

## ST. LOUIS THE PLACE.

The Republican National Convention Will Be Held in That City.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The Republican national convention will be held at St. Louis on June 16 next. That was the decision reached by the Republican national committee assembled here after spirited balloting lasting two hours.

The successful ballots are shown as follows:

First.—St. Louis, 13; San Francisco, 10; Pittsburgh, 9; Chicago, 8; New York, 7. Second.—St. Louis, 14; San Francisco, 10; Pittsburgh, 9; Chicago, 8. Third.—St. Louis, 15; San Francisco, 10; Pittsburgh, 9; Chicago, 8. Fourth.—St. Louis, 16; San Francisco, 10; Pittsburgh, 9; Chicago, 8. Fifth.—St. Louis, 17; San Francisco, 10; Pittsburgh, 9; Chicago, 8.

The morning was spent in hearing speeches in behalf of the contending cities, the doors being open to the various contesting delegations. This concluded, the committee began its afternoon session behind closed doors. An eager crowd choked up the corridors leading to the committee room and awaited the announcement of the results.

The first important question of the session was the fixing of the date of the convention. The executive committee reported a resolution favoring June 16. This was amended by substituting the Lannan of Utah in favor of August 18. There was a sharp debate, and Mr. De Young of California finally proposed a compromise between June and August—viz., July. The Young and Lannan amendments were both defeated, and then by a practically unanimous vote the date was fixed at June 16.

Then came the main contest between the cities. There was an excitement as the balloting proceeded, the committee men from the interested sections hurrying about and seeking to effect combinations. At the outset the St. Louis delegation had more than the 19 claimed from the first. The announcement of her lead was greeted with enthusiasm when it reached the outer corridors. The strength of St. Louis was somewhat greater than had been expected, while neither Pittsburgh nor Chicago made the showing anticipated. St. Louis gained steadily on each ballot. San Francisco sought to meet this by drawing the votes of Chicago, but without success. The first serious break occurred when David Martin of Pennsylvania led the Pittsburgh forces toward St. Louis. On the fourth and last formal ballot San Francisco's forces broke for the first time, Michigan, Wyoming and Connecticut going to St. Louis. That action, and the vote of St. Louis, the convention. The choice was made unanimous on motion of Mr. De Young of San Francisco.

Trolley Injures Three Persons. NEWBURY, N. Y., Dec. 9.—A rapidly moving trolley freight car struck a wagon on Broadway, in which were riding Moss Daley, Patrick Leahy and Michael Burke. Daley and Leahy received serious scalp wounds and bruises, and Burke's back was injured. They all were taken to St. Luke's hospital. The condition of Daley is considered dangerous. Simon Graham, the motorman, was arrested.

Killed by a Railroad Train. PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 10.—Mrs. Elizabeth Seppie, aged 45 years, and her 6-year-old child Catherine were struck by a Pennsylvania passenger train at the Ontario street crossing. Mrs. Seppie was instantly killed and the child fatally injured. Their bodies were thrown a distance of 20 yards.

## THRILLING SEA STORY.

Crew of an American Vessel Rescued as It Was Sinking.

The British steamer Rosemarin, Captain Norman, from Norfolk and Newport News, for Leith, was wrecked on Plymouth the other evening the captain of the American ship Belle O'Brien, from San Francisco, before reported foundered, together with his wife and 13 of the ship's crew. These were picked up from a small boat on Nov. 27 as they were abandoning the sinking wreck.

Captain Colley makes the following statement:

"Our voyage was a stormy one from the first, and the ship was soon driven from her course and began to leak. We were not anxious for our safety until we got within 75 miles of Queenstown, on Nov. 11, when the ship encountered a terrific gale, with tremendous seas, which swept her decks and stove and carried off her bulwarks and deckhouse. The ship was then leaking badly and taking water very fast.

"The crew manned the pumps constantly in the effort to save our lives. The water came up the galley, and on Nov. 19 the water in the hold was ten feet deep. In the meantime one man had fallen overboard and was drowned. On Nov. 19 we got out the longboat and towed her astern. Three seamen and the second officer were in the boat. The high seas caused the boat to plunge so violently that it became necessary to cut the painter to prevent her from swamping. The boat was without oars and was provided with neither food nor water. When the painter was cut, the boat drifted away into the darkness, and I immediately had another boat lowered, manned by the first and third officers and five men, provided with flashlights to search for her.

