

DAVID S. PATTERSON, of Nebraska, who has recently patented an improvement in the driving gear of locomotives, is seventy-five years old, and has been totally blind from infancy.

PROBABLY the only woman customs broker in this or any other country is Hilda Graser, of Cincinnati. She is only 21 years old, but already she controls a large and profitable business.

DON JOSE GALINDO, mayor of Valencia, Spain, has been sentenced to fourteen years each on 217 indictments for falsifying public documents, 3,038 years in all. They might have taken off those odd 38.

MORE than three billions of cigarettes were sold in this country last year. From this it appears that every man, woman, and child in the United States consumed on an average fifty cigarettes during the year.

A GASEOUS compound of oxygen and hydrogen is the remarkable discovery reported by a German chemist. This new substance is said to dissolve metal, and to form powerful explosives with silver and mercury.

PROF. DENTON thinks express trains will never go very much faster than they do now. He bases this opinion on the fact that the resistance increases more rapidly than the speed, so that at last a limit must be reached.

PERHAPS it may be of interest to know that the first appearance of peanuts in mercantile history was a consignment of ten bags sent from Virginia to New York for sale in 1794. In 1892 the product was two million six hundred thousand bushels.

DR. MARY WALKER injured her right leg some years ago, and at times it causes her great inconvenience. To a friend who met her the other day and asked the fair doctor how her health was, she replied: "My right Walker is a little stiff nowadays, but otherwise I am all right."

A MAN in New York was arrested for kissing another man's wife. The sentence of the court was that the prisoner should kiss own wife, who was present in the court room. He willingly did so and was discharged. If the judge considered that a penalty, ten to one he has married a chrono himself.

By a recently issued imperial edict women are hereafter debarred from acting as editors on Japanese papers, even in the conduct of cooking and household journals or departments. Somebody near to the throne has probably been caught on the result of one of the delicious pie or cake recipes.

JUDGE JOHN F. PHILLIPS, of the United States court in Kansas City, bears the odd middle name of "Finix." It was bestowed upon him by his parents because he was born on the last minute of the last hour of the last day of the last week of the last month of the year. He was the last born of a large family, too.

SOME one having again remarked that Sam Patch lies in a neglected grave, the Rochester Union remarks: "Precisely where he should lie. He was an itinerant vagabond, his boon companion a bear, and was given to strong drink and foolhardy performances, which together ended his existence in the waters of the Tennessee river."

A CONGREGATIONAL clergyman of Ohio has forwarded to the patent office at Washington a model of a device for furnishing communicants with individual cups. They are about two inches high, one inch at the mouth, tapering down to nearly five-eighths of an inch at the bottom. As many as forty can conveniently be carried in a frame, and be replenished in a few seconds.

SOCIAL reformers have found another good text to enlarge upon. A New York state bride who was kissed by all her friends came down with diphtheria the morning after the wedding, and now several of the friends have been affected with the same disease. Things have come to a pretty pass when we are not to be allowed to indulge even in kissing without a physician's prescription.

THE Woman's Journal says that America had in 1880 3,700,000 bread-winning women and girls working outside of their own homes. There were 110 lawyers, 165 ministers, 320 artists, 588 journalists, 2,001 artists, 139 architects, chemists, pharmacists, 2,000 stock-raisers and ranchers, 5,153 government clerks, 2,438 physicians and surgeons, 13,182 professional musicians, 56,800 farmers and planters, 21,071 clerks and bookkeepers, 14,465 heads of commercial houses, 153,000 public school teachers (based on the census of 1880).

FOR the first time in the history of Methodism, so far as known, a woman has been admitted to membership in the conference. The Nova Scotia conference, in session at Canis, has decided that Mary Dapphini has a legal right to sit on a perfect equality with the male members in that body, and she will hereafter take her seat. Three years ago the application of Frances E. Willard for similar membership was refused in the United States conference. At the session of the Nova Scotia legislature this spring a woman suffrage bill came within two votes of becoming a law.

