THE GENERAL FIELD OF SPORT.

Duck-Shooting Much Improved by the Storm.

Coursing Clubs Preparing for Christmas Meetings—Amateur Athletics—Practice With Rod and Rifle.

The recent change in the weather has improved some branches of sports, while other lines must suffer. So far as outdoor athletics are concerned, nothing of importance will be done until after the holidays. In the way of field sports, such as duck and quail shooting and coursing, the recent rains have made a great improvement. Rowing is a dead pastime in this city.

ATHLETIC.

An Official Handicapper for the Association.

Speedy Charley Jellinek was out at the athletic contest on Thanksgiving day, and was heard to remark that he felt out of place. It is an unusual thing for Charley to witness games without being a competitor.

There are many athletes of the Olympic Club afflicted with "old horse" just now. McArthur, McCaw, Espinosa, Mahoney and Kortick are all laid up for repairs. Actor Cooley says that the epidemic is a mild form of "epiglottis."

McCarthy and Woelrich are anxious to meet any two in the Olympic Club, bar C. Sullivan and his partner, in a game of handball, best two out of three games. Answers to this challenge will be received at this office.

This morning the tennis contest between McCarthy and Elliott will be continued. The game now stands 6—3, 3—6, 10—10. McCarthy's swift serve is a great stumbling block to his opponent. Elliott has dispatched to New York for one of the latest transparent tennis suits.

A. S. Henderson (O. C.) was not in his usual good form and was easily beaten in each event he entered. It must be said of Mr. Henderson that he has been in steady training since April without intermission and that he had gone stale during the latter part of the month from too much exercise.

T. V. Bakewell (U. C.) has become quite a speedy athlete. His 100-yard run off the 6-yard mark was as good as 10¾ seconds from scratch, and the easy manner in which he took first in the low hurdles stamps him as a coming man. In all probability Mr. Bakewell will find himself in the future very convenient to time scratch, and his last performances warrant a closer system of handicapping for him.

Clinton R. Morse (U. C.) covered himself with glory on Thanksgiving day at the Olympic games. He won the 440-yard race from scratch in 52¾ seconds and was second in the 100 yards in 10 1-5 seconds. Morse also won the running long jump with 21 feet 7½ inches and was second in putting the sixteen-pound shot. Morse's 440-yard run was a very creditable one, and when it is taken into consideration that he had a few links up his sleeve to draw on, it is safe to say that there is no runner on the Coast who would have any license to beat him on that day. Morse is unquestionably the best all-round athlete on the Coast, having the following records: Running high jump, 5 feet 5 inches; running broad jump, 21 feet 7½ inches; pole vault, 9 feet 5½ inches; 100 yards, flat, 10¾ seconds; putting sixteen-pound shot, 34 feet.

The following communication from a prominent amateur athlete speaks for itself:

Sporting Editor Call.—The last outdoor athletic event of the season on Thanksgiving day at the Olympic Club grounds was not the success that the enthusiastic outdoor members of the club predicted. This was in a great measure attributed to the many counter attractions put forward to amuse the public on that day, and, of course, as usual, the Olympic Club, that gives so many free entertainments to its members and its many friends, was given the "go by." This is the club loyalty that is displayed by its members. A gentleman remarked on the day of the games that it could not be expected for the public to patronize the games when twenty-seven members, principally tennis-players, left the grounds on the morning of the games to attend a professional base-ball match. Although there were not more than 1000 present, it was one of the most enthusiastic meetings ever held on the Olympic grounds. Just imagine the Olympic Club, with its 1500 members, having only 1000 at its fall games. Evidently its members are partial to free entertainments.

AN OLYMPIAN.

The want of an official handicapper was again demonstrated at the late Olympic Club games. While the club's handicapper was fairly conversant with what his club's entries were capable of doing in their several distances, he was nevertheless totally at sea so far as handicapping other clubs' entries. It must be said of the present handicapper that he did his work to the best of his limited knowledge, but the fact still remains that nearly all the prizes were carried off by outsiders. If the handicapping had been in the hands of a man whose business it would have been to know what every runner in the association was doing there is no doubt but that the results in many instance would have been otherwise. As there will be no outdoor events until the 22d of February the association will have ample time to appoint a proper person to do the handicapping in the future; and it might be proper to suggest some names to the one already published. P. M. Gaffney of the Alpine Club devotes a great deal of his time to outdoor athletics, and there is no doubt but that he would fill the position to the satisfaction of all the athletes. Another good man for the position is J. Elliott (O. C.), who has had considerable experience in placing men on marks. He would possibly jump at the honor of being official handicapper of the P. A. A. A. U.

A. F. Copeland, the noted sprinter, hurdler and jumper of the Manhattan Athletic Club, has retired from competition. To a reporter of the New York Sun he said: "The fact is a man cannot compete in athletic games and at the same time pay proper attention to business, and I decided to abandon athletics. Again, amateur athletes are now charged with nearly every known offense, and a man's reputation is liable to suffer from unjust charges that fly around so thickly." Copeland has had a long and brilliant career in athletics. His performances in the sprints, over the hurdles and in the broad jumps have been of the first order and attracted world-wide attention. Added to this he is personally agreeable and very popular. His retirement will be a distinct loss to athletics.

