

The latest project of the Danish government is to introduce an income tax of 1-1/4 per cent. a year, those having less than 700 crowns of income being free.

Oats form one of the principal Belgian crops, with an average annual value of about \$16,000,000. Yet large quantities are imported from the United States, Canada, Russia and southeastern Europe.

Train robbing appears to have become a permanent and prosperous industry in the Transvaal, the last venture in that direction having netted the perpetrators upward of \$60,000. Thus, even in far-away South Africa, the wild western method of money-getting is making steady progress.

The price of rice has risen so high in various parts of China that the natives are growing to like corn meal. There is a chance for American corn in the Orient on the score of cheapness which the Middle West can profit by when the Nicaragua canal is built. It will then be possible to ship corn from there to China through a Gulf port at a price which will compete with rice at average market rates and afford our farmers a steady and fairly uniform revenue.

Says the Hartford Post:—New York has expended \$5,000,000 for a speedway for fast horses, and now it is prepared to spend \$80,000 for a speedway for bicycles. Plans have been drawn for such a speedway along the road connecting the Bronx and Pelham parks. Wheelmen number 600,000 in New York, or one-fifth of the entire population. Carriage riders number about one per cent. of the population. The wheelmen should have their speedway.

There seems to be no question about prosperity in Chicago. According to the Inter-Ocean, the number of people in the poorhouse is less by 300 than it was a year ago. The number of applications for outdoor relief in November was the lowest on record for many years. The estimator of the county agent for the poor fund are \$10,000 less for 1898 than in 1897. No public appeal is likely to be made by the A-associated Charities. These facts go to show, as the Inter-Ocean says, that there has been a general revival of work.

Money is the true king, exclaims the Philadelphia Record. The smart scheme of the German Kaiser to sell the Sultan of Turkey guns and build him warships to be paid for out of the Greek indemnity—thus enabling the porte to build up its independence of European control on the basis of late victories in war and diplomacy—has been nipped in the bud by Russia and Austria. Russia has demanded payment of the war debt of 1878, and Austria has put in a claim for indemnification for later indebtedness which the Sultan has been forced to comply with. Thus Germany loses fat contracts and diplomatic prestige, and the Turks find their legs tied by debt.

The reported extension for fifty years of the concession to the Casino company at Monte Carlo is a matter of considerable interest to the world at large. "It means," explains the New York Mail and Express, "the further enrichment of stockholders already inordinately wealthy through the profit of the gaming table. But it also means—which is of more importance—the impoverishment of men and women born to luxury, the squandering of millions not the property of the men who squander them, broken hearts galore, and incidentally the self-murder of a goodly number of fools made desperate by ill luck. It's a great place, this Monte Carlo. The devil is extremely fond of it."

Appropos of a statement touching the manner in which this country has performed its duty towards Spain in the matter of preventing filibustering, we have made inquiry for the exact details from the navy department, states Harper's Weekly. The government has maintained a patrol fleet on the coast of Florida for the last two years, consisting of the following vessels: Raleigh, Cincinnati, Amphitrite, Maine, Montgomery, Newark, Dolphin, Marblehead, Vesuvius, Wilmington, Helena, Nashville, Annapolis, and Detroit. Most of the time three vessels have been on duty, and the cost of the service has ranged from \$15,000 to \$60,000 a month. The best witnesses to the effectiveness of this patrol service are the filibusters themselves. If Spanish troops and warships had been as efficient against the insurgents as our navy has been against filibusters, the insurrection would have been conquered long ago.

WHAT SKINS ARE WORTH

ACTIVE DEMAND FOR THE PELTS OF FUR-BEARING ANIMALS.

A Skin Passes Through Many Hands—Duties of the "Collector." The Black Fox's Pelt Fetches as Much as \$200—The Value of Various Other Skins.

A phase of the fur business that dealers say promises well for the trade is the active market for skins. There's a lot of difference between fur and skins. To the uninitiated it seems more of a difference of terms. Generally speaking, one could describe the skin side of the fur business as the wholesale end and the fur side as the retail end. Strictly speaking, that would not be true, of course.

