

SUGAR CANE.

Something About Its Planting, Care and Growth.

Introduced in Louisiana Just a Century Ago.

The cultivation of sugar-cane was introduced in Louisiana about a century ago, the plant being brought from the West Indian Islands. For the benefit of Northern readers I will say that sugar-cane is a plant of the grass family, and is propagated, not from seed, but by the planting of the original stalk, says a writer in Blue and Gray. It requires a strong, rich soil, is hardy in the sense of enduring great extremes of drought or moisture, but is killed by a temperature as low as 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

The cane is planted in the ground lengthwise, with the ends touching each other. The rows are about four feet apart, to allow for the spreading growth of the cane, which in maturity shows no opening between the rows. The new shoots spring from every joint of the planted stalk, there often being twenty-four or more joints in a stalk of cane. The result is a compact mass of luxuriant growth, interrupted at intervals by a long, straight ditch, a few feet deep, and four to five feet wide.

In midwinter seed-cane—i. e., cane to be used in making next year's crop—is "windrowed." When the frost lies white on the ground one sees whole fields of windrowed cane. This process is simply placing the cane in rows on the ground, first covering with leaves and dried grass, and then over that a light covering of earth. By this means the natural juiciness of the cane is preserved from the sapping influence of frost. Cane has been known to run for four years, without a second planting, coming up each year from the old root. But this is rare, and replanting is generally necessary the third year, the stubble being exhausted by that time.

The cane can be planted at any time during the winter months, but, so far, the best results appear to come from planting in February, as in the old days. Mules are employed exclusively and seem to get along admirably with the colored men, as though through some affinity of mutual understanding. It is gravely asserted that a Louisiana mule quite understands the limit of his own endurance, and though perfectly docile as a rule, will become stubborn and absolutely refuse to continue when he has done what he considers a day's work.

The active work of cultivation begins in the autumn when the ground is plowed and broken up very deeply by the means of a four-mule plow. The planting, as we have seen, is usually finished in February. The first shoots look very much like corn, and during the month of May the weak little stocks appear to stand quite still, and give no promise of the luxuriant growth to follow. This is called the "suckering period," and in a short time the original shoots will be surrounded by a score or more of new stocks, each one as vigorous as itself. By July the cultivation is complete. A deep furrow is made between the rows, and the crop is said to be "laid by." During July and August comes the rainy season, during which the cane grows rich in sap, and by October the plant has matured, and the harvest begins.

Sulky Engines That Won't Run.

"We often hear engineers say that their engines are tired or sulky," said Reynold Chase, of Louisville, who is in St. Louis looking over some of the large electric plants. "I never realized exactly what they meant or how much truth there was in the practical aspect of the question until one of the three engines in the large electric power house in our city absolutely refused to work, although it was identical in every respect with the other two, which worked perfectly. The expert engineer, who had put up the engines under a guarantee, after trying repeatedly to make the ill-tempered engine start suggested that it be left alone for a few days, when—he was quite certain—it would quit being contrary and work like a charm. He proved perfectly correct, and now all three engines are working uniformly well. Mechanical engineers have a most interesting explanation of this apparent absurdity of moods and whims of inanimate objects. They attribute the tired feeling which locomotives and tools are known to exhibit on certain occasions to molecular action, holding that the constant vibration and possible extremes of heat and cold interfere with measurements, not sufficiently to be appreciable by any means of any

measuring instruments now in use, but just enough to upset the most careful calculations of the designers. Resting a careful machinist or tool for a short time allows the necessary re-contraction or re-expansion to take place, and the article is as good as new. In electrical machinery, concerning which there is a great difference of opinion and a great deal yet to be learned, atmospheric and other conditions easily account for any difficulty that may arise, but in steam machinery, which is much better understood, the molecular theory seems to be the only solution of the problem."—[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Driving of Lions.

One of the most difficult things in animal training is the teaching them to be driven. This is especially difficult in the case of lions. The king of the forest, in the first place, objects strenuously to having anything put about his neck, and, secondly, to be made to draw a vehicle of any kind is a thing to him degrading. Nero is alleged to have had wild animals which drew his chariots through the streets of Rome. But Professor Peck of Columbia College, upsets this good old story by declaring that, so far as he has been able to discover, neither Nero nor any other Roman Emperor ever drove an animal more dangerous than a camel.

