

THE COMMERCIAL.

JOHN McCORMICK, Publisher.

LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

Biggest Land Sale Ever Known.

A Philadelphia correspondent of the Cincinnati Commercial, June 16, says: What is claimed to be the largest purchase of land ever made by a single individual in the world occurred today, when Hamilton Disston, a prominent manufacturer of this city, closed a contract by which he secured four million acres of land from the State of Florida. The huge transaction has been in negotiation for some months, and its success was owing to some very shrewd tactics on the part of the agents of Mr. Disston. The land acquired—a tract nearly as large as the State of New Jersey—was a part of the public domain of the State of Florida, and under the control of the Board of Internal Improvements of the State. Owing to the recent improved value of land of Florida, this property has been anxiously looked after by capitalists of New York and Boston. For years, through agents, these gentlemen have endeavored to purchase the land. The State had no disposition to sell until recently, when it became necessary to do so to relieve the State from certain obligations which had become burdensome. When these facts became known there were renewed efforts on the part of the New York people, who were backed by a well known German banking house of that city, and the syndicate of London, headed by ex-United States Minister to Belgium Sanford, and the Boston capitalists, to buy the land. Meantime Mr. Disston had become well acquainted with the value of land through his already large interests in the State, from his connection with the Everglades schemes. He entered the field and set to work with energy, keeping in the background, as he usually does in his large projects. He put to work agents in Boston, Philadelphia, New York and Tallahassee, in whom he had full confidence, and suggested the plans which have been so successful. The other parties have left no stone unturned to get possession of the property, but they were out-generaled at every point by Mr. Disston's lieutenants. The fight was a most interesting one, as many as four agents of the New York syndicate being kept in Florida, New York and this city.

During the recent visit of Gov. Bloxham to Philadelphia, the details of the purchase were arranged, the Governor having full power to act for the Board of Internal Improvements, of which he is President. But still the unsuccessful parties were unwilling to give up the prize, and during the present week used strenuous efforts to defeat Mr. Disston, visiting Tallahassee with a very large sum of money for that purpose. The contract, however, has been fully executed, and the young Philadelphia manufacturer is now the possessor of the largest landed domain in the world.

The tract is situated north of Lake Okechobee, and is nearly all below the frost line. The amount paid for the land has not been made public, but it is understood to be a very large sum in cash. It is Mr. Disston's intention to at once begin an immigration scheme, which will result in a very large addition to the population of Florida. To this end he has already established agencies in several places in this country, and will at once organize immigration bureaus in England and Italy. Competent agents will be stationed in their properties in these countries to induce immigration, and will convey the immigrants direct to Florida in steamers chartered for that purpose. A broad and liberal policy will be pursued, the object being to populate the country as soon as possible, and unusual opportunities will be afforded settlers to emigrate.

The lands in question are very rich, having been selected from among the most valuable in the State. Rice, sugar, jute, indigo, cotton, tobacco and all tropical and semi-tropical fruits can be raised on them with very little expense and in great profusion.

New Use for Cotton-seed.

Fort Worth, Adv.

One of the latest news discovered for cotton-seed is in the manufacture of ultramarine blue. This, too, adds greatly to the value of the seeds, as this article of coloring is used extensively in the manufacture of various colored articles. The values of the cotton-seed are continually being developed. The time has been when it was considered of no particular value, and was allowed to waste upon the ground without any attempt at utilization. But its uses now are many and render it an article eagerly sought after. To the French belong the honor of having discovered the process of making it, ultramarine blue, and this use is now coming to be one of its most important. Hon. Ashbel Smith, of this state, makes a report which throws some additional light upon the subject. He says, in an article to the Houston Post: "It occurs from frequent paragraphs in the newspapers in our state, that manufacture of cotton-seed oil is already assuming important development in Texas. I was president of the section of the jury 42, at the Paris exposition of 1875, to which section was referred the examination for award of cotton-seed oil and other vegetable oils. M. Godillot, of Marseilles, one of the largest oil merchants of the world, and a correspondent, and I believe a partner, of the American house of Thurber & Co., of New York, informed me that he had obtained from cotton-seed ultramarine blue of perfect purity—blue d'outremer—in commercial quantities, and at a comparatively small cost. It is a color of great cost and large use. He said to me that this manufacture was a secret known only to his French manufacturers; that Americans do not know how to manufacture it. I replied, 'Then we must import Frenchmen who will manufacture it in America, and our people will soon learn to do it.' Colonel Smith does not state whether the