Most of the houses in New York that sell furs do buy skins, as a rule, from the trappers or from the "shippers," who deal with the trappers. Several of the best known houses in the trade go to London for most of their skins—even for American skins. Their reason for this, one of their representatives told a Press reporter the other day, is that, as London is the clearing house of the world for furs, the pick of skins caught everywhere goes to London for fancy prices. With the world's supply at their command the London skin merchants can supply a thousand skins, or perhaps ten thousand skins, of any grade or any shade, of any animal whose fur is brought to market.

From the time that the animal is caught or shot until its skin appears on the person of a grand dame it passes through many hands. The trapper and hunter do not as a rule ship their products. Most of them prefer to sell to the "collector," an individual who pays cash and makes a business of traveling through the sections where wild animals abound, picking up all sorts of quantities, from a half dozen skins to a thousand or even more. He ships direct to the commission merchant, who is his agent and who may be doing business either in New York, Boston or London.

When the skins reach New York they are sorted for color and size and sold to the manufacturer in lots as wanted. Most skins come here dried, but some, such as racoons and beaver, come with the fat on. These either have to be disposed of soon or dried. The treatment of the skins to make them ready for the manufacturer is a business by itself.

The most valuable skin that comes into the market "raw" is the black fox. The quotation on this skin this fall ranges from \$200 down to \$15. Yet some black fox skins have been known to bring as much as \$400. There is a big drop in prices in other kinds of fox skins. Those next to the black ones fetch from \$9 all the way down to 20 cents. The \$8 and \$9 kind are found in Canada and Labrador. The New York state and New England fox skins bring from \$1.30 to \$1.85.

Marten, mink, muskrat and skunk are the best sellers. Marten from Quebec and Labrador fetch \$10, \$8, \$4 down to \$2.50. New York and Canada skins run all the way from \$3.50 to \$1.40. In the latter class size determines the price more than color.

Mink is variously quoted from \$2.20 for Halifax, Labrador and Nova Scotia skins to 25c. and 30c. for the inferior qualities caught in New York. For prime mink in New York and New England of choice colors the prices are \$1.85 and \$1.75.

There seems to be a big demand for skunks. The black ones fetch the best prices; then come the half-striped. The quotations are \$1 and 90c. for the black ones, and 55c. and 60c. to 12c. The 12c. ones are the common white fellows that most of us fear on a dark night in the country.

Racoons, many of which are caught in this section, fetch from 75c. down to 25c. and 30c. A trapper must catch a good many muskrat to earn a living, for the best of these skins, although there always is a demand for them, fetch only 50c. and 21c. For the smaller ones only from 5c. to 6c., and even less, is paid.

When you recall that for the smallest good fur scarf one has to pay from \$5 to \$15 it makes you think that there must be an enormous profit somewhere, or else the process of making the skins ready for wear must be terribly expensive.

Bear, beaver and otter come chiefly from Canada and the Provinces. A fine, large, dark otter skin is easily worth \$9 to \$10. Even the second and third best fetch from \$7.50 and \$6.50. Beaver, while not much in demand of late years, sells readily at from \$3.50 to \$5 for the best and from \$3 to \$1 for the other grades.

Bear skins have been more active than usual this year, and one manufacturer accounts for it by the number of men who are fitting out for the Klondike. Fine black bear skins fetch \$20 and \$22; medium are quoted at \$12 to \$14.

Fisher are pretty good things to trap, for prime skins fetch \$9 and \$10, while other grades sell for them \$6.50 down to \$4.

German Army's Colored Bandmaster.

Sabac el Cher is the only colored bandmaster in the German army. He is at the head of the music corps of the Royal Prussian regiment of grenadiers, King Frederick III (No. 1 East Prussian), which garrisons Koenigsberg, Prussia. Sabac el Cher is said to be remarkably handsome. His father was born in lower Egypt. Prince Albrecht of Prussia found him at the court of the kedive and brought him to Berlin. He married a German woman. Sabac el Cher played the violin when he was eight years old and received an excellent musical education. The band is in great demand.—Chicago Chronicle.

BREAD THE WORLD OVER.

Various Forms of the Staff of Life in Different Countries of the Earth.

