

## COSTA RICA'S TRADE.

Use San Should Make Efforts to Control It.

Little Republic Claims to Be the Most Progressive and Peaceable of All the Central American States.

Our little neighbor, Costa Rica, has been knocking at our door for attention for many years past, and, while we are just awakening to the fact that her trade may be of value to us, we learn that it has been secured almost entirely by foreign nations who offer greater inducements in the way of long credits; and by sending more traveling men through the country have created a demand for their goods. These are acknowledged to be inferior in value to those of American manufacture, but they are packed more carefully. The number of United States citizens in Costa Rica is small, there being many more Europeans. Now that the interest of our people is awakened, all that will be changed; for the country possesses many natural advantages to attract settlers and financiers which are increased manifold by the prospect of the completion of the canal.

The language spoken in business circles is almost universally English, with a knowledge of which one may travel throughout the state without inconvenience, even if he knew no other. The completion of the Nicaraguan canal would probably make Greytown one of the cities of greatest commercial importance. It has, for years, had the most sensational booms whenever the completion of the canal seemed an assumed fact, causing such changes in the numbers of the population that, had a yearly census been taken, the results would have been most surprising. Products from a large portion of the interior of Costa Rica are floated down the San Juan river to Greytown in barges and there transferred to ocean steamers. By special provision of the government this is a free port, that materials for the construction of the canal may be procured economically. It is not yet connected with any other point by rail. Its merchants support the municipality by special tax. It is surrounded by an extensive area of most fertile territory, some of the largest plantations in the state be-

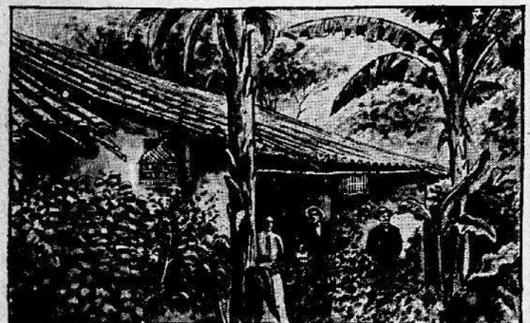
vegetable matter for centuries has filled the soil with fertile properties. Artificial fertilizers are not required, some plantations having been cultivated for a hundred years without being unfavorably affected.

A home-seeker going to Costa Rica should consider carefully what crop he wishes to raise and then take into consideration the varieties of climate. A locality where great wealth might be gained by raising coffee would be unfavorable for cocoa or rubber culture. The conditions are most favorable to health in sections where rubber may be raised successfully. The returns from the latter industry are not immediate, but in time prove most satisfactory. As the wild rubber trees are being fast exterminated, rubber plantations are likely to increase rapidly. These yield a large revenue, the product bringing about \$1,500 per ton and the owners living very independently.

A quick income is derived from bananas, but in sections where they grow the conditions are most unfavorable to health. The plants mature in about 14 months when they are cut down and the fruit removed. The decaying stumps lying on the low land produce malaria. Over \$5,000,000 are paid to 100 growers of bananas. Cocoa trees greatly resemble our peach trees. A thick growth of pods much like small melons, in which are 30 or 40 beans, extends directly from the trunk. Commercial cocoa is obtained by grinding these beans and refining and sweetening the product.

No one who visited the world's fair at Chicago can fail to remember the beautiful little Doric pavilion which Costa Rica erected on the grounds at an outlay of \$20,000, and \$30,000 more was expended by the little republic to show how its coffee growing and curing are conducted. A traveler desiring to visit Costa Rica would probably take passage at New Orleans, disembarking at Limon, the chief seaport, with a population of about 4,000. The buildings of this city are modern in appearance and the streets macadamized. The stores are well-stocked with goods from all over the world. Many of the steel and cement buildings are constructed under the Standard Oil company's patents of the United States. The city is very prosperous, in spite of the fact that three times within three years it has nearly been destroyed by fire.

About 20,000,000 bunches of bananas were shipped from here during the past year, in addition to other ex-



A BIT OF COSTA RICAN PLANTATION LIFE.

ing situated here. In Central America 30 stores are owned by one Chinese firm. The Chinese show remarkable business ability and their methods stand favorably in comparison with those of other nations. They converse in several languages and many of them wear the European form of dress.