Four highly estimable Brooklyn gentlemen, says a Brooklyn exchange, went over to New York on a visit to the New York Athletic Club. They wanted to look at the club-houses there. A new club-house was to built on this side of the river, and there was a good deal to be learned on the other side. It is needless to say that they were treated with much courtesy, and treated otherwise—that is to say, they were asked to take a drink. "What will you have?" inquired their entertainer. "I will take a plain lemonade," said one; "I will take an Apollinaris lemonade," said another; "I think I will take a seltzer lemonade," answered the third. The face of the host was a study as he turned to the fourth. "A little plain whisky for me," remarked the last man of the group. "Well," remarked the New York clubman, "I was just beginning to wonder what on earth you would run your club on."

The London Sporting Life of recent date says: A complimentary benefit was tendered to Joe Darby of Dudley, last Friday at Rowland's circus, Walsall, where Darby had been performing all the week. The building was literally packed and Darby's reception was a most enthusiastic one and the M. C., Mr. Jack Jones, the well-known Birkenhead sport, announced that Darby would attempt to beat some of his own records. Mr. E. Pike was selected to measure the jumps, which registered as follows: Darby beat his own record of 34 feet 9 inches, for three standing jumps, without weights, by covering 35 feet 11 inches. The next attempt was to beat his own record of two jumps with weights, which stood at 26 feet 7 inches. He succeeded in clearing 28 feet, his last jump of the two being 16 feet 10 inches. Darby now accomplished a most extraordinary feat by clearing a bar 6 feet 3 inches at the third stand jump. On Darby accomplishing the latter jump some terrific cheering took place. Another of Darby's feats was jumping over five ponies in one jump.

The death of Max Clark of the New Jersey Athletic Club is attributed to injuries received in a collision with a competitor during a sprint contest held on a small track on June 6th. Speaking of the lamentable affair, W. B. Curtis of the Spirit of the Times said: "I do not know of any way to stop the fouling, except a prohibition against games on these small tracks, and that could not very well be made. Lessening the number of men in a heat might do some good, but clubs and regiments make a specialty of securing enormous entry lists for the purpose of attracting patronage, and, incidentally, getting the large entrance fees. When you start twenty men on a track which is about wide enough for four abreast something is bound to smash. I would suggest that in these armory games the events be made limited handicaps. This would insure a reasonable entry list, and there would not be four times too many runners for a heat."

Mr. Curtis did not think a law could be framed to penalize athletes who make a practice of reckless running and fouling—at least, not to be enforced satisfactorily. He thought clubs should reject the entries of runners that are known to indulge in the reprehensible practice. Mr. Curtis added that some allowance should be made for the excitement of the athletes in a sprint, when everybody is endeavoring to rush to the front at once.

At the annual meeting of the Amateur Athletic Union, held on November 16th in New York, some important business was transacted. The appeal from the Metropolitan Association to rescind the present four-round clause and allow "unlimited" boxing contests between amateurs was referred to the new board. This means practically that the present rule of four rounds will remain as it is, although the New Yorkers will make one more fight to have the referee given discretionary power in a four-round contest to order a new round so as to develop scientific boxers instead of "sluggers." The Manhattan Athletic Club, with its usual commendable enterprise, applied for, and was granted for the second time, the privilege of holding the ten-mile running and the two-mile steeplechase amateur championships of America. Notice to the following amendment to the constitution will be hailed with pleasure by the athletes:

No prize shall be given any individual, club, committee or organization, or received by any athlete, except suitably inscribed wreaths, medals, diplomas, banners, badges, time-pieces, mantel ornaments or articles of jewelry, silverware, table or toilet service.

The following rule was made:

If during any athletic contest under the rules of the A. A. U. a competitor shall conduct himself in a manner unbecoming a gentleman, or in any manner offensive to the officials, spectators or competitors, the referee shall have the power to disqualify him from further competition at that meeting, and if he thinks the offense worthy of additional punishment shall promptly make a detailed report of the fact to the association in whose territory the offense was committed.

The Atlantic Association was adjudged to have made an erroneous decision in accepting the entry of the athlete whose release was refused by an A. A. U. club. The National Cross-country Association will no longer be respected by the A. A. U., as Rule 3 was amended to that effect. The individual tug-of-war was stricken from the championship programme—a good move.

ANGLING.

Catching Steelheads on the Noyo River.

The Board of Fish Commissioners would be pleased to have a specimen of alleged striped bass, which are said to be frequenting Point Reyes Creek.

Local anglers will be pleased to learn that Mr. Perkins, the well-known disciple of the rod and reel, has battled safely through his recent sickness and is now convalescent.

In another part of THE CALL appears a very interesting letter from Professor Jordan, in answer to a communication in Sunday's Field of Sport. The professor will lecture to-morrow evening at the California Academy of Sciences on "The Trout of California."