It was left to Professor Darling of Hagenbeck's trained animal show, to do something often attempted, but never until by him accomplished. He has tamed the monster beasts until they have learned to obey his whips and voice like horses. Mr. Darling has a wholesome respect for his big pets. He says that a lion believes in fair play, and that, if he wants to fight, he will give you warning, but, once he begins, he will fight as long as he can stand.

"In my performance at Hagenbeck's arena, I drive three lions around a ring," says the professor. "Years ago I could drive them around three and four times. They would do it gracefully and well. Of late years I have driven them around twice, and I am free to confess that the twice I drive them around is more the result of their good nature than because of any power of mine. They are getting old. Within a year or two I must bid good-bye to my pets, and either put them in a menagerie, or send them adrift once more in the wilds of Nubia. Man can subjugate brute nature to a certain extent, but when he goes beyond that, he becomes a simple doll in the hands of these gigantic brutes."—[New York Times.

Tennessee's Remarkable Lake.

"Reelfoot Lake, in western Tennessee, is one of the most remarkable bodies of water in the United States," said John E. York of Troy. "It is popularly supposed to have a subterranean source from the Mississippi river, it having no visible outlet or inlet, but this evidence seems to be decidedly against this theory. I tried to fathom it once, and while this can be done at some places, yet there is a considerable area in the centre where no line has ever been found long enough to touch bottom. It is not affected by the rise and fall of the river, but has a tide corresponding with that of the sea. The oldest settlers can remember when the land where the lake is now was a fertile farm. One night there was an earthquake, doing very little damage to the surrounding country. The next morning the land had gone and Reelfoot Lake was there, and has been there ever since. It is one of the most noted fishing resorts in the South."—[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Which Was the Bill?

There is an old story about an artist who got down to his last dollar. There is nothing unusual in this story so far, as all artists are aware, but he made a casual disposal of the greenback. He put a coat of paint and sizing on a board, laid the bill down and turned up a corner or two, pressed it firmly down and gave the whole a couple of coats of varnish. He then placed it on an exhibition for a nominal sum in some store, and finally disposed of the wonderful "painting" for a good round sum. The idler was reminded of this legend by the exhibition last week in a Washington street cigar store window. It was a slab of wood, on which appeared, one above the other, apparently two \$1 bills. Above them is a legend running: "There is only one bill. Which is it?" The most careful scrutiny failed to detect the real from the painted. —[Boston Post.

Turned Into Fertilizer.

"What has become of your ossified man?" asked the visitor. "Oh, he went off and sold himself to apophosphate syndicate," said the museum man.—[Harper's Bazar.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

RIBBONS TO BE POPULAR.

Ribbons will be more popular than ever for trimming summer dresses, they say, now there are several novelties among them. A "perfectly lovely" sash ribbon is stiff enough to stand alone, and has tiny bouquets of flowers powdered over a white ground, like the exquisite little sprigs on old Dresden china. The same design in black gros grain is also very effective, and another pretty novelty is a ribbon with a long white lace edge.—[New York Tribune.

WOMEN OF MUSCLE.

In the time of Louis XV. there was an actress engaged at the Theatre Francaise—Mlle. Gauthier—who could break a coin between the fingers of one hand, and roll a silver plate into the form of a cup of conical shape. No one could bear the pressure of her hand, and only Maurice de Saxe, one of the strongest men of his time, was able to open her closed hand.

In the same century there lived in England a woman, Miss Bettie Thompson, who could break chains with her hand.

Miss Kerra, a young mulatto woman, who appeared in most of the capitals of Europe, was, we believe, the first to perform the feat, while hanging with the bend of her knees in a trapeze, of holding a man at his belt with her teeth and turning him rapidly round with her hands.

The same trick was performed more recently, among others by Miss Leona Dare and Miss Carrie Wilton.—[New York Journal.

TIGHT SHOES ARE UGLY.