This state is the most southeasterly in Central America and occupies the entire breadth from sea to sea between New Grenada and Nicaragua. The country is mountainous and the plateaus and valleys lying between are very fertile. The coast along the Caribbean sea is bordered by a narrow plain indented by creeks and small bays, affording excellent shelter for shipping among the various islands. The mountains are a portion of the Cordillera range and contain many high volcanic peaks. Turrialba is 12,500 feet high. Toward the Caribbean the descent is very abrupt, while in the direction of



COCONUT TREE GROVE.

the Pacific it is gradual. The northwest extremity gradually subsides into the plain of Nicaragua. Many rivers flow through the country. The climate is more regular and healthful than that of other portions of Central America. The dry season continues from November to April; the remainder of the year is the wet season. The thermometer seldom falls below 55 degrees or rises above 85. Large quantities of timber, mahogany, Brazil wood and cedar, are exported. In the west and north-west grow abundantly. Vegetables and fruits abound. Sheep thrive on the table lands, cattle along the rivers and swine in the low districts. Rock crystal and place gold have been found in large quantities, also silver, copper and iron ore, onyx, amethyst, jasper, opals, labradorite, kaolin, lime for cement, and phosphate of lime. Pearl fisheries furnish a lucrative occupation to many. If a patch of earth be left bare it is soon covered with a luxuriant vegetation. The growth and decay of

## PUZZLE PICTURE.



WHERE IS THE BRITISH SOLDIER?

## THE HOWL OF WOLVES.

Heard Frequently in Northern Minnesota Woods—Increasing Rapidly.

Despite the encroachments of civilization the timber wolves of northern Minnesota are increasing rapidly in numbers, and every year are more of a menace to the live stock of settlers, and to game of all kinds. Their depredations are not numerous and never daring during the summer and fall, but after the snow is on the ground and it is not so easy picking for a living, they become bolder and hunger screws their courage to desperation. Reports from all sections of northern Minnesota are to the effect that wolves are more numerous than ever before.

Many wolves are killed every year in this region, but it is going to take a greater incentive than now exists in the present bounty of a maximum of eight dollars to make any great inroads on the wolf family. The timber wolf is not as cunning as a fox, but he is every whit as smart. They are naturally suspicious of any food that they do not kill themselves, though they sometimes make a mistake and eat poisoned meat that is put out for them, but not always. The work must be done by an expert or the chances are that the wolf will not touch it, especially if they are not ravenous from hunger. Wolves also have a keen understanding of firearms, and seem to be able to smell powder from afar, says the Minneapolis Tribune.

One of the most amusing incidents that probably ever happened in connection with wolves was in the neighborhood of Carlton a few years ago. There had been a dance at Carlton and one of the musicians was returning home to Thomson, a few miles away, when he was filled with terror by the howl of a wolf a short distance ahead and to one side of the road. He stopped, and in a moment a timber wolf walked straight across his path into the brush. The musician hugged his horn and strode forward, expecting every instant to see more wolves, and he was not disappointed. Another wolf deliberately crossed the road ahead of him, and stopped for a second in the hedge of the brush to survey the quaking musician. The latter stopped and finally found his voice. He yelled

and the wolf vanished. He started forward again and in a moment another wolf stepped into the road. While the musician was razing at this newcomer, there was a prolonged howl behind. The musician looked back, and although the temperature was below zero the perspiration stood out on his brow in beads. In the road behind him were two wolves and they walked slowly toward the frightened man. A happy thought struck the musician. He placed the horn to his lips and blew a few loud, discordant notes, and ran toward the wolves. They leaped into the woods as if they had been fired upon by a rapid fire gun. The musician gathered courage from this, and turned to try the horn on the other wolf, but he, too, had taken to the tall timber. Giving a few more wild blasts on the horn the musician took to his heels and ran about a quarter of a mile before he looked back. When he did he saw four wolves trotting behind at a respectful distance. The musician was nearly winded when he resorted to the horn again. Turning about he charged the wolves, meantime blowing the most unearthly blasts from the horn. Again they vanished, and again the musician took to his heels. The wolves did not molest him further, for he was soon in Thomson and the wild beasts would not follow him there.

