

In the Public Eye Abroad

Short Letters from Correspondents in Many Countries.

The Central African Railway.
One of the most prominent enterprises which have yet been set afoot for the development of Africa is that which proposes to utilize for traffic the great chain of waterways composed by the Zambesi and Shire rivers and Lakes Nyassa and Tanganyika. The company known as the Shire Highlands Railway Nyassaland, Limited, intend to open up the vast territory adjacent to these waterways by two links of railway, the first running from Chiromo, on the Shire, to Fort Johnston, at the southern end of Lake Nyassa; the second link of line to run from the northern end of Lake Nyassa to Port Rhodes, at the southern extremity of Lake Tanganyika. From Chinde to the mouth of the Zambesi, the transport is at present worked by means of stern-wheel steamers, which ply as far as Katungas, on the Shire, and thence the traffic is conveyed by bearers overland to Fort Johnston. When the railway is completed, however, the overland traffic will begin at Chiromo, and will go by way of Blantyre and Zomba to Fort Johnston. The railway track runs through valuable estates all the way, and the additional wealth which the project will bring to the region is manifest.

In round figures, the total length of the first link of railway will be close on 300 miles. From the west to the head of Lake Nyassa the distance is 800 miles. The Nyassaland estates, through which this part of the railway will run, cover some 372,500 acres. The second reach of rail will run through large British government concessions, extending to 268,800 acres.

Wool Trade in Australia.
Australia has long been noted for the excellent class of its sheep. Formerly, the best wool was produced in Spain, the mild and equable climate favoring it. New South Wales was first stocked from Spanish flocks, and it is said that in this climate the wool has gradually grown softer,

from Norway and Sweden. The fishermen go out from the coast with their fleets of small boats and cast the odorous bait into the sea in great quantities, which generally attracts the sardines in shoals. But this year the price of the bait was unusually high, and it was used at the outset in a niggardly fashion. Some claim that as a consequence the sardines left these waters for better feeding grounds and did not return. On the other hand, it is said that for some unaccountable reason, virtually no sardines of packing size have appeared off the French coast since last spring. Fishermen's prices for the sardines are ordinarily from \$2.50 to \$2.70 per 1,000. This year, they have received from \$5.79 to \$9.65 per 1,000. There was a failure of the catch some three or four years ago, but nothing like so pronounced as this year's. The result at present has been to considerably embarrass the sardine exporters of both Nantes and Bordeaux.

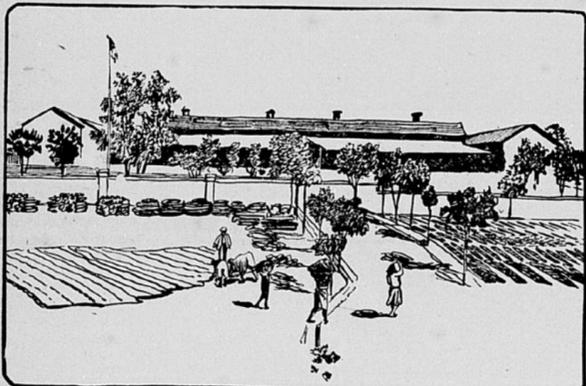
There exists an almost world-wide demand for French sardines, and this year it has been, if anything, stronger than usual; but in view of the insignificant catch (only ten per cent. of the average) a very small percentage of orders can be executed. This has resulted in great profit to the principal competitors of the French—the packers and exporters of Spain and Portugal.

It is believed that the whole catch along the French coast this year will not amount to more than 150,000 or 200,000 cases.

An idea of the importance of the French sardine industry may be had when the exports to the United States alone are considered. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1901, these reached the following declared values:

From Nantes and its agencies.....	\$ 541,168 33
From Bordeaux	458,235 00
Total	\$1,028,283 33

From Portugal, during the same year, the declared exports to the



A SCENE AT FORT JOHNSTON, The Point Where the Central African Railway Touches Lake Nyassa.

more elastic, and longer than that produced in Spain, and so has gained a high reputation.

In 1891, there were 61,831,416 sheep in New South Wales, the greatest number on record, and it is considered that the country was at that time overstocked. The total amount of wool said to have been produced in this state in 1891 was 375,600,667 pounds. In 1894, there were 4,000,000 less sheep, but 4,000,000 pounds more wool. There has been an almost constant decrease in the number of sheep down to the present time. Owing to the drought, the past year has been the most disastrous of all.