"It is a curious and interesting study," says the superintendent of the baking department in a certain industrial school, "to compare the various materials which serve the different nations of the world as the basis of their bread, in this country, where good bread, made from spring and all wheat flour, is within the reach of all. Rarely a thought is given to the fact that, after all, the inhabitants of only a small portion of the earth's surface enjoy such a food.

"In the remotest parts of Sweden the poor people make and bake their rye bread twice a year, and store the loaves away so that eventually they are as hard as bricks. Further north still bread is made from barley and oats. In Lapland, oats, with the inner bark of the pine, are used. The two, together, well ground and mixed, are made into large flat cakes, cooked in a pan over the fire. In dreary Kamchatka, pine or birch bark by itself, well macerated, pounded and baked, frequently constitutes the whole of the native bread food. The Icelanders scrape the Iceland moss' off the rocks and grind it into fine flour, which serves both for bread and puddings. In some parts of Siberia, China, and other eastern countries a fairly palatable bread is made from buckwheat. In parts of Italy chestnuts are cooked, ground into meal and used for making bread. Durra, a variety of the millet, is much used in the countries of India, Egypt, Arabia, and Asia Minor for making bread. Rice bread is the staple food of the Chinese, Japanese, and a large portion of the inhabitants of India. In Persia the bread is made from rice flour and milk; it is called 'lawash'.

"The Persian oven is built in the ground, about the size of a barrel. The sides are smooth masonry work. The fire is built at the bottom and kept burning until the wall or sides of the oven are thoroughly heated. Enough dough to form a sheet about a foot wide and about two feet long is thrown on the bench and rolled until about as thin as sole leather, then it is taken up and tossed and rolled from one arm to the other and hung on a board and slapped on the side of the oven. It takes only a few moments to bake, and when baked it is spread out to cool. This bread is cheap (one cent a sheet); it is sweet and nourishing. A specimen of the 'hungry bread' from Armenia is made of clover seed flax or linseed meal, mixed with edible grass. In the Molucca islands the starchy pith of the sago palm furnishes a white floury meal. This is made up into flat, oblong loaves, which are baked in curious little ovens, each oven being divided into oblong cells to receive the loaves. Bread is also made of roots in some parts of Africa and South America. It is made from manioc tubers. These roots are a deadly poison if eaten in the raw state, but make a good food if properly prepared. To prepare it for bread, the roots are soaked for several days in water, thus washing out the poison; the fibers are picked out, dried and ground into flour. This is mixed with milk if obtainable, if not, water is used. The dough is formed into little round loaves, and baked in hot ashes or dried in the sun."—Good House-keeping.

A Mountain Climbing Cat.
The Dent du Midi in the Valais possesses a strange specimen of the feline. This is a cat which has lately joined the Alpine club, and whose mountaineering exploits are a theme for the sparse columns of Swiss newspapers. The cat of the mountains came upon the scene suddenly, and no one knows from where. It had already reached months of discretion when it took up its habitation and profession in the mountain hospice, and it is now to be seen most days at the foot of the Dent du Midi, not far from Salafte. Here this remarkable tabby comes to meet the mountaineers on their start, and follows them in their ascent like a dog—only dogs do not as a rule show any fancy for the high Alps. It accompanies them to the very summit, and shares the climbers' frugal fare. Indeed, it is supposed to be for the sakes of the broken fragments that the Alpine cat makes its ascent.

Times have been bad for man and beast in the pouring rains which have very much dampened the autumn joy of the Swiss tourist in the Valais. Perhaps even the cats find it hard to make an honest living, but surely to make a daily ascent of 3185 metres for the sake of a scanty lunch is to take life too seriously. Or is it that in lordly contempt of the canine race the animal means one day to emulate the faithful hound of St. Bernard? The cat it has been said, has never been able to forget that once it was worshipped in ancient Egypt. Here is a feline which means to equal the noblest traditions of a glorious past.

Something New in Barbers.

