

MATTERS THEATRICAL.

What Dunlop Says of New York Plays.

A Great Lack of Success Among the Productions.

Spooks a Bad Failure—The Golden Ladder Another That Don't Go—News and Personal Notes About the Players.

Of New York theatricals Dunlop's Stage News says, under date of April 15th, as follows:

Winter has, as usual, been lingering in the lap of spring, and the president old chap has daily been stroking his frozen whiskers, sending a spray of feathery crystals that have looked more like apple blossoms over the sunny smiles of the maiden. This picturesque tumultuousness in eight or ten successive squalls every day, and holy week, have combined to make things theatrical exceedingly queer, and yet on Monday two managers had the pluck to bring novelties to town. Spooks, a play that has been seen on the road as Cynthia's Lovers, is a series of New England character bits with a very thin and conventional plot and no interest outside the quaint personages who exhibit an exaggerated form of Yankee peculiarities. It was written by Charles Barnard, who is said to be the dramatist of New England, and as acted at the Union Square theater, Spooks failed, and the progress of the American dramatist had another temporary rebuff. It will, however, not damage the reputation of Mr. Barnard badly, for the characters are sharply drawn, and one of them (Cynthia) was ably delightful. The play, however, lacks interest in motive and grows wearisome before it is half finished. While all the dramatic editors were looking at the newest dramatic study of the Dawn East on Monday the most curious show ever seen in a Broadway theater was going on at the New Park theater. The Golden Ladder, which broke down in the middle of last week, was to have been run through this, and at the eleventh hour Manager Dunley "filled his time" with a composition with the mysterious title of O'Flynn in Mexico. The play is so hopelessly bad as to be amusing, and it illustrates just how good natured a metropolitan audience is, or O'Flynn would have been laughed off the stage. In justice to the company it must be said that the New Park theater orchestra was just as bad as the play or players. O'Flynn was a success in Mexico, but in New York he is a dreadful fiasco.

A Texas Steer has so far cleared \$42,000 this season.

Thos. W. Keene will open his spring season at Chester, Pa.

Sara Stevens, (Mrs. John C. Heenan) is playing at the San Francisco Alcazar.

Isabelle Coe has again made a very brilliant success in Niobe, this time in Chicago.

Rehearsals of The Isle of Champagne begin in New York next week under the direction of Max Freeman.

Mr. George Alexander wires all the way from London that he is not to succeed John Drew in Augustin Daly's company.

McCarthy's Mishaps, a rollicking farce-comedy that has made \$30,000 this season for its owners, will be seen next week at the New York Third-avenue theater.

The rehearsals for the Herald prize plays are on at the Madison square, conducted by Louis Mitchell. Among the first to be produced will be The Model and The Cowboy.

Margaret Mather has filed a bill in the Chicago circuit court, asking for a divorce from her husband, Emil Haberkorn, leader of the orchestra at the Duquesne theater, Pittsburg.

Lewis Morrison has purchased a rural home four miles from Peekskill, N. Y., on which he is spending \$10,000. The home is in the center of seventy-five acres and overlooks the Hudson river.

The play in which John W. Jennings will shortly star, although a monologue, is also a play. It is in three acts and tells a pretty story, although Mr. Jennings plays all the twelve parts that develop the plot.

Miss Minnie B. Washburn, the young Montclair society girl who created quite a flutter among her fashionable friends last fall by joining the W. T. Carleton Opera company, has left Carleton and returned to New York.

Olea Bull, a young Cambridge, Mass., society lady, and daughter of the famous violinist, will shortly join Julia Marlowe's company. Miss Bull is personally attractive, tall, slender and graceful, and is highly educated.

The name of Eleonora Duse, a famous Venetian actress, is in every mouth in continental Europe. Her art and her triumphs are the subject of endless newspaper articles, and she is said not only to have brought new life, new ideas and new suggestions to that ever interesting topic, the art of acting.

