

'Round This Round, Round World

Bits of Timely Correspondence from Many Foreign Points.

The Kumassi Railway.

In the year 1900 there occurred an historic siege, dwarfed only by comparison with the greater troubles of Ladysmith and Mafeking, in South Africa, but none the less threatening to British prestige. Never since Khar-toum has there been such a narrow escape from a terrible tragedy as the siege of Kumassi, when for 13 weeks the governor, his wife, and a handful of Hausa soldiers were closely invested by hordes of warlike and vengeful Ashantis. Be the blame for the occurrence where it may, the fact remains that Sir Frederick and Lady Hodgson and 30 native soldiers marched with confidence and in state into the Ashanti capital as the proverbial fly walks into the spider's web. The first English woman to enter Kumassi, Lady Hodgson, has, I believe, been the last. Never in even a tropical storm did the clouds gather and break more quickly. The mutinous murmurings were barely heard before the long Dane guns flashed forth fire and slugs, and Kumassi fort and its tiny garrison were besieged with 3,000 refugees under the walls of the fort without food or shelter. For nearly a hundred years have the Ashantis troubled England, sometimes actively aggressive, sometimes sullenly defiant. For generations they have been a terror to their neighbors, who purchased peace only by tribute to the Ashanti king. Early in the century, in 1824, the Ashantis secured the head of the then governor of the Gold Coast, the unfortunate Sir Charles McCarthy, in 1873 Lord Welsley carried war and devastation into their country, and in more recent times, in 1896, Sir Francis Scott and Sir William Maxwell again took a punitive expedition to Kumassi, which resulted without bloodshed in the deportation of King Premph to Sierra Leone, whence it has been necessary to transfer him still further to distant Seychelles.

stance, they are employed as guards, porters, station masters, and many are to be found in the workshops as mechanics and artificers.

When the railway is quite finished, it will be 126 miles long—Sekondi to Tarquah is 40 miles, and the extension another 86 miles. The line is a three-foot six-inch gauge. FRED SHELFOED.

Russian Trade in 1902.

The total exports from Russia during the first six months of 1902 amounted to \$178,371,250, of which amount \$578,860 went to the United States, against \$845,945 during the same period in 1901. The total import into Russia for the same period was \$131,060,805, of which \$11,864,570 came from the United States, against \$10,680,585 for the same period in 1901. It must be remembered that these figures do not state the entire imports from the United States, as most goods shipped from the United States to Russia are sent through Germany, England and Denmark, and are credited to those countries.

According to the official accounts of receipts and expenditures of the imperial Russian finances, the ordinary receipts for the first six months were \$437,319,460, more than \$20,000,000 above those of the same period of last year. The extraordinary receipts were \$100,560,960, or nearly twice as much as last year, making a total of \$537,880,420, against \$446,083,730 in 1901.

W. R. HOLOWAY.

Austrian Navy as an Aid to Commerce.

In addition to various other enterprises for increasing Austro-Hungarian exports, it is of interest to note that the Zenta, one of the vessels of the Austro-Hungarian navy, lately commissioned for a years cruise, has been, in a measure, rendered available for purposes of commercial investigation. The Zenta will visit the chief ports of Africa, several important island groups, as well as Uruguay, Brazil and



ELEANORA DUSE.

Two Noted Foreign Actresses Now in America

Signora Eleanora Duse and Mrs. Patrick Campbell Are Stars of the First Magnitude.

ELEANORA DUSE is esteemed the greatest of living actresses, the world's greatest tragedienne. Madame Duse comes of a family of actors of tragedy, on her father's side, two generations having served on the tragic stage. At the age of 41 she of the third generation easily stands the world's Queen of Tragedy.

The Italian actress differs in her art essentially from Bernhardt, her famous French rival. As one writer well expresses it: "It is, indeed, this naturalness in her art that has placed her in the position she now occupies—that of the greatest living actress. Her methods are almost diametrically opposed to those of Sarah Bernhardt, who is the personification of theatricality in every move, every gesture, every facial play she makes while on the stage."