The mistake most foolishly and repeatedly made is the purchase of shoes that are too small. If the foot is large, a small shoe, merely because it is small, will not conceal the defect. It will also, if the lady persists in using it, increase the size of the foot by exerting too great pressure on the joints, thus enlarging them. Few feet are absolutely pretty, and a small shoe will display this shortcoming quicker than any other shoe, as it will have to assume the shape of the foot in order to be borne.

Then the question of personal comfort ought to weigh something in this alleged era of common sense. French women are the most particular women in the world as to the fit of the shoe and the perfection of all its details. It must be snug across the instep, must fit the ankle without wrinkle, and must be plenty long. They never use high heels and sharp toes on their walking shoes, but give their every joint all the working room it needs.—[New York Advertiser.

NOTES ON LACES.

Green in this rush, lime and reseda shades is worn.

A note of black runs through most of the fabrics, toning down the sometimes too exuberant color.

A rather conspicuous departure in lace has a ground of fine black Brussels net with an applique figure in white or cream.

Fuchsia, cerise and ruby are among the intense shades of red now so fashionable. They all favor somewhat of the oldtime magenta.

Jetted and spangled lace in Vandyke effects in Brussels net are intended for trimming the lighter silks, which will be worn during the summer.

The Vandyke point, after being in disgrace for some time, has made its reappearance, as among the new laces those in pointed effects are shown in new combinations.

Insertion and bands of black crepe wrought in a fine souache pattern in a new trimming for mourning silks. A point de Gens border in black silk and one with meshed lace wrought in tape work are also used for this purpose.

ABOUT WOMEN'S ARMS.

An English sculptor has been interviewed about women's arms, and admits much difficulty in securing a perfect model. He sums up the points of such an arm as follows: "The arm should be fully two heads long from its insertion at the shoulder to the wrist; the upper arm large and round; a dimpled elbow; the forearm not too flat; the whole diminishing in long, graceful curves to a well-rounded wrist. A woman's arm is rounder and tapers more gracefully than a man's, owing to the deltoid muscle coming lower down the arm, and all the muscles having a longer and more gradual curve."

And he says further that women should know how to move their arms.

"There is as much power of expression in the arm as in the face. Sarah Bernhardt is only one of many instances, especially among the French, Italian, and Spanish women. Her

arms are certainly not things of beauty on account of their shape; but they are decidedly so in their movements. She knows how to manage them, and the result is charming."—[New York Times.

WOMAN'S OUTLOOK AT HARVARD.

President Eliot, of Harvard, made a brief address recently, in which he gave his view of the relations between Radcliffe College, as the annex is hereafter to be called, and the university.

Recalling a remark made by George William Curtis in the "Easy Chair," that "it is settled that Juliet may study, but shall she study with Romeo?" he said that "we have learned in the last 25 years that young women are quite as capable of higher studies as young men."

He pointed out that, although there has never been any official connection with Harvard, the annex never has had any teachers but Harvard professors and instructors, and its students have always had the same examination papers as Harvard students. He said that there were two reasons why the governing board of the university had refused to give the women college degrees outright.

One was that the business of the university is constantly increasing, and is already a load upon the board of overseers and the corporation; and the other, that the institution cannot at present offer women all the advantages that are now offered male students, and that "until the university can give with assurance a degree with its privileges to all alike, we cannot undertake to give it to all."

President Eliot thought this "a prudent and conservative state of mind," which "simply says we are not ready now," but "look forward," and said of the future:

"We do not yet give the degree of bachelor arts, but we do guarantee the quality of instruction, and just as much, subject by subject, as is given in Harvard College. This relation between the annex and Harvard University is firm, formal and official. This is a long step forward, and it leaves the way open, very wide open, for further steps when the time comes."

While this is a denial of the petition for the granting of Harvard degrees to women upon the same terms as men, it indicates that the time is coming at no distant day when the governing authorities of the university will feel constrained to take this "further step."—[New York Journal.

FASHION NOTES.

There is now in Paris a furor for lace trimmings.

Skirts of plain or small figured black satin are worn with odd waists of fancy waists.

Accordion-plaited fabrics of many kinds are used for vests, loose sleeve caps and tunics.

A buckle of tortoise shell is one of the handsomest and most stylish things to fashion the long, flowing hair of a young girl.