Rubenstein, the great Russo-Jewish tone master, is to make a tour of America next season, and is guaranteed \$100,000. He has been before the people for fifty-three years, beginning as an infant prodigy when only 9 years old. At 17 he was alone in the world, making his living as a music teacher, at 21 he produced his first opera at St. Petersburg.

Alexander Salvini has had an extraordinarily good season and is rapidly approaching the east. Mr. Salvini will be seen in Boston late in the season, in reproduction and revivals of romantic drama, among which will figure prominently the play from which Macagni, the now famous composer, took his Cavalleria Rusticana, the original MSS. of which was presented Mr. Salvini by Mme. Adolina Patti.

Miss Fanny Davenport closed her two weeks' engagement at the Chestnut street theatre last Saturday night to the largest business ever known in lent in that city. Last week Sarah Bernhardt was playing against her at the Chestnut street opera house, changing her bill every night. Miss Davenport played "Cleopatra" the entire week, and yet, though the French actress sold her seats for \$3 apiece, while Miss Davenport played at regular prices, the receipts of the American artist were far in excess

of her rival in the great roles of Sardan. There is a tinge of patriotic sentiment in this steadfast appreciation by American playgoers of an American player, which naturally proved very profitable to Miss Davenport.

The first two theaters in England were called respectively The Theater and The Curtain, and were built outside of London in 1576. (Shakespeare was 12 years old then.) Before that time it is interesting to know that plays were presented chiefly on Sundays and saints' days, and from then on this has been one of the principal grounds of contest between the Precisians or Puritans and their opponents.

Stuart Robson's success in the west has been little short of the phenomenal. Of all the legitimate comedians Mr. Robson stands alone. His work is of that polished, clean-cut and scholarly type that is so recognizable by its rarity. His greatest success is always his last, and his latest production will put many a well-earned shekel into his already overflowing coffers. Genial and magnetic to a degree, and with an immensely versatile order of talent, he will always be remembered by the playgoers with pleasure.

Robert Mantell is coming northward from his successful tour in the sunny south, by the way of the northwestern circuit. The Louisiana will be seen in all probability, in New York late this season and early the next. It is a matter of some note that this play has been a success from the start without having the prestige of a run in a New York theater which has generally been considered a necessity. Mr. Mantell has shown his ability to stand upon his merits however, and to his genius alone can be attributed his success.

C. Harry Meltzer, the dramatic editor of the New York Herald is in Berlin, but is soon expected to return to his post. When Mr. Meltzer first came to America, nearly everybody made a dead set against him, but by good work he soon showed himself to be among the best dramatic writers of either America or Europe. At present he is highly esteemed by the dramatic profession who all wish that Mr. James Gordon Bennett will order his return to the new world.

The Temperance Town, Hoyt's latest success, opened to tremendous business in Cleveland, and the house is sold for the rest of the week. The Temperance Town is a wide departure from the Hoytian school that made us laugh at The Soldiers and Brass Monkeys, and although one still laughs till their sides ache there are tears that spring unbidden save by the purity, the naturalness of the unexpected pathos. Told in homely language, a story of true life as it exists, and not embellished by a flowery pen, it is no wonder that it has been so enthusiastically received. Excellent work is done by Mr. George Richards, who as Mink Jones heads the company, also by Mr. George Ober as The oldest man in town, and Messrs. Culloden, Curry and McDonough. Among the ladies Elsie Lombard is particularly prominent. It will be placed at the Madison Square for an extended run next season.

The modern drama of England as well as that of Italy, Spain and France, is founded, not on the so-called miracle plays, as asserted by one of the big New York dailies the other day, but on the Latin tragedies. Lusus Ebrorum was translated into Italian and published in 1472 under the name of Catina, and this is the earliest printed comedy in an modern language. A native Italian comedy (I Suppositi) was first represented in 1501 by Ariosto. In England imitations of Latin models in Latin plays were done until it occurred to a head master at Eton (Nicholas Udell) to amuse the boys, and he wrote a play in English (Ralph Royster Doister, 1534-41), which probably is the first English comedy. It was written in a lively rhyming couplets. The first native tragedy was Gordo Due (1561), the story of which, like King Lear, was taken from Geoffrey of Monmouth's Chronicle.