"The Belle O'Brien watched for hours for the return of the boat, but we saw neither of them again. Soon another gale sprang up, and the pumps became very difficult to work on account of the grain in the hold chocking them. As the water gained, the grain continued to swell until it bulged the planks on the ship's sides and heaved her decks. We did not relax our desperate efforts to keep the ship afloat until we were sighted and picked up by the Rosemarin."

No Canals on Mars.

At the regular monthly meeting of the section of astronomy and physics of the New York Academy of Sciences, Professors Rees and Jacoby and Charles Post read papers attacking the alleged discoveries of lines and canals on the planet Mars. The attacks were principally directed against Percival Lowell of Boston, who while at Flagstaff, A. T., claimed to have seen the same lines and canals discovered on the planet by Signor Schiaparelli in Italy. After the reading there was a general discussion, and the conclusion arrived at was that these people were romancers and not astronomers. The academy therefore accorded the theory of canals and lines on the planet Mars until such time as they could be seen more plainly, or at least by a greater number of persons.

No Tax Paid for Veterans.

A bill will be introduced in the Virginia legislature imposing a specific tax on oleomargarine and compound lard for the benefit of disabled Confederate veterans. It is calculated that \$50,000 per year will be realized by it.

## HERO IN BLUE CLOTH

THE ODD CASE OF POLICEMAN GRIFFENHAGEN OF NEW YORK.

He Stopped Three Runaway Horses Attached to a Fire Engine at the Columbus Celebration in New York—Did Not Show Any Peculiar Symptoms at First.

Rondeau Edward E. Griffenhagen, who has been undergoing treatment in Austria for a nervous malady that has puzzled physicians in this country and in Europe, returned to New York six weeks ago. Griffenhagen was anxious, because of the notoriety that his case has gained, that his arrival should not be known, and although he has since appeared before the Academy of Medicine few of his old friends on the police force know that he is in this country. The profound physical shock from which his illness dates was received on Oct. 12, 1899, during the Columbus celebration in New York, through an act of heroism that won him promotion. Griffenhagen was at that time a patrolman, and he was assigned to duty on that day in Union square on the line of march of the big parade.

As the New York fire department division wheeled into sight after the Grand Army parade engine 9, one of the largest in the city, swung out of the line of machines on either side of the street and into the open space in the middle. Three big bays drew it, and the driver made the turn from Fourth avenue into the plaza with his horses on the gallop. From the press stand it looked like a little fancy exhibition. That was the way it impressed everybody at first. Down between the lines dashed the three bays, and before it passed the cottage stand the driver shouted to a policeman:

"They've got the bits."

The three bays went plunging by as if to a fire. Union square and the side streets, except for the narrow line through which the parade was moving, were packed with thousands of spectators. Policeman Griffenhagen, who was on the north side of the plaza, heard the driver's cry. As the galloping horses approached, he took a short run and jumped for the bridge of the off horse. Griffenhagen caught the bit with his right hand. Had he not been a well trained athlete his jump might have landed him beneath the horses' feet. The policeman held on, and the bays tore ahead as if nothing had happened. Griffenhagen was dragged for half a block. Sometimes he was swinging in the air. That was when the big bay would throw his head high up. At other times his legs were swinging under the horse's body. The policeman's grip was firm. As the heavy engine approached Seventeenth street two dozen policemen, who had been keeping the crowd back, sprang forward and fell on the bays. The horses tore along for 50 feet more, and then came to a stop. They were halted within a dozen feet of the crowd that could not be pushed back any farther. Griffenhagen was the last man to release his hold. He was made a roundsman on the following day in recognition of his bravery.

Griffenhagen received no physical injury, apparently, beyond a severe nervous shock. Dr. Charles E. Nammack, surgeon of police, in describing his case in the last number of The Medical Record, said:

"One week later he was obliged to consult his family physician on account of a severe pain in the chest. He was treated for two months without relief, and then went to Dr. Loomis, whose diagnosis was strabismus and shock, and who ordered him absolute rest. In the spring of 1899 he consulted Dr. C. L. Daga, who advised him to go to Germany for hydrophobic treatment. He accordingly obtained leave of absence, went to Europe, and saw Dr. Luyden of Berlin, who sent him to Thalmheim.