This is Signora Duse's third visit to the United States, which country welcomes with great pleasure and appreciation this very gifted artist. She is appearing in three tragedies, works of her fellow-countryman, Gabrielle d'Annunzio. The plays are "Francesca da Rimini," "La Citta Morta," and "La Gioconda." For the last two years the newspapers have been busy coupling the names of Duse and d'Annunzio, and it is reported that the great actress, who is also reported to have a horror of publicity being given her private affairs, was so overwhelmed at the credence bestowed on these stories all over America that she almost decided to dispense with an American tour. At any rate, her visit is made a year later than originally planned.

The stories are to the effect that Madame Duse was making herself conspicuous by showering upon d'Annunzio an affection that he was conspicuously weary of. It was also reported that the signora was so heart-broken over d'Annunzio's cruel coldness she had decided there was no spirit left in her to continue her work before the public; and that, in the very height of her success, she was contemplating retirement. Well, either a reconciliation has been effected, or else the stories were palpably false; here Madame Duse is with us, acting in d'Annunzio's plays, her fire undiminished, her art better than ever.

Though virtually born to the stage, Eleanora Duse has had to fight her way to her present exalted position. Her face, which, while beautiful, is very sad, seems to us to hint of the weary struggle that had to be gone through with before her superiority won general recognition.

Her father, like her grandfather, although both were actors of considerable reputation, was not financially successful. At the age of 12, in order to help in getting the daily bread for the family, the little girl was put on the stage. From the first a knowing one here and there judged her the possessor of unusual talents and prophesied great things for her. For several years she labored away in the lesser theaters, but at the age of 15 enjoyed a decided piece of success; as Juliet winning applause from a large Florentine audience, and from that on her fame grew rapidly and persistently.

Although noted for lack of ranting in the rendition of the tragic roles she portrays, Signora Duse has the true southerner's power of emotional expression. Love and despair are expressed with an eloquence at once thrilling and under control, and

the spell the tragedienne casts remains long with those that have had the rare delight of listening to her beautiful voice and observing her marvelous and exquisite art.

With a sigh we turn from the consideration of her work to that of another foreign lady engaged this year in an "American invasion," Mrs. Patrick Campbell. Mrs. Campbell sought our shores and sheekels last season also. She seems a bit milder than a twelvemonth ago, not quite so given to the exploiting of doubtful plays. In fact her "Aunt Jennie" of this season may be termed innocuous; a man need not blush to sit beside his wife or sister while the play progresses before him. Instead of the usual sort of thing with a lot of viciousness gilded over to make it at all acceptable before decent folk, we have a really clever and clean little bit of society life to study. And we have a moral quite obvious; not the accustomed success of the real villain and the overburdening of the weak woman. "Aunt Jennie" deals with a man with a past instead of the woman with the past; and, contrary to general custom, the man reaps the wild oats of his sowing. A woman of high principle takes it upon herself to teach a lesson to a man that all his life had looked upon women as nothing but mere playthings, in the world to minister to man's gratification and passing whim. At the moment the man becomes for the first time in his life in earnest, the woman reveals to him that he has been nothing to her but a plaything.

Mrs. Campbell's other roles have, almost without exception, I believe, been those of ladies either with pasts behind them or unsavory presents along with them. Mrs. Campbell, as a rule, has gathered about her large audiences to look at the antics of these unlovely females, and just exactly what those large audiences came out for to see I do not know. The papers speak at length of Mrs. Campbell's remarkable gowns, but we have always thought them of especial remarkableness only because of what was left off the waists and what was put on to the trains. Many people speak gushingly of Mrs. Campbell's fine acting, but it has seemed to us to be largely an unconscious lot of elocuting and an unconscionable lot of rolling of large orbs. For our part we like naturalness rather than clothes and theatricality.

Our American actress, Mrs. Fiske, in the naturalness of her methods, is compared to Madame Duse. Mrs. Fiske is preeminently one not given to over-exaggeration and artificiality, and therefore her work is so convincing. We do not consider the role in which this eminent lady is now appearing so well suited to her as several in which she has given us delight, but she can never be other than interesting.