The total production of wool in New South Wales for 1900 is stated at 237,659,727 pounds, which is less by 137,940,940 pounds than in 1891.

The export of wool from the Commonwealth in 1900 was 409,394,600 pounds; from New Zealand, 156,174,000 pounds—total from Australasia, 565,568,600 pounds.

ORLANDO H. BAKER.

French Sardine Industry.

The sardine catch, which is one of the great industries of the west coast of France, with its centers of trade at Nantes and Bordeaux, has experienced a general failure this year. Sardine fishing is conducted all along the west coast from Brest to Bordeaux, but it is off the shores of Brittany, principally at Brest, Lorient and Belle Isle, that the famous Nantes sardines are taken. Thousands of fishermen are engaged in netting these little fish, which in this part of the Bay of Biscay are of a better and finer quality than elsewhere in the Atlantic, and great packing factories along the coast buy the daily catch and prepare it for immediate shipment in oil.

This year, as above stated, the catch has been almost a complete failure. Not only have the fish been caught in sizes much too large for packing, but there have been relatively few. This scarcity is so unusual that nobody seems to be able to explain it. Some of the packers say, however, that it is due to the economy of the fishermen themselves, who at the outset of the season, owing to the high price of the bait, failed to use sufficient to attract the sardines to the French coast. The bait used in sardine fishing is known as la roque, being the dried entrails and eggs of herrings and other fish, imported principally

United States amounted to \$102,292,222, and from Spain to only a few thousand dollars. This year, the exports from Portugal to the United States will be very large, and from Spain much greater than ever before. Meanwhile, there is an increased demand all over Europe for the Portuguese and Spanish products, which are much cheaper than the fine French sardines.

In this connection, it may be interesting to know that in view of the Spanish and Portuguese competition—which has steadily grown stronger in the cheaper grades during recent years, in spite of the marked superiority of the French sardines—it was decided at a conference of French exporters that every box of French sardines should be stamped with the word "France," in order that Portuguese and Spanish goods might not be confounded with them.

BENJ. H. RIDGELY.

Phylloxera in Italy.

Reports from Italy state that the phylloxera is working ravages among the vineyards of that country, and that there will be an unprecedented demand for American vines with which to graft the old ones. It is reported that 908 provinces in Italy have been invaded by this insect, and that not less than 750,000 acres of vineland have been entirely destroyed. The phylloxera invaded Italy in 1879, nine years after its first incursion into France. When discovered in France, it was noticed that it did not injure American vines that had been planted there. Investigation showed that this infinitesimal insect was as lively and energetic among California vineyards as in France, but that it inflicted no injury upon American vines, the opening made by the sting of the insect immediately filling with sap and closing, leaving no wound. For this reason, all vines must be grafted with American grafts in order to be secure from the phylloxera, the California grafts having generally been preferred. France is so well supplied with Americanized vines that she will undoubtedly try to furnish all the grafts that may be demanded by adjacent countries.

It was asserted at a meeting of the National Agricultural Society of France, held in Paris in September, 1899, that the success in wine growing in France must in the future depend entirely upon grafting. The same is probably true of other wine-growing countries.

JOHN C. COVERT.



MRS. ANNIE BESANT.

English Prophetess of Theosophy Has Not Yet Lost Her Hold on Her London Followers.

The end of Annie Besant is not yet. This seems to be the feeling which has been created in England, where the most famous of living theosophists has been making a three months' visit. Mrs. Besant left England a few days ago, on her way to India, where matters connected with the school for natives which she founded at Benares several years ago claim her attention. She is going by way of the continent and will hold theosophical meetings in Germany, Switzerland and Italy—evidently sailing from a southern port. Mrs. Besant will return to England in June and pursue her calling as a latter day Blavatsky in the vicinity of London.

A few years ago it was prophesied fully that Annie Besant was about to be ignored by the world at large and England in particular. But this prophecy has not been fulfilled. In fact, the little part of the universe represented by this island, at least, thinks more kindly of Mrs. Besant than it ever did before. She seems to have lived down much of the antagonism her earlier life aroused and to have inspired a kinder feeling among her countrymen than they were wont to show her. While in England Mrs. Besant held many lectures and it was only a few days before her departure that she spoke to a great audience in London.

