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In the Transvaal they are now struggling with a deficit. It cost England one billion and a quarter to acquire that African deficit. But she probably thinks it worth the price. Those South American states are developing an industry with money in it. They are buying ships. They do not want for the purpose of selling the vessels to countries so badly in need of them that extravagant prices will be paid.

Owing to excessive cigar smoking a young man at Muscatine has been declared insane. No notice was taken of the loss of mental power until the victim was far past help. Some persons are of the opinion that the mind begins turning soft about the time the first little roll of doctored tobacco is used. The health commissioner of New York has more than once remarked that the present winter has been an exceedingly bad one for the people of that city. The truth is that all death records have been broken. Of 1,682 deaths during the past week, 405 were caused by pneumonia. The unprecedented weather is held responsible for the unusual conditions.

Strangely as it may seem to the unskilled in medical science, the doctors say the fall of snow last week served to materially reduce bronchial and pulmonary troubles that have this winter caused so much local annoyance. The benefit is said to come by purification of the atmosphere and the better supply of oxygen.—Estherville Democrat.

Mr. Uchida, the Japanese consul general in New York, is a man of few words—in English, at all events—but when he used our vernacular he displays a praiseworthy familiarity with it. "Notice," said a friend to Mr. Uchida, "that a high placed Russian in London predicts that Alexieff will drive all your people into the sea before the end of September." "Yes, I saw the cablegram. But all Japanese swim fairly well," was the answer.

There may be a deeper reason than American sympathy for the Japanese at the bottom of the hostility of the Russian press. Perhaps Russia is remembering that but for the United States Japan might yet be a maritime sleep and uncivilized. It was America that first opened the eyes of Japan to the desirability of western civilization. Had this not happened there would have been nobody to protest at Russia's advance.—Indiana polis Journal.

John Allen of Mississippi says that in all the sixteen years he was a member of congress he never knew a man to be troubled with conscientious scruples or prevented by constitutional limitations from voting for an appropriation of any kind if it was for the benefit of his district or community. The observation was occasioned by some remarks on the proposition to loan the St. Louis exposition \$4,000,000; which was being opposed by some men who claimed that the constitution did not warrant any such action.

Congressman Kyle of Ohio, while campaigning in that state, stopped one evening at the best hotel in a small city, having put in a hard day. He had hardly laid his head on the pillow before he was fast asleep and he knew nothing until he was called next morning. At breakfast several of the other guests complained vigorously of the terrific snore which had resounded all night in room 16. They agreed that a man with such a tremendous diaphragm should never sleep away from home. "How did you rest, sir?" said one of them to Mr. Kyle. "Never slept better in my life," answered the congressman, helping himself to another slice of ham. "Why, where the dickens were you?" exclaimed the stranger. "In room 16," said the campaigner calmly.

Oriental Comment. Sure the Russian navy's blundered When Japan's cannon thundered. By seizing the road of the gunboats. Treated the nerves of the nation. Or some other ailment smote them, no one knows exactly which. It is plain that whatever it was already fallen sickly. On the Japanese vision as a dress to fill the And that leather breeches from the Russian services. Makes them look all alike—dressed exactly fit to kill.

Blue Grass—Its Early History. It is the prevailing opinion that the original home of the blue grass was in the state of Kentucky, and from there it spread into whatever sections of the country it may now be found. But it would appear that this is a mistaken idea and that it is a native of the Wabash valley, in Indiana. Prof. John Collett, who was formerly state geologist of Indiana, says it was found in that state by William Henry Harrison's troops during the march to Tippecanoe in 1811. In some places in the bottoms it was growing three feet high. The seed was carried to Kentucky and then sown, but it could not be made to thrive alone in the warm soil and it had to be sown in oats and rye. No blue grass grew in Kentucky until after it was imported from Indiana.

A story is told that a man from Terre Haute, Ind., once visited Henry Clay at the latter's home in Kentucky, and was so charmed with the blue grass he found there that he suggested that Mr. Clay let him have some of the seed to take back to Indiana. The answer was, "Tom, don't make a fool of yourself. The grand sire of Kentucky blue grass is growing around your house and in the fence corners of your fields. We got the seed from Terre Haute and the middle Wabash and after a hard struggle got it to grow here in its present luxuriousness."

To Thicken Tame Grass. When our readers examine carefully the stand of grass sown this spring they will likely find spots in which the stand is thin, possibly because of too much water some time during the season, possibly because the land was thin in spots, or for other reasons which need not be mentioned. In these cases, if the stand is reasonably good over the main portions of the fields, we would thicken these places up and do it as soon as possible. There are various ways that may be adopted. One is by sowing the Timothy seed very close together, and giving it a light harrowing. Where the stand is mostly gone we would adopt this method. Where, however, there is half a stand or more and it needs thickening up, we would not harrow because the harrowing will do more harm to the grass already growing than it would do good in covering the seed about to be sown. The better way is to put on more seed and take chances.

We would not sow clover in the fall of the year, however, unless it might be in the extreme southern portion of our territory, southern Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, or southern Missouri. We doubt if it would be advisable there. Keep your clover in the sack until next spring, then sow it either before the frost leaves the ground and take chances, or after the ground is ready to work and cover it with a light harrow. Which of these last methods should be followed can be told better next spring.—Wallace Farmer.