As Becky Sharp we thought her wonderful, and as Tess she added thick laurels to the wreath she wears so gracefully. As Mary of Magdala, her this season's character, her work is refined and beautiful, but we are not altogether enamored of the play. "Mary of Magdala," the creation of Paul Heyse, the noted German novelist and dramatist, is considered a wonderful retelling of an old story, and many cultured theatergoers have approved highly of Mrs. Fiske's production of the drama. We do not quarrel with Mrs. Fiske's interpretation of the heroine; we repeat she has appeared in roles much better suited to her personality.

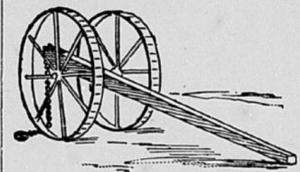
THE ASTROLOGER



STRONG POST LIFTER.

Arrangement That Does Away with the Hard Work Incidental to Removing Posts.

The difficulty in removing fence posts from old position is largely overcome by using the arrangement shown in the accompanying illustration. It consists simply of two mower wheels, an iron axle, a long beam of almost any size and a chain. Raise the outer end of this beam to



THE POST LIFTER.

a perpendicular position, pushing the apparatus up against a post. Place the chain about the post and fasten it. By depressing the upright beam, the post is lifted out of the ground. This device is especially advantageous when the posts are large at the lower end. Two persons can remove posts very rapidly. One should manipulate the apparatus, pushing it up against the post, the other placing the chain about and removing the post when it is out of the ground.—American Agriculturist.

RENOVATING THE SOIL.

Best and Cheapest Way Is to Grow Leguminous Plants for One or More Seasons.

Clover has long been prized as a very valuable crop; the difficulty, however, in securing a stand renders the clover crop on most farms very unsatisfactory. For this reason vetches, soy beans, the velvet bean and some of the vetches are gaining a great deal of recognition. It is absolutely necessary to build up the soil in some manner; our rapidly increasing population, together with our expanding export trade, demands a greater food supply each year. Formerly we supplied the deficiency by breaking up more government land; we have, however, reached the limit in that direction, and it is necessary to turn our attention to more extensive farming; for this reason every farmer should make a test of the different leguminous plants on his soil to determine which is the most valuable for his particular use, as well as to acquaint himself with the good qualities and the peculiarities of each. Changes are constantly taking place in farming methods as well as in other lines of business; those farmers who take advantage of the new processes are the ones who succeed. If your land has become poor legumes will restore it. It is important that they be grown two or more seasons.—Agricultural Epitomist.

THE IDEAL FARM HOUSE.

It is Surrounded by Trees on the Outside and Love of the Beautiful Dwells Within.

The most successful farmers pay some attention to the beautifying of the farm home. The man that takes no interest in the surroundings of his habitation will usually be found to be the man who has not enterprise enough to succeed in his general farming operations. Trees well placed are an immense addition to the home and not only increase its desirableness to the occupants, but make it more valuable in the market. What is more dreary than a farm house in a bare spot with no touches of nature near it? The children in that house will get out into the great world as soon as possible after getting big enough to do so. Beauty is a power everywhere, and no less in the farm surroundings than elsewhere. Let it have sway on the farm. Plant trees, perennial shrubs and flowers, and make permanent places for annual flowers. Above all and in addition to all have a nice lawn. It will cost money and labor, but it will be worth all that it costs in both. These things will make the boys and girls love the farm and keep them from leaving it. If forced out into the world they will often come back to the old home beloved because of the beautiful things that exist there.—Farmers' Review.

Allow the Hens to Forage.

The hen is a scavenger, and in hunting up the stray bits here and there, she becomes a medium of converting that which would be lost without her aid into a valuable and salable product, while the number of seeds of weeds and undesirable grasses consumed, lessens the labor of the farmer the succeeding season. Hence in the fall she often repays whatever loss may have been sustained by her support in the early part of the year. Although many hens do not lay during the fall, being engaged in shedding the old and donning the new feathers, yet at no season of the year could this be done at less expense than in the fall. The hens should, therefore, be given their liberty in the fall, to forage at will, in order to save the waste left in the fields from harvesting.—Prairie Farmer.