color is obtained from the crude seed, the oil, or the residuum; but the supposition is that it is from the latter, which, if so, constitutes a clear gain over the former application of the seed. The fact of the process being a secret one, confided to the French manufacturers, discourages the prospect of an early admission of the process to a general knowledge of the public. Yet, as the Colonel suggests, this may be overcome by the importation of French operatives.

Growth of America.

From the New York Herald.

In the number and importance of its cities the United States, as Mr. Robert P. Porter shows in the July number of the International Review, has advanced to the third rank among the countries of Europe. Only Great Britain and Russia now have more cities of 25,000 inhabitants and upward than appear in our enumeration of 1880. So slight is the advantage of these two foreign nations that the next census will undoubtedly show the United States at the head of the column. Since 1870 old cities have grown and new ones have sprung up at a rate that must astonish the Old World. In the great West cities have doubled and tripled size during the ten years, and one—Denver—shows a sevenfold increase of population. Taking 8000 inhabitants as a minimum size, we now have 285 cities, a gain of fifty-nine in ten years, while the cities of 20,000 inhabitants and upward have increased in number from seventy-one to 101. In 1870 no American city had a million inhabitants, and only two had half that number. In 1880 one appears with more than a million and four with more than half a million each. To-day nearly one-quarter of our population is urban. In 1860 only one-eighth and in 1870 only one-fifth was urban. This is a significant indication of the striking advance made in manufacturing and other industries which flourish in cities and towns. If the growth in population and in cities has been rapid, the material progress made since 1870 has been generally great and in many directions extraordinary. It is but a day or two ago that we gave in these columns the census figures showing the unprecedented increase of nearly 100 per cent. in the cereal product of the United States. The yield of the two leading grain staples was enormous two years ago, but the wheat crop has now attained a magnitude 73 per cent. greater than it was then. Returns of the cereal crops are the only agricultural statistics of the new census yet given to the public. But other trustworthy reports show that the general progress in agriculture has been extraordinary. Since 1870 the production of cotton has increased from 3,000,000 to 6,000,000 bales, while the wool clip of the country has nearly doubled. Still more marvelous is the growth of our export trade in farm and domestic products. From 1870 to 1880 the bread and bread-stuffs sent to foreign countries advanced in value from seventy-two to two hundred and eighty-eight million dollars, provisions from twenty-nine to one hundred and twenty-seven millions, and live animals from one to fifteen million dollars. This remarkable agricultural advance has been attended with an equally striking extension of the transportation system of the country. There are now two miles of railroad where there was one in 1870, while the cost of moving agricultural products from the Northwest to the seaboard is now only about one-third of what it was then. The rich mines of the far West have also been made to contribute handsomely to the material prosperity of the past ten years. The production of gold has, indeed, been gradually declining for a long series of years, but the annual yield of silver has been raised since 1870 from \$15,000,000 to \$40,000,000.

Time's Weather for July.

First and 3d, clear; 2d to 6th, clouding, threatening weather, with heavy rains and local storms; 7th to 8th, clear; 9th to 12th, clouding, threatening weather, with rain storms in places; 12th and 13th, clear; 14th to 18th, clouding, threatening weather, with rain areas; 18th and 19th clear or fair; 20th to 23d, clouding threatening weather, with heavy storms; 23d to 25th, clear or fair; 25th to 30th, clouding, threatening weather, with local storms; 30th and 31st, clear.