Through the Wrong Door. A man who figures somewhat prominently in Philadelphia social circles was attending a grand ball recently in company with his wife. While dancing a quadrille he noticed that his pants were ripping and hurriedly retired to a dressing-room with his wife, who procured a needle and thread and began sewing up the rip. While the man was standing there without any pants on he heard the rustle of skirts and it occurred to him that he had taken refuge in the ladies' dressing-room. He appealed to his wife and she shoved him to a door which opened, as she thought, into a closet. Opening the door quickly, she shoved him through and locked the door. Then the man began pounding the door. "Mary," he screamed, "I'm in the ball-room!" The door, instead of opening into a closet, opened into the ball-room.—Chicago Chronicle.

A Common Divisor. Difference of opinion is the greatest common divisor.—Chicago Daily News.

## FOREIGN GOSSIP.

Queen Anne of England was so red-faced from her love of brandy that her not too respectful subjects called her "Brandy Nan."

Bavaria's legislature has surprised Germany by passing a bill limiting the number of magistrates in the kingdom who may be Jews.

Puvis de Chavannes' pictures are increasing in price. At the Wellers sale in Paris a sketch, "Ludus pro Patria," brought \$8,000, "La Famille," \$2,100, and a pastel, "L'Enfant Prodigue," \$2,000.

At Montalto, in the province of Genoa, in tearing down an old church a small underground room was found full of art objects of the Roman time chiefly chased silver, phosphoric and vases filled with gold and silver coins.

Overland telegraphic communication across Africa is almost attained. The Cape to Cairo wires have reached Uji on Lake Tanganyika. They have only to extend to the north end of the lake and then to the Albert Nyanza, which is connected with the Sudanese and Egyptian lines.

It is said that in France 88,000,000 picture postcards pass through the post office annually. That country takes the lead of all others, Austria-Hungary coming next with 31,000,000. The total in circulation throughout the world in one year is said by experts to be 2,300,000,000.

Divorce is very easy in Turkey and does not require a judge and jury to settle matrimonial troubles. All that is necessary is for the injured party to say: "I divorce you," three times, and the deed is done. The husband has to make the wife a proper allowance and all is over.

Bicycling seems on the way to join roller skating in France as an extinct craze, and the big "velodromes," like the rinks, are empty. An attempt is being made to turn them into open-air theaters for classic plays and operas. At Roubaix the experiment will be made next summer.

## WERE NEVER CROWNED.

Seven of the Royal Women of England Who Never Wore a Diadem.

England has had many royal women queens in their own rights and queens by virtue of marriage, with the reigning sovereign, but it is generally known that seven of the women who are known in history as queens were not so in fact, says a London paper. They never received officially the insignia of a monarch, the crown. The first was Margaret of France, the young, plain, amiable second wife of Edward I. He had spent so much money in conquering Wales that he could not afford the expense of a coronation for his bride and she had to do without the splendors of the coronation.

King Henry VIII. took care that Anne Boleyn should be crowned with extreme magnificence. He desired to show the world how much he loved her and how very much he defied the bishop of Rome. The four wives who succeeded her were never crowned at all. For one thing money ran short, and for another there may have lurked, even in his masterful mind, a sense of the "fitness of things" which may have caused him to shrink from publicly crowning so many ladies in very rapid succession. At any rate, the beloved Jane Seymour, the despised Anne of Cleves, the girlish Catherine Howard and the wary Catherine Parr were never consecrated in public as queen consorts of England.

Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I., refused to be crowned. She was young, she was pretty, she was a French princess and a bigoted Roman Catholic and she declined to take part in a state function which would compel her to partake of the sacrament according to Church of England rites.

Sophia Dorothea of Zell cannot be reckoned among the seven, because she was never called queen of England at all. While George I. was being crowned and anointed, and—bored, the Lady of Arden was pining in her long, monotonous captivity. (Caroline of Brunswick is the last, and most remarkable, instance of the uncrowned English queens. Though George IV. had been forced from popular indignation to give up the bill of pains and penalties against her, nothing would induce him to let her share in his coronation. She was not permitted to be present at Westminster Abbey at all. Repulsed from all the entrances, she returned to her house to die within three weeks of a violent fever, brought on by months of fearful excitement. The strained cord snapped. The brave heart was broken at last.)

