

AREA OF COTTON PLANTED.

Decrease of Over a Million and a Half Acres—Condition of Crops is Above Last Year.

The final reports of the agricultural department on cotton planting make the area planted 22,460,334 acres, against 24,091,394 acres last year, a reduction of 1,631,060 acres, or 6.8 per cent. The decrease in the different states as compared with last year is as follows: Virginia, 8 per cent; North Carolina, 7; South Carolina, 8; Georgia, 6; Florida, 11; Alabama, 4; Mississippi, 4; Louisiana, 7; Texas, 8; Arkansas, 7; Tennessee, 10; Missouri, 15; Oklahoma, 2; Indian Territory, 19.

The average condition on June 1 was 89, compared with 83.5 at the corresponding date last year, and with an average general condition for the last ten years of 87.1.

The condition by states is as follows: North Carolina, 86; South Carolina, 85; Georgia, 89; Florida, 76; Alabama, 89; Mississippi, 89; Louisiana, 89; Texas, 89; Arkansas, 96; Tennessee, 80; Missouri, 90; Oklahoma, 82; Indian Territory, 80.

The condition in Texas, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee is 3 points above the ten year average; in Arkansas, 6 points; in North Carolina, 2 points, and in Louisiana, 1 point. In Alabama the average is exactly the same as the average for the past ten years, and in South Carolina there is a decline of 1 point, as compared with that for the ten-year period.

ANXIOUS TO FIGHT.

Japanese Cadet at Annapolis Not Permitted by His Government to Take Part in War with Spain.

Japanese Naval Cadet Hiroshi Tamura, who is at Annapolis through the courtesy of the American government, wanted to join the fleet under Admiral Sampson and take a four months' vacation, fighting Spaniards in Cuba.

At the close of the school year Tamura made an application to be detailed to active duty. He was detailed for four months' active service on the battleship Iowa as midshipman. The Japanese legation at Washington inquired what "active service" meant.

The Japanese legation was willing that he should go with the fleet as an observer, but the navy department can find no room for him in that position. Cadet Tamura is now stopping in this city with his friend, Kawarha, at 473 Central Park West.

SCHLEY COMMENDS HEROES.

Commodore Pays a Beautiful Tribute to Hobson and His Crew of the Merrimac.

Commodore Schley paid a beautiful tribute to the valor of Lieut. Hobson and the gallant crew of the collier Merrimac, as he sat out on the afterdeck of the flagship Brooklyn, lying five miles off Santiago de Cuba, Sunday afternoon.

Pointing toward the gray walls of Morro Castle, where Lieut. Hobson and his brave men were said to be incarcerated, the commodore spoke as follows:

"History does not record an act of finer heroism than that of the gallant men who are prisoners over there. I watched the Merrimac as she entered the harbor and my heart sank as I saw the perfect hell of fire that fell upon the devoted men. I did not think it possible one could have gone through it alive.

EXHIBITING AFRICA.

White Interlopers Are Wrecking the Continent from the Hands of the Blacks.

It is a fitting time at the end of the century to exhibit Africa, and now under the new masters. Like poor Poland, it has been fully partitioned, though, unlike Poland, not torn limb from limb, and she is independent.

What political changes the next century will bring to a continent which has interested the world for thousands of years cannot be foreseen; but there is no probability that a great native negro kingdom will rise. The control is likely to continue where it is now placed, in European hands.

We must regard Africa, therefore, as an appendage of Europe. The white races which pushed back the natives and settled and control the American continent, from Cape Barrow to Cape Horn, dominate all the other continents, and the black tribes of Africa, as well as the brown and yellow of Asia, are subject to their rule.

INDIAN CREMATIONISTS.

Yuma Redskins That Know How to Dispose of Their Dead by Fire.

C. S. Hilton has just returned to Los Angeles from Yuma, where he has been in the employ of the Southern Pacific. During his stay in Yuma there were four deaths among the Indians on the reservation, and following their usual custom the bodies were burned.

For a few seconds there is a slight smell of burning flesh, and it is all over. The wood burns to ashes, and when it goes out there is nothing resembling a human frame left; only a comparative small pile of gray ashes, which are scattered over the desert by the winds.

LIZARDS WHICH WALK ERECT.

When drawing attention about a year ago to the bipedal movements of certain Australian lizards, notably the comical little chlamydosaurus, or "frilled lizard," whose photograph is now familiar, Mr. Saville-Kent referred to an unconfined rumor that the Mexican iguanodon lizard also possesses the power of running on its hind legs.

