields, eating the grain down to the ground. Sometimes they will take the green wheat from one side of the road and pass by that on the other, and they sometimes fly on and on for days over rich fields to feed on those beyond. The next swarm may eat that which is left.

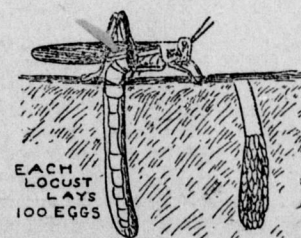
This pest of the Argentine has been so great that the Argentine Government has been spending large sums of money to get rid of them. Among other things, they have sent to the United States for Professor Lebraska Bruner, of the University of Nebraska, to investigate the subject and to give them advice.

The Argentine locusts look very much like grasshoppers. They are very prolific, and the greatest damage is caused not by those which come in swarms, but by the young locusts which follow. As the locusts move over the country they lay their eggs in the ground. Each female locust makes a hole in the ground and lays about 100 eggs, and a month or so later these turn into 100 young locusts, who crawl out and begin their march over the country. Their parents have pretty well cleaned up the crop. The babies start out to eat what has grown up in the meanwhile. They cannot fly far at first, and they crawl along, eating up everything as they go. They cover the ground, crawl over the fences and sweep the country of everything green.

In a few weeks they grow wings and then fly onward to other feeding grounds. No conception can be formed of the enormous numbers of these locusts. In one year sixteen tons of eggs were destroyed in one place. Billions of eggs are now being dug out of the ground and crushed, and to-day the Argentine farmers are fighting for their life with the locusts.

The methods for exterminating them are many and costly. Thousands of dollars are spent every year to kill them. At the time of an invasion all the farmers must turn out and destroy them. They are caught in traps of corrugated iron. They are scooped up with scrapers and killed; poisons

LOCUST AT REST



EACH LOCUST LAYS 100 EGGS

are used, and the grass, plants and weeds are sometimes sprinkled with arsenic, kerosene and creosote. They are caught in bags, driven into ditches and are killed in all sorts of ways. Nevertheless, in 1896 it is estimated that \$80,000,000 worth of wheat was thus destroyed in two States of the Argentine. This impoverished the farmers of those States, and the National Government spent \$10,000,000 that year in giving them seed wheat.

Two hundred thousand families, it has been calculated, are living in London on \$5 a week.