Griffenhagen is now 34 years old and apparently in good health. His case is one of traumatic neurosis, and its symptoms are unique. When a reporter saw him, he was walking in the lane back of his house. His weight has fallen from 230 pounds to 185. Before joining the police force Griffenhagen was a gymnast instructor in Providence, and he says his 230 pounds was mostly bone and muscle.

Griffenhagen remained on duty for a short time after his promotion, and then the symptoms that indicated the seriousness of his nervous shock began to develop. He first noticed a diminished power of persistent mental and physical application. Then came nervous irritability and mental exaltation. The restoration of the story of his heroism worked him up to a pitch of excitement foreign to his temperament. He suffered from pain in the chest and weakness in the legs. Griffenhagen was slow to yield to these symptoms.

When Griffenhagen was examined a month ago, it was found that his pain and temperature sense was normal. His tactile sensibility is impaired, however. He cannot distinguish a pencil point from the end of his finger.

His hearing is not diminished, but he cannot listen to band concerts, which he formerly enjoyed, without pain. His heart action is weak, and his muscles are easily fatigued. A slight irritation of his skin leads to persistent redness. Dr. Nammack says: "The diagnosis in this case lies between traumatic neurosis, traumatic hysteria and simulation. The case was excluded by the absence of motive, therefore, absence of striking symptoms and absence of efforts to exaggerate existing slight symptoms. Hysteria was excluded by the absence of anesthesia or other stigmata of hysteria, such as paralysis, contracture or spasm, and absence of paroxysmal phenomena. Although the case has now continued for over three years, improvement has been slowly progressive. He has had none of the vexations and excitement incident to medical legal cases of this character."—New York Sun.

Talk About Impudence.

Hilton Miller took \$65,000, every cent in the treasury of Perry county, Ind., and ran off to Canada five years ago.

A man representing himself as a drummer went to English, Ind., Oct. 16 and made himself so popular he was entertained by the sheriff and the prosecuting attorney. He inquired all about the Miller case and the bondsmen. It turned out that the man was Miller in disguise. The sheriff is frantic over his affair.

## STORIES OF THE DAY.

Funny Side of Life at the Capital at Washington.

Unroll the map of the United States and draw a straight line from Boston to San Francisco. There is a Democratic representative in congress from each end of the line, which will not cross or the south of the Democratic district. The Boston district is represented by John F. Fitzgerald, who was born in that city in 1865. The San Francisco district is represented by James G. McGuire, who was also born in Boston in 1865. These lonely Democrats shook hands across the continent for the first time yesterday.

"How did it happen?" asked McGuire. "I don't know," replied Fitzgerald, "but I think it is because God is still good to the Irish."

Representative Harner of Pennsylvania is the father of the Republican side of the house. "After carefully looking over this body," remarked Representative Steele of Indiana, "I am convinced that Solomon in all his glory was not better equipped with offspring than is Father Harner."

The Democratic caucus over the four appointees allowed the minority was more hotly contested and more exciting than the average election for speaker. The principal contest was between Isaac Hill of Ohio and Henry Mohler of Illinois, for the position of assistant sergeant-at-arms. Like Hill, who has held the place for many years, was extremely worried over his prospects. He predicted his own defeat, but came out triumphant by a vote of 51 to 48.

"What a fool I am," said he, "I've been making a mountain out of a molehill."

Representative Curtis of Kansas promptly claims a fair share of Indian blood. He won a good seat in the house, and then courteously surrendered it to Dingley of Maine, whose black eyes, aquiline nose and dark complexion give him an even more pronounced Indian aspect.

"Curtis is part Indian," said one of his colleagues from Kansas, "but he's not an Indian giver, at any rate."

Rev. Mr. Milburn, chaplain of the senate, and Rev. Mr. Conden, the newly elected chaplain of the house, are both blind.

"If these two chaplains weren't blind," said Representative Crowley of Texas, "they would have to wear blinkers. Congress wants its sins prayed for, but not seen."

"The only reason why I object to blind chaplains is both houses," said Senator Lodge, "is that the American press may think it was done intentionally."

Representative Josiah Patterson of Tennessee, who has been making sound money speeches through the south, brings back discouraging reports of his experiences in Mississippi. He encountered Private John Allen of Tupelo in joint debate at that place.

