WAR IN THE ORIENT.

No Great Events During the Week, but Many Minor Affairs.

Evident Preparation for Decisive Strokes.

FILLING UP OF THE PENINSULA.

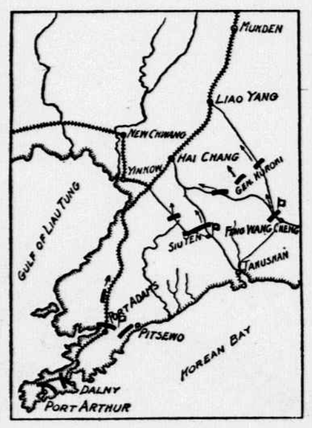
A Number of Minor Operations of No Great Importance.

There has been an ominous lack of important news from the seat of war during the past week. Quite a number of small affairs have taken place on the various lines, but these have not been of sufficient gravity to indicate anything as to the future.

All that can be definitely said is that the Japanese seem to be filling up the peninsula with troops, and pressing closer, not only the line of investment around Port Arthur, but also to the points on the railroad between it and Mukden.

There has been a subsidence of the talk about sending a relieving column toward Port Arthur, as the folly of this became more manifest. With the present situation of the various armies which the Japanese have landed, the advance of any force which the Russians could push would be simply an invitation to disaster. With their command of both coasts of the peninsula, the Japanese could easily cut off any column and compel it to surrender. While no figures are given out, it looks very much as if the Japanese must have somewhere near a quarter of a million men in the peninsula.

There have been stories of repulses of Japanese around Port Arthur, and probably some of these have occurred. In establishing their line of investment, the Japanese must have had to feel around endlessly for the Russian lines. In their endeavor to secure favorable positions here and there, it is to be expected that many of these reconnoitering parties will meet with rebuffs by running up against strongly-posted forces.



MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF JAPANESE TROOPS.

There are reports of naval battles, with losses to the Japanese, off Port Arthur, but these lack probability.

Reports from the Feng-wang-cheng front tell of skirmishes, and a decided Russian success in the capture of two Japanese battalions, which were cut off and killed or captured to a man. There may be some truth in these. Apparently the Japanese at Feng-wang-cheng are keeping up just enough activity to hold the Russian army in front of them until the Japanese column from Takushan can get in its rear and capture it.

There is a story that the Vladivostok squadron has joined that at Port Arthur, but this requires confirmation.

News from the interior of Russia is that business is stagnated, that there is great suffering in consequence, that commerce is prostrated, and that the people, becoming aware in spite of all the efforts of the officials, of the corruption and incapacity, are on the point of serious disturbances. This seems altogether probable. In the meanwhile attempts are being made to encourage by fallacious reports of Russian victories both by land and sea.

JAPANESE INFANTRYMAN RESTING AND EATING HIS DAILY FARE OF RICE AND DRIED FISH.

It is more than likely that the Japanese will have completed their concentration and other preparations by the beginning of this week, and that we shall have something decisive before another Sunday.

Anxious to Assist in Clearing Out Russian Mines.

The Japanese naval authorities engaged in clearing out the mines in the vicinity of Ta-lien-wan Bay are employing Japanese shell divers from Kushiu Province for the purpose. These divers volunteered for this work, and are wonderfully expert. It is said that with their diving paraphernalia they can stay under water for half a day at a time. Hundreds of Japanese fishermen are volunteering to assist in clearing away Russian mines, and it is probable that some of them will be used for this work. These voluntary offers are taken to illustrate the unity of Japanese people in the war.

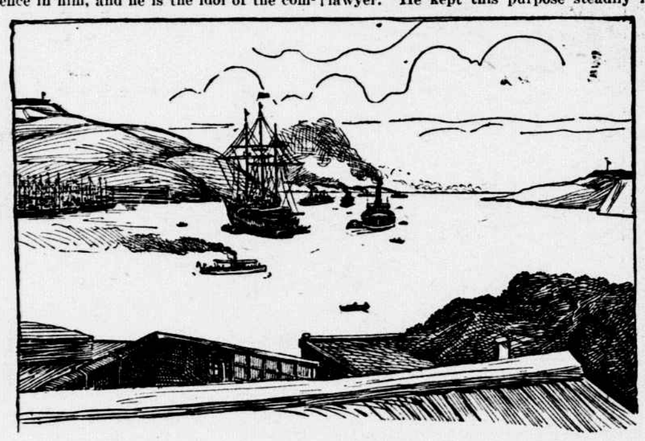
JAPANESE DIVER REMOVING MINES FROM VICTORIAN BAY AT DALNY.