She retains her marvelous charm and while she does so she will not cease to affect multitudes visibly; while she pursues her present discreet and intelligent educational methods in India she will not cease to win the approbation of a large portion of the English people.

It is now Mrs. Besant's annual programme to spend nine months of the year in India and the other three in England strengthening the theosophical society with the learning she brings fresh from the birthplace of theosophy. Mrs. Besant is the power of her cult in England, to-day, say what else people may of her. She it is who arranged for the various courses of theosophical lectures which leading English theosophists are this winter delivering in America. In fact, every missionary influence the society is exerting emanated primarily from her.

Mrs. Besant thinks theosophy ought to be assimilated rapidly by the Americans, because she considers Ameri-



MRS. ANNIE BESANT.

(High Priestess of Theosophy in Her Lecturing Robe.)

cans "a very psychic people." She says, however, in the same breath: "Your materialism is against you. Too many of your religions seek the support of the spirit to enrich the body, rather than the body to enrich the spirit."

This last summer in England has proved Annie Besant to be more than ever the friend of the London poor. These same poor always have and, I believe, always will, love her. Her charity has been too practical, her sympathy too frequently put to the test by the needy, to permit of their doubting her. A matter of minor importance to a hungry man or ragged beggar girl is the changing religious beliefs of the woman who befriends him or her. No one denies that Mrs. Besant has tried nearly every religion from strict evangelical doctrines to her present liberal faith in theosophy. No one forgets her brilliant defense in court against the slanderer which sought to rob her of her good name. Her avowed dislike of her husband, her separation from him and his priesthood in the Church of England, are details in her life history long since written. Her children are grown and married, but both of them now yield their mother the loyalty and affection which in youth they were forbidden to show her.

Sir Walter Besant cordially disliked his sister-in-law and changed the pronunciation of his name that he might not be called by hers. But she has moved on in her chosen path, solitary and scorned much of the way, but keeping always as her guiding star an abiding trust in the necessity of being true to herself. Perhaps Mrs. Besant will live to see her complete vindication and the cordial recognition of the work she has sincerely attempted to do. Those of us who have seen her this summer, are agreed, as I have said above, that the end of Annie Besant is not yet.—From a London Letter.

GIRL CORNET PLAYER.

Nine-Year-Old Edna White Has Wonderful Command Over Difficult Instrument.

Little Edna White, a New England lassie, now residing in Brooklyn, New York, is considered the champion cornetist of the age.

Only nine years of age, this musical prodigy has mounted the ladder of fame several rounds higher than musicians three times her age; she is queen of the horn and has already gained a reputation as a soloist which has even reached Europe.

There is no more sought after little girl in America than Edna White; leaders of bands and orchestras, entertainment societies and churches are bidding for her services. Society leaders are endeavoring to tempt her



EDNA PLAYING THE CORNET.

to play at banquets, receptions and teas.

It has not been two years since Edna first handled a cornet. Until 18 months ago she showed no sign whatever of possessing extraordinary musical talent.

Edna worked faithfully for over an hour. Coming quietly into the room Mr. White was astonished to hear his daughter play "Yankee Doodle," "Home, Sweet Home" and "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

This was the commencement of her musical career. She took weekly lessons and was allowed to take her own time in learning a selection. At the end of six months she made her first appearance at their home church in Brooklyn, using her father's cornet.

She is familiar with most of the great cornet soloists of the day, quaintly discussing the merits of their rendition and of their instruments, of which she is herself capable of good judgment. Of cornets she has a decided opinion, formed by testing and using the various makes on the market. Her present instrument was purchased with the first \$50 earned.

She is able to accompany the human voice in difficult selections and but needs to hear a piece once to be able to play it. It is marvelous how readily this little cornetist can transpose. She can follow at sight a classical selection for the voice or any instrument.

She is wholly unaffected and childish. Small, with much dark hair and intellectual brown eyes. She is quite pretty.

QUICK AS LIGHTNING.

A Rapid Recipe for Making Soda Biscuit, Together with Other Kitchen Hints.