DIVIDING BEE COLONIES.

Valuable Suggestions for Those Who Are Not Yet Experts in Management of Apiculture.

A colony of bees may very easily be divided if they are strong and do not swarm. It is necessary, of course, to have them in movable comb hives to make a complete job of it. When the colony is full of bees and the combs well filled with brood they are ready to divide. One half will have no queen for the present, but the bees will rear one and she will be ready for duty in some 20 or 25 days thereafter. It is better to have a fertile queen ready to introduce in the queenless half, and a fine queen may be purchased from some breeder of good stock, and thus we have introduced new blood, which is very important.

Take out of the hive to be divided a larger portion of the frames of comb which have the oldest brood in them, that is, brood that is capped over, and with the bees that adhere to the combs set in the new hive. Leave the queen in the old hive, for she can be of more use there than in the new one, as most of the working force of bees will go back to the old hive, and it will be stronger of bees in a day or two than the new colony, and as most of the brood frames are in the new hive, empty ones take the place of them in the old one, so that she can fill these with eggs, and the eggs with honey. It may be necessary to take more frames from the old hive and shake the bees from them into the new one, for in the new hive we want the largest number of bees so that when all the old ones return there will be enough young bees left to take care of the brood and make a fair colony. If a new queen is to be introduced into the new colony, and she is bought of some queen breeder, directions always go with her how to proceed in introduction. At the lapse of the time mentioned above, examine the new colony for brood or a queen, if they are left to rear one, for if she fails to materialize the colony is doomed to destruction and must be furnished a queen or brood from which to rear another. Colonies may be rapidly increased thus if the honey season is good.—A. H. Duff, in Rural World.

WORTH THINKING ABOUT.

As a General Proposition It May Be Said That Drawing Poultry Before Marketing Pays.

Opinions differ in the United States regarding the practice of drawing poultry before marketing. While it is desirable to suit the demands of the market to which shipment is made, the following conclusions from recent American experiments are of interest:

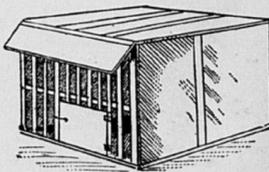
Under precisely the same conditions of temperature and humidity, drawn fowls will keep from 20 to 30 hours longer than those not drawn. The presence of undigested food and excrementitious substances in animals which have been killed most certainly favors tainting of the flesh and general decomposition. The viscera are the first parts to show putrescence, and to allow these to remain within the body cannot do otherwise than favor infection of the flesh with bacteria and ptomaines, even if osmosis does not actually carry putrid juices to contiguous tissues. Hunters know the value of drawing birds as soon as possible after they have been shot, in order to keep them sweet and fresh and to prevent their having a strong intestinal flavor. That the opening of the body of an animal and exposing the internal surfaces to the air may have some influence of itself in hastening putrefaction is admitted, but when the process of drawing is properly conducted this secondary objection to its immediate performance may be entirely set aside. Absolute cleanliness should be maintained throughout the operation, and if the entrails are torn and their contents allowed to come in contact with the flesh of the animal its interior should at once be washed out with clean cold water and afterwards with a solution of common salt and the carcass hung up until thoroughly dry.—The Farm.

RAIN AND SUN-PROOF.

Coop for Chickens That Is Easy to Clean and Can Be Made of Cheap Lumber.

I have a chicken coop which I think suits me better than any other I have tried before, says J. C. Becraft, of Marshall, Mo., in a letter to Poultry Keeper.