It is rumored, nay, more than rumored, it is affirmed that the queens of comic opera, burlesque and the like are in danger of having their crowns of laurels rufly shaken from their heads by the advent of a new element into the ground. They have disputed others, and each other, as their particular pastures and royal possessions. A young Boston girl has been making a sensation out in Chicago, where curiously enough Lillian Russell and Marie Tempest are playing at the same time. This young lady is Marie Bell, hitherto an unknown name. Her name is Marie Bell, and her rush she is becoming known as a prima donna soprano with a marvelous range, a sweet voice of considerable strength and most charming personality. She has sung an infinite variety of parts and has been very successful in grand opera in London. Her advent may be looked for with unusual interest, for what would the dukes do if Lillian and Marie should die? Marie Bell it is known, however, scorns dukes and only lets them worship at a distance; good sense, this.

A large audience at the Park theater on Tuesday, gathered for the purpose of gazing Alfred Kelsey, the hero in O'Flynn in Mexico, were somewhat taken back by the following speech delivered placidly amid an uproar of derisive laughter and cat-calls from the orchestra as well as the stormy gallery gods: "I'll tell you what's the trouble, my friends. I came to New York with a swelled head. I am used to playing in Kalamazoo, Oshkosh and other one night stands, and I was really a pretty big man on the one night circuit. I came into New York and walked up Broadway on Monday afternoon feeling as good as any one else in the crowd. I read your papers today, and tonight I was satisfied to come up by Eighth avenue. My hat had slid down over my ears. That's the value of a metropolitan debut. I am aware now that my company isn't up to the standard of the metropolis, but if things keep on as they have started and I now refer to the disappearance of my heavy willow, I will have an entirely new company long before Saturday night to take the place of those who have dropped by the wayside. If you won't indulge in any unnecessary applause we'll try to get through tonight." After it came hearty and genuine applause.

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LOCAL BREEDING FARMS.

An Eastern Horseman Writes About Them.

What He Saw at the Various Farms.

In San Diego—At Los Angeles—Rosemeade and Its Equine Treasures. Other Farms and Their Features.

An eastern horseman who recently visited Southern California sends the New York Spirit of the Times the following article about the breeding farms in this section:

LOS ANGELES, Cal., April 2.—In compliance with my promise I send you a few notes about Southern California. My first stop was at San Bernardino, where I found several gentlemen interested in horses. Prominent among them was Mr. A. J. Cole, who has a splendid ranch with several standard-bred mares and the bay stallion Raymon, 4-year-old record 2:27 1/2, by Simmons, 2:28. He is a very handsome fellow and capable of a fast record, and will probably be campaigned by Walter Maben this year.

SAN DIEGO is provided with two first-class mile tracks, either of which would be a splendid place to winter horses, and I wonder that some of the eastern states going to California have not gone there. The climate at this place is certainly the most delightful in the state, and there would not be half a dozen days during the winter that a horse could not be driven on the track. Mr. E. B. Gifford has one of the tracks leased, where I saw the good racehorse Atto Rex, 2:21 1/4, and several promising colts by him.

At present he is shipping most of his horses to Kentucky, but still keeps one stallion here—the 4-year-old colt Acquaintance, by Stranzer. I had the pleasure of several rides after this fellow and predict that he will make a fast horse.

At LOS ANGELES I found the horse business flourishing. Our first visit was, of course, to the stable of C. A. Durfee, to get a look at the champion four-year-old stallion McKinney, record 2:12 1/2. The performances of this great colt are well known to the public; how he met and defeated the best horses in California, winning eleven straight races, after which he was shipped to Stockton and trotted in 2:14 in his first start against the gentleman with the hour glass. He is a solid bay horse, 15.3, and weighs 1,105 lbs., is stoutly built, with short back, a wide, deep breast, and very strong across the loins. He gives one the impression of being very fat, but I am told he is not liable to fatten at all through his races. I found that he talked about his curby hocks very much exaggerated. Naturally he has a good hock, the left one being as clean and of as good a shape as could be desired. The right one is the one that was injured, and there is still a thickening of the skin where it has been blistered, but it is not liable to trouble him much when it was at its worst he trotted two races in one week, nine heats along about 2:20, winning both of them.