If hot biscuit are fancied for tea or luncheon, the following good recipe saves bringing out pastry board and rolling pin after the kitchen has been cleared up: Grease the muffin rings slightly and put them on the greased baking pan. Rub into a quart of flour, sifted, with a small teaspoonful of salt and two heaping ones of baking powder, a scant half-cup of half-and-half lard and butter, stir to a dough with enough milk to make it just too thin to roll out; if too thin the biscuits will not be flaky. Drop from a spoon each muffin ring nearly full; it should be double in rising. Stir the dough to mound shape with tip of the spoon. By stirring a well-beaten egg into this dough and rubbing a generous tablespoonful of sugar into the flour, a nice tea cake, to be cut in slices with a hot knife and eaten hot with sweet butter, is made. Bake in round pans; a quart one should give eight slices, fluffy within and brown of crust.

Hot cake may be cut with impunity, and even fresh brown bread may be sent to table in nice slices if the knife is thrust into boiling water or otherwise heated before using. When beginning to make brown bread this season don't fail to insist that your grocer sells you old-fashioned "middlings," which now comes to market in bags from seven pounds upward. If bread made from this is kneaded as carefully as white and a little sugar or molasses added (not enough to be detected), it will a once become a family favorite. When a day old it makes delicious "nutty" sandwiches, and if sprinkled into the "eye" of boiling water with the right hand, while stirring with the left until of proper consistency, then cooked for 20 minutes, it is a delicious "porridge."—Washington Star.

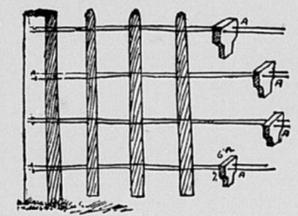


CHEAP FENCING MACHINE.

A Home-Made Arrangement That Does the Work as Well as Any Patented Device.

It is not every farmer that has a few rods of picket fence to make that feels himself able to buy a fencing machine. I designed the following plan, and while it is not so rapid as a regular machine, I think the work is better. It makes no short twists in the wires which unfits them for use if the pickets should in time rot, or one should want to move the fence.

Cut a piece of plank for each pair of wires, 7x1 1/2 x 6 inches, as at a. Bore a one-half inch hole in each corner of one end; put a wire through



WIRE AND PICKET FENCE.

each hole and fasten the wires in place to the post where you begin to weave. Then unroll and stretch the bottom wires first, the full length of the fence if straight, and staple them in place to the other end, or corner post, but not so tight as to not let them slip. Draw them straight and extend them beyond the last end post some 15 or 20 feet. Fasten them to some kind of heavy weight that will slip on the ground as the pickets are being woven in.

For an anchor, I loop the wires around the ends of a round stick, two or three feet long and put some rocks or anything else that may be handy, on the wires in front of the stick. Fix each pair of wires to a separate anchor.

To weave in the pickets, one man turns the short planks in a circular direction one-half a turn, to spread the wires and hold them while another puts in and drives the pickets in place. A gauge is necessary to keep the pickets even. A little practice will enable one to keep the pickets plumb and make as good and a much neater fence than any of the patent fence machines will make.—L. W. Colvin, in Farm and Home.

WINTER ON THE FARM.

Part of It Should Be Devoted to Study and the Rest to the Finishing of Job Work.

If the farmer intends to get to the front, now would be a good time to commence to study. Nights are getting long, and the farm work will not be in such a rush during the winter months. The farmer who does not improve has no excuse, as good farm literature can be had at a very low price. A few dollars invested in a half dozen good agricultural books, and three or four subscriptions to good papers, and you are prepared to start your family reading club. If one of your boys or girls shows a liking for poultry or any branch of farming, get a small library and start them in business; it will be money well invested. Now is a good time to do that job of work on your house, or barn, which you have been neglecting for so long. All improvements done about the place will more than pay for themselves in better looks of the place and conveniences. You should enlarge your barn so as to be able to take care of plenty of hay and forage, for that is the only way to keep up the fertility of the soil, and each farmer should consider his farm as his bank account, and his crop after expense is paid, his per cent. But most farmers act as though they thought they were miners and got their living by digging. They are not scientific; they don't keep up with the times. They do a thing just so because father did it that way. But that will never do; civilization is on the forward march, and if you, brother farmer, do not keep up with the procession you will be left in the rut.—Enos C. Pitman, in Agricultural Epitomist.

Study Science of Feeding.

