PRESIDENT LOUBET'S MOTHER AND WIFE.

"MOTHER LOUBET."

The Venerable Peasant Woman Whose Son Rules France Still Manages Her Farm.

Above is published a picture which tells at a glance why the monarchical press of England and the Continent thinks and says and shouts that the French people are crazy and in the last stages of political and social chaos.

It is the picture of the mother of the new President of the French Republic.

What but the gloomiest view could monarchists, and especially title-hunting journalists, take of a nation that would select as its leaders the sons of such women as plain old "Mother Loubet," when it might be led by the sons of noble and even royal mothers?

But as Americans look into the face of this woman of the people they begin to realize the truth about France, the real France, the France that is filled with just such plain people as our own, toiling and struggling "that their children may inherit the promise." We see that France has shaken off the traditions of caste and and privilege, that she has become a land of, for and by the plain people. And we know that through such homely virtues as shine from Mother Loubet's face—the virtues of simplicity, shrewdness, frugality and industry—France is and will remain great.

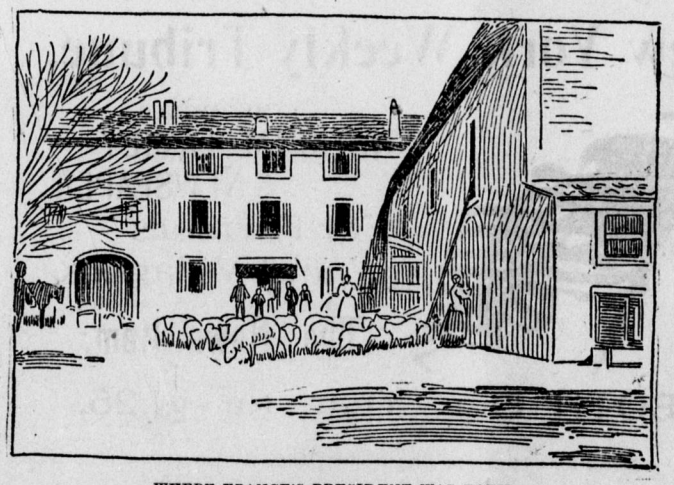
Mme. Loubet is living in the Southern country district which has always been her home—a typical peasant woman of the most prosperous class. In spite of her eighty-six years, she is robust, active and still prepossessing in appearance. Ever since her son was chosen to his high office his venerable mother has been fairly besieged by reporters from all parts of the country, anxious to talk with and make known to the French people a woman who has suddenly become a person of great public interest.

Her maiden name was Marie Marguerite Nicolet. She is a typical landlord-peasant of France—simple, frugal, expert in husbandry, hard-headed, with a knack of driving a bargain.

The rise in her son's fortunes has not altered her. She has refused to live in Paris or to change her mode of existence.

Her portrait, which the newspapers have managed to obtain in her ordinary workday dress, is said to be an excellent likeness. The short gown, the blue linen apron, the quaint white cap and the clumsy, shapeless shoes are the characteristic garb of the country women of Southern France, and Mme. Loubet seems to look over her spectacles in mild wonder that any one should think them worthy to be photographed and published all over the world.

The house in which Mme. Loubet lives, and in which the President himself was born, is near the little village of Marsanne, a district of the town of Montelimar. A narrow river-path, bordered with poplar trees, leads from Marsanne to the Loubet farm, at the end of the valley. There are two groups of square buildings, the rustic arrangements of which include stables, cattle sheds and barns on the ground floor, while above are the rooms of Mme. Loubet. In the yards surrounding the house pigs, sheep and chickens wander about, enjoying themselves in sociable fashion and making the grounds of "La Terrosse," as the farm is called, very lively at all times with their various cacklings, gruntings and bleatings. The bright, warm sunshine of the South is reflected dazzlingly from the red-tiled roofs and white plastered walls of the buildings. The whole farm has an air of prosperity and industry, and is a conspicuous witness to the vigilance and capabilities of its mistress.



WHERE FRANCE'S PRESIDENT WAS BORN.
(The old farmhouse at Marsanne, where his widowed mother still lives.)

Feudalism in Hungary.