Al Wilson, better known as the "Wizard of the Glen," caught a very beautiful steelhead on Sunday at the mouth of the Papermill Creek. He reports that there are several fish in the lagoon waiting an opportunity to make their passage up stream.

N. B. Turner and J. H. Read have returned from a very successful fishing trip at Fort Bragg. They report that the Noyo River, which runs within a few hundred yards of the town of Noyo, is teeming with steelheads averaging from five to twelve pounds in weight. According to Mr. Turner, these fish will not look at any of the fancy spoons used by anglers this year on the Eel River and other large streams. The spoon which tickled their fancies best was a large, common-looking thing, with silvered back and blood-red face. With this lure they killed as many as fifteen fish a day. Now that the rains have caused a small raise in the creek, a heavy run of fish from the sea is looked for.

G. G. Blackford, President of the New York Fish Commission, has given these interesting facts about a new fish for American waters. Three teach are an entirely new fish to American waters. The original parent fish were brought over from England and placed in breeding ponds in Washington D. C., of the United States Fish Commission. These fish were hatched at the United States Fish Commission's station at Neosho, Mo. Two years ago twenty-three fish in number were taken from the ponds at Washington, D. C., to the above station. This year there will be distributed 36,000 young fish, the product of the original twenty-three of two years ago. These fish will grow to weigh two to three pounds each, and are said to be a good table fish as well as affording sport to the angler. The teach prefers still waters to running streams, more especially thriving in reservoirs, ponds full of water weeds and pits from which clay has been excavated for brick-making. It seems also to do better in foul and weedy than in clean water, and in broad and sluggish rivers rather than those which flow with considerable velocity.

AT THE BUTTS.

Shooting for Medals at Schuetzen Park and Shell Mound.

The California Schuetzen Club will hold its monthly medal contest to-day.

The City Guard (Company B, First Infantry), will have its medal contest to-day at Shell Mound Park.

The Independent Rifles will have their preliminary medal shoot for this month today at Shell Mound.

The Eintracht Shooting Club will hold forth at Schuetzen Park to-day, when it will hold its medal shoot.

The Grutli Rifle Club will have a medal contest to-day at Schuetzen Park. In a short time this club will have a competition shoot for Christmas turkeys.

The value of the slant sight in the rifle lies in the fact that no matter what one's position is in reference to the sun the light will strike the sight evenly, which is not the case where the front is vertical or inclined backward.

It is not yet proved to the satisfaction of the average rifleman that those fine shooting, muzzle-loading target rifles are in any way more accurate than some of our long-range breech-loaders, as witness the wonderful scores of several crack shots the past five years.

Many riflemen are influential, wealthy and highly respectable men and good fellows withal. Their habits must be temperate, the rules of health must be observed and the mind kept free from excitement, etc., or the good scores are not apt to follow.

There once was a time when the 44-caliber was the correct thing to have; later the 40-caliber was king. To-day the 32-caliber is the "king pin," even for military rifles, and rifles are now used by Denmark, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Portugal and England of 32 caliber or less. The French Lebel rifle is 315.

If a rifle is desired to shoot various charges of powder and lead, a straight shell is always preferable to a bottle-necked or tapered shell, as the latter will not hold a round or short bullet in place, if seated on a light charge of powder. There are straight shells of 38, 40 and 45 calibers, which can be loaded with different charges to reduce recoil, or the charge increased.

It will no doubt be pleasant news to marksmen, especially to those visiting regularly the California Schuetzen Club Park Range, to learn that the San Francisco and North Pacific Railway is constructing a three-foot wide plank walk from the steps of the station (coming from the city) to the entrance of the park, also completing, raising and putting in perfect order the plank walk to the station going to the city. These improvements will enable marksmen and visitors to the park to walk dry shod to the park even in the wettest weather.

COURSING.

Golden West and Occidental Club Meetings.

The late rains have vastly improved the condition of the coursing grounds and the patrons of the "grand old sport" are naturally happy in the thought of having some good racing in the near future.

Colonel North, the well-known English promoter of coursing, took, the other day, £800 to £200 that he would win the next Waterloo cup. If that amount in dollars was wagered in this country it would create quite a stir in coursing circles.

P. D. Nolan, the local coursing enthusiast, has been creating quite an amount of amusement by relating to his friends how some of the people of Merced make bologna sausages out of horse-collars. It has been suggested that Mr. Nolan give a lecture on the subject at the meeting of the G. W. Coursing Club.

The Golden West Coursing Club will hold a series of contests on Sunday, the 13th inst., at Ocean View Coursing Park. As stated in Friday's CALL the drawing will take place on the 10th inst. at 1120 Howard street. The Golden West members are determined to make the occasion one of the most pleasant of the season, and as the manager of the park has given the club hares free of charge, admirers of contests between the long and short tailed flyers look forward to a great day's amusement.

The monthly meeting of the Occidental Coursing Club will be held at 21 Kearny street on Tuesday evening. The Secretary reports that, weather permitting, the Occidentals will be treated to one of the most pleasant outings on New Year's day at Newark that they have had in many moons. Hares are abundant, and as the hounds owned by the members are of the very best material the contests will undoubtedly be sharp and decisive. Entries for this meeting must be made on or before Tuesday, the 29th inst. The all-aged stake is open to all comers.