GEN. KUROPATKIN.

The Personality of the Russian Commander-in-Chief—Headquarters in a Railroad Car.

The entire Russian plan of campaign is directed from a railway carriage at Liao-yang, in which Gen. Kuropatkin works, eats, and sleeps. The car is divided into a saloon, a study, and a bedroom. The Commander-in-Chief passes most of his time in the study at work, surrounded by his Aids.

Although of small stature, Kuropatkin is at once distinguishable among his entourage, however brilliant may be their uniforms, by his determined gestures and sturdy figure. He has the reputation of being severe, but just, and his word is law. His officers express the fullest confidence in him, and he is the idol of the common soldiers, and the foreign attaches find him most pleasant. He takes little or no rest, except a half hour's siesta after lunch, when the heat is excessive, and he occasionally indulges in the distraction of reading literary works.



VIEW FROM THE COAL DOCKS AT PORT ARTHUR OF THE HARBOR ENTRANCE.

The dispatches from the scene of operations are brought to him at any hour of the day or night. The General eats well, of simple dishes, but hurriedly, seldom remaining at table more than a half hour. He drinks wine sparingly, smokes a cigar or two after breakfast, and sets a general example of abstemiousness to his officers. He rises at 7 o'clock and retires at midnight.

THE STORY of the panic at St. Petersburg over the report of the approach of Japanese torpedo-boats sounds very funny alongside the talk of sending the Black Sea and Baltic fleets to the East.

THE news from St. Petersburg that we were considering the sale of the Philippines to Japan is of the same character as most of the intelligence from that quarter. The Japanese are not in the market for islands just now. They are gathering in real estate on the mainland.

THE EMPIRE OF MOROCCO.

A Great Country Given Up to Rapine and Disorder—To be Annexed to France.

Morocco, about which the attention of the world is now centering, is an extensive maritime country, situated in the northwestern part of Africa, bounded on the north by the Mediterranean Sea, on the east by Algeria, on the south by the Great Desert, and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean. It has an area of about 219,000 square miles, with a population between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000. The climate is remarkably fine, being extremely equable, the mean annual temperature of the city of Morocco being only 64 degrees. It has few good harbors, as the coast is low and little broken. The population is composed of several distinct races, the Arabs forming the principal part of the rural districts, and the Moors that of the towns along the coast. There are besides these many negroes and people of mixed descent, with a considerable number of Jews in all the commercial towns.

Copper, iron and lead are found in various parts of the country, and amethysts of great beauty and size in the Atlas Mountains, which traverse the country from northeast to southwest. In the forests are many valuable trees, such as the oak, Cedar of Lebanon, Aleppo pine, date palm, etc. There is little agriculture, with apparently no desire to improve this condition of things. Excellent wheat, poor barley, and maize are the principal crops, and the people live mostly on millet, though beans and canary seed constitute a large part of the food of the poorer classes. The wealth of the Arab tribes consists in their droves, herds, and flocks. Their horses are remarkably fine, and the wool of their sheep is famed for its unusual fineness.

There is little attention paid to education, which does not go beyond the theology of the Koran. Science is unknown, and art belongs to the past. Music seems to be the only art for which the Moors have any marked ability.

The Sultan, who claims to be a direct descendant of Mahomet, is an absolute monarch, and the lives and property of his subjects are his to do with as he pleases. He has six Ministers, whom he consults when he thinks it best to do so; otherwise, they simply carry out his orders. His treasury is a mysterious and inaccessible building, supposed to contain fabulous sums, and guarded by 2,000 blacks. His military force does not exceed 16,000, and is composed principally of blacks and Bedouins. The marine force is insignificant.

The Government of the country has been weak, incapable and corrupt to the last degree. The Sultan has not even the restraining force of the Ulema or expounders of the Koran, a priestly class who exercise much influence over the Sultan of Turkey and the Shah of Persia, to keep him within bounds. By virtue of his claim of being a direct descendant of Mahomet, he combines in his presence both political and priestly functions, and his word is as final in one as the other.