Inconceivable as the anachronism may seem to the Western mind, the agrarian system of Hungary has not yet issued from the feudal form. The Hungarian farmer of to-day is virtually a serf, bound to his master, the hereditary owner of the soil which the peasant tills, by the tangible tie of personal liability. The Hungarian feudal lord of the end-of-the-century is entitled to fifty days' labor from each male adult who dwells on his land. The seignior is at liberty to demand this feudal contribution at whatever time may seem best to him, with the frequent result that the tenant farmer is employed in gathering his master's harvests while his own crops are rotting after a rainfall, or are being consumed by an early frost, or suffer damage from one or more of the many possible causes which render destructive the slightest delay on the part of the harvester in gathering the fruits of a year's labor. —S. Ivan Tonjoroff, in the Arena.

Maudie's Conjecture.

Maudie's papa is night editor on a newspaper, a fact which Maudie apparently hasn't learned; for when some one asked her a few days ago what her father did for a living, she replied:

"I div it up. I fink he's a burglar, 'tause he's out all night."—Tit-Bits.

A DIAGRAM OF EXPANSION.

Our Territorial Growth Compared With That of Other Nations.

Now that our treaty with Spain is ratified 161,096 square miles of territory are added to the United States, making a grand total of 3,771,562 square miles. Nearly a century and a quarter of time, the shedding of patriotic blood and the expenditure of much treasure have been necessary for this acquisition. But from the beginning of the first struggle to the ratification of the last treaty the building of our stable national territorial pyramid has steadily continued.

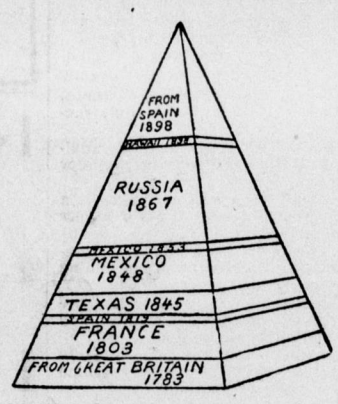
First came the foundation stone in the cession by Great Britain, under the treaty of 1783, at the close of the Revolution, when we acquired 827,844 square miles of territory, being all we own east of the Mississippi River and north of the then Spanish Florida possessions.

After twenty years—in 1803—we more than doubled our broad acres by the Louisiana purchase from France, adding 1,171,931 square miles to our territory at a cost of $15,000,000, and acquiring some of the richest land on the Continent, embracing the expanse between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean, and between the possessions of Great Britain on the north and those of the then Mexico on the south. The second layer was added to our territorial pyramid.

Sixteen more years passed, and in 1819, at a cost of $6,500,000, we purchased the Spanish Florida possessions, and added the third section of 59,268 square miles to our growing pyramid.

Then came a rest for twenty-six years, during which time the older territory was being rapidly settled, when another section of 376,133 square miles was acquired, at a cost of $10,000,000, by the annexation of the independent State of Texas, including the State now known by that name, together with portions of Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Indian Territory.

This last acquistion soon led to trouble with Mexico, which brought on war, ending in peace under the treaty of 1848, by which we gained 545,783 square miles of territory, embraced in California, Nevada and Utah, with parts of Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico. For this



we paid in money $18,000,000. There was left in dispute 45,535 square miles of land south of the Gila River, now included in Arizona and New Mexico, and in consideration of $10,000,000 Mexico ceded it to us by the treaty of 1853. A thin layer was added to our territorial pyramid.

Then fourteen of the most important years in the history of our country passed, when, in 1867, by purchase from Russia, for $7,200,000 we added to our territory the large Alaskan block of 577,390 square miles.

Thirty-one years of non-expansion rolled around, when, last year, Hawaii came to us and we gained a thin slice 6582 square miles. On the heels of this came the last addition, by the extension of our jurisdiction over the 161,096 square miles of land relinquished to us by Spain under the late treaty, that followed a very short and most decisive war, and called for the payment of $20,000,000 on our part.

When His Faith Revived.

"Whenever melancholy seizes me and I despair of the human race," said the philosophical young man who was frequently out of employment, "I just take the testimonials that my former employers have given me and read their glowing description of at least one man who is 'thoughtful, intrepid, modest, energetic, scholarly and a man of action, honest and shrewd,' etc., etc., etc., and immediately my faith in mankind is revived."

