

POTATO KINGS.

CULTIVATING THE TUBER ON A LARGE SCALE IN COLORADO.

Aided by a Light, Sandy Soil and Ingenious Machinery Great Crops Are Raised—Forty "Taters" Weighed 120 Pounds!

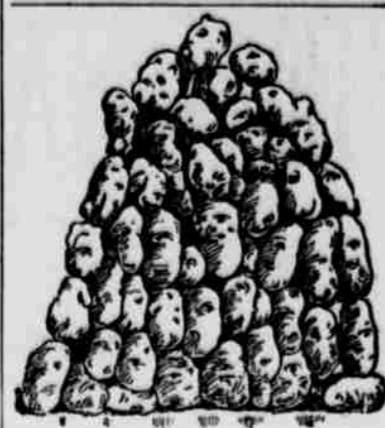
COULD a member of the Royal Society, which in 1663 adopted measures for extending the cultivation of the Solanum Tuberosum, with a view to the prevention of famines in England and Ireland, have accompanied a Chicago Times-Herald representative through the wonderful potato region of Colorado on a recent occasion he must have been satisfactorily convinced that "things do move."

In the beginning of the sixteenth century potatoes were brought from America to Europe for cultivation in gardens as a curiosity. This year, before the shipping season closed, about April 15, there were forwarded, from one section of Colorado alone, 6000 carloads of "spuds," each car averaging 400 bushels.

Only a few years ago, when some enterprising farmers commenced the cultivation of potatoes, on what then appeared to be a large scale, they were heartily ridiculed. Time has proven, and only a very short time at that, the correctness and sound judgment of the level-headed grangers who fully realized the special adaptability of the warm, sandy soil of certain portions of Colorado, to the successful production of the homely, unfashionable tuber.

While there have been in a few cases

son no one need complain of "no work." Men, boys, and even women and girls turn out en masse to hasten the harvest. Here, too, inventive



genius holds sway. The ingenious harvester, drawn by four powerful horses, traverses row after row and leaves in its wake glistening lines of white and pink tubers as clean and neatly separated from their parent soil as if each had been carefully "sapoloed" before being released from its earthly repository. Each "digger" is attended by a driver and from six to eight "pickers" whose business it is to collect the potatoes, large and small, in baskets. These hands are paid from \$1 to \$1.50 per day and board.

In each section of the field is another contrivance called a "sorter," consisting of an oscillating screen hung at an angle of thirty degrees, into which the baskets are emptied. This screen has what is termed a two-



THE HORSE-POWER DIGGER.

exceptionally large profits in this industry in the main it has been a steady, profitable business for such men as are willing to give it attention.

Probably there is no section of the agricultural world where the cultivation of potatoes is so simplified and systematized as in the Greeley district of Colorado. Seeing the enormous possibilities of this industry, an enterprising manufacturer of farming implements turned his attention a couple of years ago to machinery for preparing and handling this crop in all its stages. The result has been in the production of potatoes similar to the introduction of headers and thrashing machines in the raising of small grains—a marked decrease in the cost of production.

Only by the use of this machinery are the potato farmers of the far West to-day enabled to sell their product in competition with that of Illinois and Missouri in the markets of Chicago and St. Louis. They literally make a business of raising potatoes, and knowing that a too rapid continuation of crops is disadvantageous rotate their crop of potatoes from one section of the farm to another, alternating with wheat and the prolific and fertilizing alfalfa, thus insuring a constant recurrent replenishment of the light, sandy soil, which has proven so well adapted to potato growing.

In the planting season, one of the ingenious machines above referred to is loaded with seed potatoes and started on its automatic labors across a field.



EXTERIOR OF A POTATO WAREHOUSE—CAPACITY, 200 CARS.

It is accompanied by a wagon containing additional "seed." With the motive power supplied by two fine Norman horses and under the supervision of one man this machine will plant six acres per day. The planter may be adjusted to drill, drop and cover in hills from ten to twenty-one inches apart, as may be most desirable.

The harvest of the potato crop usually commences about September 15 and continues until the middle or latter part of October. During this season

inch square mesh. These potatoes which will go through this mesh fall into a sack and are kept for seed the following spring. The larger potatoes roll from the screen into separate sacks, in which they are stored in peculiarly constructed cellars or "dug-outs" until conditions are favorable for marketing.