Durfee was very much disappointed that the \$20,000 stallion race at Grand Rapids failed to fill, but says he will enter in the \$10,000 race they have opened. He says while Williams was inviting Budd Doble and Senator Stanford to his little station matinee, he don't see why he didn't extend the invitation to him. The other prominent one in Durfee's stable is Gossiper, by Simmons, one of the handsomest finished horses I ever saw, and from what I am told was one of the fastest horses on the coast at 3 years old, having shown eights of a mile in 1:50, and being able to trot quarters and halves, but since that time he has never been quite right. The veterinary finally decided that his trouble was a weakness of the stifle, as it slipped out several times. They blistered it this winter and will again prepare him for a campaign. If he stands preparations he will undoubtedly trot a very fast mile. Durfee has just sold to H. H. Field, Victoria, B. C., the 4-year-old colt Primero, by Gossiper, dam by Del Sur.

J. W. Gardner has a lot of colts at the track. Among them was a Stamboul colt out of Ida E., 2:26; one by McKinney out of Ida E., and four fillies by Count Simmons, a son of Simmons, 2:28.

ROSEMEADE, the famous farm that has contributed its share to the history of the trotting horse, is twelve miles from Los Angeles in the beautiful San Gabriel valley. I am pleased to find that Mr. Rose, the breeder of Rosemeade, has no immediate intention of retiring from the ranks of trotting-horse breeders, as he still has about twelve broodmares and a number of colts and fillies, having recently purchased several head in the northern part of the state. The stallion he is now doing service with is the handsome bay 3-year-old Comrade, by Stamboul, dam by Electioneer, 2:28.

I found Minnehaha a much better looking mare than I had been led to believe her from the cuts seen in several newspapers of late. She is fat and looks as though she might produce several colts yet. She is due to foal in a short time by Comrade, after which she and her daughter Alma, by Sultan, will be bred to McKinney, 2:12 1/2. Minnehaha is the largest little mare I ever saw. She is but 14 1/2 hands high, is long-bodied, very broad, remarkably strong across the loins and stifles. Mr. Rose tells me she was fast when he got her, but her training was stopped through an accident, a very lucky accident for Mr. Rose and Senator Stanford, as it was the cause of her daughter, Beautiful Bells, making a fortune for each of her owners.

Rosemeade is well equipped for breeding and developing trotters. They have a three-quarter mile track and good stabling which is now presided over by Mr. Harry Rose.

Mr. Rose's stables of runners left to day for San Francisco, by express, to take part in the Blood-Horse association meeting, beginning April 9. They are being handled by trainer Jones, formerly with Haggin. Fairy is expected to be a great mare this year and will participate in the eastern races.

EDGEMOOR PARK, Is within one mile of Rosemeade, is a well-equipped farm with a first-class half-mile track. The training and management of the farm is looked after by that genial and thoroughly competent trainer, Walter Maben, who had such remarkable success with the sons and daughters of Sultan. At the head of their stud is Redondo, three-year-old record 2:28 1/2, by Stamboul, dam Dido, pacing record 2:23 1/2. For stable companions he has the gray Wilton colt Freckles, dam Gray Diana, by Administrator, and Harry Winchester, the 3-year-old son of Stamboul and Jessie Ball, 2:25.

At the end of the broodmare list is Lucy R., 2:18 1/2, a grand, big mare, by Sultan, out of Lady Mackay, by Silver Thread; second dam of Stamboul, 2:11, and Ruby, 2:19 1/2. She is being worked, and has gone a half in 1:08 this spring. Late in the season she will be bred to McKinney, and given as fast a record as possible. The next one in point of speed is Jessie Ballard, 2:25, by Archibald Hambletonian. They have about 20 broodmares of popular strains. Among the sires represented are Mambrino Patchen, Red Wilkes, Dictator, Sultan, Kentucky Prince and Administrator. Maben is handling Richmond Jr., 2:20 1/2. He is looking stronger than usual, and should be a good horse this year. Another one he has great expectations of is the four-year-old chestnut filly Edina, by Endymion, dam by Abdallah Mambrino.