Q.—Please decide the following question in Sunday's Field of Sport: In the finish race of the consolation stake run at Merced during the interstate meeting between Daisy and Duke of Milpitas, the former made five points as against the Duke's two points up to the time when Daisy quit running, when she was in full view of the hare. The Duke continued to follow the hare, but the moment Daisy gave up the race the judge returned and gave his decision in favor of the Duke. I desire to know whether the decision in this case was right or wrong. A.—If Daisy stopped running when in full view of the game, she lost the race there and then. Read the rules on coursing.

GUN AND DOG.

Good Weather for Ducks—An Experience of Dude Hunters.

A dispatch from Bakersfield states that George T. Allender, the dog-trainer, arrived there on the 3d inst. with a splendid string of dogs, which he will train for the coming field trials.

A sportsman writes that he has a valuable setter dog troubled with deafness and asks for advice. There may probably be an accumulation of wax, which can be removed by the aid of soap and warm water, but if the cause is organic there is possibly no help for the dog. Better consult some good veterinarian.

The rain, the welcome downpour which sportsmen have been anxiously expecting, has come at last, and the prospects of good sport in upland and marsh shooting now look very good. Too much water will destroy the duck-hunters' pleasure, as the water-fowls will not remain any longer on the salt marshes than they can help. At the present time marsh shooting should be in its prime, as there has been just enough rain to fill the dry ponds on the marshes where sprig and widgeon delight to stay during stormy weather. When storms arrive the birds will bid a long adieu to the "salted" preserves for the inland green fields, consequently local sportsmen should make the best of the present condition of affairs and enjoy the pleasures of good duck-shooting while it lasts.

Point Reyes marshes have often proven a very favorable location for good shooting in canvasbacks. It requires, however, a good storm to drive the birds from the bay to the shelter of the marshes. During the week Frank Haffling and Al Wilson bagged a goodly number of sprig and widgeon. If the weather should prove stormy to-day any hunter who happens on these marshes will procure more birds than he can conveniently carry, as there have been during the week thousands of birds congregated on the bay within a few hundred yards of the shore. The snipe grounds on the Country Club's preserve, near Olema, have been shot over with flattering results during the month. On the Alviso marshes the shooting this season has been very backward compared with other years. Occasionally a good day's shooting has been reported, but generally speaking the sport is not up to the expectations of those who make "the bridges" their headquarters.

The Sonoma marshes are lined with "shanties" this year and the sounds of the many reports at early Sunday morn prove that the webfooters are not allowed much solace on the Sabbath day. Sunday proved to be one of the good days of the season for duck shooting. Just as the streaks of daylight were visible in the east the thunder of the several breechloaders proclaimed the death of a many a cunning bird. In the vicinity of Black Point the constant popping of the number 10's continued until noonday, when all was silent as the birds had vacated the marshes for a little quiet rest on the bay. On the marshes above Black Point the cannonade was something terrific. It reminded the old duck-hunters of the palmy shooting days on the old Alameda marshes, when thirty birds to a gun was considered only a fair day's shoot. In the hunters' car on the home journey it was a novel sight to look at the several good bags of birds piled up at the feet of the lucky sportsmen. Few canvasback were among the numbers killed. The bags were composed principally of sprig, widgeon, teal and a few mallard. From Shellville came a few very handsome strings of English snipe and quail. This evening hunters who will defy the elements should return with excellent bags, as there has been just enough rain to make duck-shooting on the marshes first-class.

Frank Jones, the ex-pugilistic sport and vocalist, and three friends named Jacobs, Crowley and Kennedy chartered the yacht Nellie on Friday one week ago, and sailed for Benicia on a duck-hunting expedition, under command of Mickey Williams, the Chinese pirate. The good ship arrived off Army Point just in time to catch the storm which raged on Thursday. With the exception of a number of empty beer bottles, which the hunters had corked and retained for life-preservers in case of emergency, they had not a thing on board that would float an oyster. Everything was soaking wet, even Jones' musical voice was dampened by the storm, and the beautiful strains of "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep" were drowned in the noise of the falling tears which the crew reluctantly shed when the angry waters washed the coloring from their noses. After a desperate effort, which taxed the fullest energies of the gallant crew, Miss Nellie brought her head to windward and was run into a slough, which afforded temporary relief to the bescaked and muchly frightened hunters, who longed for home and daisies dear. A tramp through the slickens of a mile or more landed to would-be hunters on terra firma, and it is hardly necessary to say that after having their garments thoroughly painted in mud-colored brown, they immediately sought a Benicia friend, named Professor Run, who took full charge of the men until such time as the overland train arrived, which conveyed the quasi sportsmen to their palaces in Frisco. The yacht Nellie can now be had for a song.

MISCELLANEOUS SPORTS.

Hand-Ball Playing—Champion Billiardists.