In spite of the prevalence of deep ruby and geranium shades of color among velvets and artificial flowers, a wave of purple has appeared.

Raindeer gloves, which resemble suede, are expensive because new. Pique gloves of kid or dogskin are the thing for wear with tailor gowns.

Japanese changeable silks in Jacquard effects are seen among the spring fancies. These are genuine goods woven in Japan and are retailed in this country at \$1 a yard.

Neat boots are no longer hidden away under more or less muddy or dusty skirts, and it is no longer a work of supererogation to study one's chausseure as carefully for the street as one does for the ball dinner.

Short, double-breasted coats with full backs are jaunty and becoming, especially to young and slender women. They are stitched on the edges and finished with inside pointed revers so much worn during the winter.

Glove color of freshly churned butter are the thing in Paris just now. They are stitched with black and fastened with large buttons of smoked pearl. Putty is another favorite color and lavender gloves are considered proper.

Bonnets are not declining the subordinate position which recent fashion assigned to them. Once more they will be worn on all dressy occasions and hats will be relegated to morning wear and other occasions where utility continues are appropriate.

The beautiful Valenciennes laces made by hand became too expensive for anything but rare uses, therefore the machine-wrought designs have been brought to the highest perfection in Calais, Roubaix and Nottingham, and are in great use on gowns and fine lingerie.

SOLDIER'S COLUMN

A WAR STORY.

A Veteran's Little Review.—Admiral Jouett's Nerve.



WHILE looking at a portrait of Jefferson Davis, as printed in part I of the "Century War Book," an ex-Confederate veteran remarked yesterday: "The only time I ever saw Jefferson Davis upon an occasion when I myself was the most prominent figure."

"It was during a review by President Davis during the second year of the war, of the army corps of which I was a member. I was, at the time of joining the army, only 16 years of age, and as was the custom, then in the southern states, I had, upon enlisting in a cavalry regiment, enlisted my own horse at the same time. Father had given me the best and fastest little mare of all the horses on the old place. Although I had ridden her a good deal, I had not entire control of her, and she was inclined to be a little skittish."

"Well, the cavalry division of which I was a member had been drawn up in two lines, open order, and at the left, extending as far as the eye could see, were the infantry, also in two lines. It was in the neighborhood of Richmond, Va., and all the best people of that section were out to see the grand display."

"President Davis, erect and spare of figure, wearing a gray civilian suit, military boots and stove pipe hat, rode slowly down between the lines, accompanied by a large staff of officers arrayed in bewildering variety of gorgeous uniforms. Mr. Davis was a very cynical, stern-looking man, anyway, and I had ridden her a good deal, I had not entire control of her, and she was inclined to be a little skittish."

"I turned and pulled at the bridle, but it wasn't any use; we went on to the end of the line before I could turn her. Then she came up the back of the line as fast as she went down. I had got tired holding her by this time and let her go. As we went by the first and last party again, I could not find a glancing eye at his face to see what he thought of our performance."

"Well, I caught his eye, and the memory of the disgusted look he shot at me makes the cold perspiration break out all over me to this day. What we came off to start on, I can't more clearly into her place and stood stock still. I was so dazed and scarce at the awful way in which I had unwillingly spoiled the review that I don't know whether I guided her in or not. I only know that I expected to be executed and that I was very welcome as the only possible relic for my mortification."

"But strangely enough no official notice was ever taken of our own little review of the army. It was a long time, however, before I heard the last gibe the boys of our regiment used to fling at me with regard to it."

ADMIRAL JOUETT'S NERVE.

The Selma, which had been handled with great ability, was still annoying the flagship causing Jouett to manifest great impatience finding almost impossible to curb his ardor. The Motosomet was the fastest vessel in the fleet, and as yet, in all the shifting changes of the great fight, he had been held in restraint with no opportunity to measure swords with the foe. Three times he had asked the admiral for permission to leave the side of the Hartford and tackle the Selma, but the admiral's answer was, "Wait a little longer." At last the flagship emerged from the channel into the deep water of the bay. Then came the signal: "Gunsboats, chase enemy's gunsboats" and with a loud and hearty "Ay, ay, sir," Jouett seized a hatchet and, in company with his axemen, helped to cut outside the lashings. Farragut waved his hands to Jouett, whose enthusiasm and courage he much admired and with three hearty cheers rising from the Motosomet's crew, they steamed at full speed in pursuit of the Selma, who for some time had been having the fun all her own way.

