

SUMATRA TOBACCO.
 Washington, Dec. 27.—The following has been reported by the secretary of agriculture, who reports a successful termination of experiments conducted at Government experiment station in the production of Sumatra tobacco near Hartford.

One acre of an acre was planted under a shade cloth shade nine feet high and cultivated and fermented under the direction of M. L. Floyd, tobacco expert of the department. The yield of cured tobacco was 700 pounds making an estimated yield for one acre of 2100 pounds, which lost about 10 per cent in the fermentation.

The crop has been sold for \$473.70, making an estimated value for one acre of \$1421. The cost of production, including the whole cost of the shade—the frame for which will last for five years, will not exceed \$500 per acre, leaving a net profit of over \$900 per acre. This was an average price of 71 cents per pound. The crop grown in the same field without shade, and fermented in the same way, yielded about the same quantity and brought 27 cents per pound.

The Sumatra tobacco grown under shade has been submitted to New York and Philadelphia merchants and has been pronounced satisfactory and fully equal to Sumatra tobacco. These facts, taken in connection with the award at Paris exposition of two points for the Florida grown Sumatra, show that we can grow Sumatra tobacco of the highest quality in this country and save farmers between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000 which is now sent abroad annually for the foreign grown leaf.

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 Your rug will refund your money if PINK OINTMENT fails to cure Eczema, Tetter, Old Ulcers and Sores, Pimples and Blackheads on the face, and all skin diseases.

PINK AND WHITE TERRACES.

Combined into View Again Above New Zealand's Volcanic Debris.

Mr. Henry M. Cadell, a Scotchman who some years ago wrote one of the best condensed accounts of our Yellowstone park, has been visiting the volcanic zone in North Island, New Zealand, where he caught glimpses of the pink and white terraces that were buried out of sight 14 years ago. This region is a land of wonders. No part of the world, except the Yellowstone park, is so conspicuous for hot springs and geysers. They burst from the ground endlessly diversified in form, size and chemical composition. Long before European settlers saw New Zealand the thermal and mineral waters attracted the natives, who had discovered their curative properties. Mr. Cadell says that some sanitariums have now been erected here and are visited by many New Zealanders and foreigners.

Mount Tarawera, about 3,000 feet high, was supposed to be extinct till 1886, when one winter's night it suddenly awoke. The natives who live around the shores of the beautiful lake of the same name at the foot of the volcano told Mr. Cadell that 11 days before the catastrophe they saw a spectral canoe floating in the heavens above the lake. They had never seen anything like it before, and they believe the spectacle was a forewarning that some terrible event would occur. Mirages are sometimes seen in that region. The canoe may have been merely a phenomenon of this sort or perhaps only a curiously shaped cloud.

The explosion came with scarcely a moment's warning. A tremendous shock disturbed the entire region, and the ash-covered summit of the volcano was blown into the air to a height of 20,000 feet, visible for 150 miles. Flaming scoriae and a deluge of ashes fell in dense showers on the surrounding district. Many villages were crushed beneath the weight of dry ashes or buried under heaps of mud. Many places were buried deep under layers of volcanic dust.

One of the most regrettable features of the explosion was the destruction of the "Wonder of Wonders," the famous mineral spring which filled a crater about 650 feet in circumference, and, overflowing its transparent, alabasterlike margin, fell in thin azure sheets from basin to basin. As it fell the water, saturated with silica and sulphurous substances, became cooler and gradually changed color from the sapphire tints of the upper basin to turquoise blue lower down and a slightly azure shade where the waters entered the lake. These "white and pink terraces," as they were called, were among the most beautiful of sights, and few foreigners going to New Zealand failed to pay them a visit. The terraces were blotted out beneath a heat of scoriae. Mr. Cadell brings the interesting news that here and there these gorgeously colored rocks are again coming into view, and it is evident from his description of the region in its present aspects that the phenomena of this wonderland will always continue to rank among the most remarkable of nature's spectacles.—New York Sun.

An Educational Possibility.
 Electricity is now being utilized in the tanning business. What a pity it could not have been used in that way during the schoolboy days of some of the old gray headed fellows who are now posing as the very pinks of perfection.—St. Louis Star.

