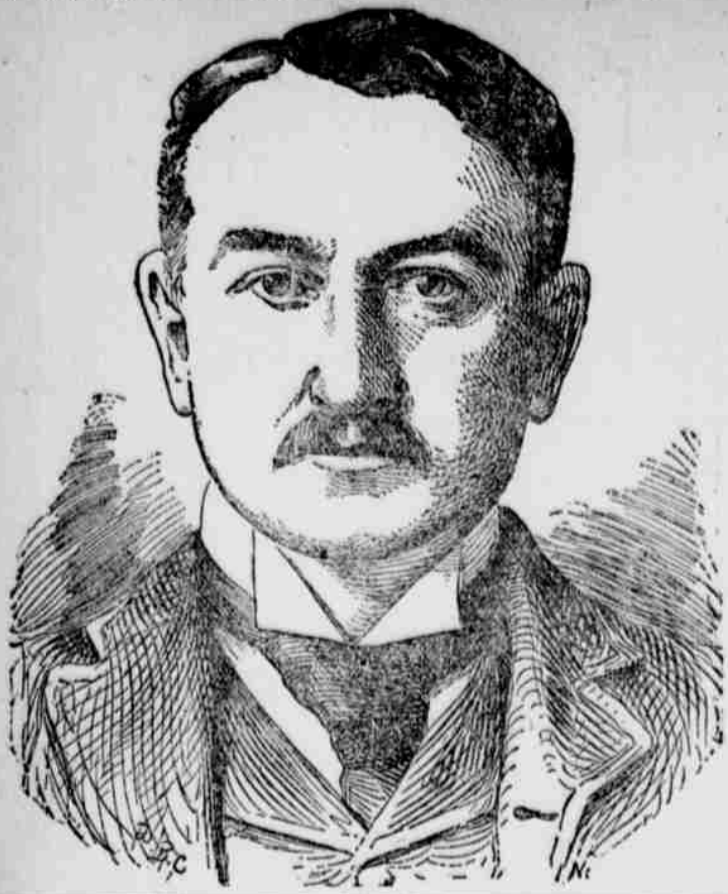


CECIL RHODES, SOUTH AFRICA'S "UNCROWNED KING."



The Diamond Mines of Kimberley.

Cecil Rhodes Controls the Richest Prize in All South Africa.



In this country and in Great Britain attention has been strongly attracted of late to the city of Kimberley, and this time the interest has been martial; for Kimberley is the home of Cecil Rhodes, the Grand Young Man of Africa. The Boers, according to some accounts, at the beginning of hostilities were anxious no less for the blood of Rhodes than for the rich booty of the mines.

Cecil Rhodes is often described as "the man who made South Africa." Mr. Rhodes was formerly Premier of Cape Colony, and is certainly the most prominent and powerful man in South Africa. He has achieved that place in twenty-six years. In 1873 he left Oxford because of a serious lung trouble, and went to the Cape in search of health. He is the youngest son of an English clergyman, and was born at Bishopstortford, on July 5, 1853. He did not go to South Africa to seek diamonds, but because his physician had ordered a change. He continued his studies while living in Natal, and returned to Oxford each

year and the defeat and death of King Lobengula. The Jameson raid across the Transvaal border was probably due to the influence of Cecil Rhodes, for he has never denied complicity with it, and as its result he resigned in 1896 as Prime Minister of Cape Colony.

Kimberley is the diamond region of the world, far surpassing those of Brazil in richness. Kimberley is not a city in the modern use of the word. It is a great camp in which men's passions rise and fall as the treasures of the earth are uncovered or not found. The camp is in what is called the Vaal Basin, the wash ground of the river which divides the Transvaal from the Orange Free State. The first diamond discoveries there were made about 1870, but it was ten years later when Englishmen and others realized that the spot was the most valuable of its kind in the world.