"There was a good crowd," says Mr. Patterson, "and I gave them a logical, convincing and absolutely irrefutable demonstration of the sound money argument in a short discourse of an hour and a half. And then what do you think Allen did? He just got up and walked to the front of the platform and said: 'Friends and fellow citizens, what this man says is all both. I will demolish him with a single question.'"

"Then he turned on me like a tiger, his eyeballs glaring, and his forefinger shaking under my nose, and shouted: 'Mr. Patterson, I want you to tell this intelligent audience, without the slightest attempt at evasion, whether it is or is not true that an English duke was recently paid in New York city the sum of \$15,000,000 in gold as a bribe to induce him to marry an American heiress?'"

"Then that set off a yell which you could hear five miles off, and he shouted: 'You've got him, John! Shout to him! Don't let him throw you off, John. He can't answer it! You've settled him.'"

"I took the next train north."

"I say," said Felix McCloskey, "do you know why the senators, when they heard there was a new red carpet in the house, got a new green one for their chamber?"

"No," replied Henry Clay Sulzer. "You know more about these fellows than I do, Felix. Why was it?"

"Because the senate is the upper house, and proposed that even in the American congress they would do all in their power to keep the green above the red. These Republican senators know how to catch the Irish vote." And Felix winked and Sulzer nodded wisely.

The only original Felix McCloskey, whose face almost alone makes the hotel corridors homelike to wandering Democrats familiar with Washington during the last two congresses, and in the Arlington the other night relating stories of the period of 1849. McCloskey's stories are far from classical. As he talked a stranger took notes, McCloskey now and then casting sidelong glances at the writer. When at last the latter went away McCloskey exploded:

"That's what I call cheek. To take notes of my talk and put it in a paper without my consent."

One of McCloskey's companions, who is something of a wag, ran after the reporter and soon returned laughing.

"That's all right. He mistook you for Dr. Talmage, that's all."

"Is that so?" said McCloskey, straightening up in his chair and rubbing his smooth shaven face with a pleased expression. "That's another matter, of course."

And all his audience smiled.—New York World.

Schlatzer and His Copper Rod.

Francis Schlatzer, "the healer," arrived at Trinidad, Colo., the other day. The alleged miracle worker carries a copper rod of curious shape that he claims was presented to him by the Father. Schlatzer says the rod possesses magical powers, and he guards it with great care.

Turn Him Out.

The founder of Christianity and the founder of Mohammedanism were both born in places that are now under the rule of the Turkish empire, who, until a few years ago, ruled also over the birthplace of Moses, the founder of Judaism.—New York Sun.

## MINNIE HAS RETIRED

SHE HAS BEEN ARRESTED 1,000 TIMES AND HAS SAVED \$100,000.

The Cleverest Female Thief in America Has Gone "Out of Business"—Gave a Farewell Banquet—Something of Her Remarkable Career.

Minnie May, well known to the police of Chicago and other cities as a clever and bold thief, has made enough money at her nefarious calling to settle down for life. She has retired, as it were, and with her husband, Danny Nugent, has gone to Dayton, O., where she owns a comfortable home.

The creation of Minnie's departure from Chicago will be remembered for years to come by her companions. A few nights ago she gave a farewell banquet, at which all the leading lights of her set were present. The next day she and Danny, who, by the way, is one of the "best" diamond thieves in the country, left for their Ohio home. There they intend to spend the remainder of their lives in ease and luxury.

It is estimated that in the last ten years Minnie May has stolen to the value of upward of \$100,000. Some police put the amount as high as \$200,000. At any rate, she has laid enough by to keep her and Danny with out further ado as long as they live.

Minnie May is still a young woman. She is not more than 25 years old. The last ten years she has lived in Chicago, and during that time she has been arrested more than 1,000 times for robbery and disorderly conduct. She has been called "the wickedest woman in the world," but there is often doubt expressed as to the applicability of this term.

Minnie May was born on a farm near Milwaukee. Her mother still lives on the old homestead. When Minnie was about 18 years old and an innocent but bright and energetic country girl, she was engaged to be married, but the prospective husband disappeared two weeks before the day set for the wedding. The girl and her family felt disgraced in the eyes of her family and friends, so she left home suddenly and went to Chicago. She quickly drifted into the life of crime in which her shrewdness and in many ways her common sense caused her to be successful. Quickly her cleverness in getting a victim's money attracted the attention of the Central station detectives.