These "dug-outs" are excavations in the ground varying in size according to the requirements of the crop and approximately ten feet in depth. They are roofed over almost level with the ground and provided with ventilators. To such a considerable extent has this industry grown that at Eaton and Greeley enormous warehouses have been erected for the express purpose of storing and handling potatoes.

Greeley has become celebrated for her "Potato day," which is usually set for the 10th of October. On this occasion immense trenches are dug and the succulent roots, after being roasted to a turn by white-aproned experts, are served with appropriate accompaniments to an admiring crowd of appreciative people only limited by the capacity of the grounds.

During the last year there were about 2,400,000 bushels of this crop harvested in the northern portion of Colorado. There have been several train loads forwarded to St. Louis and Chicago, and many car loads have found their way to interior points in Iowa, Indiana, Tennessee, Ohio, and even as far south as Louisiana. One, which I secured a photograph of, contained exactly forty potatoes and weighed 120 pounds. A few selected specimens weighed a trifle over seven pounds each. During the early part of the shipping season ordinary box cars are used, but at the approach of cold weather "refrigerators" are in demand, and the greatest care is necessary in providing against freezing by the use of false floors, straw packing, and stoves, with reliable men in charge. The present prices range from about 60 to 65 cents per hundred pounds, free on board cars at Greeley. This is equivalent to 38 to 40 cents per bushel of sixty pounds, and the present year's production will probably average 150 to 200 bushels per acre.

There are 4874 registered dentists in Great Britain, of whom 3479 practise with no special qualifications, but on the strength of their own declaration that they were engaged in the practice of dentistry before the passing of the recent act regulating the profession.

What "Life" Considers "Something Queerious."



DRESS AND TRADE.

CHANGING FASHIONS AID IN BOOMING BUSINESS.

Novelty and Variety in Women's Wear Keep Many People Busy—Something About Skirts.

IF the day ever comes when critics will abandon the silly twaddle about fashion in which they have so long indulged, remonstrates a writer in the New York Ledger, the world will be much the gainer by the change. For a good many years fashion, its frivolity, its senselessness, its absurdity and its uselessness, has been the subject of sermons without number, each critic apparently trying to hold it up to keener ridicule than his predecessor. As a matter of fact, on fashion and its changes rest the foundations of commercial prosperity.

If the old were as pleasing as the new, many of the factories would go out of business, the importers would never go to the trouble and expense of importing goods for which there was no imperative demand, and, one by one, industries that employ thousands upon thousands of persons would languish and die. If a five-year-old dress was as pleasing as a new one,



NEW STYLES OF DRESSING THE HAIR.

women would not take the trouble and worry that they now do to provide fresh costumes for all seasons; but this thing which we call fashion demands novelty and variety, and to meet its requirements manufactures and trade are ever kept active.

Within reasonable limits, therefore, fashion, as we now use the term, means business prosperity and gainful occupations to the many. It would be a good idea to elevate the literature of fashion to its proper plane and do away with much of the silliness and frillery that characterize it.

The styles for spring are already shown, and it is safe to say that the models presented will furnish types for warm weather wear. The changes in dresses are not very marked; the plain skirt with the usual shape is an accepted standard. Skirts are as long as is comfortable or convenient, but as has been said before, they are quite as well liked, because even though they are somewhat shorter, they are bound to cut off at the edges unless they are slightly raised.

It is a curious fact that many of the very best dressed women insist on these long skirts, but always raise them a little when on the street. This has hygienic points and daintiness to commend it. Draggled skirts do not become a gentleman, and it is impossible to walk for any distance without soiling the binding if the skirt is allowed to swing.

A new street dress is made with the usual flaring skirt, without trimming, except a graduated band of velvet at either side of the belt. This velvet is dotted with rosettes of satin ribbon. A velvet belt with satin rosettes, revers of velvet, with rosettes at the shoulders and velvet and satin rosettes at the elbows where the sleeves droop over, form the finish. The vest is of shirred silk, matching the dress in color.

Among the new ideas in the making of skirts are trimmings of narrow side-plaiting, such as were in great demand ten or twelve years ago. The fabric is hemmed and closely pressed, and a single row of plaiting, with a heading of narrow gimp or ribbon plaiting, will be a popular fashion for dresses for all occasions.

An attractive skirt has a very narrow side-plaited ruffle, headed with a flat gallon stitched down very closely. Above this is a little ruffle made of strips of silk about two inches wide. This is gathered or box-plaited in the middle, and is set on in scallops about half the size of a coffee saucer. At each point there is a rosette of passementerie, with a tassel made of fringes of silk and beads. This is dressy, and makes a simple and inexpensive finish for afternoon dresses.