There have been innumerable rebellions in the country, which have been suppressed with difficulty or not suppressed at all, and there is at present one against which the Sultan seems to be unable to make much headway. The miserable condition of the country, lying near as it does to Europe, and the great centers of commerce and travel, has been the subject of much disquiet in Europe, but the mutual jealousies of the countries have prevented any one of them from undertaking to establish order. Now, however, there has been an agreement entered into between France and England, by which France is allowed a free hand in Morocco, and she will eventually annex the territory to Algeria. The conditions in Algeria were at one time what they are now in Morocco, and the result was a constant embroiling with other nations. It will be remembered that we had two separate wars with Algeria, while other countries had many more. At last France took the country, made it a province, and after considerable trouble has developed it into a high state of prosperity. Spain, of course, protests against the country being dominated by the French, but her protests avail nothing, as she has had her opportunity and several times invaded Morocco, only to meet with defeat. Neither can England look with complacency upon Spain getting the country which would give her control on both sides of the Straits of Gibraltar.

There has been an attempt to get Germany to enter into the controversy and make common cause with Spain, but so far she has refused to be embroiled. The understanding now is that France, profiting by her experience in Algeria, will gradually absorb Morocco, extending her influence over the whole country under the color of the Sultan's authority, who will be reduced to a mere figurehead. She will gradually place everywhere officials who have been trained in the Algerian school, and consequently know best how to deal with the people, and employ that mixture of conciliation and the swift exercise of force which is best calculated to successfully manage them. Under the French rule the resources will be developed, and the country made as prosperous as its great capabilities entitle it to be.

HON. ALTON B. PARKER.

The Probable Democratic Nominee for President.

The chief of the seven Judges who constitute the highest court in the State of New York is the youngest of the number, a vigorous, broad-shouldered man of 53 years. He is the Hon. Alton Brooks Parker, who will probably be the Democratic candidate for President. He has a brown mustache with a tinge of red, dark-brown hair turning a little gray, and hazel-brown eyes. His face shows quickness of perception, steadiness of purpose, and energy of thought. He speaks promptly, lucidly, and connectedly, in a strong, resonant voice. He was born in 1851, on a farm in Courtland County, N. Y. His father was a practical Massachusetts farmer, and his mother still lives at Derby, Conn. When a boy he became impressed by the proceedings of a court, and determined to be a lawyer. He kept this purpose steadily in view, resorting to teaching after he had left school, in order to get money to secure his legal education. While a teacher he met Miss Schoomaker, whom he married when he was admitted to the bar. He was a successful school teacher, and had physique enough to hold the usual school bully in awe. After graduating from the Albany Law School, he returned to Kingston, N. Y., when he took a partner and began practising his profession, also entering politics. He showed himself a vigorous debater on the stump, a good organizer, and in 1871, was elected Surrogate for his County. Ulster County was then Republican, but under Parker's leadership it became for a while safely Democratic. His management attracted the attention of Mr. Tilden and David B. Hill, who made him his Chairman when he was a candidate for Governor in 1885, and elected by a plurality of 15,000. President Cleveland offered Judge Parker the position of First Assistant Postmaster-General, but he declined, saying that he could not afford to give up a $5,000 a year position to take one at $3,000. In 1885, when but 34 years old, Gov. Hill appointed him to the Supreme Court Bench, when Judge Parker ceased to be a politician, and devoted himself to the law. He refused to accept his party's nomination for the Senatorship to stay upon the bench. In 1887 the higher court—the Court of Appeals—was found to be so far behind with its work, that it was deemed desirable to make a second division of the Court of Appeals of seven Judges, of whom Judge Parker was one. In 1897 the Democratic State Committee put him in nomination as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, and though McKinley had the previous year carried the State by 150,000, Judge Parker was elected by 60,000. He had been for many years Trustee of the Ulster County Savings Bank. The discovery of the dishonesty of two of its officers precipitated a run, which Trustee Parker met with a bag full of money, which he threw upon the counter, announcing to the crowd, "The bank can meet all demands; I pledge you my word," and the run was checked. He was asked to become the Bank's President, and accepted on condition that the salary be abolished. He has two passions in life—his farming and his law. With his brother he manages a farm which was his father's, and also one that belonged to his wife. Then he bought a farm of his own at Esopus, ten miles below Kingston, and there he has built a commodious old-fashioned mansion. His mind is said to be thoroughly constructive. He believes that Labor Unionists should have all the rights of American citizens, but they must keep within the law. Managers of corporations should also have all American rights, but they, too, must keep within the law.

JUDGE PARKER AND HIS GRANDSON.