The comparatively warmer weather which will occur about the 5th, 10th, 17th, 22d and 28th.

The comparatively colder days will be about the 1st, 7th, 13th, 18th, 24th and 30th.

Earthquake conditions exist on the 5th, 9th, 16th, 22d and 28th.

Auroras will probably be visible about the 2d, 7th, 13th, 19th, 25th and 31st.

The Press as an Educator.

Senator Matthew W. Ransom in his address at Davidson College, North Carolina, glorified the vastness and possibilities of the republic, and incidentally said there was one school even more powerful than the regular educational institutions, and that was the newspaper. "Although editors," he said, "might differ in the expression of opinion, discussion would only serve in the end to bring out the truth in one harmonious whole, as the prismatic colors of the rainbow are transformed into the beautiful arch which sometimes spans the heavens. The safety of the liberties of the people was in keeping of a free, fearless independent, but not licentious press. General Lee at one time contemplated the establishment of a chair of journalism at the Washington University of Virginia, and the very suggestion was a monument to his genius. Finally, the restoration and nourishment of this fair Southland could only be performed through the medium of the press."

The teacher had grown eloquent in picturing to his little pupils the beauties of Heaven, and he finally asked: "What kind of little boys go to Heaven?" A lively four-year-old boy, with kicking boots, flourished his fist. "Well, you may answer," said the teacher. "Dead ones!" the little fellow shouted, at the extent of his lungs.

Foreign News by Telescope.

St. Louis Republic.

The telescope is the only agent that can beat the telegraph in transmitting news—bringing it longer distances and quicker than lightning. The telescopes are all at it now, filling whole pages of the papers with their observations of the foreign matter that so suddenly swept into the solar system a few days ago. For some time to come the papers will be full of news of the stranger and other kindred visitors of years ago. Comets are especially interesting at this time, and the theories and discoveries of the astronomers will become popular reading. The first question which everybody wants answered is: What is a comet and what is it made of? Nobody knows any more than is condensed in the dictionary definition, which all may turn to at pleasure. But there is a strong probability now that we shall soon know more, and that makes the extraordinary interest in watching the foreign news communicated by telescope.

Since the last comet astronomical instruments have been greatly improved and wonderful revelations have been made by the spectroscopic, which stimulates the hope that something definite may be learned about comets, now that the opportunity has come. The composition of the sun has been partially revealed by the spectroscopic. Why may we not discover something about the constitution and by-laws of a body nearer to us than the sun? The present comet has already been successfully photographed and was a brand new subject for photography. Astronomy ought certainly to prove its advance in regard to a subject which, though not new, is one upon which all astronomers heretofore have confessed their utter ignorance.

It is true that the orbits of some of the historic comets have been calculated from the elements they presented in making their passage across our sky and the return of some of them after a long lapse of years has been predicted and fulfilled. The size of nucleus and length of tail—the earth sweeping through some of the latter—as well as their speed through the heavens, have been accurately calculated, but what a comet is, and why it is, and what it's for, are still mysteries to science.

Tycho Brahe studied the comet of 1577, and first demonstrated that comets are not atmospheric phenomena and revolve beyond the moon's orbit. He tried to solve their composition and ascertain their office in the skies and failed. Kepler considered them transient bodies that evaporated in tails. Newton declared the comet of 1680 to be 2,000 times hotter than red-hot iron, and his theory was that comets fed the sun with fuel. Sir John Herschel thought their tails to be electric.

The question whether comets are or are not self-luminous has not been settled, although Newton's theory as to their heat is very emphatic upon that point. Sir William Herschel and Laplace both thought that comets were young planets, turned loose to frolic, and tire of their eccentricities, after which they became regular in their habits and staid and sober members of the solar system. But it is all conjecture and nobody knows—hence the present interest.