The match for the world's championship at balk-line billiards that Schaefer and Slosson were to have played in New York City on December 22d has been postponed by mutual consent until January 22d. It will be played at the Lenox Lyceum instead of Chickering Hall, and will be 800 points up for a stake of $1000. Schaefer will be allowed $250 for expenses in case he loses. Schaefer won the emblem many months ago in a match with Slosson.

Weather permitting, a good programme of hand-ball games has been arranged to take place to-day in the professional courts. As a number of the best players are laid up with colds, the championship contests have been postponed for a time.

A match between John Lawler and John Delaney has been arranged to take place in Casey's court.

Cricket.

Lord Sheffield's team has safely arrived in Australia. The following, with one other, left Southampton for South Africa on the 21st ult.: W. W. Read (Surrey), W. L. Murdoch (Sussex), G. Brann (Sussex), J. T. Hearne (Middlesex), W. Chatterton (Derbyshire), A. D. Pougher (Leicestershire), G. G. Hearne (Kent), Alec Hearne (Kent), V. (late Bombr.) Barton (Kent), H. Wood (Surrey), W. Brockwell (Surrey), and E. Leaney (Kent), a reserve wicket-keeper. The team will not return to England until April.

MAIDS OF THE MORTAR-BOARDS.

Increasing Use of the Oxford Gown in American Schools.

At Toronto University, at Bryn Mawr and at the University of Nebraska the Oxford gown, with its mortar-board cap, has been adopted as the college or class costume. It is easy to doff and don, is suitable for so many occasions, and is adapted to all seasons. A chamois jacket worn under the gown gives the necessary warmth, except for a very cold, blustering day. One pretty senior girl, who clung persistently to the gown the whole year round, was asked one winter day if she suffered from the cold.

"Oh, no," was the reply, as she folded it about her, "see how long and warm it is."

And in response to the question if she was not uncomfortably warm on sweltering days in June, answered, as she raised her arms, showing the loose flowing sleeves: "See how light and cool it is."—N. Y. Press.

There are 1125 characters in the twenty-four books that Charles Dickens wrote.

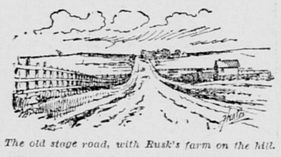
UNCLE JERRY'S HOMESTEAD FARM.

Where the Secretary of Agriculture Tills His Own Soil.

The Place He Calls Home at Viroqua, Wis. His Methods as a Farmer—What His Neighbors Say About Him.

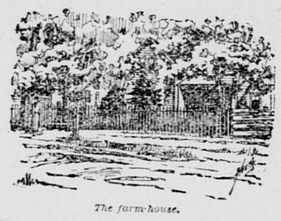
WENTY years ago and more Uncle Jerry Rusk, in all probability never having dreamed of a portfolio of agriculture in the President's Cabinet, purchased a farm of 120 acres, bordering on the outskirts of the little city of Viroqua, in Vernon County, Wis. By degrees this farm has been added to by purchases from neighboring farmers, until it now consists of 400 acres. It still belongs to Secretary Rusk, who, although busy with official cares at Washington, attends to the management of it, being kept advised by his nephew, Albert Rusk, who, with his family, occupies the farm-house, of the arrival of new calves, how the corn is getting along, and all the other things that a farmer would want to know about affairs at home. When Uncle Jerry visits Wisconsin he goes directly to his farm, forgets politics for awhile, and lets the politicians in the city wait until he gets ready to leave the farm and talk with them. Uncle Jerry is proud of his farm. Not only because it is a good farm is he proud of it, but because the associations of other days are connected with it, and because he expects as long as he lives to call the place "home."

Viroqua is not a great place either in the world of business or society. It is nothing more than a village. When Uncle Jerry Rusk settled there, and for a good many years afterward, there wasn't any railroad. Those were the stage days they tell about, when the present Secretary of Agriculture used to crack a whip about the heads of a



The old stage road, with Rusk's farm on the hill.

four-horse team, conveying travelers from Prairie du Chien on the Mississippi River to Black River Falls. In time he was more than a driver, for he owned two or three of the twenty or more lines that centered at Viroqua, and, to be kept a hotel, the Buckeye, named in honor of his native State, which was eventually destroyed by fire, after which he purchased and managed the North Star. The railroads have now ended forever the days of the stage-coach, but Viroqua remains an out-of-the-way place. It is the terminus of a spur from one of the great Northwestern lines, with one passenger train of a single coach a day, and that train isn't stuck-up. It will attach itself to a car of lumber, cattle or merchandise and haul it along to the next station and would as soon take on a crate of chickens or a firkin of butter as a passenger. As the complacent train puffs swiftly up the slight grade toward the terminus, thirty-five miles south of the main line, on a bright October morning, as far as eye can see there is the same succession of rolling meadows, brown stubble fields, fields of shocked corn, yellow and sere from frost and sun, the horizon bordered by maple growths wearing the brightest fall colors. And to complete the picture herds of sleek-looking cattle are scattered over the expanse of pasture, flocks of sheep dot the low, rounded hilltops and frisky colts dash away from the disturbing steam cars and turn and look after them with wonder in their gaze. The richness of the country and the fertility of the soil are apparent even from

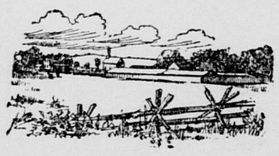


The farm-house.

the window of a passing train. And in the heart of this country is located the farm of Secretary Rusk.