At present his boom does not look so favorable as it did at first, though he is strongly in lead of all other candidates. The New York Times, which is the leading Parker paper, admits that while his nomination "is extremely probable, it cannot be said to be assured," and it appears that the state of "doubt and uncertainty in which the party finds itself, may result in some hasty and ill-considered choice." The New York Sun declares that the Parker candidacy has missed fire, and looks for the advent of a Dark Horse. Up to date of the 994 members of the Convention there have been 210 definitely instructed for Parker, 135 for Hearst, 12 for Gorman, 32 for Olney, and 26 for Wall, with 223 uninstructed. This shows that about two-thirds of the delegates have been selected, of whom Parker has less than half, and the hopes of the Reorganizers that he would enter the Convention with two-thirds of the delegates pledged to him seem to have been frustrated. Undoubtedly a clear majority of the delegates may be said to favor him, but they are in a receptive condition, and therefore the situation is more precarious than was thought when the plans were laid. He will have the chief of the old wheel-horses of the Democracy solidly for him, and as far as parliamentary tactics go they will be able to out-general his opponents. The main danger is from some stampede or surprise which the Bryan element may engineer at a critical time. As the managers are keenly alive to this danger, it may be regarded as very sure that they will not be caught in any such state of unpreparedness as they were in Chicago in 1896.

While Judge Parker's nomination does not seem therefore anything like so sure as it did some weeks ago, it is still the most probable thing in the coming Convention.

His home life is everything that could be desired. He has one daughter who is the wife of the Rector of Holy Cross Episcopal Church at Kingston, and her two children are his special pets. The little granddaughter and the little browned-eyed grandson spend as much time with him at Rosemount as they do at their own home. Mrs. Parker is a delightful hostess, and whoever goes to Rosemont receives a cordial welcome from her as well as from the Judge.

GINSENG.

The Plant to Which the Chinese Ascribe the Most Wonderful Medicinal Virtues.

(From United States Consul Miller, Niuchwang, China.)

WILD AND CULTIVATED GINSENG.

The most important and most valuable of all the medicinal plants grown in Manchuria is ginseng (Panax ginseng, C. A. Mayer). Whether the root actually possesses any therapeutic properties is a disputed point; but the Chinese have implicit confidence in its virtues, and so long as that exists the demand for it will continue. As in Korea, it is indigenous to the country, and it is found in a wild state in the forests of Kirin, especially in the Ch'ang-pai Shan Range, where ginseng seekers annually scour the mountains in search of it. When a wild plant is found its age is carefully noted by observing the quantity of its foliage. I am told that a plant of one year's growth has only one three-fingured leaf on a short stem; in the second year, two similar leaves; in the third year the leaves are four fingered; and so on until in the fifth year it has a longish stalk with several petioles, each with five-fingered leaves. After this it blossoms and fruits, throwing up a continuation of its stalk, crowned with an umbel, from the junction of the petioles. In the seventh year the root is sufficiently matured to be dug up and prepared for market. In Japan, on the other hand, it matures much more rapidly, being ripe in the third or fourth year. If, then, the plant which has been discovered in a wild state has already reached, or is approaching maturity, it is either dug up or its position carefully marked until it has fully matured. If, however, it is still young, it is usually dug up and transplanted near the spot where it has been found (the transplanting causing it to grow more rapidly) or in a place where it will be under the eye and care of the cultivator. This transplanting distinguishes the first from the second quality of the drug.

The root that matures in an entirely wild state is the more valuable. But nearly all the ginseng exported from Manchuria is grown from seed, which is sown in narrow beds in the valleys among the mountains; this constitutes the third quality. In growing from seed the plants are invariably transplanted when they are a year old.

PREPARATION FOR MARKET.

After the matured roots are dug up they are thoroughly washed in cold water and every particle of earth removed by a soft brush, great care being taken that the epidermis is not bruised or injured. They are then of a yellowish color; but in their natural, fresh state they would soon rot, so that steps have to be taken to preserve them. An ordinary rice bowl is filled half full of clean sugar (white or brown, according to the color to be imparted to the roots) and boiling water is poured thereon. When cool the mixture is of a treacly consistency and it is then used for coating the roots, being applied by means of a soft brush. When coated the roots are laid on a piece of clean cloth, spread on the top of a grating over a pot of boiling water, a wooden lid or cap being placed over all. The steam ascending through the cloth softens the roots, which absorb part of the sugar, the remainder finding its way through the cloth into the boiling water, where it ultimately sinks to the bottom of the pot and recrystallizes. This sugar, not unlike taffy, has acquired a slight flavor of ginseng and is sold as "ginseng sugar." During the steaming of the ginseng roots the coating of sugar is frequently applied, until they are sufficiently sweetened. They are then removed from the steamer and spread on trays to dry in a not too powerful sun. When dry this ginseng, now less than one-third of its original weight, is very much softer than Korean ginseng, which is nearly as hard as stone and very brittle.