The traveling barber is something new in the way of making a living. Equipped with a full set of tools and all the necessary material, he goes from door to door soliciting "shaves" and hair-cuts. Not only does he attend to the wants of men, but ladies also receive careful attention at the hands of this wandering tonsorial artist. He has the custom of some of the best families, and sometimes spends an entire day at one house, beginning by cutting the hair of the smallest tot and ending his day's work by dressing my lady's hair.

One of these professional "lock changers" is also an expert linguist, having mastered French, German, Italian, Spanish, and, of course, English. He has his own ideas about style and always wears a white suit and esp.

THE FARM GARDEN



Care of the Garden.

If the garden is thoroughly underdrained, as it always ought to be, it should be fall plowed in ridges and the surface left rough, so as to expose the soil as much as possible to freezing. This is the more necessary because the garden is always a sheltered spot, where snow lies much of the winter, so that there are few times when the soil freezes very deeply. The garden is always the richest spot on the farm. It often is what the Scotch farmers call "much midden" or heavy with manure. It needs the winter's freezing to lighten the soil and make its fertility available.

Late Grown Turnips.

There is no crop grown so easily and with so little cost as late-grown turnips in a field of well-cultivated corn. The shade of the corn will keep the turnips from growing much until the corn is cut. Possibly also their growth will be checked by the demand of the corn roots for plant food. But in the Indian summer that follows the first frost the turnips will make rapid growth, as they will then have all the land for their own use. The turnip will endure a pretty heavy frost, and grow again if warm weather follows it. But in our climate turnips cannot be left in the ground all winter as they are in England.—American Cultivator.

Cherry Trees Standing in Grass.

Our experience with cherry trees is that they do not require cultivation. Those we had in the garden were always more liable to rot and to be affected by insects than the trees that stood in dry places and surrounded by grass. It may be that it is the extra moisture in the cultivated soil that predisposes cherries to rot, or it may be the manure annually applied to the garden and to which the cherry tree roots helped themselves freely. The cherry tree does not do well with wet feet. On high, dry land its roots will run deeply enough to find all the moisture it needs, and on such land in grass is the best to plant cherries for profitable fruiting.

Value of Hog Manure.

Hog manure is popularly supposed to be very rich, partly because hogs are always fed on grain or other very concentrated food, and also because they are so neat that they always deposit their excrement by itself un-mixed with bedding, as will animals that are generally supposed to be much more cleanly than the hog. Yet hog manure is generally slow to heat, though after fermentation has once begun it progresses very rapidly. One reason why manure from the hog is richer than from other animals is because the hog uses more of the carbon in his food to turn into fat, and less of the phosphate and nitrogen to change into bone and lean meat. No domestic animal when fattened has so large a proportion of bones compared with its total weight as has the hog.

Apple Pomace as Feed.

There is considerable nutriment in pomace as it comes from the mill. Stock will eat it quite readily if fed before it begins to ferment. This, however, it does very soon if exposed to the air. Consequently it is best to place the pomace in air-tight barrels or hogheads, so as to keep air from it, and cover the pomace with something that will hold down the carbonic acid gas and prevent its escape as it forms. This is really ensilage. The pomace itself has not nutritive value to make this worth while. Its chief value is its succulence, and it should be fed with grain, hay or meal, so as to give the proper proportion of nutrition. When put up in air-tight barrels and kept slightly below freezing temperature there will be no more fermentation in the pomace than there is in the silo, and it can be used till late in the winter.

Eye After Turnips.

Turnips are the latest crop to be harvested, and as they continue to grow after light frosts, there is not much chance to put in a later crop after them. Of course nothing can be grown and mature the same season after turnips are off. But winter rye will bear to be sown very late if the land is only rich enough. We have known rye to be sown late in November and barely peep above the surface the same year. But it grew a little more during the January thaw, and the next year made as good a crop, and as early also, as rye sown two months earlier, which made a growth that covered the ground in the fall. In each case all the spring growth had to be made from the root. Where that is established the richness of the soil has more to do in making fall-sown grain ripen early than does its growth the preceding fall.

Linseed vs. Cotton-Seed Meal.

While fully grown animals with strong digestive organs can eat cotton-seed meal properly diluted with straw or hay without serious injury,

THE "NEGATIVE" EAR.