It lies only a good walking distance northward along the very road over which its owner in years gone by used to drive a stage. Descending from the hill to the edge of the town the big white windmills loom above a grove of maples that hides from view the farm buildings. The farm occupies the highest point of land in all the country round, and from it a view of a wide extent of landscape is commanded. The road from town, a series of gradual ascents, is bordered on either side by rows of maples set three years ago by Uncle Jerry himself. And then comes the maple grove where is located the farm-house. Nothing in that farm-house or its surroundings is indicative of fashionable farming. Just a plain but neat frame building such as the majority of prosperous farmers live in—not a country villa. There isn't any iron paling, but a plain, wooden picket fence incloses the yard. The barn is as simple as a barn could be. There is a milk-house and a lot of plain sheds.

In a large meadow back of the farm-house and buildings is a favorite spot with Uncle Jerry when he is at home. Standing there he can see every house and tree for miles around, and when he tires of looking at the quiet little city below him a mile to the southward, he can turn and behold from this bird's-eye



The farm buildings, showing hill in background, on which Uncle Jerry expects to build.

view the vast stretch of farms, flecked with cattle and sheep. On this spot the Secretary long contemplated building a mansion, a pretentious country house, a plan which he has given up in favor of a hill on the other side of the road from the present buildings, the crest of which is higher than the tall wind-mills in the yard.

Next year will see a fine mansion crowning this hill, and preparations for a large barn of modern construction on the abrupt side of the elevation are already under way. Some fine horses will find a home here, for the Secretary intends to go down into the blue-grass region and get several head of fine Kentucky brood mares. A herd of thoroughbred Holsteins is another thing in contemplation, to replace the cattle now on the farm. Years ago Uncle Jerry used to keep shorthorns, but when he was elected Governor and left the farm in other hands the blooded stock was sold. It must not be forgotten that Uncle Jerry keeps pigs now that this little misunderstanding with Germany has come to an end, and 100 head of Poland Chinas, registered stock at that, roam about the fields. Now that there is another market for American hog products, the raising of swine will be made more of a feature on the Rusk farm.

While it has been said that there is nothing romantic about this farm, mention must be made of what are called the "sink-holes." These so-called sink-holes are not the forbidding things the name implies. Great crater-like things they are, formed by terrific convulsions of the earth in ages past, and now from the bottom of them grow great live oaks and maples. As sylvan a retreat as could be wished for the hots days of midsummer, and just strange enough to be all the more interesting. Near one of these sink-holes is the grave of Old Wink, one of the pioneer stage horses which, after the railroad ruined his vocation, roamed over the farm, the king of the herd, and lived to a ripe old age.

Uncle Jerry is as hard a worker as any on the farm, when he is at home, and sets the hired man a good example of industry. One of Uncle Jerry's hobbies is an unalterable belief in the value of sub-soiling. This is the great thing he strives to impress on his help, and he has now got them so that they will plow deep enough to satisfy him and to make him feel secure at the far-away capital that the richness of the land is in no danger of giving out. Everybody who ever worked on the farm for Uncle Jerry says that the "old man" had an idea about practical farming and succeeded in carrying it out. "Yes, we always got along very well together," said one of his former helpers, now a blacksmith in Viroqua. "The old man, though, always had his views about the proper way to do things."

Some one tells a story on Uncle Jerry to the effect that he was one time twitted about being a farmer, and replied that he was not a farmer, but an agriculturist.

"What is the difference?" he was asked.

"Well," said Uncle Jerry, with a twinkle in his eye, "a farmer is supported by his farm, and an agriculturist supports his farm."

Whether this be true or not, there isn't much of the impractical or play-day kind about this farm. It is run just about as all the farms surrounding are run and for about the same purpose. It is a dairy farm principally. There are on it at present thirty-eight head of cattle, twelve horses and the pigs and poultry. The last season 100 acres of corn were grown, 160 acres of hay and thirty acres of oats. The rest of the land consists of pasture.

SUMNER M. CURTIS.

ACORNS.

Original contributions and solutions are requested from all the readers. Contributions must be written in ink, on one side of the paper, and separate from communications. The name and address must accompany them as a guarantee of good faith. Address Puzzle Editor DAILY MORNING CALL, 509 Clay street, San Francisco, Cal.

Study rather to fill your mind than your coffers.—Seneca.

THE PUZZLER'S DREAM.

He dreamt, and o'er his vision came
A scene which earth could never claim,
A palace which he could not name,
And never heard in story;
In majesty it reared its height,
Until it met the clouds of white;
The sun at noon was not more bright,
Nor greater in its glory.