By 1881 the mines which had been opened had yielded gems to the value of \$20,000,000. By 1887 seven tons of diamonds had been taken out valued at \$250,000,000. This record placed the Brazil diamond mines in the shade and made Kimberley world-wide in its fame. The Cecil Rhodes syndicate, known as the De Beers, came into control of all the mines after much negotiation. This syndicate is capitalized for \$75,000,000 and pays interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum and an annual dividend of 20 per cent. Since Cecil Rhodes came into control of the mines they have given out 2,500,000 karats of diamonds. To get at these it has been necessary to wash 2,700,000 loads of the blue earth in which they are found. In the working of these diamond

small iron trucks to the levels. Upon these levels the blue ground is worked until the gems within are extracted. The process of extracting takes from three to six months. The stones found vary in size from a pin-head to the largest ever found—428½ karats. This largest stone when cut weighed 228½ karats. It is one of the experiences of the mine owners that they lose from ten to fifteen per cent. of their product each year through the thefts of employees, who, although closely watched, still manage to get away with their loot. The punishment for stealing a diamond is fifteen years' imprisonment. All diamonds except those which pass through illicit channels, are sent to England, the weekly shipments averaging from 40,000 to 50,000 karats. The greatest outlet for stolen diamonds is through the Transvaal to Natal, where they are shipped by respectable merchants.

It is said of the Rhodes interests in the mines that they take good care of their workmen. They have built a model village called Kenilworth within the precincts of the mines. In this village are cottages for the white workmen. A clubhouse has been built for their use and there is a public library. The equipment of the mines is something remarkable. Each mine has ten circuits of electric lights. They consist of fifty-two arc lamps of 1000 candle power each and 691 glow lamps of sixteen and sixty-four candle power each, or a total illuminating power of about 64,000 candles. Thirty telephones are located in each mine and over 100 electric bells for each for signaling. The lives of the workmen are insured and every precaution is taken to make their condition tolerable.



TYPE OF THE NATIVE DIAMOND MINERS.

The rate of wages runs from \$2 to \$8 per day, unskilled labor receiving the lower price. What effect the closing of the mines by war have on the world at large is hard to say. Diamonds have already risen in price, but there is a large stock on hand in English and French hands.

The Great Corn States.
"The great corn States, according to the statistics of last year," writes John Gilmer Speed, in *Ainslee's*, "are in the order named, Iowa, Illinois,

FOR WOMAN'S BENEFIT.

Field for Table Decorators.
Table decoration has become an art in itself. A woman who possesses deft fingers and a taste for floral effects can count on more or less regular employment during the season of dinners and teas, if her ideas are original and she appreciates artistic effects, not only upon the table, but in the general surroundings. A table decorator should understand the care and cultivation as well as the arrangement of flowers. Her work would then be much enlarged, and the care of house-plants, window boxes, ferns and palms in different houses each day would give pleasant occupation and a regular income. Table decorators are employed by florists and caterers.

Rainbow Cloth for Winter Gowns.
An extraordinary material introduced by Francis of Paris is rainbow cloth. The ground of the fabric is white cloth, and at first glance one would suppose it were lined with a gay plaid silk. The colors, which are very soft and gleam like the colors in shadow silk when the fabric is viewed in different lights, flash into sight and disappear at every turn of the wearer, reminding one of the reflections of the sun shining through a stained glass window. Frocks of this fabric are made up simply and usually trimmed with black. A princess gown of rainbow cloth is relieved by applique designs on skirt and bodice of narrow black velvet ribbon. It has a short yoke of white moire applique with the black velvet and cuffs of white moire similarly treated.

New Fancies in Neckwear.
Novelties in neckwear continue to appear, in spite of the fact that about one hundred different kinds of scarfs, cravats, bows and frills are already worn by fashionable femininity. One of the newest neck frills is a Pierre ruff of white and black chiffon, from which depend short strips of black velvet ribbon, with a steel or jet ball dangling to the end of each. Below the ruff in front is a jabot of chiffon embroidered with chenille. A stock of satin has an over collar of black velvet, spangled with sequins. A plaited ruffle below the stock is edged by strips of narrow black velvet ribbon and sequins. The double bow cravat is odd. The first bow is at the throat and its ends are drawn down a few inches and tied a second time. Loose bows with long ends are of crepe de chine striped with narrow black velvet ribbon. The ends are finished by silken fringe, headed by a tiny ruffling of the crepe de chine. Scarfs of silky grenadine gauze are of solid colors, with a border of pale tint or of Oriental pattern and coloring. Dark blues, blacks and purples, bordered with green, scarlet, blue and white, yellow, etc., are very effective.