The coop is made out of cheap lumber. The bottom is hinged at the back

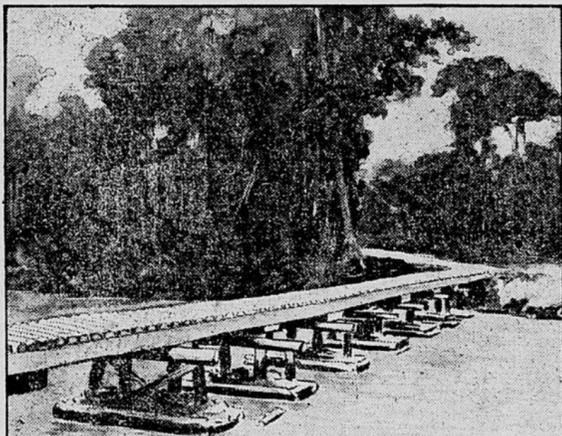


A MISSOURI COOP.

to the upper part. At the front I drive two staples to fasten the coop down, so it can be moved about. The upper part comes down over the floor all the way so you can put a nail through the staple. The shade in the front is to keep the sun and rain out. These coops are very easy to clean.

One of the objections of feeding sloppy food is that it too often makes conditions which invite disease.

Early and late is a good rule in feeding poultry.



BRIDGE OVER THE OFIN RIVER, KUMASSI RAILWAY.

After the 1896 expedition the fort at Kumassi was built, a laborious and costly work in such a remote spot, and when I had the pleasure of enjoying in it the hospitality of the genial and talented resident, Capt. Donald Stewart, in 1899, I little thought that it would so soon be called into use to positively save the head of the governor of the Gold Coast colony. Such in brief has been the history of Ashanti, a remote but wealthy portion of the British empire, and the curtain now has fallen, it is hoped, upon the lengthy first act, of which the final scene was harrowing to a degree. The footlights are now up for the second act, in which the former clouds will be seen to roll away before the advance of that irresistible peacemaker and civilizer—the iron horse.

Of the result of the construction of the railway there can be no shadow of doubt, swords and executioner's knives will become plowshares, and the monotonous thud of the gold-mining stamp batteries will displace the spit of the Dane gun and the rattle of the Maxim, the confidence of the Ashantis will be gained, and with that the prosperity of the country is assured.

In spite of many difficulties we have now reached Obuassi, the headquarters of the Ashanti Gold Fields corporation—that is, so far as the earthworks are concerned. The rails have been laid as far as Ofin river, and, unless anything unforeseen occurs, they should reach Obuassi at the end of this year. Within the last three or four months we have been making splendid progress; the rate of construction has been as much as six or seven miles a month. The actual construction of the Kumassi extension was started in May of last year.

the Argentine Republic. An experienced officer of the Austro-Hungarian consular service has been detailed for duty—with the consent of the marine section of the ministry of war—to accompany the vessel on her cruise, in order to study the trade conditions of the countries visited and make reports to the government, with the ulterior object of increasing the exports of Austro-Hungarian products to the districts in question. Although towns may be visited where Austro-Hungarian consuls are stationed, a general survey by a competent commercial specialist cannot fail to be fraught with good results. It will be seen that no special legislative appropriation is necessary to render this kind of commercial exploration possible.

CARL BAILEY HURST.

National Consumption of Sugar. Figures derived from official sources show that the largest national consumption of sugar is in the United Kingdom, where it is 91.6 pounds per capita annually. The United States comes next, with a consumption of 68.4 pounds per capita, and then Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, each far exceeding the consumption of either France or Germany. The nations with the smallest per capita consumption are Spain, 10.6 pounds; Turkey, eight pounds; Roumania, 7.8 pounds; Greece, 7.2 pounds; and Italy, 6.1 pounds.

Relatively, sugar is very cheap in the United Kingdom. The retail price there is four to six cents a pound, whereas in sugar-producing Austria, for instance, where only the local product is used, the price is six to eight cents a pound, presumably on account of heavy special taxes.

It is estimated that the sugar production of the world has increased eightfold in the past 60 years. In 1840 the figures were 1,150,000 tons, while now they are about 9,000,000 tons annually. The development of the beet-sugar industry accounts for much of this increase. That industry has grown from a product of 50,000 tons in 1840 to 6,000,000 tons. During the same period the cane sugar product has increased from 1,100,000 tons to 3,000,000 tons. In 1840 beets supplied 4.35 per cent. of the world's total sugar product; in 1900 67.71 per cent.

FRANK W. MAHIN.

Khaki is Popular. Khaki uniforms are now worn by all the foreign troops in China, except the Russians.