And nearer drawing, half in fear,
There floats upon the atmosphere,
Like sound of distant waters clear,
The sound of many voices;
Though he has wandered everywhere,
Ah, never has he heard such fair,
Melodious song, as listening there,
While some strange host rejoices.

The changing scene a mighty shrine
Brings to his sight; in raiment fine
He sees a multitude in line
Bow low in adoration:
And offerings bring, with humble mien,
Unto the throne of th' unseen Queen;
He gazes on the wondrous scene
In silent contemplation.

But as the vapors pass away,
The truth bursts on him clear as day,
For this is where the Phœnix holds sway,
And this her mystic region.
And all distinct in majesty
The well-known face in show doth see—
Grim, silent, as it e'er will be,
Fixed on the serving legion.

Toward the glittering walls that rise
Until they seem to pierce the skies,
The fascinated dreamer flies,
Content to be a vassal:
And here he rests from journeyings,
And here his humble tribute brings,
And with the host he chorus sings,
For this is ACORNS' castle!

—MARMION.

296. Petals.
297. L
PEA
PANDA
LENIENT
ADEPT
ANT
T
298. Denver.
299. Deadly Nightshade.
300. SPRING
PRETOR
RESACA
ITALIC
NOCIVE
GRACES
301. So-met-i-me.
302. O-men.
303. The letter E.

PETALISTS.

Frank Lynn, Beech Nut, H. Y. Frost, U. B. —, Annie One, E. L. B., L. H. J., Aloha and Capt. N. Frank.

Blossoms.

311. REBUS.
. . RAHAM.
Salem, N. H. PROTEUS.

SQUARE.

1—A large tree of North America. 2—Those who love greatly. 3—Stout twilled silks. 4—A little air. 5—A hawk taken in Lent. 6—False appearance. 7—Pieces of land cleared.
Auburn, N. Y. DELPHIN E.

312. ANAGRAM.
(O I help tars.)
No matter what their race,
No matter what the face,
I take them in and nurse them well—
But others must my praises tell!
Newburgh, N. Y. HAIDEE.

313. SQUARE.
1—One who merely passes without honor. 2—A postmaster in Taylor County, Tex. 3—Celeriarity. 4—Turned aside (obs.). 5—A posthamlet of Kosciusko County, Ind. 6—A mining town of Loire Inferieure, France (Bij.). 7—Lackest.
Waterseville, O. FIDO.

314. CHARADE.
The solver, with a mind acute,
May find the FIRST in "to dispute";
Continue searching, you'll have
And find the SECOND in "a file";
Delve on, brave solver, till the THIRD
Strikes on your mind from "note of bird."
All found? Then join and you'll not fail
To see in TOTAL "a small nail."
Washington, D. C. NYAS.

315. DIAMOND.
1—A letter. 2—A homer (obs.). 3—An extortioner. 4—Shows off. 5—Funeral dirges. 6—Pertaining to plants of the genus Solanum. 7—A digest. 8—Capacity. 9—To project. 10—To isolate. 11—A letter.
East Boston, Mass. BOSTON BOY.

316. NUMERICAL.
4, 5, 2, 6 is a measure in general use
Which most consumers will claim is in constant abuse.
8, 7, 9 is a little thing, but, 'tis sad to say,
The rich and poor alike do it every day.
1, 3, though very small, bears evidence of strength
And represents a word seldom seen full length.
My total, an animal well known to old and young
As having feet and eyes, *but without a tongue!*
San Francisco. SCOTT.

317. DIAMOND.
1—A letter. 2—To spread over. 3—To enliven. 4—Belonging to the cranium. 5—Enjoying liberty. 6—A town of France. 7—The duty of a priest (obs.). 8—Divided equally to the base. 9—A river of Northwest Germany. 10—To sprinkle (Prov. Eng.). 11—A letter.
New Orleans, La. HAZE.

318. OBLIQUE RECTANGLE.
1—A letter. 2—A foot (Dun.). 3—Feasted. 4—A town of Portugal (Wore.). 5—Segments (sup.). 6—Compounds of selenium, with a metal. 7—Things derived. 8—Remedies for irritation. 9—Jointed legs. 10—Graver. 11—Sperm. 12—A peak of the Himalayas. 13—A letter.
San Francisco. H. Y. FROST.

Petals in two weeks.

Stray Leaves.

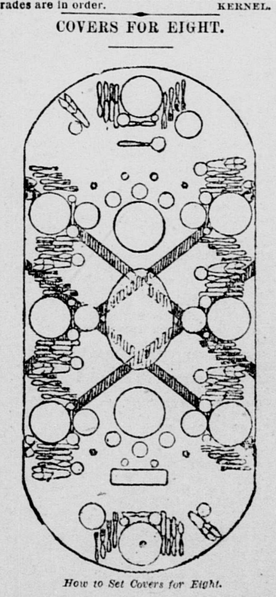
Puzzlers will please send their matter for publication so that it will reach this office no later than noontime of each Tuesday.... One of Corporal G.'s squares in the next issue.... Miss Minnie Bissell of Martinez, Cal., and William Lambert of this city each think that 144 trees is all that can be placed within Scott's puzzle. It will require more figuring on the part of each to place 150 trees within the enclosure, *and it can be done.* Please do not send solutions unless *above* that number can be found.

