The only WOMAN'S Page

THE NEWEST STYLE IN RIDING HABITS.

IN THE CHURCHES.

SPECIAL MUSICAL PROGRAMMES HEARD YESTERDAY IN NEW-YORK AND BROOKLYN.

THREE LITTLE GIRL VIOLINISTS WHO PLAY REGULARLY IN THE ORCHESTRA OF THE BAPTIST TEMPLE, IN THE CITY OF CHURCHES.

The New-York Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, had a special musical service yesterday. The following programme was given, under the direction of Abram Ray Tyler: Prelude, "Meditation," by Alphonse Mailly; "Italian Hymn," Giardini; offertory, Haydn; an oratorio by Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy, and selections from "Elijah." The soloists were Mrs. Edward C. Towne, soprano; Fred A. Grant, tenor; Miss Miriam Gilmer, alto, and Edwin J. Webster, basso.

Dr. Henry G. Hanchett is choir director at the Central Congregational Church, Hancock-st., Brooklyn. The music last night consisted of an organ prelude, an anthem, "One There Is Above All Others," by Vincent; an offertory quartet, "Thou Who Art Love Divine," Chadwick, led by Mrs. Mechlin, assisted by Miss Cheseborough, Mr. Grotecloss and Mr. Bowman, and a postlude, fantasia in C minor, Moyte.

At the Church of the Good Shepherd, McDonough-st., Brooklyn, the andante from Beethoven's "Pastoral" symphony was the evening prelude, followed by the processional and psalter; Barnby's "Magnificat" and "Nunc Dimittis" in E flat were given, and Dudley Buck's "He Shall Come Down Like Rain" was sung as an offertory by a quartet and chorus. The recessional was "Saviour, Again to Thy Dear Name."

The music at St. Peter's Church, in State-st., Brooklyn, was of a high order, one of Guilmant's preludes and Hiles's anthem, "O Zion, Blest City," being the principal numbers. The postlude was Lemmen's "Marche Pontificale."

Eugene Ford, organist and choir director of the South Congregational Church, President and Court sts., Brooklyn, presented an excellent programme last night. After several pieces by the choir, Mrs. Mattie Dorlon-Lowe and Miss Isabel Edmond-Schiller sang a duet from Handel's "Judas Maccabeus." Other numbers were a bass solo, "Save Me, O God" (Randegger); a soprano solo, from Buck's "Triumph of David," Miss Edmond-Schiller; tenor solo and quintet, "Seek Ye the Lord" (Roberts), solo by W. I. Richardson; contralto solo, "Lead, Kindly Light" (Pinsuti), Mrs. Dorlon-Lowe, and a quartet, "On High the Stars Now Are Shining" (Rheinberger).

At the Church of St. Agnes, Sackett and Hoyt sts., Brooklyn, Dr. R. W. Crowe directed the choir, which gave a number of beautiful selections. The opening quartet, the "Magnificat" and "Laudate Dominum," were sung by Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Brocolini and J. H. Teevan. Rossini's overture to "William Tell" was the organ prelude theme, and the postlude was the "Coronation March," from "Le Prophète" (Meyerbeer). James Emerson, cornetist, led the congregational singing.

The choir of the West Twenty-fourth Street Methodist Episcopal Church furnished the music yesterday afternoon at the meeting of Mr. Radcliffe's Pleasant Hour Bible Class, in Central Metropolitan Temple, Seventh-ave. and Fourteenth-st. There were also several instrumental solos.

The Rev. Dr. Charles L. Thompson, pastor of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, Fifty-third-st. and Madison-ave., is conducting a series of special services on Sunday evenings. The musical programme is carefully prepared, and is an interesting feature of each service.

Special musical services were held yesterday afternoon at the Baptist Temple, Schermerhorn-st. and Third-ave., Brooklyn. The choir is made up of 200 voices, under the direction of Professor Bowman, and assisted by the church orchestra of nineteen pieces, led by J. Edgar Livingston. Three golden-haired little girls are conspicuous in this orchestra. Each is a violinist. Agnes Jean Bayton is only fourteen years old, and her sister, Ida May, is eleven. The youngest is Kittie Platt Gunn, who has just passed her tenth birthday. Mr. Livingston often calls on Miss Kittie to play the violin in his stead. She handles her instrument with ease and grace, and is never so happy as when her father permits her to play on his violin, which is 190 years old and has been in the family for three generations. Miss Kittie's work is mostly in the church, but many times she has been heard at benefits and musicals given for charity. Miss Agnes Bayton and her sister, Ida, have been playing in church for four years. Miss Agnes plays first violin, and on many occasions Ida May accompanies her on the trombone.