A heavy rain and wind squall had swept in from the gulf, completely obscuring, for a short interval, objects both aloft and on shore. The Morgan, in her anxiety to escape the coming wrath, ran around, but floated as the squall cleared up, and steamed on, projecting under the guns of Fort Morgan.

During the mist and uncertainty accompanying the rush of wind and rain, the Federal gunboat was dashed ahead at full speed, while the commander was looking after the effective serving of the forward pivot gun.

"We are shouling our water, sir," remarked the executive. "I am afraid we shall take the bottom, as we draw twelve feet of water."

"Never mind, sir, never mind. Keep her going," replied Jouett, as he sighted the foe. But the prudent executive quietly ordered a quartermaster to take the lead, and the next instant "fifteen feet" was announced. That was all right, and the engine never ceased in its wonderful workings. "Fourteen feet" was the next report. "Thirteen feet" came sharply and clear from the steady old seaman. The situation was becoming serious. The men glanced quickly at one another, while the officers kept their eyes fastened upon their commander, who turned coolly from the gun, saying, as he walked off: "Call that man in from the lead. He makes me nervous."—[Blue and Gray for April.

Figures and Finances.

Nearly 700 vessels are employed in our foreign commerce.

The annual increase in wealth in the United States is over \$35 per inhabitant.

During Victoria's reign India has come in £2,000,000 in gold and £200,000,000 in silver.

Ma ne ranks as the eighth state in the matter of railroad construction for the year 1893.

The banking capital of the United States is estimated at \$5,150,000,000 the greatest in the world.

In the world's mints from 1850 to 1890 there were coined 9,194 tons of gold and 81,235 tons of silver.

The aggregate debts of Boston savings banks are nearly \$100,000,000, in more than 1,200,000 accounts.

The life insurance companies own \$100,000,000 worth of real estate. Three companies own three-fourths of it.

KEYSTONE STATE COLLINGS

OUR NATIONAL GUARD.

ADJUTANT GENERAL GREENLAND PRESENTS AN ENCOURAGING REPORT.

Adjutant General Greenland has presented his annual report to Governor Pattison. The number of men enrolled in Pennsylvania subject to military duty is 790,451. There are 8,612 members of the National Guard, an increase, as compared with the previous year, of 291. The first brigade contains 203 commissioned officers and 2,561 enlisted men; the second, 233 commissioned officers, and 2,934 enlisted men, and the third, 267 commissioned officers and 2,437 enlisted men. The only company mustered out was Company F, Eighteenth regiment.

The cost of the regimental encampments last year was \$175,493.12, of which \$138,297.95 was paid to troops, \$13,533.32 for subsistence, \$18,660.75 for transportation, and \$5,000.10 for horse hire. The average attendance was 91.8 and the average cost per man, \$21.16.

The adjutant general says the new equipments furnished the National Guard "make them the best and most thoroughly equipped troops in the United States." There has been expended for the re-equipment of the National Guard \$138,507.50. The unexpended balance of the appropriation of \$153,000 is \$20,000.50.

The division contains 7,690 marksmen, an increase over last year of 1,147, and a percentage of the whole guard of 13.7.

The number of sharpshooters for this year is 1,157, an increase of last year of 431.

General Greenland also touches upon the naval battalions, and refers at length to the fact that the Pittsburg division has already been assured of enough money to build a vessel.

A DESPERATE PRISONER.

HE STRIKES DOWN THE JAILOR AND EIGHT MEN BORN TO LIBERTY.

GREENSBORO.—As Jailer McCready entered the prison corridor the other night to look the cells he was rushed upon by Peter Mattern and knoeked down by a blow on the head with a piece of lead pipe. Other prisoners then rushed upon McCready and beat him in a terrible manner. Deputy McShany rushed to McCready's rescue, but was beaten down by Mattern's heavy weapon. Mattern and his companions then took the prisoners from the pockets of the officers and rushed from the building. The men who escaped were Peter Mattern, charged with the leadership of a car robber gang; Michael Gorman, charged with express robbery; John Mattern and Harry Owens, charged with robbery; Fred Baker, John McDonald, Mike Wright and Fred Phillips; Baker, Wright, McDonald and Phillips were captured about an hour later. There were over 50 prisoners in the jail, five of them coke strikers and all could have fled the jail, but did not embrace the opportunity.

