

Canada has about doubled its railway mileage in ten years.

Twenty million dollars is the estimated worth of flax products imported into this country last year, and our farmers are said, records the New York World, to have destroyed 1,070,000 tons of flaxstraw.

A joint committee of the two houses of the English Parliament has reported electricity a suitable and efficient source of motive power, and recommended that electric railway construction be encouraged throughout England.

The great question in Paris, learns the Boston Transcript, is whether she shall hold a World's Fair in 1900. It is agreed that the Champs de Mars, and such buildings as survive from the great shows of 1869, 1878 and 1889 shall not be used.

What is now North Berwick, Me., was known as Doughty's Falls thirty years ago. A postal clerk says that occasionally letters are even now addressed to Doughty's Falls, and that he has had one such in his hands within the last month.

A woman voted at the recent Parliamentary election at Birmingham, England. Some question arose as to the validity of the vote, but the mayor and town clerk agreed with the Liberal agent that the lady's name had somehow got upon the register the returning officer had no option but to receive her ballot.

"It is curious," muses the Boston Transcript, "how one invention renders a previous invention useless. Since the coming in of the electric cars, the patent switches which were turned by the horses have become inoperative and the railway company has gone back to first principles—that is to say, to a man with a switch-hook."

The Chicago Herald is astonished that although the United States is a country possessing immense timber tracts, it appears that it imported wood and wood products to the value of \$21,772,135 in the year ending June 30, 1891, and in the same time exported similar articles to the value of \$44,811,004.

An English writer tells an amusing story of a country house where a regular daily routine is observed, and where no chance is given one of breaking the monotony. It is of a man who wanted to stay in a country-house, thinking it would give him the opportunity of proposing to a girl with whom he had been in love for a long time. His visit was to last a fortnight, but the last evening came without his having had one chance of being alone with her during the whole time. As he sat at dinner (of course he was at the opposite end of the table to where she was), he felt the time was fast passing away, and in a few hours he would no longer be in the same house with her. When the ladies went to the drawing-room, he would have to sit on in the dining-room. His host might allow him to look in at the drawing-room for a few minutes that evening, but after that his presence would be required in the billiard-room. In utter desperation he took up the menu card, and on it wrote: "Will you marry me?" He doubled it up, telling the butler to give it to the lady in question. He did so. She read it, and, with the perfect sangfroid born only of the nineteenth century, said: "Tell the gentleman, 'Yes.'"

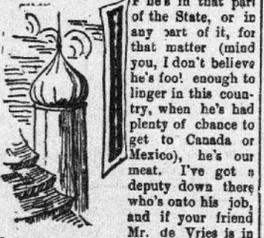
The Boston Brimmer School had this year an exhibition of what is known as the Swedish "sloyd" work—"sloyd" signifying both to plan and to execute. The work was first taught in the North Bennet Street Industrial School in 1888, and consists in copying on paper and then in actual material any model put before the pupil. In 1889 Gustaf Larsson went to the school and modified the series of models to fit American ideas, the models previously used having been Swedish entirely. In Sweden the plan seems to have been for the pupil to construct his object directly from the model without making a working drawing, and the improvements in the direction of designs were added by Mr. Larsson at a later period. According to the report of the Boston Superintendent of Schools, there are now about 400 pupils in that city receiving shop instruction, mostly in wood-working. There are six shops for instruction in wood-working by either the Swedish or Russian systems. The boys are said to consider the "sloyd" work as much a part of their regular course as any other study. The entire course in the work of the past year included the construction of about thirty-five models, ranging from the simple whittling of a wedge to the complex making of a cabinet having a drawer and a door with carved panels. This work is divided, for the grammar schools, into a three years' course, taking about 300 hours.

THE MOWER.