All in the Family.
 "It has been stated," says the London Chronicle, "that Lord Salisbury will not take any salary with the office of privy seal, but it would be almost without precedent for a prime minister to serve without salary, and no one would grudge him the £5,000 which used to attach to the post. Then his son, Lord Cranborne, will draw £1,500; his nephews, A. J. Balfour and G. W. Balfour, £5,000 and £2,000, and his son-in-law, Lord Selborne, £4,500, with a fine house. J. W. Lowther, who is a member of the clan, by marriage, will certainly not be left out in the cold, and if nothing better offers will be reappointed deputy speaker and chairman of ways and means, with £2,500. This makes something over £20,000 a year, which, some people may think, is not too much to pay for the privilege of having half a dozen members of one family in the government."

OLD SPANISH CUSTOM.

The Secretary of War Decides Against it at Havana.

Washington, Dec. 28.—The secretary of war has sustained the action of the military authorities in Cuba in what is familiarly known as the "slaughter house case," without prejudice, however, to the full legal rights of the claimants which are left to the future determination of the courts of Cuba. This case involves many legal questions and bids fair to be a subject of litigation for years to come.

This claim had its inception in a grant by the Spanish crown in 1783, early in the century of Don Castro Puerta, of the privilege of holding in his family in perpetuity the office of sheriff of Havana. The male line of the family having become extinct, the office by permission of the Spanish crown passed to Count O'Reilly, then husband of the daughter of the recently deceased high sheriff.

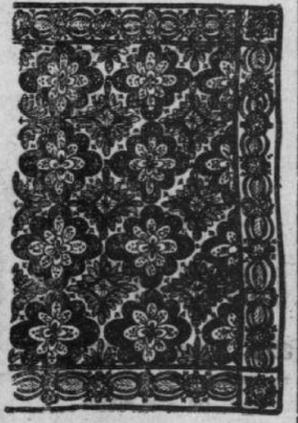
The last incumbent was the Countess O'Reilly, and Buenaventura, who is joined in the issue by Dr. Don Gustavo Gallet Dupleszes of Havana, who purchased an interest in the emoluments of the office at public auction in Havana in 1895.

The principal emolument was a right to receive about \$1 in gold for each head of large cattle killed in Havana slaughterhouses. The military governor of Havana vacated this order on May 20, 1899, and this was affirmed on appeal, by Gen. Brooke in August. The case came up on appeal to the secretary of war and after several months consideration has just been decided against the claimants, so far as the United States is concerned.

OLD COUNTERPANES.

The Blue and White Ones of Our Grandmothers Now All the Rage.

Our grandmothers vied with one another in the weaving of woolen counterpanes, generally in white and indigo blue. They were of such workmanship that today, after being handed down from one generation to another, they are as fresh, strong and handsome as when new. The modern patchwork quilt is not more varied as to pattern than were these ancient counterpanes.



AN ANCIENT PATTERN IN INDIGO.
 (From a photograph of a counterpane spun and dyed by Mrs. Euroclydon Gerry in the year 1890 and woven by a journeyman weaver of western New York.)

woven on a hand loom and working out strange designs of trees, flowers, fruit and landscape. Sometimes the pattern was a geometrical one, and the fidelity to good drawing exhibited by these homely artists is astonishing. As in old fashioned samplers, the worker was apt to show a pardonable pride in her work by weaving in her name and the date of finishing in the wide hem of the quilt.

Today these quaint counterpanes are being resurrected from cedar chests, attics and the old fashioned spare chamber to use in all sorts of decorative ways, says Good Housekeeping. A favorite method is to hang them as portieres in a room where old fashioned furniture is used. These are tacked on a wall behind a stiff old sofa, draped over a four post bed or spread on a round table. Sometimes, if the room is not subjected to the hardest wear, they are laid as rugs on a polished or painted floor. They make a picturesque draping for a low couch or divan, spread as a bagdad is, and one sees them occasionally on a brass or white enameled bed, with the superfluous length (for our grandmothers wove them long enough to tuck under several feather beds) tucked in neatly about a long, round bolster.