AN IMMENSE LUMBER CUT.

BROOKVAULT.—Estimates on the Toby valley lumber cut this spring place the amount at 45,000,000 feet. An extraordinary amount of back will be peeled. No price per foot has been fixed.

THE Pennsylvania fish commissioners of the Altoona district passed over 6,000 small trout in Shaw and Lauer runs on Tuesday. These streams are splendid fishing grounds and many fish are caught yearly in these waters and it will only be a matter of a few years until the streams will be filled with abundance of large trout. There also were a number of cans of fish sent over the Pennsylvania and New-forest railroad to Coalport and Fordham to be placed in various streams in the vicinity of these towns.

At Beaver Falls the Wallace exchange bank was robbed of \$3,500 in currency. The clerks were at dinner, and the thief, who had been concealed in the cellar, came up the steps, and while nobody was watching helped himself to the funds.

At Sugar Run, five miles from Bradford, John Martin, a lumberman, while unsetting a brake on an Allegheny and Kansas train, fell from a car. The wheels passed over his middle, killing him instantly.

The Fayette county commissioners have decided not to pay any bounty for fox scalps on the ground that the law relating thereto is defective. The law will likely be tested in court.

SEVEN young men at Sheridan station near Johnston found buried in the mud the remains of a victim of the great flood of May 31, 1889.

JOHN SEYDER, 70 years old, was burned to death at Clearfield. A lighted lamp fell on him as he lay sleeping on a lounge.

NONRESISTANCE is flooded with bogus \$1 silver certificates on the Montgomery county national bank.

HENRY LUFFE, a farmer near Grip, Indiana county, killed 165 mice while cleaning his barn floor.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

SEBASTO STUBBART, of Nevada, declares that he is no longer a Republican, but a Populist.

CHARLES DE LESSEPS' name has been removed from the roll of the French Legion of Honor.

The only Methodist who has ever been a Privy Councillor of England is Henry Fowler, the New Indian Secretary.

PROFESSOR BROWN-SQUARD, the eminent French physician and physiologist, the supposed inventor of the "elixir of life," is dead.

The grave of John Boyle O'Reilly, at Holyhood, near Boston, will be marked by a stone which was brought from O'Reilly's native place in Ireland.

KING WILLIAM, of Wurtemberg, upon whom Queen Victoria is about to confer the Order of the Garter, runs two hotels, one opposite his palace and the other not a great distance from it.

PRINCE BESOLOV, who is a student at Williams College, has received a call from his people in Africa to return to his native land and take possession of his kingdom, which has been under the power of an uncle.

FABRIZIO MORAS, the President-elect of Brazil, is an extensive coffee raiser, but the grounds upon which he was elected are that he is a man of great ability, an uncompromising republican and a patriot of unquestionable integrity.

BARON VON NORDENSKJÖLD, the Swedish explorer, is preparing to go on an expedition partly for the rescue of the Swedes, Björning, and partly to make explorations in the unknown waters of Greenland. The expedition is to depart this spring, and will be made up exclusively of Swedes.

SIR ARTHUR SULLIVAN's father was bandmaster of the Royal Military College. He made his son learn every instrument in the band except the bassoon and the hautbois. Very soon he was able to undertake any instrument. To this Sir Arthur attributes all his powers of orchestration.

WONA CHIN FOO, well known in New York as a writer and lecturer, is trying to have the embargo against him in his native country removed, so that he can go back and settle up some family affairs. They say that if Wong ever gets within ten miles of Peikin they will chop his head off quicker than Edison can take a flash light photograph.

Turbulent Central America. The epidemic of revolt threatens to sweep over all of Central America. Nicaragua's covetous gaze is said to be now directed towards Costa Rica. The Bluefields envoys and Minister Guzman conferred with Secretary Greenham over the Bluefields affair.