Coral Jewelry Revived.
The popularity of coral is growing, both in Europe and in this country, and those who are best qualified to speak on the subject express the belief that the demand for coral jewelry this winter will be considerable. The beautiful cameos and carved pieces which formerly were fashionable, are no longer sought, the demand being confined to simple forms. Almost all the valuable coral at the present day comes from Italy and most of it is cut there, although a not inconsiderable part is cut in Germany. It is imported into this country ready for mounting. It is cut either round, pear shaped or en cabochon, round or oval. Heart shaped pieces are also cut to some extent. The round pieces are used chiefly in the form of necklaces, guard and lorgnette chains, sometimes alternating either with pearl or with turquoise; the pear shaped pieces are used chiefly for scarf and lace pins and pendants, link buttons, studs and rings are mounted with cabochon cut pieces. The gems which seem to combine with the best effect with coral are diamonds and pearls. In rings the stones are set either singly or in combinations of three or five graduated frequently in combination with diamonds and pearls. The favorite color is a pale shade of pink. For mounting, Roman gold is peculiarly effective.

A Useful Underskirt.
The present fashion do away with the superabundance of underskirts once considered necessary, and for walking dress limit the elegance to a single one. This petticoat must be carefully made and lined. White skirts are used with house dresses alone. For the promenade a skirt of silk or alpaca is necessary. These skirts should be fitted as carefully around the hips as dress skirts are, though it is not necessary to suspend them from a yoke. Line each breadth of the skirt with flannel or some warm wool material. Sew up the seams by lapping them, holding the two materials together and turning a seam on the inside and outside. This upper part of the underskirt should be sheathlike in its fit, yet should give plenty of room for free movement in walking eighteen inches from the bottom. This skirt should be finished by a straight ruffle, which may be gathered, but is often corded in groups of lengthwise cords extending to within ten inches of the bottom, where the flounce flares and is edged with a full plaiting or gathered ruffle two inches deep. If this ruffle is gathered it may be corded horizontally with two cords near the edge. Use a small cord the size of ordinary wrapping twine for this purpose. The material that is most desirable for this skirt is silk, because it is lighter than alpaca. An old faded silk that has passed its usefulness as a dress will

serve excellently as a skirt. Dye it an even color. It must first be cleaned. Remove any grease spots with gasoline and sponge off soiled spots with a mixture half alcohol and half water. Dye the silk when it is cleaned and dry according to directions. Black is always a good color for elderly people, but blue of the bright medium color may be easily dyed if the silk is not already dyed in color or too dark, and it is an excellent popular color for skirts this season. A dyed silk whose lack-lustre views would at once identify it looks very well in a petticoat of this kind.—*New York Tribune.*

What Girls Learned in 1789.
Slight attention was paid to the education of women before the nineteenth century. The first admission of women to the free public schools in Boston was in 1789, when they were allowed to attend them from the 20th of April to the 20th of October. President John Adams' wife, writing of the opportunities for the education of women in her day, said: "Female education in the best families went no further than writing and arithmetic and in some few and rare instances music and dancing." Mary Washington was a bad speller and her husband wrote her letters for her to copy. For the most part the girls were educated at home. There were a few female seminaries, but these were private schools, exclusively for the well-to-do; they were modeled on the English lines and the school books in the latter consisted of abridgements. Bluestockingism was in disfavor. Department and accomplishments were the chief thing taught in the private schools. The first college for women in the United States was the Georgia Female college, now the Wesleyan Female college, opened at Macon, Ga., in 1839. It was, however, not a real college, being actually a seminary, but called a college by the politeness of the legislators who granted its charter. Mount Holyoke, founded in 1836 and organized by Mary Lyon, also had a curriculum that was merely an academic course. But the first real college for women in the world—the first that gave them opportunity to study the higher branches of the humanities and the sciences—was that founded by Matthew Vassar at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., in 1861, and which was opened in 1865. Abroad Girton college was founded in 1869, and slowly raised its standard. In 1873 Newnham, connected with Cambridge, began the higher education of women, while the University of London opened its doors to the "weaker" sex in 1878. Coeducation, the studying of young men and young women side by side, was regarded as an absurdity until quite recently. The first college in the United States to admit men and women was Antioch college in Ohio, of which Horace Mann was president. Since then the idea has spread, until now more than half the colleges in the United States open their doors to women.