In Japan, ginseng, although also sun dried, is usually baked for two or three days in kilns heated to a temperature of 210° to 250° F., and probably some similar system is adopted in Korea. At any rate, I am assured that considerable quantities of Manchurian ginseng are taken to Korea for treatment, and it is not unlikely that much of the so-called Korean ginseng is really Manchurian-grown ginseng preserved in Korea. True, in former years, when Korea paid annual tribute to China, Korean ginseng was brought into Manchuria in large quantities; for the members of mission, whose route to Peking lay through southern Manchuria, were permitted to carry, free of duty, certain fixed amounts, each according to his rank.

CATERING TO THE DIFFERENT MARKETS.

A careful examination of the head of a ginseng root reveals a series of fine parallel horizontal wrinkles or indentations, which, if natural, stamp the root in the eyes of a ginseng connoisseur as valuable on account of its age; but the Chinese in Manchuria are clever enough to produce artificial indentations if they do not naturally exist or are insufficient in number. During the steaming process a thread is wound round the head. The steaming causes the root to swell, with the exception of the parts beyond the thread, and when the root contracts in drying the artificial wrinkles remain.

There is, again, a recognized taste in the matter of ginseng. The southern Provinces of China, such as Kwangtung, Kwangsi, and Fukien, take white only; whereas the central Provinces, such as Kiangsu, Anhui, Hunan, and Hupeh, prefer the red, and, to satisfy the latter taste, brown instead of white sugar is used for coating the roots while they are being steamed, thereby imparting a pale, reddish tint to the epidermis. Much of the Korean ginseng is pronouncedly red, but whether this coloring is artificial or due, as some think, to the ferruginous soil in which it is grown I am not in a position to say. It is impossible to state even approximately the value of ginseng, for the real wild root has been known to realize a thousand times its own weight in silver, while ordinary cultivated ginseng may be purchased in the market for about $1.70 a catty of 1 1-3 pounds.

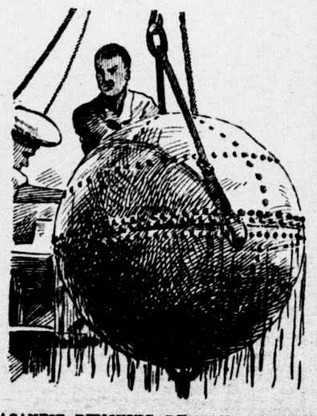
The clarified ginseng exported to China from the United States is made from the root of a species of ginseng which grows in the Appalachian Mountains.

PRICES OF GINSENG.

The prices vary greatly according to size of pieces and locality from which they come.

PRESENT PRICE OF GINSENG.

Description.	Value. Taels.*	
Wild, per ounce	60.00	$37.08
Cultivated:		
From Kirin, per catty	1.00	.618
From Tao Tou Kiang, per catty	.70	.43
From Wang Shing men (in mountains near Mukden) per catty	2.80	1.73
From Shih ku Tzu District in Ch'ang-pai-Shan Mountains, per catty	1.70	1.05
45 pieces to the catty	1.70	1.05
25 pieces to the catty	4.20	2.60



JAPANESE REMOVING RUSSIAN MINES AT THE ENTRANCE TO DALNY HARBOR.

WHENCE CHINA PROCURES GINSENG.

Ginseng is imported into China from three different countries—the United States, Japan and Korea.

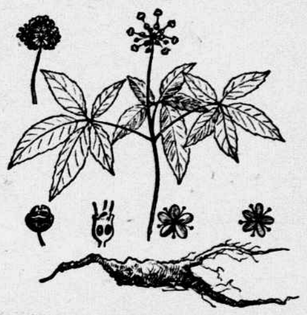
That from the United States and Japan goes mostly to Hongkong and Shanghai first and is thence distributed to the other ports, while that from Korea goes to Chefoo mostly.

KOREAN GINSENG.

In 1899 there was imported into China from Korea 180 piculs of 133 pounds each, valued at 415,870 haikwan taels ($299,426). In 1902 there was imported into China from Korea, 544 piculs of 133 pounds each, valued at 1,020,538 haikwan taels ($663,350).

The Korean ginseng business is carried on under some kind of a monopoly, and it is reported that some years large quantities are destroyed in order to maintain prices.

All Korean ginseng is cultivated and the price at present in large quantities as imported is 38 taels ($23.58) per catty of 1 1-3 pounds.



DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE GINSENG PLANT.