Strange Inability of Some People to Understand Human Language.

Mrs. Lounsbury of Chicago, who for ten years has been training pupils of a deaf-mute asylum, has decided to devote herself to the education of the "negative" ear. While at the asylum she discovered that one of her pupils could hear, but could not appreciate the different shades of tone. She studied and experimented, with the result that she found children classed as deaf-mutes who were afflicted only with a sort of "color blindness of the ear," that prevented them from distinguishing the different tones of the sounds they heard. She called the affliction "the negative ear." Says the Chicago Tribune:

In a California institution for deaf-mutes Mrs. Lounsbury discovered nine children possessed of the "negative" ear. They could hear as well as any one, hear even a whisper, but they were utterly unable to discern shades of tone, and so could not understand language.

In an eastern school she once found a young woman who had spent almost her whole life in the institution, had learned the sign language and lip-reading, and yet could hear perfectly. Had this fact been discovered early in life, six months' or a year's training would have fitted her to enter the public schools and obtain an education with other children; but she had never made a sound, and her parents thought her deaf and mute.

Among the pupils afflicted in this way now receiving instruction in speech there are two particularly interesting cases. One is that of a small boy of twelve years, whose parents thought him an idiot, and whose language is so twisted and filled with substitutions of incorrect sounds that so one who has not made a study of its attempts can understand what he says.

Yet he is bright, active and talkative, and thinks he can talk—a common delusion among persons so troubled. He has been studying now only two weeks, but already his speech is becoming better, and one or two words spoken in every sentence are clearly spoken.

The other case is that of a young man, who had grown to manhood speaking a language wholly unintelligible to others, but without finding out what was the matter with him. In a month he has learned to talk fairly well, and in a few months more will be in a position to enter upon active business life.

The method of curing the "negative" ear is no less strange than the trouble itself. It is, of course, impossible to teach the child through words spoken by others, or it would have learned in the natural manner. Instead, the process is reversed. The child is taught to speak correctly by instructing it in the positions of the mouth and tongue, and the words spoken are made to teach the ear. The child's own tongue cultivates its ear. No other tongue can do it.

DISLIKE RESTRAINT.

Metal-Cutting Beetles and How They Work—A Yucatan Production.

F. W. Devoe presented an interesting subject for the consideration of the New York Microscopical society. As a result of long study of beetle habits he brought before the society specimens of the metal-cutting beetle and of their wonderful work.

The first metal-cutting beetle which Mr. Devoe became possessed of was one sent to him from Yucatan. He inclosed the specimen in a cardboard box. The next morning the beetle was found enjoying his ease about the room, and a hole in the side of the box showed the manner of his exit. He was then placed in a glass jar with a black walnut cover. That he cut through the next night. He was replaced in the jar, and a metal cover, perforated with a few airholes, was placed over it. The beetle did not begin work on this cover for about a week, but at the end of that time, within the space of forty-eight hours, he had cut an opening between two of the holes large enough to get part of his body through. With more time he would have enlarged the opening sufficiently to admit of his escape.

Mr. Devoe has had several specimens of the metal-cutting beetle since. They measure in length from four and a half to five centimeters, and in breadth from one and a half to two centimeters. Their backs are covered with little knobs, in lines, and their antennae have from nine to eleven joints. They are very slow, deliberate walkers, and are chiefly active in the darkness.

Mr. Devoe had several specimens on exhibition, with samples of their cutting powers. He also exhibited plates representing in magnified form the beetle's dissected head and jaws and the jar covers which had been cut.—New York Tribune.

A Mortgaged Cat.

There are very few articles that cannot be mortgaged, but when the clerks in the county clerk's office recently took a chattel mortgage to file, and, looking over the list of articles, they found a cat, they were perfectly dumfounded. They say they have seen many a strange thing mortgaged, but never before saw a cat. The mortgage was given by Charles Arnold to J. Claus, and it is hard to say what would be done if the cat ran away.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Influence of Dress on Our Voices.