A SENSATION was caused at Railway, W. J., by the announcement that John Hough, a poor old man living with his married daughter, had fallen heir to over \$1,000,000. The money had been bequeathed to him by a man in California whom Hough had nursed through a severe attack of typhoid fever. Two lawyers appeared at Hough's house and produced letters testamentary from the surrogate of the county in which Hough's benefactor died; also other documentary evidence that convinced Hough of the truth of the story, and he is preparing now to collect what is due him.

THE nearest living relative of George Washington is Ebenezer Burgess Hall, who keeps a little cigar stand in the rotunda of the pension office in Washington. The Sons of the American Revolution have investigated his claim thoroughly, and their verdict goes to support them. He is said to resemble Washington's portrait much more closely than any other person claiming relationship and pictures that have been taken of him dressed in the continental uniform have been mistaken by many for representations of Washington himself. Mr. Hall is 70 years old, but is hale and hearty.

USEFUL AND SUGGESTIVE.

Sweet Peach Pickle.—For six pounds of fruit use three of sugar, about five dozen cloves and a pint of vinegar. Into each peach stick two cloves. Have the sirup hot and cook until tender. —Detroit Free Press.

Quenelles.—Chop one-half pound of veal; add to one pound of melted and strained suet, parsley, thyme, salt, pepper, three eggs, grated nutmeg, flour to shape into cakes. Cook in broiling broth. —Good Housekeeping.

Toast Under Stews.—Most stews made of lamb, chicken, beefsteak, etc., will go much further and be more relished if treated as follows: Lay pieces of well-browned buttered toast in the platter. Over these place the meat and then pour the nicely thickened and seasoned gravy over as served. —Orange Judd Farmer.

Cream Pie.—Pour one pint of cream over one cupful of sugar, let stand while beating the whites of three eggs to a stiff froth; add this to the cream and beat together. Bake a little nutmeg over it and grate in two tins. When done it may be thinly spread with jelly, covered with a meringue and lightly browned. —Housekeeper.

Stewed Fish.—Cut off tails, heads and fins, season inside and out with salt, pepper and mace. Place the fish in a stew pan with onion chopped fine, a tablespoonful of chopped parsley, a little marjoram, a cup of cream, a lump of butter rolled in flour, and water enough to cover the fish. Cover tight and simmer gently until done. —Boston Herald.

Cocunut Cream Filling.—One and one-half cups of milk, one-half cup of sugar, yolk of one egg, and two tablespoonfuls of cornstarch. Heat the milk and make the same as any other cream or custard; add one-half cup of cocunut a few minutes before removing from the stove. Frost the top of the cake with the white of the egg, and sprinkle thickly with cocunut. —Ohio Farmer.

Stewed Corn Pulp.—Take six ears of green corn or enough to make a pint of raw pulp; with a sharp knife cut a thin shaving from each row of kernels or score each kernel, and with the back of the knife scrape out the pulp, taking care to leave the hulls on the cob. Heat a cup and a half of rich milk-cream if desired to boiling, add the corn, cook twenty or thirty minutes; season with salt and a teaspoonful of sugar if desired. —Good Health.

Lobster Salad Leaves.—This is a dainty little dish for lunch, and also a welcome addition to picnic viands. Cut a small piece from the top of a French roll, and remove all the crumbs from the inside. Cut cold lobster into pieces about the size of dice, mix it with Mayonnaise dressing, and fill the cavity in the rolls, covering with the piece which has been removed. A pretty way of serving, which also secures the cover firmly, is to tie baby ribbon around the roll, finishing with a pretty bow on top. —Harper's Bazar.

Watermelons a la Chinoise.—In China and Japan watermelons are served as a sort of frozen ice and form an exceedingly dainty dish. Take a large, sweet, ripe melon; cut it into half and with a spoon scoop out the center, of course removing the seeds. Put the watermelon into a chopping tray and chop it rather fine. Add to it one cupful of powdered sugar. Turn this into an ice cream freezer. Pack the freezer, turn the crank for about five minutes, until the watermelon is icy cold and in the condition of soft snow. Serve in glasses. —N. Y. Observer.