WISBURN Was the last, but not by any means the least, stock farm we had the pleasure of visiting while in the City of the Angels. This farm is owned by Dr. K. D. Wise, a consulting physician, who, however, finds time enough to keep well posted in the horse business. His farm comprises 400 acres of rich land, and is situated on the Redondo Beach railroad, twelve miles from Los Angeles and within four miles of the ocean. The farm is well fenced, the buildings are convenient and well built, and a three-quarter mile track is kept in the very best order. Mr. Ed. Conolly, formerly of Denver, is doing the training, and a very able man he seems to be. The doctor has not striven for quantity, but quality is his motto, as his catalogue shows. From the way his colts are working I should think the doctor will get some of the money this season. He is thinking of taking in the Montclair circuit.

Glendine, by Judge Salisbury, dam by Sultan, has a record of 2:20, was worked a couple of slow miles, the last half of one of them in 1:12. Eunie Bey, a 4-year-old colt by Guy Wilkes, dam (dam of Glendine, 2:20), by Sultan, was worked a mile in 2:33, one quarter of which was in 36 1/2 seconds. Adelaide McGregor, 2-year-old record 2:29 1/2, a daughter of Bonnie McGregor and Adelaide, 2:18, is a grand filly. She was not pushed any, but stepped a quarter in 36 1/2 seconds. She looks capable of one in 35 seconds. Bonnie June, a 3-year-old filly by Simmons, dam Bonnie Wilkes, by George Wilkes, is handsome as a picture, and shows better than a 2:40 clip and does it nice. My choice of the lot is Adelaide Simmons, a 2-year-old filly by Simmons, dam Adelaide, 2:18. She has been worked but little, and showed a 2:24 gait.

Amongst the broodmares shown was Semi Tropic, 2:24 (sister of Lucy R., 2:18 1/2), by Sultan. She is soon to go to Guy Wilkes, and will be bred to McKinney, 2:12 1/2. Tempest (dam of Glendine), 2:20, by Sultan, dam (dam of By Mason, 2:27 1/2), by Williamson's Belmont. Mares by Nutwood, Gossiper, Echo, Hawthorne, Simmons, Alcazar, Mambrino King, etc.

The doctor is a man of progressive ideas, and I predict for him a success in breeding and developing the light harness horse, and the following instructions from B. M. Lelong of the state board of horticulture is very reliable and useful. He claims that a person can raise his own orange trees at an expense of about 15 cents, whereas in the market they cost from \$1 to \$1.50. Mr. Lelong says:

The orange is very easily propagated from the seed. For this purpose windfalls, culls, etc., are used, but should be thoroughly ripe. The fruit is put into barrels to rot and the seed is washed out. A coarse sieve is used, the decayed pulp passing through the wire, leaving only the seed in the sieve. The seed of the orange should not be allowed to get dry after being taken from the fruit. The seed as soon as possible after being separated from the pulp, is either sown or mixed with sand and kept in boxes in readiness for planting. The seed is planted thickly and broadcast, and covered with fine earth from one to two inches. The best time to plant orange seed is in March and April. If planted before March they have to remain in the damp, cold ground till the time of germination, and many decay. Orange seeds do not germinate until spring. It is, therefore, better to plant the seed when the ground becomes warm and all danger of frosts is over. The seed beds should be kept moist, but not too wet. The season following, the plants are transplanted in the nursery. The plants are taken up and assorted into sizes; the larger ones are planted and the smaller and slender ones are set in shallow boxes and kept another year, they being small, quite slender and very delicate, are scorched by the sun when planted in open ground. The plants are set in the rows twelve to eighteen inches apart, and the rows six feet apart; this gives ample room for cultivation and for balling the trees when digging them, when the time for transplanting to orchard comes. Planting close in the nursery tends to make slender trees, and scorched by the sun when a year in the nursery they have grown a year in the nursery they have made good growth, say in February, and left to be budded.