While there is a good deal of talk about skirts that measure eight or nine yards around, it is scarcely necessary to say that it is only occasionally that one sees them. They are monstrosities, designed only to use up material and furnish work at some future time when one is obliged to rip them to pieces, after trying in vain to get some comfort out of such a mass of material.

GINGHAMS. Silk and linen gingham seem to improve in quality and finish every year. They are much liked for the cool and comfortable dresses in which every woman delights. They are made up in somewhat elaborate styles, and as some of the darker colors rarely need washing, they are trimmed with ribbons, lace, satin and embroidery. One model in pink and white has a trimming of crimped ruffles of embroid.

ered chiffon, with an abundance of ribbons. These gingham are in stripes or spots, and some of them have very desirable qualities. They are extremely soft, and do not crush and get badly creased, and do almost all fabrics containing linen. Unless linens are very thick and firm, they get stringy after a short time of wearing.

WOMEN'S SHOES. The coming shoes for women are handsomer than ever. There are three beautiful designs: The first, a superb Oxford tie, dongola foxed, and patent-leather tipped. It has a heel curved from the vamp seam back to the top of the shoe. The top is of handsome drab cloth and the lace stays are ornate. The latter, as well as the heel foxing, is scalloped at the edges. It has a slender, pointed toe and medium heel.

The second is a high cut, with a checked cloth top and thirty-two eyelets with silk laces. This is foxed with bright dongola in blucherette shape, and has a deep, pointed tip of patent leather. It is slender-toed, but slightly square at the tip.

The third is a nullifier congress, imitation button variety. This is also of bright dongola, with three large buttons at the points of the broad button flap. The tip extends up to the

FOR THE GRAND ARMY.

COMRADESHIP.

What is Being Done by the Veterans for the Good of the Order.

None but those who have entered the hall of a well-regulated Post know the great value of the organization, not only to the veterans themselves, but also to the public. First, to the comrade himself. If he were not blessed with these associations, would it be any wonder if many of the 365,000 old veterans, for lack of entertainment, would rush off to the errors of ungodly associations, as soldiers of old wars have been used to do?

In doing this they would be a scourge to the country they helped to save. It is now, the old veteran bestows himself to the Post, and there, in the most entertaining company, he spends the evening with men who he met on the bloody field, but now, like himself, are enjoying the bliss of living peacefully under the flag for which he fought. He goes to his home a newly-inspired man, resolved to live and do nobly.

Sickness comes and prostrates the man of iron nerve, and he is reported to his Post, and comrades alike sympathize to see him, cheer him in his distress, aid him if in need, and bonds of friendship formed on battlefields are now strengthened and rendered more helpful than ever. When death comes and closes up the campaign, the living comrades gently lay the "warrior" down to his peaceful rest.

Ransom Post, of St. Louis, Mo., has had more sickness and death among its members since January 1, 1895, than it has in any period since its existence in the same time. Many very beautiful exhibitions of fraternal feeling have been shown during these scenes of sickness and death. By vote the Chaplain was instructed to carry flowers weekly to the sick comrades, and give them in the name of the Post. As I handed the floral offering, I could see the trembling of the lip, the glistening of the tear in the eye, and heard the sentence spoken in deep emotion: "Give the Post my thanks."

The men who have such bonds of love and affection binding their hearts together must be the stronger and better. No class of men can enjoy these courtesies more than old soldiers. No class on earth are bound by stronger bonds than the veterans of the late war. The bonds were welded in the fires of the hottest battles. Other bonds of fellowship are often simply those of a conventional character, formed between men of no other common tie. But veterans have all "been there," and have a common feeling that means much. The last funeral of the Ransom Post was one of peculiar solemnity and pathetic impulses. It was a beautiful Sabbath evening, an impressive church service was held by the pastor of the deceased comrade, when all repaired to the silent battlefield where the open grave awaited the reception of the body dressed in blue, beneath the Stars and Stripes.

The ritual was beautifully rendered amid songs of sweet voices. The last emblem of the departed was deposited, the grave was filled, and the silent beholders stood as if reluctant to leave the sacred spot. Hard as these scenes among men are, yet they have a beneficial effect on the living. A jovial comrade said as we turned away: "Well, that was a burial good enough for a king. If I can have such a one I will be satisfied." Where is the man who will not turn away from such scenes with the resolve: "I will try to live better."