Physical Culture.
The ambition for physical improvement has distinguished the young women of the grayer and more luxurious society for twenty years past. It has supplanted the simultaneous passion for athletic development among the young men of the same social circles; but now, through the impulse of these popular teachers of physical culture, it is extending rapidly among girls who before had been taught that adeptness in such exercises is a distinctly unfeminine accomplishment. Country girls who formerly cared nothing for their physical development are now riding bicycles, rowing boats, swimming, playing out-door games and in various other ways seeking to gain the beauty of health and vigor by systematic athletic cultivation. It is a great and happy change and it will have consequences of the highest value to the race. —N. Y. Sun.

Stylish and Fresh Cotton Gowns.
Those who appreciate the dainty freshness of handsome cotton gowns are this summer reveling in them to their heart's content, and with the additional and very comfortable consciousness of being very much in the fashion, as the popular every-day fabrics both here and abroad include all grades, from the favorite French goods in lace stripe and flowered effects to novel chine, shot and ombred designs in patterns marvelously like India silks, and from daintily woven crepons and chambrays to plain and embroidered India muslins, quaintly sprigged muslins and sheer batistes and organzias with floral designs scattered over delicately tinted grounds, which, with their lace trimmings and ribbon decorations, are made an apt for all dressy uses. —N. Y. Post.

A Suggestion.
The office boy was slow, very slow, to catch on to the less agreeable tasks of his office, and he did not always have the floor swept as neatly as it might have been, or the furniture as carefully dusted. His employer was good-natured, however, and tried to teach him by gentle means. The other morning he came in and the place was untidy.

"Frank," he said to the boy as he nodded at some papers under the desk, "when you see such things as that on the floor, don't they suggest something to you?"

"Yes, sir," replied Frank affably.

"What, Frank?"

"That some careless person has been around the desk," said Frank, and he got the bounce from the careless person on the spot. —Detroit Free Press.

Mixed His Dates.
Hungry Higgin—Wen did Columbus come to this country?

Weary Watkins—Bout four hundred years ago.

Hungry Higgin—Gee! No wonder a feller give me the horse laugh when I told him I was Chris' second cousin. —Indianapolis Journal.

Laudable.
Von Blimmer—I was rather surprised to hear that you had consented to let your head salesman marry your daughter.

Cled by—I wanted to leave 150 money in the family. —Judge.

FARM AND GARDEN.

PUBLIC ROADS IN IOWA.

The Subject Discussed by the Governor of the Hawkeye State.

Compared with the number of our people and their ability to pay taxes we have a very large mileage of public highways, no part of which can be entirely neglected, and our road taxes collected and expended as they heretofore have been are barely sufficient to keep most of these highways, which must be used, in a passable condition.

It is doubtful whether our people are yet ready to submit to additional burdens in the shape of highway taxes. What then can be done?

This is the practical question. All will concede that if our road taxes were paid in money, and judiciously expended under the direction of experts skilled in the art of making roads, much more could be accomplished than is now; but it is doubtful whether there would be general assent to a plan which would require the payment of all road taxes in money.

Still it is apparent that any system which will result in the permanent improvement of our highways absolutely requires a cash fund with which to begin and the oversight of persons skilled in the art of making roads. Such persons cannot usually be found within the road districts, and if found could not afford to spend their time for the compensation allowed a road supervisor. But upon smooth dry land, devoid of engineering difficulties of all kinds, anyone can construct a highway that will be reasonably passable at any season of the year, and this part of the work, covering much the greater part of the mileage, could in my judgment be left in charge of local supervisors and worked out as is now done.

It is perhaps reasonable to assume that this would absorb one-half of the road taxes now levied, and this share could be paid in work if so desired. The remainder of the road tax and all

of the bridge tax, if we are to improve upon our present system, must be paid in cash with the spring installment of taxes. This would supply a cash fund, the first essential to a change in our system.

Then, in every county at least, a competent engineer would be required to formulate plans for the construction of roads at all points of difficulty, and this work in my judgment should be let to the lowest bidder for cash, his pay to depend upon the certificate of the engineer that he had completed the work according to the plan submitted.