Comets have a legendary literature—some of the old ones, away back in time. An ancient says that in 371 B. C. a comet threatened the destruction of two particular cities; its tail reaching one-third of the way across the hemisphere. Another chronicler says that a comet ten times greater than the sun appeared in 134 B. C. Comets used to herald the birth of great men, and represent the ghosts of the dead—according to legend—and one came and hovered over Rome after the assassination of Caesar, and this was visible day and night. "In 1106 A. D. there came a comet with an invisible head, but a tail of sun-brightness. In 1294 a comet with a tail 100 degrees long was observed by both Chinese and European astronomers, and the Europeans supposed it had some mysterious connection with the death of Pope Urban IV. The year 1402 had two remarkable comets, and 1456 a frightful one appeared, apparently to commemorate the capture of Constantinople by the Turks. It excited the fears of the superstitious to a wonderful degree, and it was bulldozed until it swung its baleful tail out of sight of Europe. The seventeenth century was prolific in comets. They came in 1607, 1618, 1652, 1668, 1680, 1682 and 1689. The great comet of 1680 was the one that Sir Isaac Newton operated upon. It had a tail ninety-five millions of miles long. That of 1682 was called Halley's comet, because he figured it out, proved that it had been round twice before, and predicted its return in 1759 which came to pass according to his calculation.

There were great comets visible in 1744 and 1769, 1811 and 1843, and the latter was supposed to be identical with that of 1689. It was brighter than day, as it was visible in daylight without the aid of the telescope, and it came very near proving Newton's theory, and pitching into the sun, as it approached to within 600,000 miles of that luminary. In celestial distances this was a very narrow escape. In 1858 a comet appeared which astronomers tell us will not come round again for 1,960 years, and 1861 and 1874 were also accompanied on part of their course by comets.

The comet of 1881 is being discussed more than any of its forerunners of the skies, and it is confidently expected that more light than it or any previous comet has given will be thrown upon it.

The Great Atlanta Fair.

The International Cotton Exposition which is to be held in Atlanta, Ga., beginning in October next and lasting three months, has enlarged its plans so as to embrace not only cotton in all its relations, but also wool and other textiles, and an exhibition of the natural resources of the South generally. The people of Atlanta have entered heartily into the work of preparation. The Exposition will be held in Oglethorpe Park, which is a plain or level meadow

surrounded by hills. An oblong race-course encircles the Park. The space within the track is now a live of busy labor, filled with the architects, artisans and laborers erecting the structure for the fair. A recent description of the progress of the enterprise says that the main building is to be 750 feet long by 90 feet wide, with a transept in the centre of the same width, and 500 feet long. A grand promenade will be constructed all around it on the track of the race-course. The high grounds beyond the course are being terraced for the buildings. While the exhibition will consist in part of a display of cotton textiles and the machinery for producing them, it will not be confined to these. One of the buildings will be appropriated to machinery for making sugar, preparing rice for market, and similar products. All kinds of tobacco, and its products, and the machinery for preparing it for market, will be exhibited in another building. In another structure will be an exposition showing the agriculture and mineral wealth of the South, along with its woods suitable for ship and house building, and cabinet making. It is intended that this exhibition shall be a most important display of the surface and underground wealth of the whole territory south of the Ohio.

In an annex to the main building will be the foreign department, containing a bonded warehouse under charge of a special Treasury agent, for the display of such foreign exhibits as the owners do not care to pay duty on. Many European manufacturers intend to enter machinery in this department. But to secure a full exhibit of manufactures and productions from Europe, the managers of the exposition have sent as Commissioner to all the countries of Europe, for that purpose, the Hon. H. V. M. Miller. Chili and Brazil have also expressed their desire to participate.