Happy Savages. Dr. Carl Lumholtz, of the American Museum of Natural History, who has lived among the wild Indian tribes of northwestern Mexico, sharing in the every day life and amusements of the people for several years, pronounces them to be a very intellectual race, although many of them still dwell in caves like their forefathers thousands of years ago. On the whole they lead a very happy existence, and among many of the tribes a higher degree of morality exists than in civilized countries. They are monogamists. Theft and many of the worst forms of disease are unknown among them. They hold their land in common, and their principal food is Indian corn and beans.—Youth's Companion.

Wine as Food for Horses. Viticulturists in France have just tried experiments in feeding draught animals with bread mixed with wine, which seems to be successful. It appears that poor wine can be used to replace oats as food, weight for weight, a pound of wine for a pound of oats. At least half of the usual feed of grain can be replaced in this manner without disadvantage to the animals. Barley, beans, bran and the like, mixed with wine, can be substituted for oats entirely, if desired, it is said. In years of abundant vintage a material saving can be effected in this way.—N. Y. Sun.

Then Maybe You Won't. Before calling a man a fool pause and reflect on what he could say you without jolting his veracity.—Chicago Daily News.

## FARMER AND PLANTER.

### SOIL AND SOIL TREATMENT.

Bad Management Mainly Responsible For the Deterioration of Farm Lands.

The earth was made for the purpose of growing plants. And it is well and wisely made. The soil is perfectly adapted to growing vegetation. It neither grows weary or worn out in this work. Plants were created to grow in the soil. So perfect is their adaptation to this business that instead of exhausting the soil, they leave it better by growing in it. The larger growth upon any given area this year, the larger still is the possible growth next year. Such is the mutual relationship between the powers of the soil and the work of the plants in growing, dying and decaying that it is possible to grow crops continuously upon the same soil with ever increasing capacity for growing more and larger crops on the part of the soil.

It is the result of bad management, and not of the demands made upon the soil by the growing crops. Vegetation upon an average is 75 per cent. water, 22 per cent. air, and only three per cent. soil.

Good farming returns to the soil so much of this organized water and air that it more than compensates for the three per cent. taken from the soil. Hence it is a mistake to say that the soil is exhausted or made poorer by the small part it furnished the crop. Then you ask: Why do we find fields and farms, after years of cultivation, become poor, or non-productive? The causes are many. Mainly bad management in plowing when the soil is wet and in plowing so shallow that the soluble plant food is washed away or leached out by the rain-water.

Continuous, clean culture and burning the waste vegetable matter helps to hasten this condition.

The power of any soil to produce depends largely upon the mechanical condition of the soil. Hard, compact soils will not turn loose their elements of the plant food in sufficient quantities to make large crops. A good soil must be finely pulverized.

Shallow soils with hard-pan under them will not yield large crops. They do not permit root-growth. The tender rootlets can not pierce this hard-pan in search for food.

Again, they do not furnish sufficient water for the rapid and full growth. Plants require very large supplies of water to keep up healthy cultivation. About three hundred pounds of water must pass through most plants to leave one pound of dry matter. This would require about two thousand pounds to pass through a corn stalk to make one pound of corn, and the same to pass through cotton stalk to leave one pound of lint.

The soil must be fine and deep and pulverized, not made into mud or mortar. It must also contain rotting vegetable matter to furnish the humus, without which plants can not grow.

Soil in this condition will be rich. It will produce large crops. It matters not if it be red or gray, sandy or clay.

So much of our land has been put to bad mechanical condition that but few farms will produce large crops. Hence the necessity of using commercial fertilizers. These contain phosphoric acid and potash, readily soluble and available. They greatly increase the yield because of this fact.

They feed the growing plant. The more vigorous the plant the more they help. Just as it pays to give extra food to a thriving pig or beef, so we see that even the helpfulness of fertilizers is dependent upon the mechanical texture of the soil.