The first object to be attained in the construction of our highways is a foundation as nearly perfect as practicable. To accomplish this in bad places will require an extensive and sometimes complicated system of drainage. None but competent engineers can prepare the plans for this, and it will be necessary to confer on the counties or road districts the power of eminent domain so that adjoining lands may be continued to enable the district to perfect these systems of drainage.

All bridges should be built under the supervision of the engineer, and all money collected for road taxes should be expended in the district in which it is collected.

In this way we could at once begin the proper construction of a permanent foundation for our wagon roads, which would, in my judgment, without additional expense, save the salary of an engineer, greatly improve the present condition of our highways and at the same time prepare them for gravel or macadam when the country is old enough and rich enough to complete the work of converting them into permanent roads. —Gov. Horace Boies, in Good Roads.

THE HORSE NETTLE.

A Weed That is Common in the West and Southwest.

The horse nettle (Solanum Carolinense) is a well-known troublesome weed in Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, southern Iowa, Arkansas and south to northern Texas. It is a perennial and produces long and deep roots, sometimes more than three feet. Ordinary plowing will not kill them, they must be dug up, but the best plan for their destruction is to cut the plant off several inches below the ground. In no case allow any leaves to appear above the surface. The leaves are the organs of the plant in which food is made and this is stored away abundantly in the rootstock and roots. This accounts for some of the extraordinary vitality of the underground parts. This weed is a close kin of the potato, having violet or white flowers and yellow berries.

The potato is known botanically as Solanum tuberosum. The common nightshade, with small white flowers growing abundantly in shady places, is also closely related to it. The berries of this plant are black, and we were all taught to avoid them as they were supposed to be very poisonous. In Kansas, Missouri and the southwest is a prickly, somewhat hoary plant bearing yellow flowers. It is an extremely common weed along roadsides, and is avoided by cattle and farmers fear it. It is much easier to destroy being an annual. But like the Russian thistle in Dakota it has become so common that the task is a very difficult one, as it would require concentrated, continued action everywhere. —Prof. Pammel, in Orange Judd Farmer.

TO PREVENT HORNS.

A Method Suggested by the Department of Agriculture.

Many shrink from the practice of dehorning who would gladly adopt some way of preventing the growth of horns. This can be done with little, if any, suffering to the animal. The department of agriculture suggests a method as follows: Mix fifty parts caustic soda, twenty-five parts of kerosene oil and twenty-five parts of water. An emulsion is made of the kerosene and soda by heating and vigorously stirring, and this is then dissolved in water. The mixture should then be placed in a bottle with a solid rubber cork. In applying, the calf should not be over three weeks old, five to twenty days being the proper age. With a pair of scissors clip the hair around the embryo horns, exposing a spot about the size of a nickel. Hold the calf securely and drop two or three drops of the mixture upon the horn, and with the end of the rubber cork set it in thoroughly over the bare spot. Apply the fluid first to one horn and then the other, until each horn has been gone over three or four times. The rubbing should be continued until the caustic has softened and removed the hair and surface skin immediately around the horn. Care should be taken that the fluid does not spread over a large surface or run down the sides of the face. The mixture must be carefully and thoroughly applied; if used carelessly the embryo horns may not only be killed, but the face of the calf may be disfigured. This method is not only less cruel to the animal but, it is said, leaves the head in better form than when dehorning is practiced in the old way.

Green Food for Cows.

A cow may be on a pasture and yet secure but little green food. The size of the pasture, number of cows and growth of grass must be considered. If the cows begin to fall off in their milk it is a sure indication that something is wrong, and unless the dairyman makes a change in the food in some manner, the flow will continue to lessen. More hay and fodder should be supplied as the pasture fails, and green food may be allowed in the shape of young fodder cows.

THE POTATO HARVEST.

Seasonable Advice as to Digging and Reaping the Tubers.

One can easily select a time when the soil is in the right condition to fall right away from the potatoes when turned up either with the plow, potato digger or fork. By having a clean crop in this way the labor of harvesting is greatly lessened. Potatoes should not be washed, as a rule. Yet they must if we dig them with the soil adhering to them. A dirty crop of potatoes will not keep well.