The price is much higher since the business has been handled as a monopoly. The demand is stronger for the Korean ginseng because it is believed to have greater medicinal virtue, due to the soil in which it is raised, and also because it is all of a uniform quality and older age. It is next to the wild ginseng of Manchuria in price.

The value is governed by the number of pieces required to make a catty; thus, of the clarified, the 60-piece standard is worth 35 taels ($21.70) and the 250 piece is worth 20 taels ($12.40), while the crude ranges from 11 taels to 26 taels ($6.82 to $16.12) for the standards of 250 to 600. I am informed that the actual number of pieces per catty is not 60 or 250, but from three to five times that number.

The climate in Manchuria and Korea where the ginseng is grown is rather dry and cold. In Manchuria it is grown in the mountainous district, where the Winter temperature is often 30° and 40° F. below zero.

Like most things in China, the sentiment of age adds much to its value, and specimens from 40 to 50 years old have been known to sell at from 500 to 1,000 taels each.

CULTIVATION.

It is grown from seed and also from the cuttings of the root. It is protected from the sun by covering that is removed at night. It thrives best in soil made of decayed wood, leaves, etc. The largest is considered the most valuable. The wild variety is considered valuable in reviving vitality and bringing youth to old age. The American is especially prescribed by Chinese doctors for strengthening the heart and purifying the blood.

For the Canton market and southern China it must be boiled or treated with sugar; but the Shanghai market does not demand this kind.

HENRY B. MILLER,
Consul.

Niuchwang, China, February 5, 1904.

*These prices are given in Niuchwang taels (61.8 cents United States gold).

NEXT ROOM TO A NERVOUS MAN.

Traveler's Story of a Severe Strain on Weak Nerves.

(Indianapolis News.)

"A traveling man stopped at a hotel at Monticello. The proprietor told him he could not lodge him, not a room in the house," said a commercial traveler. "The traveling man protested. He must have a room. Finally the proprietor told him there was a room, a little room separated by a thin partition from a nervous man, a man who had lived in the house for 10 years.

"'He is so nervous,' said the landlord, 'I don't dare put any one in that room. The least noise might give him a nervous spell that would endanger his life.'

"'Oh, give me a room,' said the traveler, 'I'll be so quiet he'll not know I'm there.'

"Well, the room was given the traveler. He slipped in noiselessly and began to disrobe. He took off one article of clothing after another as quietly as a burglar. At last he came to his shoes. He unlaced a shoe and then, man-like, dropped it.

"The shoe fell to the floor with a great noise. The offending traveler, horrified at what he had done, waited to hear from the nervous man. Not a sound. He took off the second shoe and placed it noiselessly upon the floor. Then in absolute silence he finished undressing and crawled between the sheets.

"Half an hour went by. He had dropped into a dose when there came a tremendous knocking on the partition.

"The traveler sat up in bed trembling and dismayed. 'Wh—wha—what's the matter?' he asked. Then came the voice of the nervous man:

"'Blame you! Drop that other shoe!'"

Jews in the World.

According to a rough census made by Professor Haman, of Switzerland, there are 19,000,000 Jews in the world. Of these it is figured that the United States has 1,000,000, Europe 10,000,000 and countries outside of Europe 8,000,000. Professor Haman gives this distribution of the Jews in Europe: Russia, 5,000,000; Austria-Hungary, 1,860,000; Germany, 568,000; Roumania, 300,000; Great Britain, 200,000; Turkey, 120,000; Holland, 97,000; France, 77,000; Italy, 50,000; Servia, 5,000; Switzerland, 12,000; Denmark, 4,000; Belgium, 3,000; Spain, 2,500, and Portugal, only 300.

Deepest Hole in the Sea.

The deepest sounding ever made by any vessel was by the United States ship Nero, while on the Honolulu-Manila cable survey. When near Guam the Nero got 5,269 fathoms, or 31,614 feet, only 66 feet less than six miles. If Mount Everett, the highest mountain on earth, were set down in this hole, it would have above its summit a depth of 2,612 feet, or nearly half a mile of water.

About as Usual.

(Town and Country.)

Lady (who is on a visit to her native town)—How is Mrs. Gabb? I haven't seen her in a long time.

Hostess—She is having her usual ups and downs.

Lady Visitor—And what may that be, I pray?

Hostess—Oh, running up bills and running down her neighbors.

A Great Invention.