IDA MAY BAYTON, ELEVEN YEARS OLD. AGNES JEAN BAYTON, FOURTEEN YEARS OLD. KITTIE PLATT GUNN.

A FUSS OVER MISS D'ARVILLE'S DRESS.

Oscar Hammerstein and Camille D'Arville are at war over what costume the latter shall wear in the second act of the opera "Santa Maria" in which she sings the leading part. The story of the opera leads up to a repudiated dressmaker bill, the excuse given for not paying being that the dress does not fit. The operatic judge orders the defendant, Miss D'Arville, to go into an adjoining room with the dressmaker and try on the costume. The dressmaker is a man in disguise, and while in this room he tries to embrace the defendant. She is then supposed to rush out in her corsage and petticoat, screaming. Mr. Hammerstein says she ruins the part by appearing in a gown all frill and lace, as if she had taken an hour to dress, and walking out in the most leisurely manner as if nothing had happened. He wrote her about a week ago, ordering her to appear in the plain corsage and skirt, but Miss D'Arville disregarded his note. Then he wrote again, and yesterday received a reply in which the singer sarcastically refused to make any change in her costume, and said that her lawyer would see Mr. Hammerstein. Mr. Hammerstein was angry yesterday and said that she should wear the costume he designed or leave the company. He has a contract with her up to December 12, with the privilege of renewal and the usual damage clauses.

PADEREWSKI IN GOOD HEALTH.

William Steinway received the following cable dispatch yesterday:

Aix-les-Bains, October 25, 1896.

In spite of all so-called friendly reports, I am enjoying perfect health; at least, I find it good enough for me. Thanks. Regards. PADEREWSKI.

This cable dispatch came, Mr. Steinway said, in response to one sent by him on Wednesday last to Paderewski at his home, No. 94, Avenue Victor Hugo, Paris, reading: "Papers again full of accounts of your alleged illness and broken-down condition. Please cable me the truth."

The message was presumably forwarded to the pianist.

CHARMS OF THE CHAFING-DISH.

MRS. LEMCKE PREPARES FOUR OF THE MOST DIFFICULT DISHES AND GIVES VALUABLE ADVICE ON COOKING FISH.

Mrs. Lemcke gave a chafing-dish demonstration on Saturday afternoon at the Food Show, and the subject drew a larger audience than any previous one has done, excepting, of course, the Thanksgiving dinner. The following were the principal recipes:

Canapé Mikadanda.—Prepare four shredded-wheat biscuits. Rinse twelve canned shrimps in cold water, drain and fry them three minutes in one and one-half tablespoonfuls of butter, and set aside; beat four eggs until light, add four tablespoonfuls water, and again beat for two minutes; add one-quarter teaspoonful salt and a little white pepper. Melt one-half tablespoonful butter in the blazer, pour in the eggs, stir for a few minutes; when the eggs begin to set, add four ounces grated Swiss or American cheese, stir for one minute, then divide the mixture equally over the biscuits, lay three shrimps on each one, and serve.

Codfish à la Crême.—Melt one-half tablespoonful butter in the blazer, add one-half tablespoonful flour, stir and cook three minutes, add one cup milk; stir until smooth; cover a half-pound Beardsley's shredded codfish with cold water, let it stand one minute, then inclose in a towel and press dry; add the codfish to the sauce, season with one-fourth teaspoonful salt and a little white pepper, stir until the fish is heated through without boiling; extinguish the lamp and serve with boiled potatoes.

Sweetbreads à l'Allemande.—Blanch, prepare and cook a pair of large sweetbreads as for sweetbreads à la maitre d'hôtel, omitting the maitre d'hôtel butter; place the cooked sweetbreads on a plate and keep them warm; melt one-half tablespoonful butter in the blazer, add one-half tablespoonful flour, stir and cook two minutes; add one cupful chicken or veal broth, one-half even teaspoonful salt, and a small bouquet; cook five minutes; mix the yolk of one egg with one teaspoonful lemon juice, add it to the sauce; add, if handy, one tablespoonful cream, pour the sauce around the sweetbreads, and serve with croutons or bread and butter.

Fish Balls.—Grate cold boiled potatoes that have been cooked without salt, and to each cupful of potatoes allow half a cupful of shredded codfish. Mix, add an egg, and form into cakes, or little balls about the size of a walnut. The latter are nice when dipped first in beaten egg and then in bread crumbs, and fried in fat—like crullers.

In connection with the codfish recipes, Mrs. Lemcke cautioned her audience to be careful, when buying the shredded article, to get that bearing the name of a trustworthy firm, as much that is put on the market is only herring.

NORMAL COLLEGE GRADUATES.

ANNUAL REUNION OF THE ASSOCIATE ALUMNAE ON SATURDAY.