H. Y. Frost sends a humorous answer to Scott's puzzle, as follows:

302. Great Scott! who ever heard such fibs,
That men were made from woman's ribs?
I'll settle this as quick as I can, sir;
Behead the women and there's the answer.
H. Y. FROST.

This number is the best so far published. The forms are very large and the flats good. A continuation of this work is desired.... Frank Lynn and Merry Mack are the champion solvers at present in California and perhaps out of it. Complete lists of fourteen and fifteen puzzles are sent by this pair of adept solvers to Eastern papers every week. This means earnest, hard work, for which let us hope they are amply rewarded.... A few Christmas and New Year charades are in order. KERNEL.

COVERS FOR EIGHT.



How to Set Covers for Eight.

The above is a diagram which illustrates the proper manner in which, so the Philadelphia Record says, a table at which eight persons are to dine should be laid.

A majority of the business men of Paris give up their business at 40.

THE MARVEL OF MECHANISM.

A Machine That Makes Every Writer His Own Compositor.

It Is Said That It Reads Its Own Copy and Casts Its Own Type as It Goes, and That It Actually Sets Individual Type.

From time to time some machine has been invented, patented and put to the test which the inventor firmly believes will do and do well the work that is now performed by the compositor, who is forced to pick type by type from his case and set up matter, and who is considered a good workman if he can set according to printer's measure one thousands ems per hour. The type-setting machines that have been invented during the past few years can, so their inventors claim, do a great deal more work than can be done by hand and can do it in less time, but now comes an individual who, according to the New York Press, has invented a machine which he calls the Lanston automatic type machine, that makes every writer his own compositor, and, if the representations made are correct, it makes it the most wonderful machine of the age. The following from the paper named goes to show what the machine can do:

It casts and sets single type.

It justifies every line as it goes along, just as does the compositor—a point in mechanical composition which no other inventor ever climbed over.

It sets up 2500 ems an hour and does it for twenty-four hours in the day if necessary, never having to stop to distribute as the

Tolbert Lanston.

compositor does, for it makes its own individual type as it goes along. Experts, who have examined the machine, think its maximum speed will be 3300 to 3500 ems an hour, but it was only setting 2500 ems the other day, and Mr. Lanston was satisfied to let that be considered its speed for the present.

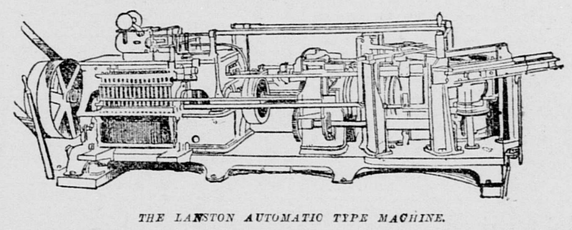
When the type set up has been lifted away from the machine, as a compositor empties his sticks, and the proof has been read, the corrections and the interpolations, or the "runovers," as compositors call them, can be made by a corrector just as is now done with hand-set type.

In short, for the first time in the history of type-setting inventions the work of the machine is an absolute counterpart of the accomplishment of the living compositor. And while it is doing this, the machine also does the work of another man or set of men—the type founding.

This double function is really a marvelous achievement. The number of matrices for use in the type-casting now carried on by this machine are 225, though any number up to 400 or over may be used. These matrices, you understand, are the dies which make the letters a, b, c, d, etc., on the type's little metal body, or give it its "face," in other words. With so many matrices available, every letter or punctuation mark that ever was in a compositor's case can be made at once, and before the metal is cool the letter will have taken its place with its fellows in the setting line, and will be ready to do its share in recording intelligible thought.

The casting and setting machine, being automatic, will maintain its maximum speed at all times and under any operator. The types, after their single use the time they are cast, will be available for sale as in any type foundry. Being exactly like ordinary type in shape, height, font and even "nicking," it becomes a merchantable article and can be sold at a large profit. The printer using one of these machines therefore becomes a type supply depot for lesser employers in the craft, and makes money "both ways," as the vernacular is—by printing from the type and by selling it then.

And now for the most surprising feature of this machine's work, and the feature, too, which will make it, if anything does, of general beneficence and great financial gain. This feature is the separation from the casting and setting portion of the machine of the keyboard at which the man who



THE LANSTON AUTOMATIC TYPE MACHINE.

"sets the type" works. That is, the machine is constructed in two parts. One does the mechanical work and the other does the thinking, as it were. Now in theatrical life "thinking parts" are not very desirable, but in type-setting brains are very essential.

The picture printed herewith is the mechanical part. The other is simply a keyboard, much like your office type-writer. At this the operator sits. He hits a key on the keyboard with the top of his finger as does the gentle and gay type-writist of the day, and immediately a perforation is made in a roll of paper which unwinds itself automatically back of the keyboard. The operator fingers away, and the perforations contin