John A. Stransky, of Pukwana, S. D., has received a patent for a new smokeless gunpowder that will revolutionize the powder business and make the inventor rich. He says it can be made for seven cents per pound, and one pound will go as far as two pounds of black powder, and one and one-half of the best smokeless powder. There is but a slight report made and the recoil or kick is not noticeable. The powder is smokeless and can be made in any kitchen. Mr. Stransky wants a few agents to introduce this powder. He has agents who are making as high as $250 per month. Write for free particulars.

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CHURCH KAVA KAVA
THE BOTANICAL
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SHRUB DISCOVERY
POSITIVELY CURES
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FREE FROM ALCOHOL OR OTHER IRRITANT
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A "CORN-GOSPEL" TRAIN.

Lectures and Practical Demonstrations From Rear-End Platforms—A Significant Lesson in the New Agriculture.

BY F. G. MOORHEAD.

(World's Work.)

Corn is our greatest crop. Iowa produces more corn than any other State or country in the world, but its yield did not satisfy Mr. P. G. Holden, Professor of Agronomy at the Iowa State Agricultural College. In 1902, the average yield for each acre was 34 bushels; in 1903, the average yield was 31 bushels. Professor Holden said, "Why, with good weather, should the high yield not only be maintained, but increased?" An increase of only one bushel an acre, using last year's crop as basis, would mean an increase for 1904 of 7,398,320 bushels, worth $2,660,395.20 at market price last December.

Professor Holden began to experiment with corn from Iowa and other corn-producing States. After a year of planting and growing, he found that, with proper seed-corn and right planting the yield increased. These scientific tests, made at the State Experimental Station, showed that the increase would range from five to 10 bushels per acre for the fertile fields and from two to five bushels per acre for the less-favored soil. The secret of the desired increase, therefore, was in the education of the corn-growers. Convinced of this fact, he continued his experiments and his comparisons. In 1903, Green and Winnebago Counties had the poorest average of productivity to the acre—20 bushels; yet, the year before, Green County had produced 31 bushels to the acre and Winnebago County 30 bushels. It was a significant change.

Iowa produces more than one-seventh of all the corn grown in the United States.

Professor Holden believed that Iowa could produce millions more bushels of corn than any other State without exhausting the soil.

He showed the Iowa State Agricultural College students how to select the proper seed-corn and how to plant it. But the students were only a small proportion of the vast number of corn-growers in the State. If his scientific experiments were to be of value, they must be generally known.

Professor Holden established corn-judging contests at the State Fair, annually held in Des Moines. Scholarships in the State Agricultural College were offered as prizes to the farm lads, within certain ages, who brought from their homes the best ears of corn and gave their reasons for the selection, together with information as to the selecting and planting of seed-corn. The contests quickly grew in favor, but the work did not reach the great body of farmers throughout the State.

Professor Holden then explained his crop-increase plan to the leading freight-carrying roads traversing the State. At first they doubted, then became interested, and finally entered into the proposition enthusiastically. The Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway was the first to offer a special train and to guarantee the expenses of the trip. The offer was accepted by Professor Holden.

The "Corn-Gospel Train," as it was called, started in central Iowa, and it was run on time-table schedule. Two weeks before the train started, the list of all stopping places and the schedule time of arrival there was announced on hand-bills and by notices sent by the rural free delivery of mail to every farmer in territory contiguous to the Rock Island route. Half-hour stops were made for every town. Professor Holden was accompanied by Professor Sage and his assistants, railway officials, and newspaper representatives.

Attached to the special train was a large audience car, and in this Professor Holden lectured to the farmers who met him at every station. When the crowd was too large for the car, overflow meetings were held on the station platforms. Frequently, the assistants would be called upon to repeat the message to those on the outskirts of the crowd who could not hear Professor Holden. The average attendance at the stations was 100. When a 20-minute address was completed, Professor Holden conducted a short question parliament, specimens of good and bad seed-corn were exhibited, and, with a last farewell and a cheer from the farmers, the train departed for the next station. Often Professor Holden spoke from the rear platform of the train. At one of the stops he said:

"When we consider that more than 9,000,000 acres, considerably over one-fourth of the entire area of the State, is planted in corn each season, and that it requires more than 1,300,000 bushels of seed to plant this area; and when we realize that the character of the seed, its vitality, breeding, purity, adaptability to the soil and climate, and uniformity in both size and shape of the kernels, all exercise a great influence on the future yield, the great importance of paying the closest attention to the corn for seed purposes cannot be overestimated.