Kansas City's Exploitation Methods.

Kansas City, Mo., has adopted a trademark. Hereafter it will appear on all manufactured goods sent out from that city. The design was selected by the directors of the Manufacturers' Association from seventy-eight which were submitted. It consists of a map of the United States,

KANSAS CITY'S TRADEMARK.

with Kansas City represented by a star in the exact centre. Above the star hovers an eagle with outspread wings.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

The Weight of Hay.

About a month ago a hay barn was destroyed by fire, together with contents. There seems a difference of opinion between underwriters and surveyors as to number of cubic feet in a ton of baled and well pressed hay. Can you enlighten me on this point? G. R. G. New York. (A prominent dealer in Albany informs us that hay in loft loose is figured at 500 cubic feet to the ton. Sometimes grain is placed on hay which weights it down and 480 cubic feet to the ton is then allowed. It is impossible to tell accurately the number of cubic feet in a ton of baled hay. It all depends on the kind of bales, and how hard they are pressed. Sometimes 8 tons of light pressed can be placed in a car, while other times 13 tons of hard pressed can be put in the same space. If hay in question was pressed, the best way to figure is to get the number of bales and the average weights when put in the barn. You may then figure it out approximately.)—Country Gentleman.

Coal Ashes as Absorbents.

Coal ashes have in themselves very little manurial value. This does not, however, deny the many and true reports of extraordinary growth obtained from seeds that have been accidentally or intentionally planted in coal ash heaps. It will always be found on investigation that such heaps received various kinds of slops from the house that contained fertilizing material or were found by the cats or dogs around the place the most convenient means of disposing of their excrement. Coal ashes are one of the best of absorbents. A surface covering of manure heaps with them will prevent loss of ammonia, which will be retained in the ashes. Not more than needed for this purpose should be used, and it is better to use German potash salts, which effect the same purpose, and have fertilizing properties besides. Still an old coal ash heap is worth saving. It makes an excellent mulch under trees, especially if it is desired to kill the grass under and around them. Covering the entire surface under plum trees with coal ashes has sometimes been known to stop the curculio, probably when the little Turk could find plenty of other plum trees near by not thus protected.

Commercial Cultures Unnecessary.

The discovery of the important part played by various bacteria in producing the flavor and aroma of butter has led to the introduction of what are known as commercial butter cultures, and dairymen have been led to hope that by the use of such cultures and of the process of pasteurizing, the quality of their butter might be materially improved. Recent trials at the Pennsylvania experiment station seem to indicate that cleanliness, the careful selection of milk, and close attention to details promise to effect more in improving the flavor of our butter than pasteurizing and the use of commercial cultures.

With pasteurized cream, the acid-forming cultures were found to give slightly but distinctly better results than were obtained from unpasteurized cream ripened spontaneously, while non-acid forming cultures gave results, if anything slightly inferior to those obtained by spontaneous ripening. With unpasteurized cream, as might have been expected, the results were less marked. A homemade starter, however carefully prepared from skim milk, was found to give as good, if not better, results than the more expensive commercial cultures and this was true both with pasteurized and raw cream; no distinctly beneficial results were observed from pasteurizing, although the experiments were not specially planned to test this point.

These results are similar to those recently published by the Wisconsin experiment station, and the two taken together do not seem to indicate that, under present conditions, marked advantages are to be anticipated from the use of the commercial cultures. Trials were also made of heating milk to a temperature of about 165 degrees Fahrenheit before separating, but without any marked effect on the flavoring of the resulting butter. —New England Homestead.

Summer Butter Making.

Making butter in summer without ice, and good butter at that, is by no means an impossibility, as some writers claim, but it has its penalties. To make a good article the milk and cream must not be allowed to get old, very sour or musty. When the milk is set shallow in the old fashion, delay is necessary to allow the cream to rise. This delay is dangerous, especially if protracted until the milk turns to solid clabber, because the cream has then become too ripe to be held longer for churning. If the skimming is done just at the time the milk has begun to clabber at the bottom, the cream can be held for a day or two if kept cold enough and no harm will be done and with slight loss of butter fat.