The police were at first loath to believe that the innocent looking, rosy cheeked girl from Wisconsin could do the deeds accredited to her. Nearly every night some man, usually a stranger in the city, would be stopped by the police that he was carrying a bag, but when a young woman on the street, and after leaving her discover that he had been robbed. Sometimes it would be a watch that was taken, and again it was a diamond stud or a fat pocketbook.

Minnie was arrested before she had been "in the business" a month, and to use her own expression, her photograph was taken and put in the rogues' gallery. The detectives at the Central station were told to arrest her every time they saw her on the street, whether she was with a victim or not. In this way the police hoped to drive her from the city.

But she remained just the same, dodging the police whenever she could, and in spite of the fact that she has been looked at the Harrison Street station something like 1,000 times she has succeeded in stealing a fortune. For years she was a well known figure in the neighborhood of the Grand Pacific hotel. She usually selected strangers in town as her victims. And there was a reason for this. If a stranger lost a diamond or his wallet, it would usually be a financial loss for him to try to stay to prosecute the case. Even if the victim did succeed in having her retired Minnie would have the case continue from term to term and in that way tire the prosecutor until, disgusted, he would give up the attempt to get her punished.

One secret of Minnie May's remarkable success, as given by her remarkable friends in conversation, was that she did not disguise. She seldom drank anything, and was never known to be under the influence of liquor. But many a time after a good night's work she would enter a saloon and buy drinks for the loungers until everybody was gloriously drunk. Minnie would then call a cab and go to her home on the West Side. The next night she would be down again looking for victims in the neighborhood of Clark, Adams, Jackson and La Salle streets.

Minnie's diamonds and wardrobe were the best that money could buy. Her earrings were said to be worth \$1,500, and she had diamond rings galore, including a magnificent one. She had an assortment of sealskin coats and muffs and wraps, as well as handsome gowns, and one who did not know her might think she belonged to a wealthy family. Minnie May's face is irregular in outline and far from comely, but she has teeth of exceptional attractiveness, and her smile transforms her face into one far from unattractive.

Captain Horace Elliott, chief of detectives, said, when he heard of Minnie's departure from Chicago, that he felt like dancing a jig. "She's the cleverest woman thief in the United States," said the veteran detective, "and I'm glad she's gone from Chicago. She has been a nightmare to the police of this town for ten years."—Chicago Times-Herald.

No Sealing Next Spring.

Not one of the fleet of 80 or more sealing schooners hailing from the port of Victoria will go sealing next spring if the owners agree to an agreement reached some ten days ago. Usually the sealers have sailed from Victoria in January, February and March. The agreement made at the meeting of the owners was that, "owing to the poor results of the spring voyages, the sealing fleet defer operations until August, 1900." Last spring the schooners hunted off the Japan coast and at Copper Island. The year operations will be confined to Bering sea.

News is received from Kankakee (Ill.) insane asylum that Billy Andrews, an old time circus clown, is dead. Death was due to paralysis. He was about 65 years old.

Louis Charles Antoine Guilbert Pierre Puiton, marquis de Chambrun, who is to wed Miss Margaret Nichols on Thursday, secured the marriage license in Cincinnati yesterday.

## NOTHING TO DIG BUT GOLD.

Wonderful Discoveries of the Yellow Ore Near Salt Lake City.

Recent discoveries of vast goldfields at Mercur, about 65 miles south of Salt Lake City, which give every indication of making that place one of the largest and richest gold mining camps in the world, have created intense excitement. For about two years only one property has been operated, and that by the Mercur Gold Mining and Milling company, and in that period it has paid dividends of over \$500,000. It now appears that the valley for many miles in every direction contains ore equally as rich or richer than the Mercur company's property.

Within a short period a district of seven miles by three miles has been almost entirely taken up, and fully 1,000 miners and prospectors are at work. Three new mills have been started up and are now operating even more profitably than the original one. New discoveries are being made daily, and there is great excitement. The extent of the surface in which the ore is found appears to be practically unlimited, and the stock of numerous companies which have recently incorporated is eagerly sought for at from 50 cents to \$2 a share.