He went with the sunlight leaping Over the hillside's rim, And his curls were like meadow lilies Under his wide straw brim; His eyes like the orchery blossoms, Blue, with their sky-like look, His glad cheeks redder than clover And brown as a sunny brook All day in the upland meadow He swings his heart with his scythe. Ah, slow sweet wind from the hilltop, Hurry thy heavy wing! Bring sent of his ferns and daisies, And his whetstone's silver ring, And lift the curls on his forehead With thy fingers coy and free, And whisper so low he hears not, Whisper one thought of me! All day in the upland meadow He swings his heart with his scythe. Does the meadow lark cease her crooning To trouble at watch him pass? Does he startle the bobolink From her nest in the dewy grass? 'Tis only so, with his coming He dutters his heart in her nest. Ah, gentle and cruel, he stays not, And fain would he not molest! All day in the upland meadow He swings his heart with his scythe. The lilies bow down before him, The low grass shudders and starts, The daisies faint with their fortunes And secrets around their hearts. With his stroke so awe-inspiring and steady, His forehead tranquil and sweet, How little he cares what blossoms Are sinking under his feet! All day in the upland meadow He swings his heart with his scythe. —The Independent

A BAD MAN.

BY R. L. KETCHUM.



"If he's in that part of the State, or in any part of it, for that matter (mind you, I don't believe he's fool enough to linger in this country, when he's had plenty of chance to get to Canada or Mexico), he's our meat. I've got a deputy down there who's onto his job, and if your friend Mr. de Vries is in that neck of the woods, States can produce him in twenty-four hours." That is what the United States marshal said to the special agent of the Treasury Department, who had come West in search of Mr. Hamilton de Vries, absconding bank president. The latter, unwittingly, had got himself into trouble with Uncle Sam, as well as with the authorities of his State, and was, therefore, in a surer way to get into the hands of justice than if he had been careful not to tamper with the patience of the long suffering one aforesaid. The marshal was so certain of his deputy's ability to lay hands of Mr. de Vries—if, as the special agent believed, the ex-bank president was sojourning in said deputy's neighborhood—that the agent, who was only human, and, besides, had no personal interest in the matter, left the affairs, for the present, in the marshal's hands and proceeded to take life as easily as possible while he might—it was much better than going, partly by stage or horseback, into a wild and woolly region after a man who might not be there, after all. While the special agent, who had been up late the night previous, yawning and stretched, preparatory to leaving to return to his hotel, the marshal wrote a telegram to be sent to the deputy who looked after the three "tough" counties in the southeast corner of the State. "Here, Ball take this to the office, will you?" And to Uncle Sam's emissary he remarked: "Now, then, that's settled. Stiles'll have him by Saturday, if he's there." When the marshal appointed Bob Stiles a deputy, and assigned to him the duty of attending to the three southeast counties, he knew what he was about. He had always been a firm believer in the truth of the old saying that "it takes a thief to catch a thief." On the same principle, he held that it required a bad man to handle bad men; and in making his appointment for Jones, Elkhorn and Antelope Counties, he had no hesitancy in selecting Mr. Stiles, whose application for the position was endorsed by many leading citizens—not because they were keen to see Bob get the place, but because he asked them to endorse him, and a refusal to do so involved possible, indeed, probable, unpleasant consequences. Yes, Bob Stiles was, undeniably a bad man. Not that he had ever made himself amenable to the law—at least, not that anybody knew of—but he had a blood-stained obituary list of persons who had disagreed with him, and a beautiful disregard for the consequences of anything he chose to do; and he chose to do some very peculiar things, especially when he had over-indulged in his favorite intoxicant, which was quite frequently. When Mr. Stiles was not engaged in his official duties, his avocation was that of gambler, and he was not an over-scrupulous one, either; in fact, I am obliged to confess, albeit with much reluctance, that Mr. Stiles enjoyed "skinning a sucker" as well as did any member of the fraternity. It happened, however, that, one sad night—the very night before the day the marshal sent him the telegram concerning the missing bank president—Mr. Stiles and a confederate had sat in a game with a supposed "sucker" from the mines, who turned out to be very much of a player himself, and that Mr. Stiles and his friend rose from the game "busted," and each owing the house for several stacks of chips, and Mr. Stiles stood on a corner, this bright afternoon, looking very down-beaten and sadly out of his usual spirits, when the boy came along with his telegram. "Hm! Tall man—black whiskers—dark complexioned—gray eyes." Um! Mister! I'll look after ye 't'morrow, Mister de Vries!" He had been walking as he read, and had reached the postoffice by this time. In response to his inquiry, the clerk handed him an official-looking envelope. He retired to a corner to read it, and the contents made his eyes dance. "Stiles, buy! Hyar's luck fer ye, Bobby, of buenol! Hyar's hundred dollars 'ward! Thanks, Bobby, we don't care of ye do; oh, no, not any!" And as Mr. Robert Stiles walked up the street to his usual