Thirty acres of the park, laid out in half-acre sections, have been allotted to as many different planters for a competitive trial of skill in the cultivation of cotton. Seed has been imported from Africa, India, and various parts of the world, some of it at the immense cost of \$200 in gold for a single half pound. This plantation, already seeded and under the general direction of Mr. Mark Hardin, a representative cotton planter, will display next October the cotton plant in all its known varieties and in all stages of its growth. After the opening of the fair, each week will be devoted to special exhibits. One will be a mule and horse fair, another a cattle, sheep and hog show. Horticultural, floricultural, agricultural, poultry and bench shows will fill up the intervening weeks. A special press pavilion will be provided for journalists and reporters, with reception and ante-rooms, desks, and everything necessary for literary work, even to stationery and postage stamps. The Piedmont Air-line Railway has subscribed \$5,000 to the exposition; the Kenesaw route, \$10,000. Other railroads are also interested in the enterprise. Facilities of access to the exhibition will be given by the Western and Atlantic Railroad, which is building a depot on the grounds and a track to and around the buildings within the race course. Arrangements for reduced rates of fare have been made by the managers with the railroad and steamship companies. Efforts are being made with intelligence and persistence to make the Atlanta Cotton Exposition one of the world.

Whether successful to the extent or not, the large numbers of Northern and Western people, as well as foreigners, who will take that opportunity of making a trip to Atlanta and the South, will surely have its influence upon the prospects not only of Atlanta but of the whole State and section.

Remarkable Progress in Agriculture.

New York Herald.

The census bulletin on agriculture just issued shows that the past ten years have been the most remarkable period of agricultural growth in the history of the country. The entire cereal product of the United States has made the enormous advance of nearly one hundred per cent. During the preceding decade the increase was but 12 per cent. while between 1850 and 1860 it was 43 per cent. As each census report the crops of but a single year the returns of two censuses merely afford the data for comparing the crops of two seasons ten years apart. One of these may be an unexceptionably bad and the other an unusually good agricultural year. Hence a comparison of the two may show an increase either much greater or much less than has actually taken place. The apparent increase shown by the census of 1880 is doubtless considerably greater than the real. But making all due allowance for this consideration, the fact still remains that the progress made in the production of cereals during the past ten years have been marvelous. The yield of wheat alone has advanced from 287,000,000 to 430,000,000 bushels, a gain of 73 per cent., while the product of Indian corn has sprung from 760,000,000 to 1,772,000,000 bushels, an increase of 123 per cent. The enormous productive capacity of the great west and northwest is shown by the fact that seven-tenths of the entire wheat crop of the United States is grown in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, California and Wisconsin; while the three states of Illinois, Iowa and Missouri together produced in 1879—the year covered by the census returns—upward of eight hundred million bushels of corn, or more than the yield of the entire country in 1869. Verily the United States will be able not only to feed its own rapidly multiplying people but also to supply Europe with bread and meat whenever needed.

The Sudden Changes in the Fashions.

New York Herald.

The sudden changes in the fashions of women are very embarrassing to fashionable men about to marry. Thus, at present, big mouths and blue eyes are the height of the style, and small mouths and black eyes are not at all in demand. But suppose the latter should shortly become the rage again, what could a man do with his big-mouthed and blue-eyed wife. Take her into society he could not, and he would find it difficult to get rid of her in any way.

How Families Take in Meals in New York.

Persons living in the apartment-house neighborhoods between Thirty-Fourth street and the Park, on the west side of the city, must have noticed during the last few years the increase in the number of caterers who send meals ready to families living in flats. In the morning before 9 o'clock, and from 6 to 7 o'clock in the evening, scores of colored waiters may be seen hurrying from house to house carrying the peculiar tin boxes which hold a meal each. The more ambitious caterers have established wagons built somewhat after the plan of a pie wagon, such wagons hold thirty meals nearly as big as small trunks. Each box is divided into compartments for the different dishes—one for soup, another for fish, meats, desserts, etc. Everything is kept warm by means of an alcohol lamp at the bottom of the box. The usual arrangement made with these caterers—who are nearly all colored—is that breakfast and dinner shall be furnished for so much a week per person. The caterer furnishes everything that goes on the table except the dishes, silver and linen. The meal box is delivered at the door of the apartment. When one box is received the empty one in which the preceding meal was carried is taken away. The caterer is expected to furnish everything; he even keeps the casters replenished with salt, oil, vinegar, etc.