The annual reunion of the Associate Alumnae of the Normal College was held Saturday in the assembly room, which was crowded almost to its utmost capacity. The following programme was given: Greetings, Dr. Mary Augusta Requa, president of the Associate Alumnae, and Dr. Thomas Hunter, president of the Normal College; address by Mayor William L. Strong of the City of New-York; song by A. Stewart Holt; reading, Mrs. Sarah Cowell LeMoyne, "The Philosopher in the Apple Orchard," Anthony Hope, and "Clive," Robert Browning; song, Miss Elvira E. Howe; alumnae song, "The Ivy Leaf," Helen Gray Cone.

Mayor Strong said the occasion was the fourth of the kind at which he had been present, and that at each succeeding one he had noticed an increase both in attendance and interest. He referred to the fact of his having appointed eleven school inspectors from among the graduates of the college, and said that it gave him great pleasure to recall it particularly, as the ladies were performing the duties of their respective offices in such a satisfactory manner.

Among those present at the reunion were Commissioners Benville, Hurlburt and McSweeney, ex-Commissioner Dewitt J. Seligman, Superintendent Leipziger, ex-Trustee Fettrich, Justice Mott and his daughter, Miss Jennie B. Merrill, the newly appointed supervisor of kindergarten instruction; Mrs. Clara M. Williams and Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake.

Most of the visitors remained a short time after the conclusion of the programme to inspect the new kitchen and gymnasium which have been fitted up on the fifth floor.

GOING ON TO-DAY.

Mrs. Lemcke will tell how to cook a Christmas dinner at the Food Show this afternoon. Souvenirs in the shape of boxes of champagne wafers and cheese biscuits have been prepared for to-day, and holders of yellow tickets will be given their choice.

The opening exercises of the Woman's Law Class will be held this morning, beginning at 11 o'clock, in the new University Building, in Washington Square. Addresses will be made by Mrs. John P. Munn, president of the Woman's Legal Education Society; the Rev. Dr. Henry M. MacCracken, chancellor of the University, and Professor Clarence D. Ashley, dean of the faculty of law. The first lecture of the course, on "Current Fallacies Regarding Law," will be delivered by Professor Isaac Franklin Russell.

The first musical of the Ladies' International Association since the occupation of the new quarters in the Fifth Avenue Hotel will be given this afternoon, beginning at 3 o'clock.

A fair will be opened this afternoon for the benefit of the schools connected with the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in East One-hundred-and-fifteenth-st.

The sewing school of the Church of St. Bernard the Moor, Bleecker and Downing sts., holds its regular weekly meeting this evening in the basement of the church. Mrs. Harriet Otis Delenbaugh gives her regular weekly lecture this afternoon, beginning at 4 o'clock, before the Alumnae Shakespeare and Literary Class of the Normal College.

The Jefferson Dramatic Society will open its third season this evening with a performance of "Don Caesar de Bazan" in the Central Opera House.

The Phalo Club will hold its first meeting of the season this afternoon at the residence of Mrs. Maria McCullough, No. 317 West Eighty-seventh-st. Mrs. Moffat will preside.

The formal opening of the Berkeley Institute, at No. 183 Lincoln-ave., Brooklyn, will take place this evening, and the public will have an opportunity to see the improvements that have been the result of the addition made to the institution during the summer months.

Miss Maria P. Montfort will address the Clio Club this afternoon at 3 o'clock on modern art. The place of meeting is No. 41 West One-hundred-and-twenty-fourth-st.

Commander and Consul Booth-Tucker of the Salvation Army will hold a meeting in Carnegie Hall to-night for the purpose of presenting the urgency of the Armenian question to all who may attend. A number of Armenians will be present and will make short addresses, and prominent local speakers are also down on the programme.

Mrs. Mary E. Lease delivered an address in Majestic Hall, No. 125 East One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st., last night. To-night and next Sunday evening, November 1, she will speak on the invitation of Harlem's Sixteen to One Club.

The people's Monday concerts at the People's Church Club house, No. 316 East Fifteenth-st., are among the most popular pleasures of the season, and John Francis Gilder, the director, has prepared a number of fine programmes. To-night Jeannette R. Murphy, soloist and impersonator, will give an impersonation of the religious hymns of the colored people, with illustrations and explanations. W. A. Corey will perform on the organ; Alfred W. Roberts, barytone, and Lena Doria Devine, soprano, will sing, and Willie Rhandler will recite. Tickets of admittance are only 10 cents.

To-night at 8 o'clock Professor E. R. von Nardroff will begin a series of three lectures on electricity in the Institute Hall, Jefferson-st., and East Broadway. Fifteen other lectures will be given there every Monday and Thursday evening.

THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING.

The fourth annual convention of the Order of the Daughters of the King will be held at the Church of the Incarnation, Philadelphia, on November 4, 5 and 6. The first day will be devoted to prayer and preparation, and the others to the business sessions. One of the important items of business to come before the convention is a set of resolutions drawn up by the Maryland Council, and involving several radical changes in the constitution of the order.

The order, which has been organized over eleven years, originated in this city, its founder being Mrs. Margaret J. Franklin. From a small beginning it spread, until now it numbers over 11,000 in membership, with 480 chapters established in 69 dioceses. The object of the order is to work for "the spread of Christ's Kingdom among women," and to assist the rectors of the parishes in such ways as they may direct. The order is distinctly Episcopalian, every member being a communicant of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The members pledge themselves to wear habitually the badge of the order, which is a Greek cross fleury, bearing the initials F. H. S. (for His sake), and the words, "Magnanimeter Crucem Sustine" (Bravely bear the cross). Mrs. C. A. Bradley, of St. Agnes's Parish, New-York, is the president of the order, and Miss E. A. Ryerson, of New-York, its secretary and editor of its organ, "The Royal Cross," published quarterly. A council of fifteen comprises its executive, the members of which are elected at each annual meeting.

DR. STIMSON'S NEW CONGREGATION.

The Manhattan Congregational Church, recently started on the West Side, completed its organization last Friday evening by the election of a full list of officers. The Rev. Dr. Henry A. Stimson, recently of the Broadway Tabernacle, was called to the pastorate. Bradford K. Wiley, Dyer B. Holmes, Edward P. Cone, W. Woodville Fleming, the Rev. S. Bourne and Professor John H. Woodhull were elected deacons; Professor Charles A. Bennett, clerk; Frederick H. Meserve, treasurer, and Clarence W. Bower, Frank L. Underwood, Charles P. Rogers, Clinton H. Smith, Seabury C. Mattlek, David Blakely, Dr. George P. Stevens, Dr. Bertrand J. Perry and Dr. Henry P. Loomis, trustees.

President Hewey of the Teachers' College has consented to take the superintendency of the new church's Sunday-school, with a view to organizing a model school, which shall be to religious education what the Horace Mann School is to the Teachers' College and secular instructions. He will have the aid of a large staff of expert teachers and lecturers.

ITEMS OF NEWS INTEREST.

The Young Ladies and Gentlemen's League of the Montefiore Home gave a concert and reception yesterday afternoon at the Home, at the Boulevard and One-hundred-and-thirty-eighth-st.

The Lenox Choral Society will begin rehearsals early next month. The programme was prepared by the harpist, Miss Maud Morgan.

The president of the Woman's Press Club, Mrs. Jennie June Croly, has extended an invitation to the West End Republican Women to be present at the club's next reception, to be given on Saturday afternoon.

The Woman's Republican Union League, of Brooklyn, which at its last meeting voted to present to Mrs. McKinley a gold loving-cup, will meet to-morrow in the Y. M. C. A. rooms, in the Johnston Building, in Nevins-st., to hear the report of the committee appointed to select the gift. The Committee of Presentation will be appointed at this meeting, and all arrangements completed.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art will open its thirty-first semi-annual exhibition on the afternoon of November 2. The autumn reception will take place at the same time. Many beautiful additions have been recently made to the museum.

The National Council of Jewish Women will hold its convention in New-York City from November 15 to 20. The officers of the council are Mrs. Hanna A. Solomon, president; Mrs. Emanuel Mondel, vice-president; Mrs. T. J. Wolf, financial secretary; Miss Sadie American, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Henry F. Seitz, treasurer. The New-York section, a popular and well-managed body, will entertain the delegates and guests. The organization was three years old on September 7 last, and is a power for good among the Jewish women. The Credentials Committee and the National Board will meet on Sunday, November 15; reports will be handed in on Monday and Tuesday, and on Wednesday and Thursday the new constitution will be read and accepted, and the election of officers will take place. The New-York section will give a reception on Thursday to the visitors and delegates. Mary Lowe Dickinson, of the National Council of Women of the United States, will read an address of welcome and greeting.

The fair for the benefit of the Carmelite Fathers will be opened in Carmel School Hall, in East Twenty-eighth-st., Wednesday night. The Fathers do much quiet benevolent work among the poor, and are greatly beloved. Colonel McClelland will open the fair.

Mrs. H. W. Duncanson, organizer of the National League at Chicago, called a gathering of women together yesterday afternoon for the purpose of forming a Woman's Bryan and Sewall Silver League. The meeting was held at the Bryan and Sewall Club room, No. 56 Union Square, at 3 o'clock. A large number of women were present. A number of prominent women, including Elizabeth Cady Stanton, are connected with this new movement.