BOY CHOIRS IN CHURCH.

The time has passed when the appearance of a boy choir in an Episcopal church could be regarded as an evidence of a tendency toward ritualism, although it was formerly this feature of the service that was thought to be the first sign of the advanced opinions. For a long period the boy choir stood for a determination to depart from the old order, and its first appearance was the signal for revolt in many parishes on the part of those not disposed to defer to innovations, as they were at one time called. The recent introduction of one of these choirs into a church on the upper west side was accompanied by so little change as to make it evident that in the Episcopal church a supplanted choir of boys has ceased to have any doctrinal significance. Some of the churches described as low have adopted this feature of the service and explain that it has been accepted merely for its beauty and good influence on the service and not with the idea of leading to a further use of the ceremonies common in the ritualistic services. Even the Methodist congregations and other bodies not connected in any way with the Episcopal church have adopted the boy choirs to add heartiness and attractiveness to the services.—New York

AFTER DEWET AGAIN.

Knox With Three Generals Are Fighting the Witte Boer.

London, Dec. 28.—The following dispatch has been received from Kitchener: "Pretoria, Dec. 26.—Knox with Barker, Pilcher and White is engaged with DeWet's force, holding a position in neighborhood of Leuwkop. DeWet hopes to break through and go south again. Boers in the eastern column in Cape Colony is apparently headed by our troops about Reitport Spruit. Boers in western column are reported to have gone north in two portions, one towards Prieska and the other through Strydenberg. They are being followed up. The following dispatch from Kitchener was received from Pretoria, under date of Dec. 27: "Yesterday 300 Boers attacked a small police post near Boksgang. The police gallantly drove them off before reinforcements from Johannesburg arrived. Boers damaged the mining machinery in the neighborhood. "Boers attacked Urrecht at 2 o'clock this morning and were driven off. "Boers held up train three miles west of Pan and were driven off. "Eastern force of Boers in Cape Colony was headed yesterday and driven in the direction of Ventersdorp. Western force still being driven north through Strydenburg."

Grenfell Pursuing Krutzinger.
 Burgersdorp, Cape Colony, Dec. 28.—Colonel Grenfell continues in touch with Krutzinger's command of 700 men who carried off the British prisoners. Krutzinger has abandoned his Maxim and carts. An attempt of the Ninth lancers to turn Krutzinger's flank at Plaisterheuvell on Dec. 24, resulted in eight casualties among the lancers, including Lord Frederick Blackwood, who was wounded.

Boers Repulsed.
 Cape Town, Dec. 28.—A small party of Boers attacked Burgersdorp on Dec. 24. They were repulsed after heavy fighting. The Boers are active and skirmishes in several places have been reported.

Reported Released.
 London, Dec. 28.—The Evening Standard says it is understood the squadron of yeomanry which was entrapped and captured by the Boers whom they were following from Britstown, was released after the men had been relieved of their horses and other equipment.

Boers Discuss Surrender.
 Bloemfontein, Dec. 28.—There are renewed but unconfirmed rumors here that General DeWet, President Steyn and General Haasbroek had a conference and decided to offer to surrender provided the colonial rebels were not punished, and the leaders, including themselves, are not deported.

TROUBLE FOR TURKEY.

Soldiers Assault and Maltreat the British Charge d'Affaires.

Constantinople, Dec. 28.—It is the general belief here that the Cramps' contract for the construction of a cruiser for Turkey was signed without the first payment being made. This view is supported by facts, proves the porte has formally promised to pay nothing to the Americans before paying Krupp and the Germans.

Some Turkish soldiers have grossly assaulted and maltreated the British charge d'affaires, Mr. Bunison, and other members of the British embassy, in the vicinity of the powder magazine at Makriekoy. Sharp demands for redress have been made to the porte.

A BOX OF DIAMONDS.

They Were Picked up in a Coal Camp in New Mexico.

Alamogordo, N. M., Dec. 28.—A prominent railway official here has received a box of 50 gems closely resembling and alleged to be diamonds, found near Capitan, the coal camp on the line of the El Paso and Northeastern Railway company, 80 miles north of this place.