Gleanings from the Shops.
Various new designs in elastic belts with girle shaped clasps. Mourning brooches and other ornaments studded with pearls. Jet toques and Spanish turbans with spangled horsehair brims. Golf coats in red or green embroidered with appropriate emblems. Many plaid materials in warm monotonous or a dull-colored background. Circular skirts of gray cheviot trimmed with gray silk passementerie. New designs in belt buckles in floral forms, showing exquisitely colored enamel effects. Evening slippers of satin covered with lace ornamented with strass or brilliant buckles. Satin ribbon embroidered with variously colored beads or spangles for millinery purposes. Bracelets with attached chain purse of gilt with enamel tops sprinkled with small bright jewels. Lunning robes of white China silk or crepe de chine embellished with festoons of black guipure. Small leather handbags fitted with ink, pen, paper, stamps, comb, powder puff and toilet vinegar. Toques of silver gray panne having three spreading black wings, velvet loops and pearl ornaments. Artistically embroidered butterfly bows, with stock collar attached, trimmed with rich blond lace. Broad assortments of camel's hair fabrics in shades of gray, red and bronze brown, with crosswise bands in contrast. Black and white nets completely covered with an embroidery of sequins and lace medallions in exquisitely wrought patterns. Plaited mousselines and nets in vandyke points finished on the edge with lace or chiffon ruching with a band of satin ribbon above. Walking costumes of venetian satin faced cloth, made with habit skirt and waist trimmed with velvet and iridescent passementerie. Petticoat bodices made in fichu form of finest cambrie trimmed with valenciennes entredeux threaded with variously colored ribbon. Petticoats of gray taffeta garnished with ruffles of the material trimmed with numerous rows of baby ribbon in many bright shades.—*Dry Goods Economist.*

Critics vs. Performers.
"That," said the artist, proudly, "is what I consider my masterpiece. And I flatter myself," he added, after a pause, "that I am at least a good judge of pictures."
"You," answered the thoughtless girl, "isn't it funny that good critics are so seldom good performers."—*Washington Star.*

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

BAD NEWS KILLED HIM.

Anxious Father Drops Dead After Hearing of His Son's Demise in Porto Rico—The Boy Was a Soldier.

After waiting an anxious month for news of his soldier boy, Samuel Powell, of Taylor, aged 75, dropped dead Saturday morning when a dispatch came from Porto Rico saying his was dead. The first news came a month ago, and said the boy, Private John Powell, had typhoid fever. After that the old man did no work, and haunted the postoffice and telegraph station. When the news he waited for came it killed him.

The following pensions were issued last week: Edmund B. Hart, dead, Bradford, \$6; William A. Gatty, Bradford, \$6; Abraham A. Boyer, Altoona, \$6 to \$10; George W. Frazer, Kittanning, \$16 to \$17; Frederick Woodford, Fossilville, \$12 to \$13; Lizzie A. Hart, Bradford, \$8; Rhoda A. Seans, Philippsville, \$8; Susanna Stiner, Leersburg, \$8; Dilliah Lang, Lovely, \$8; Jos. Ridout, Shippenburg, \$6; John B. McGill, Ellsville, \$12; John H. Walker, Irwin, \$5; Thomas Baker, Bakerstown, \$6 to \$12; Samuel Dungee, McGovern, \$6 to \$8; John Young, Romela, \$6 to \$8; David S. Cochran, Dayton, \$12 to \$14; Nicholas Diehl, Meyersdale, \$16 to \$17; George W. Conner, Bradock, \$8; John Arnold, Willow Hill, \$6; Edward C. Caldwell, Connelville, \$14; Venessas T. Linsenbiger, Ederton, \$6; Annie Metzger, Rochester, \$8; Annie H. Paul, Pittsburg, \$8; Parkison H. Shipley, Meyersburg, \$6; William A. Johnston, Tiooga, \$6 to \$8; Francis Reed, Philippsville, \$16 to \$17; Peter Smith, California, \$16 to \$17; Andrew Braden, Brookville, \$16 to \$17; Thomas Tierney, Hollidaysburg, \$6 to \$8; Margaret E. Smith, Rock Hill Furnace, \$8; Maria R. Robinson, Smycksburg, \$8; Mary E. Eberhardt, Morris Cross Roads, \$8; minor of Hiram M. Hyatt, Ohiopyle, \$10.

Mrs. James Starry, of Norystown, Indiana county, died last week, her death resulting from the amputation of a limb. Ten days ago she accidentally scratched her foot. Before evening it had so swollen and was so painful that a physician was called in. In a few days physicians in consultation decided it was necessary to amputate the foot to save the rest of the life. A second amputation above the knee was made Saturday. The progress of the disease was not stayed and death ensued. She was 60 years of age.