Sometimes, however, potatoes will get muddy from necessity, and then some place to keep them while they are washed should be provided. It is not such an easy job to wash potatoes, for the mud is only loosened and not washed off by throwing water over them. If they are piled up in a heap and then washed with a hose for some time, the tops will be as clean as a whistle, but down toward the bottom the mud has accumulated.

The easiest way to wash them is to make a temporary lattice work on the top of four barrels. Lay bean poles across the four rails, so close that the potatoes cannot slide through. On top of this place one bushel of potatoes at a time, and then turn the hose on them. The water and dirt will drip through the lattice work to the ground and leave the potatoes bright and clean. As fast as cleaned the potatoes should be spread out on a canvas or boards to dry before storing. They will dry in a very short time in harvesting seasons. They must not be stored away in a damp, cold place while wet or the rot will surely set in.

A good drying and storing place for potatoes should be provided beforehand in the barn. A lattice floor should be made somewhere on the north side of the barn, and either stretched from mow to mow or constructed on a cheap framework. The floor can be made of bean poles or cheap scantling. The spaces between the slats should only be about an inch. If such a storage place is provided the potatoes can be placed there even when they are wet, for the dry air circulating through them soon carries away the moisture. All through the rest of the summer and the early fall the potatoes can be kept in this cool place in the best of condition. If potatoes are to be kept until later in the winter for sale they will turn out 50 per cent. better if cared for in the summer in this way. All of the moisture is dried out of them, and heat has no chance to rot them. —Colman's Rural World.

SOUTH DAKOTA HOT SPRINGS.

The United States Sending Its Sick Soldiers There to Be Cured, and Attention and if he wanted amusement to while away the time, he had only to start a sparring match between his monkeys and parrots. True, there is no report of any such proceeding on his part, but that is doubtless because there was no modern newspaper reporter on board. I tell you a man can not realize what loneliness or comfort is until he has made some such trip, and if he wants to complete his education in that line he should preface it with a tramp of 2,000 miles over the mountains and across the deserts amid wolves and wild Indians as thousands of '49-ers did. —Washington Star.

THE HORSE NETTLE.

A Weed That is Common in the West and Southwest.

The horse nettle (Solanum Carolinense) is a well-known troublesome weed in Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, southern Iowa, Arkansas and south to northern Texas. It is a perennial and produces long and deep roots, sometimes more than three feet. Ordinary plowing will not kill them, they must be dug up, but the best plan for their destruction is to cut the plant off several inches below the ground. In no case allow any leaves to appear above the surface. The leaves are the organs of the plant in which food is made and this is stored away abundantly in the rootstock and roots. This accounts for some of the extraordinary vitality of the underground parts. This weed is a close kin of the potato, having violet or white flowers and yellow berries.

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LONELINESS OF THE PACIFIC.

Out in the Vast Trackless Deserts of the Rolling Deep.

An item in the press stating that the City of Peking in her recent trip sailed 1,240 miles without meeting a single sail, is cited as showing the loneliness of the Pacific ocean. In the summer of 1850 left San Francisco, says a traveler, on a sail-vessel (formerly from Baltimore) for Panama, distance 4,000 miles, and on the entire route, which lasted forty-three days, we never saw a sail. Loneliness is no word for it; especially when we lay becalmed in the tropics, with our vessel floating as helplessly about as a chip on a mill-pond, the ground swell keeping up the monotonous roll of the vessel from side to side all day and all night, and day after day each roll being accompanied by a flap of the sails and a creaking of the rigging that might have passed for the flap of the wings and the wail of lost spirits.

When we read about Noah and his ark we are apt to think that he must have had a lonely time, but then he was out only forty days, and besides, with all the animals, etc., on board, he had plenty to occupy his time, and attention, and if he wanted amusement to while away the time, he had only to start a sparring match between his monkeys and parrots. True, there is no report of any such proceeding on his part, but that is doubtless because there was no modern newspaper reporter on board. I tell you a man can not realize what loneliness or comfort is until he has made some such trip, and if he wants to complete his education in that line he should preface it with a tramp of 2,000 miles over the mountains and across the deserts amid wolves and wild Indians as thousands of '49-ers did. —Washington Star.

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