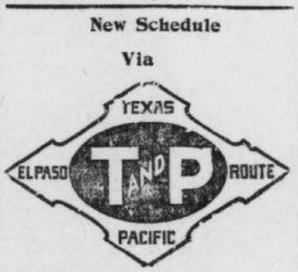
The stones were found by J. J. Blow, formerly associated with the DeBeers Consolidated company at Kimberley, South Africa, who has been secretly investigating the field for the past month, and a letter from him accompanying the shipment states that they are either diamonds or so closely resembling the gem that they deceive them. They stand every crude test known. The gems will be sent away for an analysis.

By Rail Through the Holy Land.

"There is no rush in the orient; the train moves slowly through holy places as if loath to disturb the shades and phantoms haunting the Land of Promise," writes Mrs. Lew Wallace of "Jerusalem as We See It Today" in "The Ladies' Home Journal." "Deep emotion possesses us. The Yafa gate is the entrance from the west, a market where there is much traffic carried on in various languages. We hear names that start farreaching associations in the remote past. We see costumes such as Absalom, the beautiful, the beloved, wore; men in soft raiment, flowing robes, beggars, lepers. Chief among the motley swarm is the unconquered Arab, stately as Saul, silent in his picturesque garments, as though the stillness of the desert had passed into his soul, unmoved at sight of the foreign machine come to break his civilization. Job was such a one—a sheik of the desert, with lordly bearing, as became the leader of horsemen with spears and the owner of camels, greatest of all men of the east. Does this sound irreverent? Wait, we are nearing the hill where David set his throne; the slow wheels turn slower, a shriek, a jerk—stop. The turbaned brakeman calmly calls 'Mount Zion,' a rush of feeling, a thrill that can come but once. We lift our eyes to the city of our Lord; whether in the body or out of the body I cannot tell."

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CHARTER AMENDMENTS.

Proceedings of the Stockholders of the Houston River Canal Company, Limited, Held at their Office in the City of Shreveport, La., on November 6th-7th, 1900.

All notices having been previously given to the stockholders of the said company, and the said meeting having been advertised, as required by the existing laws. The stockholders convened at the office of the company, at the appointed time, representing more than three-fourths of the entire stock of the said company, and organized by electing Geo. E. Tustien, chairman of the meeting, and W. A. Hunter, Jr., secretary.

The following resolutions on the proposed increase of the capital stock of the corporation was offered by S. A. Robertson, and duly seconded by J. H. Thatcher, which resolution was as follows, to-wit: "That the capital stock of the Houston River Canal Company, Ltd., be increased from (\$33,500 00) fifty-three thousand five hundred dollars to (\$200,000 00) two hundred thousand dollars, paid up capital." The said resolution was duly adopted. The number of stockholders voting therefor was six, and the number of shares voted for the resolution was four hundred and eighty-five shares. After the said resolution to increase the stock was duly adopted by the said stockholders the following amendment to article five (5) of the charter was offered by S. S. Hunter and duly seconded by S. A. Robertson, to-wit: "Be it resolved, etc., that article five of the charter of the said company be amended to read as follows: 'The capital stock of this company is hereby fixed at Two Hundred Thousand Dollars, divided into Two Thousand shares of the par value of One Hundred Dollars each, and in all other respects the said article remains unchanged.'" The said resolution was duly adopted, six of the stockholders voting therefor representing Four Hundred and Eighty-Five shares of the capital stock of the company. W. A. HUNTER, Jr., Secretary.

State of Louisiana, Parish of Caddo. I have examined the foregoing amendment of the charter of the Houston River Canal Company, Ltd., and find nothing therein contrary to the laws of the state, and accordingly approve the same. This November 30th, A. D. 1900.

JOHN R. LAND,
 District Attorney, First Judicial District of Louisiana.
 (Endorsed) "Filed and recorded, November 30, 1900."
 F. A. LEONARD,
 Clerk and Ex-Officio Recorder."

State of Louisiana, Parish of Caddo. I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original act, as the same now appears on file and of record in my office. This 30th day of November, 1900.
 F. A. LEONARD,
 Clerk and Ex-Officio Recorder.
 Dec. 2.

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