"The best time to bud the orange is in March and April, just as soon as the trees begin to show signs of growth. The sap is then rising, and if budded at that time almost every bud will take, and in less than a month will start. It is best not to cut the entire foliage of the stock when starting the buds; a little should be left to keep the sap in the stock flowing and induce the buds to

FARM AND GARDEN.

The Resources of Southern California Farms.

Facts in Regard to the Culture of the Canaigri.

The Dock Valuable as a Source of Tannin—Propagating Orange Trees. The New Belaire Lemon. Notes.

For a number of years the plant known throughout Mexico, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona as canaigre (ruxec menocespalum), and in Southern California as the Southern California dock, has been known to contain a considerable percentage of tannin. Particularly in Mexico and Arizona has the root of this plant been used for a long time by the Indians and others in tanning hides and pelts. But it has not until recently been generally known that the canaigre of Mexico was identical with the common wild dock of Southern California. The plant grows in many parts of Southern California, seeming to prefer warm, sandy soils, but not indigenous to the northern part of the state. Professor Hilgard has, however, successfully transplanted it at the experimental station at Berkeley, where he has made a number of tests of the roots. These analyses have shown from 30 to 45 per cent of tannin in the roots—a percentage which makes them by far the most valuable for tannin purposes of any plant or tree growing, and carrying more than twice as much tannin as oak or hemlock.

These facts have led Mr. Richard Gird to a further investigation of the merits of the canaigre, and his ambition to be in the van of any enterprise promising a diversity of industries and the prosperity and upbuilding of this county, has induced him to make a practical trial of the utility of the plant. He has received seed from Mexico and will plant at least ten acres of the canaigre, and will give it a thorough test in field and in tannery.

The director of the United States experiment station at Tucson, Ariz., estimates the yield of the tubers at from fifteen to twenty tons per acre, and says the green roots are worth not less than \$5 per ton. At that rate it will certainly be a most profitable crop. An English firm, the agent in this country to ascertain if the roots can be obtained in large quantities, and they are prepared to handle thousands of tons of them. That would seem to indicate that the market for canaigre is good.

Mr. Gird is peculiarly well situated to use this plant to the best advantage. It will grow to perfection on the Chino ranch, and the thousands of hides taken at the slaughter house west of town will afford material to conduct a good sized tannery, and thus make an immense saving by turning out leather instead of raw hides, the tannin all being furnished from the ranch. This opens up a large field in industrial economy. We hope to see the day, and that not far distant, when the Chino ranch will not only supply the surrounding country with beef, but will export leather and leather goods on an extensive scale, and a large tanning business will be conducted. And then the cognate work of manufacturing boots, shoes, harness, etc., will begin. We have reason to hope to see a great industry built up here on that line. Why not?—(Chino Champion.)

Propagating Orange Trees. The subject of orange culture is attracting a great deal of attention in Fresno county at present, says the Fresno Expositor. Those who desire to grow their own stock the following instructions from B. M. Lelong of the state board of horticulture is very reliable and useful. He claims that a person can raise his own orange trees at an expense of about 15 cents, whereas in the market they cost from \$1 to \$1.50. Mr. Lelong says:

The orange is very easily propagated from the seed. For this purpose windfalls, culls, etc., are used, but should be thoroughly ripe. The fruit is put into barrels to rot and the seed is washed out. A coarse sieve is used, the decayed pulp passing through the wire, leaving only the seed in the sieve. The seed of the orange should not be allowed to get dry after being taken from the fruit. The seed as soon as possible after being separated from the pulp, is either sown or mixed with sand and kept in boxes in readiness for planting. The seed is planted thickly and broadcast, and covered with fine earth from one to two inches. The best time to plant orange seed is in March and April. If planted before March they have to remain in the damp, cold ground till the time of germination, and many decay. Orange seeds do not germinate until spring. It is, therefore, better to plant the seed when the ground becomes warm and all danger of frosts is over. The seed beds should be kept moist, but not too wet. The season following, the plants are transplanted in the nursery. The plants are taken up and assorted into sizes; the larger ones are planted and the smaller and slender ones are set in shallow boxes and kept another year, they being small, quite slender and very delicate, are scorched by the sun when planted in open ground. The plants are set in the rows twelve to eighteen inches apart, and the rows six feet apart; this gives ample room for cultivation and for balling the trees when digging them, when the time for transplanting to orchard comes. Planting close in the nursery tends to make slender trees, and scorched by the sun when a year in the nursery they have grown a year in the nursery they have made good growth, say in February, and left to be budded.