Captain Delamar, the multimillionaire, recently obtained an option to purchase the properties of the Mercur company for \$1,500,000. The option runs until Jan. 1, and there is scarcely a doubt he will take it up.—New York Tribune.

GIVES UP THE PULPIT.

Instead of Serving the Living He Will Bury the Dead.

Following close upon the action of the Rev. Julius Feicke, who gave up preaching to enter the saloon business because the pulpit did not afford him a living, comes another New Jersey clergyman, who, rather than starve, has abandoned the ministry for business.

The change this time is made by the Rev. W. R. Clark, pastor of the First Congregational church of Guttenberg, and he has gone into the undertaking business.

The church is a small one and composed of members who are not wealthy. It does not pay a regular salary, but when the Rev. Mr. Clark accepted the pastorate he says he was promised that he should not want for anything. The donations and subscriptions upon which the trustees depended to make good their promises were not forthcoming, and Mr. Clark soon found himself face to face with the problem which drove Mr. Feicke out of the ministry.

He has tendered his resignation in a letter, in which he said that during the six months he had acted as pastor of the church he had received just \$28.50. This was hard enough to bear, but when certain members of the congregation began to slander him it was more than he could stand.—New York Herald.

DRAW POKER AS A CURE.

Dr. Hutchinson Encourages His Maniacs to Play the Game.

Draw poker as a cure for insanity is being tried with great success at the Asylum for the Insane, asylum at Dixmont. Dr. Henry A. Hutchinson, the superintendent, speaking recently of the 700 inmates under his charge, said:

"We have some famous poker games there. I must confess that I was afraid to permit its being played at first, fearing the effect on some of the patients. But instead of being injurious, the game has turned out to be a perfect godsend to us."

"It is the very thing we want, and I am satisfied the end justifies the means. It seems to have a quieting effect on the most boisterous patients, who play with the skill of a Mississippi river player."

"One is surprised at their cunning and coolness. They use chips, but do not bet millions of dollars on their hands, as one would imagine. As a general rule the bets are small."—New York World.

An Athletic Clerk of the House.

Major Alexander McDowell, the new clerk of the house of representatives, has been in turn printer, editor and soldier and is now a successful banker in Sharon, Pa. Notwithstanding his many labors, Major McDowell is an enthusiastic student of music and possesses a tenor voice of rare power and sweetness. In his banking house in Sharon he has a private room, where he has been accustomed every day for years to hold a Sunday service of song with a few of his friends and neighbors, their favorite selections being Walter hymns.

The major is also an enthusiastic tennis player and now and then plays quarter back with the local football team.

STRANGE TELEPATHY.

Miss Morris' Awful Premeditation of Her Mother's Death.

While a fair was being held in the basement of St. Mary's Church of the Immaculate Conception, Williamsburg, N. Y., the other night, Mrs. Sarah Jane Morris, a widow, was suddenly taken ill and died a few moments later.

Her daughter Maggie was to have sung at the fair that evening, and Mrs. Morris had gone there to hear her. At the moment when her mother was taken ill Miss Morris was practicing in the academy adjoining the church.

Without knowing of the illness, Miss Morris suddenly stopped singing, and when her teacher asked her what the cause was she began to cry and said she was all choked up. Presently a messenger arrived and told Miss Morris that her mother had been taken ill. While Miss Morris and the sister were hurrying to the church they met another messenger, who told Miss Morris that her mother was dead.

How I Love Them.

How do I love them? A tiny drop of rain splashed down on the mountain top. One April day. Then it joined two more, and then three more, and then four more. Gathering strength as they raced down hill, when, lo! from their union there sprang a rill that defied gravity and the laws of nature. That played with the leaves of the lofty trees. And then as it wandered way it took The rill grew stronger and became a brook. And the brook danced on, and the sunbeams bright.

Made sport as they played in its mellow light. While the dimpling pool was filled with gle and nudged each other innocently. But the swelling stream led them all goodly And flowed down, down 'neath the cooling sky.

And grew to a river broad and deep. With a steady stirrer and a godlike sweep. And the sun burned down, but the river flowed. And they trickled under the hoarfrost snow. Flowed out to the deep and the chariot wheels. And this, dear heart, is my love for thee.

—Tom Mason in Muncie's.

## FARM

POTATOES AS FEED FOR STOCK.