In no other branch of the live stock industry does weight for age cut such a figure as in the hog business. A pig that is not a good grower and gainer is no good. His breeding on paper may be fine, but if he is not growing, he will not satisfy the customer who is looking for a hog that will breed better and grow better stock. All breeders of pure-bred hogs, therefore, should be good feeders, and no one who is not a good feeder should attempt to break into the business. It is well to learn to feed hogs before spending much money for fancy breeding stock. Many who have failed with pure-bred stock have simply been ignorant of the science of feeding. It cannot be bought or learned, except by experience and practice. The man who doesn't know how would better get his experience on grade hogs. It will cost him less.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Cod liver oil, with skim milk, is suggested as a cheap substitute for cream in calf raising.

RENOVATING THE

Intense Grass Culture Will Fertility to Dormant Without Fail.

George M. Clark, in a grass culture before the Minister (Mass.) Pomono Gr. "There is a large amount of worn-out lands, and half of which I receive speak of it I wish emphatically to say such thing as worn-out la are simply dormant.

"Intense cultivation is the thing to renew and give ne the soil. It must be worked, worked, 20 times at least now. The old sod should be plant food right away; the of the land should be kept t worked to a depth of at least six. The land should be worked as n 30 times in July and August, an ed September 1 in this latitude a fact that timothy and Red Top be sown, completed and finished same date. In other words, sown in part on Monday and ag part on Saturday of the same will never produce any grass fr seed sown on Saturday, for the r that the seed sown on Monday take possession of the field. I u quarts of timothy and 14 quar reloaded Red Top to each acre, put it on as described in the book use bone, muriate of potash and trate of soda, in preparations as give in the circular. These fertilizers, a whole, cost not more than three dol lars a ton of hay products. My entir crop from 16 acres in one year (for the two crops was 208,475 pounds which, when figured from \$8.50 to \$11 a ton, gave an average profit of \$51.61 an acre. How often should the land be reseeded? I should say once in five or six years.

"It takes ten months to produce a crop, and 40 days from the time it starts in the spring, with this cultivation, a drought will not harm it so much. The winter storms always give water in the spring; and intense cultivation, with perfect connection with the subsoil, gives an early start, and from three to five inches more water will make the first crop. The old field cannot do it. This new method will always make a large first crop."

DOES POULTRY PAY?

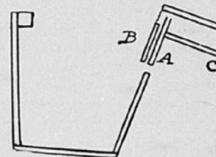
The Writer of This Article Gives Reasons for Answering Affirmation in the Affirm.

The above is a very common question. We answer by saying it can pay, but always pay. On the far side of the pond, it does not keep account of fowls are bringing in two reasons why poultry generally pay. One of the fowls are kept in relation numbers, from 50 to 100 in a Another reason is that the given the fowls represents largely gleanings from the fields, chards and barns. Material would most certainly go to wa goes to make up the bulk of the f the fowls receive. The question comes one of importance when plied to large operations independent of the farm. Then the answer must depend on a good many thin The first of these is the experier of the poultryman. When novit with money go into poultry raisi they do not generally make it It is not a dead sure thing, and fees with money can succeed with dead sure things. TI with money and no experier goes into the poultry busin erally comes out of it with lot of experience and no Farmers' Review.

CURE FOR CRIBBING

A Device for the Manger Will Sure to Break Horses of a Vicious Habit.

The accompanying cut shows a manger arranged so as to cure a cribbing horse. The top board of the manger, A, is movable, and back of it is another board, B, with a row



ANTI-CRIBBING MANGER.

of nails about three inches below the top of A. Two levers work on pivots, C and D. When the horse takes hold of A and pulls, it has the effect of lifting B, and the nails, striking the cribber's upper lip, soon cause him to give up all inclination to crib. I believe this device is original with a neighbor of mine, and I publish it, thinking it of value to anyone who has a cribbing horse, especially a colt that is getting the habit.—N. Y. Tribune.

ALL AROUND THE FARM.

Sugar beets harvested October 12, 19 and 26 in Montana were richer than those harvested September 28 to October 5.

Canadian sheep men say that there is no crop that they can raise that will put a bunch of lambs ahead or put an old flock in good condition as satisfactorily as a field of rape.

R. S. Shaw estimates that waste products of western farms eaten by live stock yielded a "profit of \$1.44 per acre over and above the value of the food secured by the animals and required for maintenance."