Says Dr. H. L. Hastings, in The Journal of Medicine and Science: "Women go with their necks bare, and men keep their shirts washed and bandaged; and ten women have sweet voices to one man. A man's voice should be as pure as a woman's. Why is it not? He is choked and shaved."

it is doubtful whether it is advisable to make this part of their ration. Linseed meal can be purchased at about the same price as cotton-seed meal, and has equal nutritive value. The new process meal is the kind generally used. It is not so fattening as the old process meal, because more of its oil has been expressed. Flaxseed meal is a very rich feed, and if boiled so as to swell out all that hot water can do it may be given to cattle, sheep or horses with safety. Only a very little should be given at a time, as the oil in it makes it very laxative, and a small amount daily is better than more. There is nothing better for an animal's hair than a little flaxseed daily. It will insure the shiny coat which in either cow or horse is always a sign of thrift.—American Cultivator.

Banking Earth Around Trees.

As it is often done, the banking of soil around trees in fall to prevent mice from barking them does more harm than good. If any sod, weeds or other rubbish are included in banking up the tree, the object is not only defeated, but the liability to injury is increased. The purpose should be to oblige the mice to climb up above the snow line and expose themselves to their enemies while gnawing the tree. This they will rarely do, for much of this work is done at night when their natural enemy, the owl is most watchful. But if the mice find vacant spaces around the tree, as they surely can if sod or rubbish are used, they can work under this protection with greater safety than if the tree were not banked at all. Still it is better to bank young apple trees, at least as high as the snow line usually comes. The warmth from the tree makes a vacant space in the snow all around it, and it is under this protection that most of the destructive work is done.

Warning to Dairymen.

The Country Gentleman, under the heading, "Beware of Aniline Butter Color," publishes a column of affidavits to prove that a little child about two years old got hold of a bottle of one of the fashionables makes of butter color, got some of it in its mouth, and in a few hours died from plain symptoms of poisoning. Later a healthy grown cat was made to swallow a spoonful of the coloring matter, and was a dead cat in twenty-four hours, with all the signs of poisoning. The Country Gentleman says this brand of coloring matter was condemned by the Pennsylvania experiment station, but does not name it. I suppose the best one can do under the circumstances, says a writer in Home and Farm, is to require a written statement from the maker that there is no aniline in the article offered for sale. There are some brands free from this objectionable article, and the makers should make haste to let the buttermakers know who they are. Would it really make much difference to the makers of fine butter if coloring matter was forbidden by law? I think it would be a good thing. It is a horrid stuff at best.

Dehorned Cattle Sell Better.

A circular issued by a cattle commission company that is in no way supposed to be prejudiced on the subject beyond making more money for both buyer and seller says: "Dehorned cattle sell better than horned cattle for all purposes. They are preferred by shippers, feeders and packers. They look better, feed better, sell better, kill out better. The man who feeds horned cattle is handicapped from 10 to 25 cents per hundred weight in most cases."

This is all in relation to beef cattle, and when we come to consider the dairy the man who cultivates horns is still further on the wrong side of the fence. Why a herd of cows should be ever and eternally on the move, each cow trying to get behind the other cow to get away from those ever present spikes on a cow's head, surpasses human comprehension, when an hour's work would take them off and give each cow in the herd a lifetime of rest. That is one objection to handling thoroughbred Jerseys; the fashion requires horns on their heads, but I have seen quite a number of dehorned Jersey cows of late, to say nothing of lots of bulls.—Home and Farm.

The Church Bell.

The church bell is another one of the relics of barbarism with which civilization could readily dispense. Since the general introduction of clocks and watches, the bell has really lost its significance. Certainly it can be classed among the "needless noises." In the days of Paulus of Nola, in the A. D. 400, when the custom first had its origin, the ringing of bells may have been necessary to call people to places of worship—and this was the sole purpose of the first church bell—but in this present year, so near the beginning of the twentieth century, there is surely no need of such an alarm as is sometimes sounded from the iron throat of the average church bell to summon people well supplied with timepieces to their chosen place of worship.—American Medical Monthly.

A Dublin Lawyer, Writing of an Estate.

A Dublin lawyer, writing of an estate he has just bought, said: "There is a chapel upon it, in which my wife and I wish to be buried if God spares our lives."