The cost of this mode of living depends upon the grade of meals furnished and the number of persons in a family. The most expensive caterer of this class in the business sends out only one grade of meals and charges six dollars a week per person; children under ten and one servant are not counted, it being expected that enough will be sent for them. If the family wishes to pay for more than three persons the charge is five dollars per person. Other caterers have two prices, six dollars and four dollars a week, the meals furnished for four dollars being, of course, simpler than for six dollars, but the process is the same. At six dollars a week each meal—fourteen a week—costs forty-two cents a person; at four dollars it is only twenty-eight cents a person.

One person who has adopted this system of living, said: "I have a wife, one child and a nurse. Our meals cost us ten dollars a week by this plan; I pay for two persons and a half at four dollars a person. There is always ample for all of us, and the meals are quite as good as we should have if we had to buy and cook them. The money saving is great, and the saving in trouble and the responsibility of breakfast and dinner off my wife's hands; it does away with a fire in the kitchen and with the odor of cooking, which in small apartments is almost unavoidable. Before trying this plan my grocer's and butcher's bills alone came to ten dollars a week, the cook cost me fourteen dollars a month, and my wife had to work hard. When I want an unusually good dinner, I order it and pay the extra price. If I bring home a friend, I send word an hour or so in advance, and an extra amount of food is sent. Our breakfast consists of steak, eggs, oatmeal, rolls and coffee, with such seasonal trifles as radishes, etc. For dinner we have soup, fish, meat, salad, two or three kinds of vegetables and dessert. If we choose to make our ten dollars' worth of meals suffice for a dozen persons, that is our lookout. The caterer sends so much food for so much money, and does not care how many persons eat it."

The price at which meals are furnished by this plan seems to be low, but a little study of the matter shows that the business can be done at a profit. Taking an average price of five dollars a week per person, each meal costs thirty-six cents, allowing two meals a day. It is possible to get a simple meal at many restaurants for that price.

At some of the German and French restaurants, a complete dinner, including soup, meats and dessert, is given for half a dollar, yet the cost to the restaurant of such a meal is far greater than to the uptown caterer, who pays rent for a set of kitchens only; who pays for no crockery, silver or linen; and who has no waiters to hire, one man being able to deliver the meals for twenty families. The caterer buys his provisions at wholesale, and is able to make use of every scrap. It is evident that if a restaurant keeper can make a profit by furnishing a dinner at his own table for half a dollar, the caterer can send out the same for thirty cents and grow rich.

The first caterer who began to supply regular meals at fixed prices began the business in 1874. There are now about twenty caterers in the business, each one having from fifty to one hundred families to supply. The business seems to increase with the building of apartment-houses.—N. Y. Post.

Ninety-Four Miles an Hour.

"Talk about fast trains! Why, I carried once at the rate of ninety-four miles an hour," said a Philadelphia correspondent who was on the Pennsylvania Railroad in this country and England. "The 'Record' incredulously remarks that it was a light locomotive, built expressly for speed, but

much too draughted to start we made about a mile an hour, but we ran so smoothly that I don't know we were going if I had not looked the forty-mile-an-hour clock which was standing off for me. I kept this speed up until we came to a point between Glasgow and London. Then the engineer let her up to at least a hundred and she went on for half a minute. Zounds! How could that engineer manage to get out the signals that could not be seen, and the next behind me was the same with the same. I put only head to the engine, and before I could draw the train we had come to the next station. We had stations we rather doze. Talk about counting the telegraph poles! Why, they looked like picket fences. Were we nervous? Not a bit of it. When you get over sixty miles an hour you don't appreciate it except by looking out of the window. The permanent way, to be magnificent, and aided us in going smoothly. I'd risk that ride every day in my life, without any fear."