The American Institute exhibit at Madison Square Garden has been one of great interest and benefit to women inventors, as well as a real stimulus to the industries with which women are in touch. Women have attended in large numbers. The exhibit will close on Thursday night.

The course of free lectures to be given to the people under the direction of the Board of Education will soon open. Professor Charles Sprague Smith lectured Saturday afternoon on the subject of "Spain" at the Young Men's Christian Association Hall, No. 5 West One-hundred-and-twenty-fifth-st. Lectures will be given at the same place every Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

A delightful social entertainment was given at St. John's Methodist Episcopal Church, New-Rochelle, last Friday night under the direction of Mrs. W. R. Bergholz. Miss C. V. Broughton sang two songs and Miss Anna Randall-Diehl recited six recitations. The new society fad of graphology was introduced, and some clever readings of character from handwriting were given by Mrs. Louise Downs. Mrs. Bergholz entertained Saturday a luncheon party consisting of the artists who had assisted at the entertainment the night before and some of the prominent women of the church.

BOUDOIR CHITCHAT.

It is more appropriate to say that the latest ruffles have skirts attached to them than that the skirts have ruffles. For there are five and six ruffles displayed, and even more, and the newest skirts fit perfectly smooth across the hips, and are very full everywhere else. Some of the flounces are fourteen inches deep, and graduate in size until the last ruffle is not more than two or three inches wide. Five tucks, in groups, are a favorite trimming on the ruffles and skirts above the ruffles. The batiste skirts, in delicate colors and much trimmed with lace frills and edges and insertions, are lovely for house wear. The latest silk skirts are made of soft brocades that do not rustle and they are finished off beautifully with pinked ribbon or silk ruffles and flounces.

The 5 o'clock tea tables are much in evidence again, and with the newest French china, the finest cloths and the daintiest cut flowers, the most delightful and attractive table function of the day is in a fair way to remain for an indefinite period. A table in rose and white would be beautiful, having the china, flowers, bonbons, cakes, candle-shades and decorative ribbons all of the same color. Exquisite imported china may be bought now, showing a clear, soft, rose-colored ground, with tiny white rosebuds scattered all over it. If you expect to serve both tea and chocolate, this rose china can be had in teapots, chocolate pots and the daintiest possible cups to match.

Crystallized rose leaves and pink candies may be served in Bohemian glass dishes of rose-color, and the tea cakes, wafers and sandwiches should be tied with tiny rose ribbon. White roses should be placed in rose-colored bowls, and the pink roses in delicate white stands. The whole effect of the table and decorations will be beautiful.

THE OLD JOHN STREET CHURCH.

ITS 128TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED—AN INTERESTING STORY TOLD OF ITS FOUNDING.

The 128th anniversary of the "Old John Street Methodist Church" was celebrated yesterday with appropriate services. It was the first Methodist Church built on Manhattan Island, and it stands in John-st., near Nassau. The story told of how the church came to be built is an interesting one, although it may not be strictly true. It is said that in 1768 Barbara Heck, a good old Dutch housewife, caught several worthy burgomasters playing cards in one of her barns, and she rebuked them in vigorous language for indulging in such a "devil's game," and tore the cards up. Then, concluding that sin was getting too strong a foothold on Manhattan Island, she decided that a church should be erected, where the wicked could be taught to walk in the paths of righteousness. She enlisted Philip Embury on her side and prevailed upon him to call a meeting of those who desired a place in which to worship. The outcome was the erection of a church in 1768, and it was dedicated on October 30 of that year. The present building was erected on the same site in 1841.

The anniversary celebration began at 9:15 yesterday morning, when the Sunday-school class met. At 10 o'clock the annual love-feast was held, at which the Rev. W. H. De Puy presided. The regular church service began an hour later, and the Rev. A. B. Leonard, secretary of the Missionary Society, presided and made the opening prayer. The reading of the Scriptures by the Rev. A. B. Sanford followed, and the Rev. Dr. James M. Buckley, Editor of "The Christian Advocate," then preached a sermon.

At the platform meeting in the afternoon the Rev. Dr. George P. Mains presided, and Robert R. Doherty made a prayer, which was followed by an historical address by the Rev. Dr. John Atkinson.

In the evening a young people's prayer-meeting was held, and later the Rev. A. B. Sanford held a service. At the evening service Dr. Atkinson preached, and when he had finished a consecration service was conducted by the pastor of the church, the Rev. Millard F. Compton. This evening the pastor will deliver an illustrated lecture on "Early Methodism and the Wit and Wisdom of the Early Itinerants."