Any further delay is sure to result in greater loss. Just why this loss occurs I do not know, but it seems to come from a want of churnability in the cream. The loss of butter fat by the average farmer when setting the milk shallow is far more serious than he is aware, and amounts to many dollars in the course of the year, and is caused more from lack of skill in handling the milk than to any fault of the system. By using a separator this loss of butter fat is almost entirely avoided, and as the experiment stations have proved that in comparison with the separator the shallow pans lose about $10 a cow during the year, it will be seen how serious this difference is.

The reason of it is this: The separator takes the cream from the milk immediately after it comes from the the cow, and the cream can be put in a cool place at once. Here we have saved at least thirty hours' time that the milk would have to be exposed to the weather, thus saving its sweetness and purity if the cream is properly taken care of. The saving of labor in handling and cleaning a number of crocks or cans, and also the important matter of thereby being able to make a better article that brings a higher price, goes to make up the $10 a cow claimed for the separator.—Farm and Home.

Preparing the Soil for the Garden.

Soil that will produce a good crop of corn will make a good garden spot if properly fertilized and thoroughly cultivated. If the ground was heavily manured last fall and plowed it will be ready for planting this spring as soon as it can be plowed. It may be plowed at one time and that portion that is not used for early crops may be gone over with the harrow often enough till needed for later crops to keep weeds down and have the soil in good tilth when needed. If the garden was not plowed last fall plow as early as possible, then cover heavily with well rotted manure and harrow well. The better the plowing is done and the more thorough the harrowing the less work will be needed with the hand rake to get the soil in proper condition to receive the small seeds. A little care taken in the plowing will tell mightily in the saving of future work to produce the same seed bed. No "cut and cover" plowing should be allowed on the farm much less on the garden plat. Do your best, most careful work in preparing the soil for garden seeds. The after work will be much less and the future crop much more if the soil is in the right shape for the seed when planted. This is true in all farm crops. It does not pay to slight the preparation of corn land for the sake of gaining a day or two in the planting time. Better by far get five or ten acres ready at a time and plant, then get another piece ready and so on till all is done, than to get all half ready and rush in all the seed. This is a digression from the subject under consideration but thorough preparation of the soil before planting pays in all crops—garden vegetables and fruit plants included. Make up your mind that you will have a garden when spring opens, select your seed now and prepare the soil thoroughly as early as you can and plant the seeds carefully in long rows of easy cultivation with the horse and you will thank us for calling your attention to this too long and too much neglected work of farm home making.—Farm, Fleld and Fireside.

Stimulative Bee Feeding.

The main-spring of profitable bee-keeping in the way of money crops is strong colonies. This is the principal object the apiarist keeps in view from the time he begins work in the early spring until the honey harvest opens. With strong colonies he is sure of good returns if the honey season is a good one, and it must be of very short duration if he does not get fair returns. Colonies of bees that are thus brought up to a high state of perfection will, in two weeks time during which there is a good honey flow, store quite a large amount of honey.

Stimulative feeding is the means by which colonies are made excessively strong, and almost every colony that is in fair condition and healthy in early spring can readily and rapidly be brought up by thus feeding. In the first place colonies must have a good reserve store of honey in the hives, and at no time should they run short. They should be fed regularly, and must be to get the best results. Feeding should begin as soon as warm weather begins, and every day each colony is fed a small amount of syrup made from the best quality of sugar, the amount depending upon what they consume and convert in brood. If fed too heavily the combs will be filled up, and thus shut out the queen's egg depositing space. They will consume on an average for this purpose about half of a pint of syrup daily.

Colonies that are thus fed will increase to more than double the numbers of those not fed. When feeding is thus begun it must be kept up or the colony is in danger of starving if feeding is stopped, from the fact that the large amount of bees and brood already in the combs will soon consume all the reserve stores in the hive, and starvation must follow. Frequently in spring time bees are able to gather some honey from blossoms sometime before the principal honey flow begins, so that feeding may not be kept up during any time they can gather honey from flowers, but as soon as the natural flow ceases the feeding must commence, and thus continued up to the honey harvest. In using the common frame hives, it is necessary to use two stories with two full sets of brood combs to attain the best results in strength of colonies, and at the beginning of the honey harvest remove the upper one and in its place add the surplus honey boxes.—A. H. Duff.