"The was an engine on the Worcester and Norwich road, now a part of the New York and New England road, which made seven miles in five minutes on part of her route as regularly as the rose and set," went on the speaker. "She was a seven-foot driver, made at Paterson, and carried a baggage of two passenger cars. There was a big stretch of road, with a down grade of 35 or 40 feet to the mile, when this put was reached the engineer would let her go for all she was worth."

"Befe you go I'll give you a point," said the speaker in conclusion. "It's a funnishing, but it's true, that an engine goes down grade at a high rate of speed will slip more than one driving frame train and going up grade, it's a fit; yet it can't be accounted for even by mechanics who have given it years of study. The French Government spent thousands of dollars in an endeavor to solve the mystery, yet its engineers are as much in the dark now as ever."

Real Wealth.

New Orleans Times.

The wealth of an individual or of a country is not what is earned, but what is saved. It is the surplus over and above necessary expenses. Wealth is seen in the permanent improvements of a country, in the improved farms and stock, in the magnificence of the cities, in the number and grandeur of churches and school houses, in the excellence of the roads and the means of communication and in the happiness and prosperity of the people. This constitutes permanent wealth, the result of men's labors so fixed in the country and fastened to the soil that they cannot be taken away. The people, the contrary, who spend all their money who have no money to invest in improving their farms, in building good and comfortable dwellings, or in better systems of agriculture and better beds of stock, these are truly poor. They sink the land and have nothing left. They impoverish the country by sending their products away in payment for the necessities of life, and by having no surplus, retaining no savings; money pass away, leaving no monument of permanent improvement, and no signs of visible wealth. Like the sinner and unthrifty servant in the parable, they have no thought to increase their capital and improve their opportunity. They have simply taken from the earth the talent they buried in fortunate if they have done so.

Apples Ripened Under Ground.

It is stated in the Garden Flora, a German horticultural publication, that the Persians, who extensively cultivate macclomans, cover the fruit with earth at certain stages. This method is practiced by Persians in the neighborhood of Tiflis, in the Caucasus. Only the choicest and best-keeping variety of the Dutma is grown. It is a long smooth kind, which attains a weight of 150 to 200 pounds, and will keep until Christmas. The deeply tilled ground is sown into beds a foot wide, in spig and the seed sown in a drill along the center. Finally the plants are set at a great distance apart, and irrigation is effected through the channels between the beds, so that no water touches the plants. The fruit sets in June, and only one or two are left on the shoot. When the fruit has reached the size of a man's fist the earth is hoveled out and the shoot (with the exception of the tip) together with its feet, is buried therein to a depth of one to one and a half inches, where it remains until the fruit is almost ripe. Considerable practical experience is necessary to be able to determine the exact moment when they should be unearthed. When the cultivator thinks the time has arrived he withdraws the shoot and its fruit from the ground. This is done toward evening, and the fruit is laid on the surface of the ground, attached to the shoot, and exposed to the dew one night; but care is taken to cut the fruit the following morning before the sun can reach it. It is then placed in a cool, dark, dry place until ready for market.

Boy Dog and Hornets.

The horse (Michigan) Democrat. A young boy, who hangs around a pocket, had a hornet's nest to a dog's den. He went to see a foot-race for the benefit of himself and the passenger who was waiting for the train. He dragged the thing around while the race was on to come out and light on the dog. The ungrateful whelp ran off between the boy's legs and he went to see where else. The boy was most provoked with mortification at the failure of his little amusement. But when the hornets began to sting him there was a change of program and the boy started for home. He could not run very fast, but a big dog dog between his legs and the boy of speed was not at all driving wheel; it was a light locomotive, built expressly for speed, but