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start. Summer budding is performed in July and August, but the buds do not then start even, and as many start so late the growth by winter is quite tender, and the trees are liable to be nipped by frosts.

"The selection of the buds is very important, and only the best should be chosen. When weak and immature buds are inserted they often remain dormant in the stock a year before starting. Buds to be left to lie dormant are put in as late as possible, but before the stocks begin to relax in growth, to prevent them from starting at that season and the bark growing over them."

The New Belaire Lemon. A lemon new to this state is attracting some attention among the nurserymen, and anything concerning it will have interest with the orchardists. A correspondent of the Florida Dispatch says of it: "This variety is now blooming in Keystone; but the fruit so far is much too large—as big again, perhaps, as the Villa Franca. I wonder if this is the general character of this fruit? This, I fear, will be an objection in the market, and I should regret it, as it fruits early and abundantly. I clipped a bough the other day with a cluster of five lemons on the end of a stem—four regularly surrounding the fifth, which stands exactly front in the center, being the largest one of the five, while the others are as uniform as though they had been cast in the same mould. It is evidently among the beauties and never has been excelled, I reckon, for peculiarity in the fruit line."

THE SALTON SEA.

MR. DURBROW TELLS SOME INTERESTING FACTS.

The Phenomena Not Likely to Recur—A Plan to Tap the Flow and Use It in the Basin as Needed.

Mr. G. W. Durbrow lives on the desert most of his time, where he is kept busy accumulating a large fortune by digging salt out of the Salton basin, where the famous desert sea was at one time located. Mr. Durbrow was met in the office of Superintendent Muir of the Southern Pacific company yesterday afternoon, where after a lively discussion with the HERALD reporter of the ethics of journalism as related to casualties and desert inundations, at last the conversation was switched onto the main track for Salton and Mr. Durbrow talked about the new Dead Sea.

"The sea is gone; in fact too much gone to suit me, for we need a certain amount of water in our work of making salt, and at present there is none too much. I do not think there will be a repetition of the phenomena which caused the overflow, and in consequence we are going to build new warehouses and new mills, and increase our productive capacity.

"We also intend to see if we can arrange to have a little Salton sea of our own on tap when we want it. The water continues to flow from the Colorado into the break below Yuma and flows south into Hardy's Colorado, and back into the Colorado. Now we propose, if upon examination it proves feasible, to put a connecting canal, leading to the Salton basin, with a gate at the channel, so that we can let in as much or as little water as we like.

"There is one point about the 'desert sea' business that seems to have been lost sight of, and that is the fact which has been incontrovertibly established that the whole Colorado river could never in the time which is occupied by high water fill the basin up to the railroad track. This has been proved by engineers' researches and is an absolute fact.

"Another point worth noting is that on January 27th rain commenced and lasted for twelve days, giving us a fall of 5 1/2 inches, while our average fall is 3/4 of an inch. This rain put 14 inches of water additional to the 13 inches already in the basin, making 27 inches in all, in the deepest places. If it had not been for that fall the lake would have been dry. Since that time, however, the evaporation has reduced the depth to only 11 inches in the deepest place."