The correspondent adds the interesting information that on the rocks about the watershed of the Guiana are old drawings of lizards running erect. Mr. Saville-Kent points out that this peculiarity, which a year ago was doubted by many naturalists, but which has now been shown to be common, deserves attention as pointing to bipedal locomotion in some remote ancestor.

Found by Grave Diggers. The gravediggers who were employed to dig Mr. Gladstone's grave in Westminster abbey came upon a leaden coffin of some unknown person. They also found remains of other persons of whose burial there is no record, among them a skull very much worn away, but seemingly that of a young man; shoulder bones and small bones of the arm in excellent preservation, but completely browned through age.

Enlightened Husband. The only prince of the royal house of Spain who is now in active service in Cuba in the cause of his country is Don Antonio, infant of Spain. He is in the prime of life, being only 32, and colonel of the "erack" regiment of hussars, "El Principe." He is the husband of Infanta Enlaila.

Switzerland's Military Regulations. Switzerland, though she spends only \$500,000 yearly on her army, can turn out 100,000 trained men in two days in case of need, and has a reserve of 100,000 more, as well as a militia of 270,000.

PIE IS TABOOED.

Boston Children Are Not Allowed to Eat This Toothsome Delicacy at School.

Pie, that good, old-fashioned New England staple, is doomed, if modern educators have their way, says the New York Press. In the public schools of Boston instructors keep watch and ward not only over the mental pabulum of their pupils, but they prescribe for their noonday luncheons the things that are hygienically and scientifically proper for boys and girls to eat.

Some of the wise Bostonians viewed with anxiety the youth of the city nonchalantly munching pie, cake and other indigestibles at their noon recess, utterly indifferent to any result more remote than the immediate gratification of their appetites. Science applied to food was summoned to the rescue, and the members of the committee on hygiene of the Boston school board had an order passed providing that only such food as was approved by them should be sold in any of the city schools.

The first plan was to have two grades of luncheons—a ten-cent lunch, consisting of a cup of soup, milk or cocoa, with crackers, two slices of bread and butter and fruit or simple cake, and a five-cent lunch, consisting of a sandwich, bread and butter, with fruit, cocoa and crackers or milk and crackers. Ten-cent lunches, however, did not prove popular, so all sorts of combinations possible for five cents have been made. If a pupil wants more than that he buys two or three lunches, according to the degree of his appetite and the state of his finances.

LOVE AMONG LAPLANDERS.

When a young Laplander is in love with a girl he and she run a race. He is heavily handicapped, so that she may win if he chooses, and if she overtakes him he cannot propose again. Of course she suffers herself to be overtaken if her parents must be obtained before she can be married. The law of the land is very strict on this point, and in olden times the man was subject to capital punishment if he married without the consent of the girl's parents.

After a Laplander has chosen a bride he sends her a present of a girdle, a ring and a quantity of brandy; he goes as far as the door of her hut, but remains outside until invited to enter, when a bumper of brandy is offered to the girl's father; if he drink it is a sign he consents to the marriage, and the young lover then promises to give the girl some clothes, and pays a sum of money, generally 100 copper dollars, on the spot.

It may not generally be known that for many years the general government has conducted a savings bank for the accommodation of certain citizens, says the Kansas City Journal. An act of congress of the date of May 15, 1872, provides that any soldier in the army may deposit with any paymaster his savings in sums not less than five dollars, and it shall be the duty of the paymaster to supply the soldier with a deposit book in which are entered the amounts of his deposits.

The largest bag of grouse. The largest bag of grouse on record was made in 1870 by the late Sir Frederick Milbank, and a monument testifying to the fact has been erected at Barningham, England. Sir Frederick's record on the great day was 365 brace. In four days his party of never more than six guns killed 6,198 birds, and during the season 17,074, of which he claimed 5,668.

A Chance Later On. David Blaham, the famous singer, tells a good dialect story. Here is one of a negro mammy who was forever prating the extraordinary virtues and grand wonderfulness of her charge, "Hub," granted her wearied auditor, "he—he—ain't Gawd, is he?" The mammy pondered a minute. "Well," she said, hesitatingly, "he's young yet!"

A Chinese gentleman always sends a pair of geese to the lady of his choice, and they are looked upon as the emblems of conjugal fidelity.

Table with financial data including 'Bulletin Financier' and 'COMPTOIR D'EGANGES (CLEARING-HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS'.

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