"Bang-out," he felt quite cheerful, and whistled as though the five hundred dollars were already in his possession, who came one evening and stayed only until the next morning.

So, despite Mr. de Vries's protests, he was disarmed and put in charge of the landlady, while Stiles searched his room. A little later, he was riding toward Columbus beside the deputy-marshal; while ahead of them, with Mr. de Vries's possessions, drove Jem, in the buckboard.

It was not a pleasant ride for Mr. de Vries. He shifted in his saddle and eyed the officer nervously, hoping the latter would give him an opportunity to break away—but none was presented. Then Mr. de Vries bethought himself of a scheme. He tapped his companion on the shoulder.

"Say, marshal, I've got something besides what's in the grip" (and he pointed to the satchel in the buckboard, which Bob had found, containing a goodly portion of Mr. de Vries's funds).

The officer began whistling softly, and his prisoner took this as a favorable sign. He halted.

"Marshal, look here. I've got six thousand dollars, and no more, in my pockets. I need a thousand to get out of the country with you—understand that—but if you'll let me go, I'll give you the rest. Isn't that fair?"

The officer spoke.

"Just ride up a little ahead o' me, will ye?" he said. "I never like to have a man laggin'; I want to keep an eye on 'im."

Later, after he had seen his prisoner safely lodged in the county jail for the night, the deputy-marshal, with some difficulty, managed to borrow a twenty to go and "sit in" a game with—San Francisco Argonaut.

two weeks before, and had, a day or two after his arrival, held a secret conference with two other strangers, who came one evening and stayed only until the next morning.

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The Chocolate Nut or Bean.

The chocolate nut or bean is the seed of a small tree native of tropical America, and now cultivated most extensively in Brazil, Venezuela, New Granada and Trinidad, but as the trees will thrive in almost all tropical countries their cultivation may be extended almost without limit. The plants are easily raised from seed, which should be sown in nursery rows on moist soils and then transplanted when two or three years old. In transplanting the young trees they are placed about fifteen feet apart and shaded with bananas or some other equally rapid growing broad-leaved plants. Rich bottom lands are preferred for chocolate plantations, in order to secure plenty of moisture at the roots. The tree comes into bearing when five or six years old, and soon shades the ground and crowd out all weeds and other vegetation. There are, however, several varieties of this species of the cacao, some being better fitted for dry grounds and hilly situations than others. The fruit somewhat resembles a cucumber when growing, and are from six to ten inches long, each containing from fifty to one hundred seeds. When the seeds are first removed from the fruit they are covered with mucilage, which causes a slight fermentation when the seeds are placed in heaps, as they generally are for this purpose, in order to destroy this sticky substance; after which they are spread out and dried in the sun, acquiring the brown color of the beans of commerce. No "evaporator" is needed to prepare the beans for market. The beans are shipped to various countries in their dry and natural state and sold to the manufacturers of chocolate. Great Britain takes about 10,000,000 pounds annually for home consumption in addition to a vast quantity for export.—New York Sun.

Reverable Snakes in India.

A snake not often heard of, at least in America, is the liver-colored snake with two heads, or perhaps they should be called mouths, though it does not have two mouths at the same time. They are reversible mouths, occupying the opposite end every six months. It lies with the two ends crossed in each other, as with folded hands. Every six months the change of the seasons reverses the functions of the two ends, the head becoming the tail and the tail becoming the head. The mouth at one end heats or closes up all but a small opening, while the opposite end becomes the mouth for the next six months.