The farmer's constant study should be: "How can I improve the mechanical condition of my soil?" Upon his intelligence in answering this question will depend largely his success as a farmer.

Your bottom land is richer than your upland because its mechanical condition is better. Your garden is richer than your farm because its mechanical condition is better.

These are not new discoveries, but so few farmers are acting upon these that they need to be restated. Where the farmers use two, four and six-horse plows, their soil is deep and fine and productive. Any soil may be made so by proper treatment.

Your soil is largely a thing of your own making or unmaking. The success or failure of your crops for the next year will depend largely upon the condition of your soil when you begin to plant.—Southern Cultivator.

## THE AGE OF IMPROVEMENT.

Progress is the Watchword, and the Methods of Our Grandfathers Are Becoming Obsolete.

This is an age of improvement in almost everything man uses to promote his comfort or advance his material interests. The things our grandfathers used are obsolete, except as antique specimens in curious collections. We live in improved houses, and stable our animals in improved barns "with all modern conveniences," even our hog pens have galleries to prevent the pigs from being inconvenienced by awkward mothers. All the hardest work of "the good old days of yore" is now done by machines, tireless and automatic. We cultivate our fields while riding on a spring seat, with cushion and umbrella, if we wish to be careful of our complexions, or have a predilection for luxurious ease. The products of our labor have been improved, both in quantity and quality. We no longer eat brown bread, except as penance for our sins or to flatter a dyspeptic stomach; but must have the snow-white loaf and velvety texture of the patent process product. Learned men have spent years of toil and study in perfecting the fruits of the field until now, we who are accustomed to the change, and boast how fully we are up with

the times, are often surprised at the beauty and quality of the unending varieties of fruits and vegetables in our market stalls and public exhibitions; at the marvellous beauty of the florist's productions, brought into existence by intelligent, careful breeding. In contemplating the wonderful works of man as shown in improved fruits, vegetables and flowers, we are a little surprised at the lack of similar improvement in the staple crops of the farm. Our fathers and grandfathers grew as good corn, as good wheat, rye and barley and oats as we are grown now. Why has not as much improvement been made in these as in the others? Very slight and very temporary improvements have been made in cotton, and in corn, but the best varieties thus evolved have flourished for a season and disappeared, or have been amalgamated with the original varieties from which they were evolved. How much real improvement has been made in a thousand years in the great bread staple wheat? Did not the Egyptians during the reign of the Ptolemies, the Roman farmers on the lower Tiber, as well as those of Babylonia and Carthage, many centuries before Christ, produce as good grain and more per acre than we do, after ages of boasted progress? We have both Biblical and historical statements that in those days wheat was made to purchase 50, 60 and even an hundred fold; that is 50, 60 or 100 bushels for one bushel sown. One reason why so little progress has been made in field crops is the fact that all such crops must be grown from seed, and varieties mix readily. This could be overcome by care in handling and growing, but the average farmer does not invest this care in his business. It is certain that all improvements in seeds will be only temporary in the hands of careless farmers. But some farmers are careful. Of course, and some farmers, by being careful, progressive and enterprising outstrip their neighbors, grow better crops and receive better prices. We need more men, of the right sort, of course, to devote their time to perfecting improved varieties, and then we need more pains-taking farmers to maintain the standard unimpaired.—Texas Farm and Ranch.

Motor Power for the Farm. A most wonderful agricultural improvement likely to be accomplished in the twentieth century will be the invention of an efficient six-horse-power farm motor.

There is no farm implement worked by two to four or more horses that would not do better work if driven by a motor. A farmer with a suitable motor could use a plow that would enable him to plow within four inches of fence posts, plowing away from them, and would not need to turn at the ends, but just reverse and plow back. He would not be stopped by stones any more than when using a spring tooth cultivator; would be able, when work was pressing, to work as many hours as there are of daylight; would at all times be sheltered from the sun, wind, rain or cold, if he wished to be; could use a mower or reaper with the knife directly in front, avoiding the necessity of mowing around the field by hand, or tramping the hay or grain.

He could sit or stand as he chose, whether plowing or sowing, reaping or mowing, spraying or weeding. He might thus do his work faster and better than with any machines drawn by horses.