Queen Victoria's Tomb.

The tomb of Queen Victoria and the English royal family is open to the public but one day a year, after the queen visits it. Within a short time of the departure of the queen and the other visitors the mausoleum is thrown open. It is one of the most beautiful memorial chapels in the world. The interior is ornamented with exceedingly fine frescoes, and, in addition to the noble monument to Prince Albert's memory, there are statues and busts of various of her majesty's departed relations.

FAMOUS EDITOR-SENATOR DEAD.

Patrick Walsh, a Notable Figure in Southern Political Life, Passes Away.

H. Patrick Walsh, ex-United States Senator, Mayor of Augusta, Ga., and editor of the Augusta Chronicle, died in that city a few days ago after a prolonged attack of nervous prostration.

Patrick Walsh was one of the best known politicians and journalists in the South, and attained a high position in national politics. He was appointed by Governor Northern to fill the unexpired term of Senator Alfred Colquitt in the United States Senate.

PATRICK WALSH.

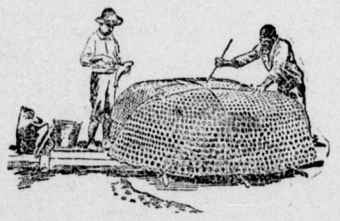
He had been sick since December 1. Born in Ballingary, Ireland, in 1840, he came to Charleston, S. C., at an early age and began newspaper work as an apprentice boy. He rose rapidly, and educated himself by working at night and going to school in the day time. He moved to Augusta in 1862, and after working in different places became the owner and editor of the Augusta Chronicle, a leading paper of the region. He was always prominent in the State Democracy, serving in the Legislature during the seventies. He was a delegate from his county to State Democratic conventions for many years, served on many important committees, and was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in 1880, which nominated General Hancock for President. He was delegate-at-large in 1884 to the Chicago Convention nominating Cleveland. For four years he was a Georgia member of the National Executive Committee.

Mr. Walsh was appointed in 1894 to fill the unexpired term of the late United States Senator Colquitt. He was elected Mayor of Augusta in November, 1897, for three years.

Mr. Walsh was always foremost in any movement for the advancement of the South. He was a prime mover in the big expositions given at Augusta in the past. He was prominent in the work of the Catholic Church. Of his immediate family, only his wife, formerly Miss McDonald, of Edgefield, S. C., survives him.

Novel Way of Fishing.

This picture gives a very good idea of the ingenious fish-traps in use among the natives of the South Sea Islands. These fish-traps are of various designs and sizes, but are all on the same principle, containing an inclosed passage for the entrance of the fish, gradually narrowing toward the centre of the trap, and terminating in a number of loose strands of the vine from which the apparatus is construct-

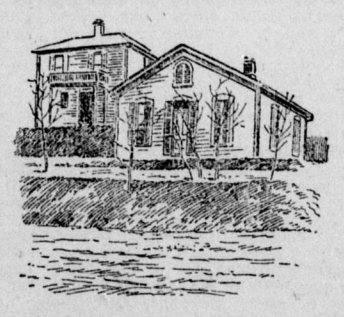


A FISH-TRAP IN THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

ed, so that once having entered the trap the fish are unable to discover any means of exit. The sea frontage of a South Sea Island village is usually apportioned out in allotments among the natives, each man being expected to keep his fish-trap within the space allotted to him. It is sometimes very dangerous work visiting these traps; sudden squalls arise, and the hapless fisher, on his little catamaran, is blown out to sea and never more heard of.

Where Jesse James Was Killed.

The sensational trial and acquittal of Jesse James, Jr., at Kansas City, on the charge of train robbery, has awakened an interest in his famous



HERE BOB FORD SHOT THE BANDIT.

bandit father. The house in which Jesse James was killed in 1881 still stands on the brow of Lafayette street hill in St. Joseph, Mo. It is an unfailing source of interest to many persons who visit the city.

An Author's Fitting End.

An inscription on the tomb of a local author in a Georgia cemetery reads—with some truth and no poetry:

"Here he lies, at thirty-five:
Struggled hard to keep alive.
Of his books he printed seven;
Starved to death and went to heaven."

—Atlanta Constitution.