A friend of mine in India who told me about this remarkable snake said he refused for a long time to believe that the functions of the two ends were reversed every six months, but one day he found one of these snakes in the jungle and carried it home, where he had a physician examine it. The result was the physician confirmed the stories of the creature, and my friend was skeptical no longer. I learned no other name for this singular reptile than that of "the liver-colored snake."—Hartford (Conn.) Times.

Cooking With Ice for Fat.

The generally accepted theory of the cooking of meat relates to the application of heat; but Dr. Sawiczewsky has called attention to the fact that almost precisely the same chemical and physical changes can be accomplished by the exposure of animal flesh to extreme cold. Indeed, the sensation experienced by touching frozen mercury is very much that of a feverish burn.

Then the experimenter referred to applied his method to the preservation of meats, first by subjecting them to a temperature of thirty-three below zero, Fahrenheit, and then sealing them in hermetically in tin vessels. Animals and substances which had been so treated and for some time kept in these boxes, on examination proved to be extremely palatable, and, being partially cooked, required very little heat to prepare them for the table.

An establishment in Hungary is now engaged in the preparation of meat by this method on an extensive scale.—New York World.

The Ticket Seller's Parrot.

Ben Lusbie, who for fifteen years was one of the greatest features of Barum's circus in the capacity of "lightning ticket seller," had a wonderful parrot, which had been presented to him by one of the caravansmen of the show, who was at one time a sailor on a steamer plying between Boston and Fernandino, in the Bahamas. Lusbie used to have a way of quieting the scrambling mob of ticket-purchasers around the ticket wagon by saying, "Don't be in a hurry, gentlemen. 'There's plenty of time." "Don't crowd each other." "One at a time, gentlemen," and such like expressions. The parrot, which was perched upon the sa-



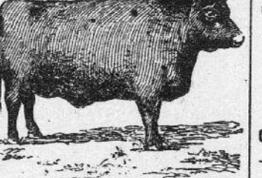
A PARROT IN ADVERSITY.

in the wagon just back of Lusbie, got to learn these little speeches after a season's tour and often broke out in a piercing squawk with one of them, much to Lusbie's amusement. The parrot, which was quite a little vagabond, broke loose from her fetters one day and flew over to a neighboring woods, near the circus grounds.

A searching party was made up, and they had not proceeded far before they heard a vast racket, apparently made by squawking birds. Hastening to the scene they found poor Poll clinging as best she could to the limb of a dead tree, surrounded by a screaming flock of crows. The parrot had only two or three tail feathers left, and the hostile crows were striking, pecking and plucking her right and left. Hanging on as best she could the parrot was shrilly screaming, "One at a time, gentlemen! Don't crowd there!" "Take your time!" "There's plenty more left."—Indianapolis Journal.

An English Prize Cow.

The accompanying portrait is the Polled Angus "Achievement," which has taken first prize in a number of the great cattle shows in England. She was sired by



Evander, 3717, dam, Abbess III., 3616. She was the seventh successive heifer calf which her dam produced, and through her goes back to the well known Easter Tulloch stock.

A Forger Cleverly Trapped.

In a trial of political importance, the whole case of which hinged upon the question of the genuineness of certain letters, the most important witness was, while under examination, suddenly taken by surprise by being called to write down a particular word which occurred in the letters, with the word mispelt in an identically similar fashion to that in which it appeared in the correspondence, and the clever forger was soon after detected in the witness himself.—Argonaut.

The Disappearance of Rastus.



"Rastus, what is 'ere I is?" "You, chile!" —Puck.

Cape of Good Hope (South Africa) Fruit.

Particularly peaches, grapes and pears, have secured a good footing in the London market, and account sales show a handsome profit notwithstanding the high freight charges.

Physiological Puzzles.