BYRON DOUGLASS DISCHARGED.

Byron Douglass, the actor, who was arrested on Saturday at a rehearsal of Wilton Lackaye's "Dr. Belgraf" company, on a warrant charging him with not supporting his wife, was discharged in Yorkville Court yesterday morning. His lawyer guaranteed that the actor would pay $15 a week until his return from Chicago in January.

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THE RYOT AND HIS CROP.

CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER'S INDIAN COMPETITOR.

From The Philadelphia Press.

For the first time since the exports of Indian wheat began to play a serious part in the world's supplies, the failure of the Indian wheat crop has drawn general attention in this country to the wheat of India. For the first time this is due to an advance in price, which in the last two months has increased the profit of the American wheat-grower by about $2 an acre.

Hitherto the effect of Indian wheat has been only to depress prices. It first appeared on a large scale in the world's wheat market in 1882 to supply the lack caused by the failure of American wheat in 1881. Since then the exports have varied. They have been as high as 41,000,000 bushels a year, 1885-86, and they have fallen as low as 21,000,000 bushels. In other words, they have supplied from 10 per cent to 5 per cent of the total amount of wheat sent out by exporting or desired by importing countries.

The United States furnish a quarter of the wheat sent out by exporting countries, and Russia nearly another quarter.

WHERE IT IS GROWN.

India is about as big as the United States east of the Mississippi, and on that area it has about four times the population which all the United States contains. But the wheat crop of India is only grown over a small share of this territory. It is confined to the northwest provinces, and the region from which export takes place is practically limited to the valley of the Indus. Wheat is grown in India in about the same latitude as in the southern part of the United States, but the conditions vary altogether from any agriculture practised in this country, and exist on the North American continent only in Mexico.

Indian official reports give about 28,000,000 acres under wheat. In all, including the regions in native States where the statistics are incomplete, there are about 30,000,000 acres of wheat in India. This is about three-fourths the wheat area of the United States. The Indian crop varies from 300,000,000 bushels in good years, like 1884-85, to 200,000,000 in poor years, like 1891-92, and running down to nothing, as in the current year, from one-third to one-half the product of this country.

Of this area fully 15,000,000 acres are artificially watered, and all of it depends more or less upon irrigation. In the last twenty-five years the area under wheat in India has about doubled on account of the irrigation enterprises of the British Government, a single one of which, the Sarda project, is expected to add 3,000,000 acres to the wheat area.

HOW IT IS GROWN.

What has really taken place in India is that an ignorant cultivator, who scratches the ground with a wooden plough, plants his wheat in rows, weeds it as he would a garden patch, drags a ladder over it to harrow the field, threshes it out by driving cattle over a threshing floor, houses it in a pit and carries it on his back to the nearest market, or in a creaking bullock cart, has had his capacity for raising wheat nearly doubled and his capacity for reaching a market created outright, because English administration has networked the Punjab with irrigation canals, of which a single one has ditches 2,000 miles long, and has then provided railroads to carry the products to the seashore, where it reaches the world's ocean steamer communication.

Wheat for the Hindoo ryot is, therefore, not a food crop. It is an extra. He does not live on it, he does not sell it to his neighbors for food, and the share of it that is used for food by the native population of India is consumed in the cities or by Europeans. The cultivator himself lives almost wholly on other food crops, which he grows in the summer. In the fall he puts in his wheat; it is watered in the spring by the melting snows of the Himalayas, and by a scant rainfall. His harvest comes in the late spring, and his crop reaches Europe during the summer, ruining the market which American wheat once enjoyed, when the first fruits of the year's yield reached Europe.

WHO GROWS IT.

Sita Ram, an Indian correspondent, Govinda Das, writes: "An intelligent small farmer I know in the Allahabad district may be taken as a type of the average tolerably successful peasant in India. He is by no means what is regarded as well to do, but his lot is such as might be envied by not a few of his fellows. He lives on a farm of ten acres, which he and his forefathers have possessed for five generations.

"He is forty-five years old, and has a family consisting of six members besides himself, to wit: An aunt, his wife, two sons, aged twenty-two and sixteen respectively, the wife of the eldest son, aged fifteen, and a niece nine years old. His two daughters, eighteen and fourteen years respectively, have been both married and live with their husbands, visiting their parents for a few days or weeks on occasions. The wife of Sita Ram has her silver bracelets and anklets, her silver earrings and nose rings, and so has her daughter-in-law. Last year, too, the couple were able to present their son's wife with a pair of extra-finished toe rings, costing $1.50, at the Dusserah festival (the time of the harvest moon), and they also hope to greet the expected grandchild with some auspicious ornamental present. It is a general estimate that out of every $100 of a farmer's receipts nearly 50 per cent is for rent of land and farm expenses, $15 goes for marriages and presents, and the rest is for household expenses, including religious offerings. All his wants and luxuries are included in these three items.