"It is well known that most of the seed-corn put on the market by seedsmen is bought of farmers in crib lots, shelled, screened, and sacked ready for sale, little or no attention being paid to the selection—in fact, it is generally handled with a scoop-shovel, and is known as the 'scoop-shovel method of selection.' The chances are that the farmer has in his own crib better corn than that which he purchases from seedsmen at four or five times the market price; and then he runs the additional risk that it will not mature in his locality.

"If it were simply a matter of losing the price of the bushel of imported seed-corn, it would not be serious; but when we consider that a bushel of seed-corn ought to produce 400 bushels of corn, worth from $130 to $160, the serious nature of the question is very apparent. If for any reason, my own corn was not satisfactory for seed, I certainly would not send far south for seed corn, but would purchase from some one in the vicinity whose corn has given good results during the past three or four years.

"In securing seed, the factor of greatest importance is the purchase of that corn which will give the largest yield per acre and of the best quality. The acre is the unit in corn production, and, therefore, that seed is the best which gives the largest yield per acre. Carefully selected seed of pure-bred varieties give the largest yields. Hence, the important question for the farmer who for any reason must purchase seed-corn this year is not one of cost, but of quality. It will prove far more profitable to pay three or four dollars for a bushel of seed-corn which will germinate well, and insure an even stand and a large yield, than to accept an inferior grade, even though the first cost be exceedingly low. Purchasing seed-corn in the ear offers the farmer the surest and safest way to secure seed which will prove satisfactory.

"Heretofore, the common practice among corn-breeders and seedsmen has been to send out shelled corn to farmers. This method of handling seed-corn can never, in any adequate way, really help the corn-growers of the State to improve their corn. This is true because much of this corn has been indiscriminately purchased from farmers who have paid no attention to the selection and breeding of corn. For this reason, this seed often proves no better than that which the farmer himself has been growing in years past, if as good."

At the end of the third day of the trip, 450 miles had been traveled, fifty stations visited, 60 lectures delivered, aggregating 18 hours of talking, 15 Iowa Counties had been crossed, and the message of proper planting carried to the tillers of 3,000,000 acres of Iowa farm land, of which fully one-third is devoted to corn-growing.

When the Rock Island tour was completed, another was immediately begun on the Des Moines, Iowa Falls & Northern Railway. The third trip was made on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad. Nearly one-half of the 99 Counties, embracing 150 farming communities in the State were visited, and 15,000 growers—more than one-half of the corn-growers of the State—were personally interested. At the conclusion of his first trip, Professor Holden said that he believed the yield this year will be increased from five to 10 bushels per acre in the districts traversed by him. When the last trip was completed, he estimated that the average State increase would be three bushels to the acre, which would bring the 1904 average yield up to 1902 average, and increase the 1903 aggregate value of the corn crop, at the last year's figures, by nearly $8,000,000.

The greatest practical benefit of the tour resulted from the object-lessons as to the good and the bad seed-corn, which taught the farmer to judge his seed carefully, to know what to use and what to throw away. It was a simple lesson in good farming.

Helping His Cause.

(Pittsburg Dispatch.)

Gov. "Jeff" Davis of Arkansas, who won a big victory over his Democratic opponent, Judge Woods, is a very skillful campaigner in the hill country. Among the "red necks" he is very popular. When he goes among the hills he travels behind a yoke of oxen, the popular mode of locomotion there, and calls every "red neck" by name. During the week immediately preceding the last primary election, held a week ago last Saturday, Gov. Davis, driving a yoke of spotted oxen, reached the metropolis of one of the hill Counties.

He went into the hotel, and there found a letter from his wife at the Executive Mansion in Little Rock. He was still reading the letter when a party of his "red neck" constituents came into the hotel office to greet him.

"Hello, Zach!" said the hearty Governor, grasping the outstretched hand of the first man in the party. "How's the folks?"

"They're all right, Jeff," answered the delighted "red neck." "How's your folks?"

"Jes' got a lettah from my wife," answered the Governor, holding up the dainty notepaper. "She's right pert, too, but plum nigh beat out. Been a-biling soap all day!"

And so another link was forged in the chain which binds the hill dwellers to the political fortunes of this most skillful and astute of campaigners.

The Servant Question.

Mrs. Dore Lyon, of the National Federation of Women's Clubs, was talking about the servant question.

"A maid at my hotel," said Mrs. Lyon, "told me last night a new servant girl story. She said that a St. Louis woman engaged a new servant and gave her a number of instructions about her duties. In conclusion she said:

"'And, Hannah, we have breakfast at 8 o'clock.'

"'Very well, mum,' Hannah answered. 'If I'm not down by that time don't wait for me.'"

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