With a motor the farmer would not need to feed a number of idle horses during the slack season so as to have enough to do his work in the busy season, but could keep just that number that he could give profitable employment to at all times, and when his motor was not at work it would eat nothing.

He could change his motor from one implement to the other as quickly.

He could, with his motor yoked to a wide-track wagon loaded with a full two-horse load, start from a soft cultivated field at about one mile an hour rate, increase to two or three mile rate on firm ground and then to five, eight or ten miles an hour rate on hard, level road.—Agricultural Engineer.

HERE AND THERE.

Corn harvesters and shredders in future will be counted quite as necessary in saving the corn crop as threshing machines are in saving the wheat crop, and will be operated on the same plan.

If cornharvesters and shredders had been properly used in saving and preparing the crop of last year, enough feed for home use would have resulted. In future years, when there is a short crop of corn, etc., this experience should forcibly remind us of the necessity for properly caring for what is raised.

At the rice convention, recently held at Crowley, La., a committee was provided for whose duty it is to go before the next state legislature and ask that a rice experiment station and farm be established and maintained at some point in the rice belt of southwest Louisiana.

Young pigs should be fed plentifully with foods rich in protein. Any green pasturage is good, and so also are wheat, wheat bran, ground oats. These make bone and muscle. After awhile fat may be put on with corn.

For fattening hogs corn in the ear and clean water in the trough form a compound that is hard to beat. To this may be added a little green stuff of any sort to sharpen the appetite. Cooking feed for fattening hogs rarely pays a profit on the time and labor.

Good butter is a "food for the gods" and should be familiar to the smell, touch, sight and taste of the farmer's wife, as well as to workers in larger dairies. Perhaps most persons can testify from experience that the reverse is true.

A New York syndicate recently imported 200,000 sacks of Irish potatoes, chiefly from Denmark. The sacks contained 165 pounds each, and the cost of the lot landed in New York was about \$400,000. This shows what inconvenience may follow a serious drought in this country.

## WOMAN'S PLACE AT HOME

By Ex-Inspector of Police THOMAS BYRNES, of New York, the Most Famous Police Official in America.



Thomas Byrnes.

The home is the place for woman. By nature she is fitted to adorn and elevate it. I speak now, of course, in general. For good reasons many women are obliged to earn their own living. I honor them for so doing and would encourage them in every way. Brave, honest and self-respecting women obliged to work for themselves or others should always be aided in every possible way. But—

THESE WOMEN WHO, HAVING GOOD HOMES AND INDULGENT HUSBANDS, THINK THEY HAVE SOME GREAT CALL TO GO FORTH AND SCREAM FOR MORE RIGHTS I HAVE NO SYMPATHY WITH.

I do not believe the good Lord ever made women to mix up in politics, support men by their labors or go running around trying to reform the universe. What a woman wants to vote for is more than I can comprehend. Of course there are the regular arguments which the temperance people and school reformers put forth that a woman should have a vote against the selling of liquor to her husband or as to how her children should be educated. But if men cannot or will not reform any evils that now exist, how women are going to accomplish the reformation is more than I can see.

If I must be candid, I do not believe that women are fitted to hold positions of great trust—positions, for example, where there is the handling of large sums of money. Take bank cashiers, for example. Men in such positions are tempted and fall every day. They fall through gambling or speculating or as a result of satisfying the extravagant demands of some woman. Now put a woman in such a responsible position. Would she be any stronger? I think not. Women speculate and bet on horses. Then they have the love of dress, diamonds and all sorts of display, which so often leads them astray.

But I do not wish to be thought hard on the sex. On the contrary, I am always in sympathy with the woman. Only I think her place, speaking in general, is in the home. She can perform a great mission there for the community and the nation.

Would Please Him Mightily. Her Mother—If you marry him, you need never expect me to come to see you.

Daughter—Will you put that into writing? "What for?" "I want to give it to Fred as a wedding present."—Tit-Bits.

Nearest She Got to It. "Have you ever," the girl from Boston asked, "made a critical study of 'Paradise Lost'?" "No," replied the lady who was up from St. Louis, "but I lived in Paradise, Tex., once for three months."—Chicago Record-Herald.