Coroner J. J. Fitzpatrick, of Washington, was sent to Tipton to investigate an alleged murder which the informer says was committed several weeks ago. The circumstances surrounding the death of a young boy, son of George Miller, in the mining section of Tipton, aroused the suspicion of some people, who allege the child was given strychnine. The coroner will investigate the case, and if he finds sufficient evidence will have the body exhumed and a post mortem examination held.

Five robbers entered the flouring mill of J. Reece Pantall, at Punxsutawney a few days ago. They inserted nitro glycerine in the space between the body of the safe and door and blew the safe to pieces. They found \$61 and some valuable papers. These were scattered over the floor and found intact. The miller, living nearby, hearing the explosion, hastened to the mill and saw the men run away. He followed them some distance, discharging his gun, but failed to stop them.

Little Hays, 6-year-old daughter of Grant Hays, a well known business man of Pittsburg, was almost instantaneously killed by a West End traction car last Friday. The child was passing around a wagon which was between her and the car tracks, and did not see the car approaching, and thus shutting off the motorman's view of the child. The motorman instantly applied the brakes, but was unable to stop the car.

Grocer J. M. Bucher, of Johnstown, who killed Daniel M. Peer, aged 14 years, has been arrested on a charge of murder, preferred by the dead boy's father, James Peer. Bucher claims the boy was trying to break into his store, but the boy's father and friends say the lad was merely peeping in the show window, when Bucher, who had been up in his store all night laying in wait for a thief, fired the fatal shot.

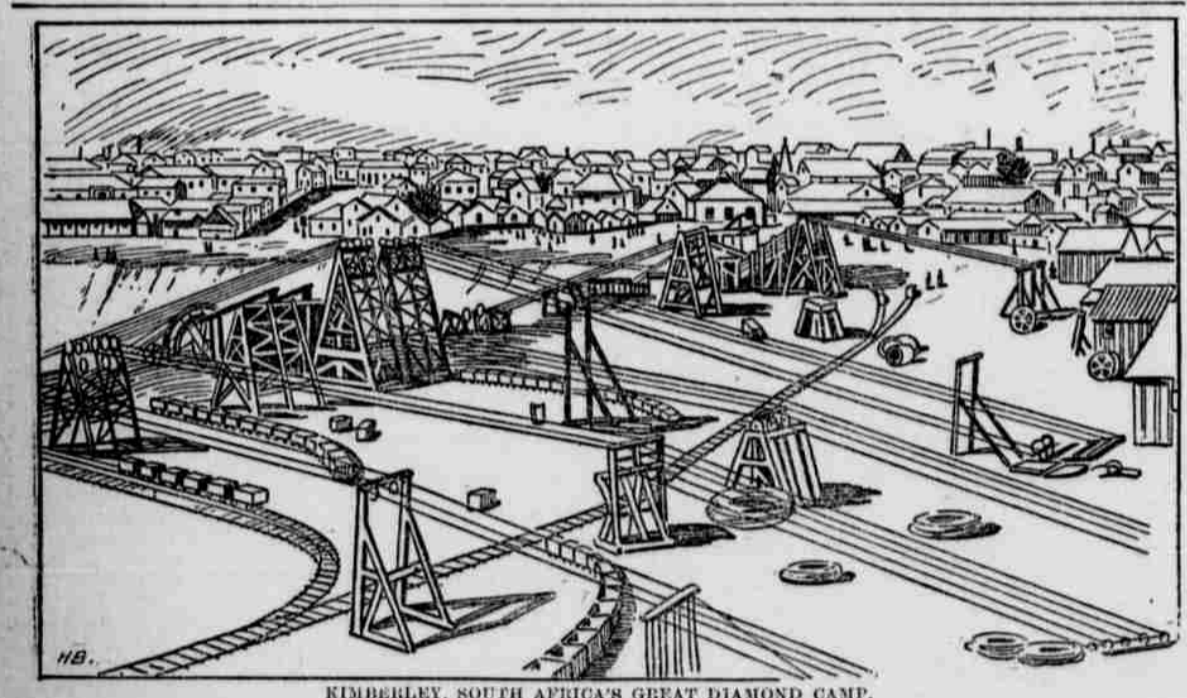
F. J. Leitners, an employe of the Hostetter Coke Company, was found dead near the railroad bridge at Latrobe the other day. His employer believes the man was murdered. This belief is strengthened by the fact that he was found in a locality that was entirely off the route to his home. His pockets contained but 26 cents and he had not made the purchase of a suit of clothes as he had intended.