The average daily ration per head in a peasant family consists of a pound and a half of grain, made into bread without leaven, and seasoned with butter and salt; from three to four ounces of split peas, or some kind of pulse; buttermilk, a pint now and then; vegetables, spices, betel and betel nut and salt. The salt is an important item, as the duty on it is nine-tenths of the price, while the article is consumed pretty freely by the people. A family of seven will need eighty pounds of salt during the year, costing $2.50, of which $2.25 goes for the duty. In rice-eating districts ten pounds of rice will supply the daily rations of a family of seven.

Sita Ram's family fares comfortably on $4 a month, or, say, $50 a year. Less than a fifth part of the sum will clothe them for a whole year. The male dress consists of a piece of coarse linen, 5x1½ yards, which is folded round the waist, costing 22 cents, and a similar wrapper of smaller size, worth 15 cents. In winter the wrapper is of wool, mixed with cotton, worth from 50 to 75 cents, which will last two or three seasons. The woman's dress is not more costly. It includes a short jacket, while from the peculiar manner of folding, one end of the wearing cloth (which is a little longer than the man's) serves as a wrapper. Two changes will run through the year. Shoes are seldom worn by the males and never by the females.

A farmhouse like that of Sita Ram will cost about $20 to build, and will take from three to four weeks with as many men's labor. Such a man cultivates about 10 acres. He pays an annual rent of from 50 cents to $3 an acre—say $2.50 for irrigated, and 75 cents for unirrigated land—and he manages on the share, which he puts down in wheat, to grow eight or nine bushels.

HOW IT GETS TO MARKET.

Sita Ram had not a ghost of a chance in the world's wheat markets as long as he depended upon himself. He grew his millet and his pulse; he ate it at home, and his family went without silver ornaments. But a network of some 10,000 miles of rail has been put at his service, and if the English Government goes on as it has begun, he can add 20,000,000 acres to the area under wheat.

India with all its famines has 80,000,000 acres arable, but uncultivated. He would double his wheat export but for one cause: India is slowly beginning the consumption of wheat on its own account. The Sikhs, the most manly and progressive race of Northwest India, have begun the free consumption of wheat. Its use has begun in other parts of Northern India, and the reduction in Indian wheat exports from an average of 35,214,675 bushels in 1883-87 to 21,704,000 bushels in 1893-95 is in part due to the increased demand for wheat in India.

The ryot labors under other difficulties. He grows his wheat with other food grains; he threshes it on a mud floor; he houses it in a pit and he never cleans it. The result is that Indian wheat is never graded. There are no elevators, and a rebate of from 4 to 5 per cent, or ten times the rebate on American wheat, has to be made to allow for dirt. Grown as it is, however, under a sub-tropical sun, the wheat has an aromatic "beany" flavor, to use the technical term; is dry and hard, and will return 80.52 per cent of flour from ordinary milling, against 65.2 per cent from English and 72.2 per cent from American spring wheat. This makes it more valuable than almost any other wheat for mixing, and a part of the Indian red wheat grown near the mouth of the Indus is exclusively exported to Italy, where it is turned into macaroni, for which it is even better suited than the hard wheats of Southern Italy and Sicily.

The railroad rate (Alfred Deakin writes, who investigated the subject for Australia in 1891) from Cawnpore to Bombay, 1,000 miles, is 25 cents a bushel, 41 cents a hundredweight. The average railway rate for long distances he found to be one cent per ten miles, or about twice the American average. The ports from which the wheat is shipped are about twice the distance from Liverpool as ours, the distance from New-York to Liverpool being 3,073 miles, while from Bombay the distance is 6,274 miles, and from Kurrachee 6,000 miles. The result is that in 1891, while the average rate on wheat from Bombay was from $4 to $5 per ton, running as high as $6, the rate from New-York was not more than one-third to half this. A quarter bought in Oudh in 1891 for 11s. 9d. was landed in London at a little under 32 shillings. In other words, it took three bushels of wheat to get one to market, and in this country this is true only of the wheat fields which are in the extreme West, more than twice as far from the seaboard as is the Indian wheat field. For most of our wheat it takes one bushel to get another to market.

THE PRESENT SITUATION.