The curious organs of the throat known as the tonsils—whose function has been a source of much perplexity—are believed by Dr. Lovel Gulland to be glands in which the white corpuscles are formed. It is these corpuscles are constantly at war with disease germs in the blood. Some of the white corpuscles, if Dr. Gulland's novel theory be true, are stationed as sanitary sentinels to guard the entrance to the throat, lungs and stomach, while the corpuscles circulating in the blood act as an army to attack the germs that succeed in entering the body. Another physician contends that the vermiform appendix, another apparently useless organ, and one that often gives serious and fatal trouble, is also a gland, and that it acts as an intestinal tonsil.—Treaton (N. J.) American.

Valuable Mineral in Louisiana.

It is said that Edward F. Lemar, a resident of Western Louisiana, has discovered on his property an extensive deposit of black oxide of manganese, a mineral of much use in the arts, and very valuable. The deposit forms a stratum averaging about eight feet in thickness and covering an area, according to researches made by Mr. Lemar, of over a square mile. The stratum of manganese is covered by about two feet of a material which recent experiments have proven an excellent cement.—New Orleans Picayune.

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ACT OF JUNE 27, 1890.

—Pensions soldiers and sailors of the war of rebellion who served 90 days and were honorably discharged from the service, and who are incapacitated for performance of manual labor, and for the widows, children, dependent parents, fathers and mothers. All pensions under this Act will commence from the date of filing the formal application (after the passage of the Act) in the Pension Bureau. No application for pension under this act will be good unless filed in the Pension Bureau on or after June 27, 1890. (Act of the Act) on or after June 27, 1890, substantially prescribed by the Secretary. The rates: For dependent father or mother, \$12; the widow, \$5 and \$3 additional for each child of soldier under sixteen years; and if the widow dies, the child or children can draw such pension. The soldier is entitled to any rate from \$5 to \$13 per month, according to inability to earn a support. A pensioner under existing laws may apply under this one, or a pensioner under this one may apply under other laws, but can draw only one pension at the same time. This law requires in a soldier's or sailor's case:

- (1) An honorable discharge.
- (2) That he served at least ninety days.
- (3) A permanent physical or mental inability to earn a support, by no vicious habits. (It need not have originated in the service.)

CASE OF A WIDOW.

- (1) That the soldier or sailor served at least ninety days.
- (2) That he was honorably discharged.
- (3) Proof of death, but it need not have been the result of his Army or Navy service.
- (4) That the widow is without other means of support that her only labor.
- (5) That she married soldier prior to June 27, 1890, the date of the Act.

DEPENDENT FATHER'S CASE.

- (1) That the soldier or sailor died of a wound, injury or disease, which, under prior law, would have given him a pension.
- (2) That he left no wife or minor child.
- (3) That the mother or father is at present dependent on her or his own manual labor; being "without other present means of support than his own manual labor, or the contributions of others not legally bound for their support." The benefits of the first section of the Act of June 27, 1890, are not confined to the parents of those who served in the war of the rebellion, but are extended to all persons whose pensionable dependence has arisen on account of the death of one who served, since said war, in behalf of the United States, as well as for disabilities contracted before or since discharged.
- (4) That in case a minor child is insane, idiotic or otherwise permanently helpless, the pension shall continue during the period of such disability, and his provisions shall apply to all pensions heretofore granted, or hereafter to be granted, under any former statute, and such pensions shall commence from the date of application therefor after passage of this Act.

The rules and regulations of the Department will govern all applications and returns.

Under Act of June 27, 1890, pensions are granted to Soldiers and Sailors discharged from old age, infirmity, etc.

NOTICE.—Dr. W. R. Lastrape

having recently been appointed U. S. Examining Surgeon for Pensions at Opelousas, La., it is now of special importance for persons to come to me and make out their applications. For a fee now being examined without having to sustain the expense of going to New Orleans for medical examination, at which place they have heretofore been subjected to go.

HART H. SANDOZ,

U. S. Pension Agent

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