These thousands of G. A. R. funeral services will have their effect on the living comrades, as well as upon the public. I have seen many old soldiers who had gone beyond the day of application for membership, who said: "Wish I had joined the Post. If I get well I will." But few if any fully understand the great good accomplished by the G. A. R. organization. Would that every old veteran fully appreciated this great privilege, and that then every one would live worthy of the position after "mustering." Here I saw speak to the comrades and say: "Bright dress, front, steady!" I hope they will do so. T. H. HAGERTY, St. Louis, Mo.

A BRAVE SOLDIER KILLED.

MAJ. A. J. Hamilton, who was Major of the 12th Ky. Cav., and planned and superintended the famous tunnel escape from Liberty Prison, in which 120 Union soldiers effected their freedom, was murdered in Reedyville, Ky., April 25, by Sam Spencer, a drunkard. He was on his way home with Spencer and another man, but a quarrel began before they had reached the house. While the Major's back was turned, the fatal blow was fired into his head. The murder was met cowardly, and the murderer denies all knowledge of the crime, but the third man testifies that Spencer did the firing. The escape of Major Hamilton and his associates from prison at Richmond is one of the most interesting incidents of the civil war. With him were confined Capt. James A. Johnson, of the 11th Cav., and Lieutenant Ed. Noble, of the 1st Ky. They conceived the idea of tunneling out of the old prison, and with only a few crude implements began the task. After digging for 45 nights they saw daylight, and with them 104 other officers made their escape. The tunnel they dug was 87 feet long and three feet in diameter. Nearly everyone of those who escaped were recaptured.

Advantages of Tidiness.

Tidiness is satirized by a hundred writers, and despised, as we have said, by millions; but nobody ever argues against it seriously, unless we take the allegation that strong men are never tidy to be a serious argument. It would be one, perhaps, if it were true, but it is not. Great soldiers and sailors are almost invariably tidy, Frederick of Prussia being a rather conspicuous exception; many great lawyers have been neat to finicalness, and the same may be said of many great men of business. We should say, indeed, that as many weak men were untidy as strong men, and that of the latter a large proportion will be found to be of the dreamy or the reflective temperament.

Dreamy people hate tidiness, and the very reflective are rarely quite tidy, the reason being the same in both cases, that such persons, besides feeling the inherent dislike of most men to small recurrent exertions without immediate end, are annoyed by interruptions to the current of thought. They want, as they say, to be at peace from trifles, and as somebody usually saves them from the consequences of their ways they remain untidy through life.

That they gain anything by their untidiness, except, possibly, some light relief from irritability, is, however, a most rash assumption. They rarely save time, for they can never find anything; they do not think more clearly, for the materials for thought are never ready to hand; and it may be questioned if their habit adds even to their mental peace.—The Spectator.

Cholly Chappay—I see that earrings are coming into fashion again. Have your ears ever been bored? Miss Castile—What a question. Haven't I often listened to your twaddle?

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Important Measures Considered by Our Lawmakers.

MONDAY.—In the Senate to-night these bills passed finally. To require judges in counties having 25,000 inhabitants and over, in appointing prison commissioners, to recognize both political parties; to repeal the local option law in East Pittsburg, formerly a part of Wilkes township. Representative Horzog, of Berks, charged that the book trust lobbyists were on the floor of the House, and Representatives McGoughy, of Indiana; Mattox, of Venango, and McClain poured hot shot into it. The bill was amended so as to provide that the books shall not be changed for five years from the adoption of the books, and for the repealing of all inconsistent laws. In this shape it passed by a vote of 78 to 65.

TUESDAY.—It took but little over an hour, all told, to-day to pass the all three Greater Pittsburg bills and prepare them, by some unimportant amendments, correcting typographical errors and inaccuracies in their wording, for final passage on a special order tomorrow.

The Senate passed the act to repeal the special act relating to roads and bridges in Warren, Venango and McKean, so far as it relates to Warren county, and the bill repealing section 2 of the special law relating to the assessment and collection of road tax in Warren county.

The Labor bill relating to elections to increase the debt of municipalities and to validate certain elections held for such purposes passed second reading in the House. The bill introduced by Mr. Kephart, of Fayette, to protect employes and guarantee their rights to belong to labor organizations, passed the House finally.