Fifteen years ago, when Indian wheat exports suddenly rose from an average of 574,446 bushels in 1868-72 to 4,226,503 bushels in 1873-77, to 13,804,666 bushels in 1878-82 and to 35,214,675 bushels in 1883-87, more than doubling in every period, it was believed that Indian wheat was soon to swamp the world's market. Since then it has been steadily decreasing, being an average of 33,281,200 bushels in 1888-92, 21,704,000 in 1893-95, and in 1896 the exports have dwindled to half this. The famine which is now overshadowing the northwest provinces is not due, however, to the failure of other food grains during the past summer. This has left the population on the edge of starvation, but it will not prevent them from planting wheat this fall and harvesting it next spring, though it has greatly diminished their present capacity for supplying wheat to Europe. The United States, therefore, having itself a fair crop, is now filling the gap occasioned by the Indian wheat supply, but unless the cycle of poor years which began in 1891 and has lasted ever since in Northern India continues during the coming winter, India will enter 1897 with the usual wheat supply. This is the reason why the "December option" is the one which has advanced most rapidly, and why options for months later in the crop year do not share the same demand, because these will be affected by exports from the other Southern countries, which come on in the spring, particularly Australia and Argentine.

PIPES IN FIFTH AVENUE.

A CHART TO BE MADE OF THE UNDERGROUND NETWORK.

ONE RESULT OF THE PRESENT EXCAVATIONS—THE NEW PAVEMENT.

The visitor to New-York who has heard of Fifth-ave. and its beauties should be told before he goes there now that the well-known thoroughfare is not looking its best, and that it will not be all that has been claimed for it until the present city government has removed the traces of Tammany mismanagement and misrule. The avenue is torn up between Forty-third and Fifty-first sts., and where the daily carriage parade has taken place in years before great piles of earth, granite blocks and broken asphalt block the way, and monster iron pipes await the completion of great trenches which are being dug for their reception. Plumbers, gasfitters and masons are scattered among the men who dig, and at frequent intervals may be seen men who wear inspectors' and foremen's badges. The work has a double object, and when it is completed not only will the avenue have a smooth and noiseless pavement, but the location of the various pipes, conduits and sewers which are buried below the surface will be known. In addition to these results, there will also be an additional and much-needed water main put down, and the plumbing and fitting of the pipes will have been so carefully looked after that, in the opinion of General C. H. T. Collis, the Commissioner of Public Works, there will be no necessity for touching the pavement on that account for the next five years.

EXCAVATION IN FIFTH-AVE.

It was never known until the work of improving Fifth-ave. was begun how poorly the avenue was served in the way of sewer and water pipes. It has now been discovered that whole blocks of the thoroughfare have had no sewers, and that the drainage in many places was by means of small earthen pipes to side streets.

"The Department of Public Works is absolutely in the dark as to what will be found in the course of the work," said an official, "and although we know that certain pipes and sewers exist along the line of the avenue, we have no chart or map and no means of locating them."

Chief Engineer George W. Birdsell, when asked how one might ascertain where certain pipes could be found, said: "I know of no way except to take a pick and shovel and look for them." It is explained that, as the work of laying the water mains advances, the various pipes, sewers, conduits, etc., will be carefully located with a view to making a chart showing their situation and position. This work has already been begun, and a chart is being prepared of the section between Forty-third and Forty-fourth sts. It is known that on that block there is, near the east curb line, a telegraph subway, and, further on, toward the opposite curb, are a 4-inch gaspipe, a 6-inch gaspipe, an 8-inch gaspipe, the new 48-inch water main; 36, 28 and 38 inch water-pipes; a new 12-inch water-pipe, an 8-inch gaspipe, a wire subway, and a 4-inch water-pipe. It is believed that this line of pipes will be found to continue up to Fifty-fourth-st., and that an additional gaspipe will be found there and a steam supply pipe further up the avenue.

In speaking of the proposed diagram showing the location of the underground work, General Collis said: "When the work is completed it will be as easy to locate a pipe as it is for the surgeon to locate an organ, and when the street has to be opened in order to find any one of the pipes it will be unnecessary to cut all around it for a long distance, because its exact location will be known. But there will be little need for breaking the pavement for a number of years," he added, "because everything is being carefully inspected and repaired with a view to making it as good as new." General Collis said that the public had only a faint idea of the amount of underground piping in New-York, and that few people know that there are seventeen gas mains in use in Third-ave.

An appropriation of $1,000,000 was made for the purpose of laying the new 48-inch water mains, but the Commissioner was authorized to apply a part of the sum to repairing the avenue. The asphalt will be laid so that the best results may be obtained, and to that end the high crown will be abandoned. Heretofore it was thought proper to have the pavement rise to the height of about seven and a half inches, but the new pavement will have a crown of only four and a half inches above the curb level, which will be sufficient to carry off all surface water, and will insure greater comfort and safety for driving. The work is being done by about two hundred and fifty men, who are under the supervision of V. D. Bogue, formerly the chief engineer of the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

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