Iowa Dairy Interests. Iowa is not generally regarded as the leading dairy state in the Union. A few years ago our state held that rank, and at one time produced nearly one-fifth of all the creamery butter marketed in the United States. The dairy interests have suffered a depression during recent years and systematic efforts are now being made to revive and strengthen this industry. The Iowa Legislature is asked for an appropriation of \$75,000 for a modern, fire-proof, thoroughly equipped dairy building at Ames and \$25,000 for the purchase of additional land for establishing a dairy and poultry farm. The dairy farm will be a good investment as the local milk supply near the college has been absorbed by the boarding house it also strengthens the educational work along these lines. Less has been done for the dairy industry of Iowa at Ames than in any one of the states surrounding Iowa, with one exception. A bulletin from the dairy department of the Iowa State College is now in the hands of the printer. The bulletin gives the results of an investigation extending over a period of about eighteen months. The observations for this work were begun by Professor McKay while on a trip abroad inspecting the dairy work of foreign countries in the summer of 1901. The moisture content has been found to be one of the chief factors in butter-making. Strangely enough butter that appears "dry" often has relatively a high percentage of water, and butter that is commonly called "watery" is frequently shown by chemical analysis to contain a low percentage of water. It was first discovered that the Danish butter-makers who make the finest butter sold on the London market were putting more water into their butter than the Americans and at the same time making a better butter that would command a higher price in the world's best markets. The secret of this process has been discovered at the Iowa dairy school at Ames,

and will be given to the butter-makers of Iowa without cost. The process is simple and may be applied in every creamery and on every farm, where butter is made, without the outlay of a single dollar. The results of this investigation will make it possible to increase the value of the butter product of the state by approximately half a million dollars annually and at the same time give to the consumer a better article. The bulletin is free and may be had on application to C. F. Curtiss, Director of the Experiment Station, at Ames.

A Clever Fish. The salmon seems to be gifted with much intelligence, or "hereditary foresight," as it is occasionally called, which is more particularly acute when danger signals are abroad, says William G. Harris in Field and Stream. They have been known, when congregated in the upper pools, to become frightened by poachers approaching them with net or spear and to immediately dash down stream to a distance of thirty miles in one night, not stopping until they had reached pools so deep that they could not be taken with the appliances of the poacher. They seemed to know that they went higher up the stream their doom was sealed. When coming from the sea in schools and on entering the estuary they have been seen with an old leader at the head of the school, the rest forming a triangle about two and a half feet below the surface of the water, and on calm days, guided by the old patriarch, they would swim around the fishermen's nets, never approaching them nearer than ten or twelve yards.

Standing an Egg on End. Any fresh egg can, without being boiled, be balanced on either end by any one possessing patience and a steady hand. In order to save time the egg should be placed first on a short time on the end upon which it is desired to balance it, so as to allow the yolk to settle; then both forearms of the person making the experiment should be rested on the edge of the table and the egg should be taken between the three fingers and thumbs of both hands and slowly turned around until the center of gravity is found. This experiment may at first require a little time, but after a little practice it will be found very easy to do. It would be well to try it first on the tablecloth and then on the bottom of a plate.

It is conceded, of course, that the present century is far more advanced than that of Columbus, so it is only to be expected that different methods have been furnished to the world. A Defense of Dancing. It is not necessary in these days to defend the claim of the dance to a place among the arts. As soon as we have got rid of the Puritan prejudice on the point (and one may hope that this no longer exists for the intelligent part of the population) the claim is too overwhelming to need apology. For if we take art to mean the production of beauty then the case only needs stating to be conceded, while if we understand it as self expression in some concrete form, we shall find that the dance, which is a kind of fusion of music, painting and sculpture, is pre-eminently capable of giving expression beyond the possibility of words to the basic, and therefore largely unarticulate, parts of our nature—the hunger of the spirit and the joy of life.—London Outlook.

Genesis of Life Insurance. Life insurance originated in 1706 in London. In that year there was formed the first life insurance company. It was called the Amicable Society For a Perpetual Assurance Office. It was a mutual benefit concern. Each member, without reference to age, paid a fixed admission fee and a fixed annual charge per share on from one to three shillings, and at the end of the year a portion of the fund accumulated was divided among the heirs of those who had died, in accordance with the number of shares each dead person had held. Out of this company, with its crude and imperfect methods, life insurance as it exists today has grown.

Swinging Round the Circle. In the journey of life we often travel in circles. Therefore do today the good that is in you. Plant your blossoms. You will come back to them by and by. It is the beauty of the things that you do today that has most to do with making beautiful your tomorrow. One of the blessings of the sunset is in reaping the memories of what was planted in the morning.

The First Corset. The first corset—not counting ancient modifications of the Grecian zone and girdle—was introduced into France by Catherine de Medici. It was a strange affair and fashioned after the style of a knight's cuirass. The framework was entirely of iron, and the velvet, which decorated the exterior only, served to hide a frightful and cumbersome article of torture.

Good Scheme. Hicks—You keep duplicates of all your old love letters? What an ideal! Wicks—Yes; when I have done something particularly foolish I just read over one of those letters. It is quite encouraging to know that I am remembered so much of a fool as I used to be.—Boston Transcript.

The Literal Truth. Duuns—What do you mean by sending me word that you were not in? Debs—I didn't. I sent you word that I was out. Duuns—Well, and what did you mean by that? Debs—Exactly what I said. I am out of cash.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Plants Without Roots. The "flower of the air" is a curious plant found in China and Japan. It is so called because it appears to have no root and is never fixed to the earth. It twines round a dry tree or sterile rock. Each shoot produces two or three flowers like a lily—white, transparent and odoriferous. It is capable of being transported 600 or 700 miles, and it grows as it travels, suspended on a twig.

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