WEDNESDAY.—By an overwhelming vote, the House to-day passed the three Greater Pittsburg bills. Among the bills which passed the Senate to-day finally were Senator Finin's bills authorizing cities to acquire private property for park purposes, and amending the grading and paving act of May 16, 1894. Senator Walton's bill to repeal the prohibitory law for Belle Vernon, Fayette county. Gov. Hastings sent the name of Thomas Robinson, of Butler, to the Senate to-day, for Superintendent of Public Printing. The nomination was confirmed.

THURSDAY.—Only the House was in session to-day, and it managed to dispose of considerable work. House bills on second reading being the order of business. It was hoped that this order could be disposed of to-day, which would have been quite an achievement at this stage of the session, but the fatal fluency of a few members prevented this, and there are yet, counting the bills postponed for the present, about 70 bills on second reading to be disposed of. The bill to cede to the United States jurisdiction over the property of the Monongahela Navigation company passed the House finally. After a lengthy debate, the Niles bill requiring county commissioners to advertise in at least two weekly newspapers for not less than two weeks for proposals for public work, and to award the contracts to the lowest bidder was defeated. The Senator bill to prevent the adulteration of food was also defeated.

FORTUNES MADE IN A DAY.

Millions Came and Went in Petroleum's Early Days.

"There never was a time in the commercial history of the world when so many men were making so much money as were the men who owned the big oil wells on Oil Creek in the year 1864," says a pioneer operator in the petroleum field. "Incomes were calculated by the minute, and \$1 a minute was a small income. There were men who were making from \$5 to \$10 a minute, day and night. In those days—and they seem like a dream now or some Arabian night's tale—it was the well owners who made the money. They just sat around and let their wells spout and gathered in the returns as they came.

"There had been astounding fluctuations in the oil market ever since the business began in 1850. In that year petroleum brought \$20 a barrel. There was no market for it yet, though, and not much was sold. The next year, in spite of the fact that there was very little demand for a product as yet almost unknown to the outside world, the wells then producing put on the market 200,000 barrels of oil. Yet the average price for the product that year was \$10 a barrel, although it fell to \$3.50 in January, 1861, and tumbled to 50 cents a barrel by April.

"In 1861 oil tumbled to 10 cents a barrel, and an empty barrel was worth 15 times as much as the oil it could hold. In less than a year 1,500,000 barrels of oil came from the ground along Oil Creek, and more than half of it ran to waste. Oil was so low in 1862 that very few operators shipped any. There was a good deal of money made in 1863, as the price was about \$4 at the wells, and about 3,000,000 barrels were produced, but 1864 was the star year for well owners. The price had gone to \$5 a barrel in February, 1864, and before May was over \$7. Some heavy wells were struck about that time, but by June 1 oil was selling at \$7.50. By the end of the month it had jumped to \$11.50 a barrel. In those thirty days more men were making fortunes every day than I believe ever before in the commercial history of the world.

"The most notable year of all for fluctuations in the price of oil was 1865. The average was something like \$6 a barrel, while the price frequently went up as high as \$10 and fell as low as \$4. This year saw the end of the gushing days in Oil Creek. All of the big spouting wells were things of the past. The highest price oil ever got again was in 1869, when it went to \$7 a barrel. Ever since then the price has steadily grown smaller, and since 1878 has ruled below \$2."

Five Generations in Possession.

In this restless age and country, says the New York Tribune, it is rare for five generations of one family to have lived in uninterrupted continuance in the ancestral homestead, but Marietta Holley, the delineator of Josiah Allen's Wife, can claim this distinction. Between Pierpont Manor and Adams, in Jefferson County, and not more than seven miles from Lake Ontario, is situated the Holley homestead. The five generations of Holleys have lived quiet, peaceful lives on this beautiful spot. The parents of Miss Marietta Holley moved into the little brown cottage the day after their marriage and remained there until borne to their last long resting-place.

No, it is not proper to speak of the "modern woman" as "the woman of the age." Don't forget this.



BONNET OF WHITE VELVET.

jet ornament; strings of golden velvet.

VELVET STILL POPULAR.

Velvet seems to have suffered no decrease in popularity with the coming of mild weather. It appears in almost every imaginable form, skirts, bodies, sleeves, trimmings, capes and coats being made of it.

PRETTY TABLE DECORATION.

The very latest idea for table decoration is trailing vines and flowers, with a small centerpiece of azaleas or



FOR THE CENTRE OF THE TABLE.

any other potted plant that will harmonize with the colors used. The result is charming to a degree. One can imagine herself in the garden, surrounded by nature's beauties, while the tid-bits of the table seem to taste as if fairies, not cooks, had made them.