Riley Kulp, aged 22 years, was instantly killed at Altoona by the accidental discharge of a shotgun in the hands of James Dugan, aged 18 years. Dugan, with a number of other boys, was playing in a stable, when he pointed the gun at Kulp, and it was discharged. After the accident Dugan surrendered himself to the police and admitted the shooting was done by him.

Arthur Whitted, a convict serving a seven months' sentence for breaking into freight cars, escaped from the county prison at Lancaster last week. His cell door was fastened by a hook lock, which leaves the door ajar for about nine inches. He squeezed through, and got over the wall with the aid of a pair of horse lines which he found in the prison.

A petrified snake, measuring from 4 to 1½ inches in diameter and 27 feet in length, was brought to the surface from the new shaft of the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company's mine at Walesville, near Pottsville. It forms a piece of petrified matter weighing more than 100 pounds, and is perfect to the smallest detail. Two men were instantly killed and another fatally injured the other night by the explosion of a Lehigh Valley locomotive near Wyalusing, a short distance from Iowanda. The dead are Fireman Eugene Deegan and Brake-man Warren Robinson. The injured man is Daniel Georgia, engineer. Traffic was blocked for five hours.

Mrs. William Lysons, of Altoona reports to the police that her 4-year-old daughter had been kidnapped by its father, who works in Pittsburg, having been separated from his wife for more than a year. Daniel Loose, a farmer, was killed and his son, Ralph, fatally injured by a Philadelphia & Reading passenger train at a grade crossing at Berne a few days ago.



KIMBERLEY, SOUTH AFRICA'S GREAT DIAMOND CAMP.

year until he took his degree at Oriol College. It is hardly too much to say that Mr. Rhodes has made his fortune in diamonds. Diamonds had been discovered in South Africa a few years before he got there. Finally he, too, caught the fever, and it was not long before he had staked all he had in a few claims. These he shared with his brother, Herbert, who later relinquished his share and went to the north, where he met his death while hunting elephants. Cecil plodded away in the diamond fields, where he superintended his gang of Kaffirs. He was successful in his ventures, and it was not long before he found himself the possessor of some \$5,000,000. He was elected to the Cape Parliament, and by his political adroitness was made Prime Minister in 1890. He sought and won riches, but it is unfair to assume that he has done so solely for his own aggrandizement. With the advancement of his personal fortune he has also striven to realize an early dream of bringing Africa under British dominion. "That's my dream—all English," he said, many years ago, moving his hand over a map of Africa up to the Zambesi. Coupled with the acquisition of wealth, he has labored toward that end. One of the results was the Matabele

mines there are employed about 1500 white men and 6000 natives. The greater proportion of these men are employed in the De Beers and Kimberley mines, the two biggest holes which greedy man has ever dug into the earth. The De Beers mine has an area at the surface of thirteen acres and a depth of 450 feet. The mines are worked from shafts sunk some distance from the original holes and



KAFFIR POLICE AT THE DIAMOND MINES.

penetrating to the blue ground by transverse drivings at depths varying from 500 to 1200 feet. The blue ground, when extracted, is carried in

Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana, Texas and Ohio. Each of these States grew in excess of 100,000,000 bushels, while the total of Iowa was 254,999,850 bushels. This year we are promised from Kansas alone in excess of 350,000,000 bushels. Montana, among the new States, grew the smallest amount of corn last year, and Rhode Island among the old States. In Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Washington all of the corn grown was consumed at home, practically none of it being transported beyond the county in which it was produced. The other States, according to the amount grown, shipped corn to other parts of the country and abroad. In price the corn on the farms realized all the way from sixty-six cents a bushel in Montana to twenty-three cents in Iowa, the general average throughout the country being 28 7-10 cents per bushel. In 1897 this general average was 26 3-10 cents; in 1896 it was 21 5-10 cents; in 1895 it was 25 3-10 cents, and in 1894 it was 45 7-10 cents. In the latter year (1894) the production was short, being somewhat more than twenty per cent. less than last year.

It is a singular fact that Washington and Oregon have yet no iron or steel works within their borders.