Opinions Expressed on the Subject by English Authorities in This Matter.

The big potato crop and the consequent low prices all over the country have forced many farmers to consider the feeding value of potatoes as they never did before. Even though grain is also cheap and abundant, it can be stored and fed in subsequent seasons, while, however large the potato crop may be, it will all have disappeared by next July. It may be economy, therefore, under certain circumstances to feed the potatoes and hold the grain. Here are a few facts about potatoes as stock food. From the climatic standpoint, the comparative value of different foods would be about as follows:

VALUE OF ONE STRIPED POTATO.

Potatoes..... 20 Dares..... 21 1/2  
Skinnings..... 20 Dares..... 21 1/2  
Waste..... 20 Dares..... 21 1/2  
Total..... 60 Dares..... 63 1/2

Of course these figures are only comparative. The feeding value of the potato is chiefly in its starch. In order to obtain the best results, the potatoes should be cooked—especially when fed to hogs and poultry. Professor Henry concluded that 445 pounds of potatoes were equal to 100 pounds of cornmeal in pig feeding. In this experiment, the potatoes were cooked in a kettle and enough cornmeal added to make a thick pudding or mush. In France the potatoes are cooked and fed to cattle and sheep with excellent results. We have baked and fed them to horses successfully. Professor Henry says the potatoes may be chopped with a root cutter or spade and fed raw to cattle, horses or sheep—a daily ration of not over 4 pounds for sheep, 10 for a horse or 20 for a cow. This may be safe, but says Rural New Yorker, "we would prefer to bake or boil the potatoes before feeding to any animal. The raw potatoes appear to have a somewhat laxative effect, and small quantities of them may be good for cattle on dry feed, or where potatoes are used to test their value, and the results have been such as to justify the continued use of potatoes when cheap and plentiful. From this statement the following advice comes: 'Potatoes should be cooked for swine, and for fattening cattle they can be fed either raw or cooked when given with hay, meal and other substances. Cows and milks should be fed daily 25 pounds of sprouted raw potatoes. The larger potatoes should be cut. As a feed they are not good for young lambs nor for cattle under 2 years of age.'"

Kalamazoo Celery.

Kalamazoo celery is known the world over. The name is such a guarantee of quality that it is used for the better kinds of celery, no matter where it is raised. It may be interesting to know that the bunches are packed for market in wooden boxes about the size of a peach crate, say 24 inches long, 10 inches wide and 6 or 8 inches deep. The bulk of the crop is handled and shipped by middlemen, who contract for it, or handle it at commission. It is shipped by express and freight, the latter being a more common method. The celery growers are what might be called bottom hands, located north and south of the city. They are surrounded by hills and divided by the ridge of higher ground upon which the city is built. They are perhaps three miles long and a mile wide (or so) and is a heavy black mud, originally very fertile, but it now requires the liberal application of fertilizers and manures. The latter is furnished chiefly by the stables of the city; when a load of celery is hauled in town, a load of manure is taken back.

The nurseries on bottom lands, explains American Gardening, are not common farming lands, as most people suppose, but are evidently a peculiar form of black mud, the result of vegetable decomposition. The acre is comparatively limited and must increase largely in value as the demand for celery increases.

Alkali Soils.

Alkali is a name given to a class of substances that have certain well defined characteristics, such as uniting with fats to form soap and neutralizing acids. Potash, soda and ammonia are all "alkalies." The trouble in an alkali soil is not due to an excess of potash, but to the presence of too much soda in a harmful form. The remedies are to get the soda out of the soil by flooding or draining, or to change it into such a form that it will not be harmful to plants.

These spots might perhaps be helped by drainage, but unless water can be washed through them, there is not much hope from this. The best way is to change the form of the soda. This can be done by limewashing plaster or gypsum at the rate of 750 pounds per acre and harrowing or cultivating it well in on these spots.—Rural New Yorker.

Destruction of Rodents.

Orange orange hedges and hedges of honey locust are often ruined in severe winters by the work of field mice or other gnawing animals. In California a wicked creature, the gopher, is equally destructive. The California farmers get rid of the creature by placing a few crystals of strychnine carefully inside of a grain and then putting it in the runs made by the animal. They eat and die. Molehans' Monthly says that in the east for field mice peas are sown in the same