Mr. Durbrow let fall a remark about the Cabuilla Indians, whom he employs as laborers at Salton, having a village of them there. In response to a question, he said: "I occupy my time studying their language. They have no alphabet or characters for writing, so I have to spell their words phonetically. It is quite a cumbersome tongue; for example, to express fifty-five, you must say: Nar-mar-quong-nig-is, nar-mar-chu-me, pa-na-quong-nig. I am making considerable progress, and expect to be able to record the language. I wrote a letter in the language, the words, of course, spelled phonetically, to Captain Will Pabro, at Banning, recently, and he was able to read it quite readily, as he understands the sounds of the English letters."

Mr. Durbrow will return to Salton today or tomorrow.

The best spring medicine is a dose or two of St. Patrick's Pills. They are not only physic but cleanse the whole system and purify the blood. For sale by C. F. Heinemann, 222 North Main, druggist.

The quickest time and best service from Los Angeles to the east is made by the Santa Fe route. The equipment not excelled. Tourist sleeping-car excursions, with gentlemanly agent in charge, through to Boston, leave Los Angeles every Thursday. Information concerning time and routes to all eastern cities cheerfully furnished at ticket office, 129 North Spring street, or at First-street station.

New Process Gas Stoves. With atmospheric burners, on exhibition at F. E. Browne's, 314 South Spring street. A three months' gas bill for one family's cooking, 24.

Use German Family Soap.

FARM AND GARDEN.

The Resources of Southern California Farms.

Facts in Regard to the Culture of the Canaigri.

The Dock Valuable as a Source of Tannin—Propagating Orange Trees. The New Belaire Lemon. Notes.

For a number of years the plant known throughout Mexico, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona as canaigre (ruxec menocespalum), and in Southern California as the Southern California dock, has been known to contain a considerable percentage of tannin. Particularly in Mexico and Arizona has the root of this plant been used for a long time by the Indians and others in tanning hides and pelts. But it has not until recently been generally known that the canaigre of Mexico was identical with the common wild dock of Southern California. The plant grows in many parts of Southern California, seeming to prefer warm, sandy soils, but not indigenous to the northern part of the state. Professor Hilgard has, however, successfully transplanted it at the experimental station at Berkeley, where he has made a number of tests of the roots. These analyses have shown from 30 to 45 per cent of tannin in the roots—a percentage which makes them by far the most valuable for tannin purposes of any plant or tree growing, and carrying more than twice as much tannin as oak or hemlock.

These facts have led Mr. Richard Gird to a further investigation of the merits of the canaigre, and his ambition to be in the van of any enterprise promising a diversity of industries and the prosperity and upbuilding of this county, has induced him to make a practical trial of the utility of the plant. He has received seed from Mexico and will plant at least ten acres of the canaigre, and will give it a thorough test in field and in tannery.

The director of the United States experiment station at Tucson, Ariz., estimates the yield of the tubers at from fifteen to twenty tons per acre, and says the green roots are worth not less than \$5 per ton. At that rate it will certainly be a most profitable crop. An English firm, the agent in this country to ascertain if the roots can be obtained in large quantities, and they are prepared to handle thousands of tons of them. That would seem to indicate that the market for canaigre is good.

Mr. Gird is peculiarly well situated to use this plant to the best advantage. It will grow to perfection on the Chino ranch, and the thousands of hides taken at the slaughter house west of town will afford material to conduct a good sized tannery, and thus make an immense saving by turning out leather instead of raw hides, the tannin all being furnished from the ranch. This opens up a large field in industrial economy. We hope to see the day, and that not far distant, when the Chino ranch will not only supply the surrounding country with beef, but will export leather and leather goods on an extensive scale, and a large tanning business will be conducted. And then the cognate work of manufacturing boots, shoes, harness, etc., will begin. We have reason to hope to see a great industry built up here on that line. Why not?—(Chino Champion.)

Propagating Orange Trees. The subject of orange culture is attracting a great deal of attention in Fresno county at present, says the Fresno Expositor. Those who desire to grow their own stock the following instructions from B. M. Lelong of the state board of horticulture is very reliable and useful. He claims that a person can raise his own orange trees at an expense of about 15 cents, whereas in the market they cost from \$1 to \$1.50. Mr. Lelong says:

The orange is very easily propagated from the seed. For this purpose windfalls, culls, etc