

MAPLESUGARMAKING

Gathering of the Sap by the Farmers of the Northern Woods.

Some Interesting Features of the Spring Work Among the Sugar Trees--Social Features of the Season.

The maple sap had again begun its annual flow, when all through the Adirondacks, as well as in the forests of neighboring northern states, farmers' families were busy gathering the one crop for which they neither plant nor till.

Old sugar makers have as many ideas about "the run" as a crossroads weather prophet, and some of them are able to predict to a wonderful certainty just when the flow of sap will begin and how long it will continue.

A few days before the first March thaw is expected the farmer goes into the woods and opens his sugar house--a shanty of rough boards, deserted, lonely and uninteresting during 11 months of the year.

Then one morning the cry is heard that the sap is really running, and at once the farmhouse is deserted for the sugar house in the woods.

On farms where the number of sugar maples is not large the farmers of to-day gather their sugar crops in much the same way their fathers did.

On the larger sugar farms methods more modern are in use. Metal spiles have replaced the wooden ones, and sore shoulders from carrying the sap are unknown where the gathering tank is used.

The social features of the sugar season have not been lost with the development of the commercial side.

"Formal calls," said a society woman, "are becoming obsolete. I mean the running in of afternoon, chatting for five or ten minutes, leaving your cards and rushing off to the next place on your list."

Big and Fast Steamships. It appears that there are only 1,100 merchant steamships in the world of over 2,000 tons and capable of making 12 knots or over an hour.

President an Easy Mark. When it comes to be understood that the life insurance agents are entirely through with him, says the Chicago Inter-Ocean, the gentlemen who can conceal a full set of the Encyclopaedia Britannica on their persons without fear of detection will be clamoring for audiences with the president.

OUR BOYS AT OXFORD

Influence of Students from United States Will Be Felt.

Predicted by English Writer That American Society, College Yells, Class Buttons and American Spirit Are Certain.

The London Speaker devotes a long article to the probable effect of the Rhodes' scholarships on Oxford university. It thinks it safe to ignore the influence of the Germans and colonialists, saying the former will naturally gravitate towards a teutonic clique, but it will be too small to materially affect the settled life and traditions of Oxford.

There are now two distinct classes of Americans at Oxford, the sons of rich men affected by a more or less acute form of anglomania, who are often more English than the English themselves.

Arguing on these premises, the writer concludes that a hundred young American students, "glorying in their nationality," will become a potent factor in impressing their personality on the staid, old university, with the natural result that an organized American society, college yells, class buttons and the young American spirit generally will sharply accentuate the existing differences between Oxford and Cambridge.

STARTS WITH ONE BABE. Innovation in a Chicago Church Falls to Take with the Mothers of the Congregation.

One baby was the only visitor to the newly established creche of the St. James M. E. church, Chicago, the other Sunday. Rev. Dr. Coburn, the pastor of the church, however, did not express any disappointment.

TO BUILD NOVEL VILLAGE. Walter Vrooman Has Plans for Extensive Experiment in Co-operative Community.

Walter Vrooman, the social reformer, announced the other day that he had purchased the land and completed plans for building a model village, or cooperative community, within a short distance of Kansas City, Mo.

Teachers May Whip Pupils. A court decision rendered at Mexico, Mo., gives teachers the authority to whip pupils whenever it is deemed necessary.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

In Russia factories are usually near forests, wood being still the chief fuel.

Many private companies are being formed for the purpose of working the enormous coal area newly discovered in the Campine district of Belgium.

Pewter making, one of England's important industries 70 years ago, has almost been abandoned.

During all this time steamers lost their bearings, vessels were driven ashore and millions of dollars' worth of property and hundreds of lives continued to be lost.

The Duke is a landed proprietor who counts his acres by the thousands. By actual count he is lord of 25,400, his estates being among the most splendid in the country.

The duchess is the most democratic in the whole Seymour (or St. Maur, as it was formerly written) connection. She has a most winning and affable nature, is gracious without condescension and possessed of a broad charity that argues an optimistic view of the world.

Hampton Roads, which will be the northern entrance to the inside passage, is considered one of the safest and most easy of access of all the harbors on the coast.

When the improvements contemplated are made it is probable that the "inside route" will be continued below Beaufort inlet.

Information has reached the Peruvian legation in Washington that a general exposition of the methods, apparatus and machinery for the application of alcohol to the production of motive power, heat and light will be held at Lima during the month of September, 1902.

WAYS OF USING ALCOHOL. Fern to Give Exposition of Methods, Apparatus and Machinery for Application of the Product.

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THE INSIDE ROUTE

Government Plans for a System of Canals and Channels.

Dangers of Cape Hatteras to Be Avoided by Coastwise Vessels and Lives and Property Saved.

Cape Hatteras, the most dangerous point upon the Atlantic seaboard, will cease to exist as a menace to coastwise navigation if the present plans of the United States government are carried out.

The plan to avoid the cape contemplates an ingenious and thoroughly practicable system of inland canals and channels, by which the coastwise trade will be enabled to pass behind Cape Hatteras protected from the fury of the ocean the whole way down the coast by low lying sand bars.

The extra insurance now put on ships because of Cape Hatteras and its dangers will, it is claimed, more than pay for the cost of towage in this new inside route.

The magnificent fleet of yachts kept in northern waters can then pass up and down the coast in safety.

An inside passage from Boston to Florida is believed by officials to be one of the possibilities of the future.

The present plan is looked at as the first and most important step in this development.

To a large extent the proposed waterway is a natural one and to fit it for the passage of vessels of the larger class, as contemplated in the survey now being made, is simply a matter of dredging channels through the various soundings lying back of the narrow strip of land which forms Cape Hatteras and the dangerous coast on its north and south.

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NEW COURT ORDER ON GIRLS.

The King and Queen of England Put the Fair Debutantes in Their Proper Place.

Society is speculating not a little over an announcement which appeared in one of the London papers which devotes considerable attention to social doings, to the effect that the king and queen have determined to reinstate the jeune fille and reform her.

"She won't," this paper says, "occupy a prominent position at court. She won't be encouraged to hold her own against matrons, young or others. She will be very properly treated as a girl, nothing more. In these circumstances, therefore, we may reasonably expect that the young girl will soon be put back into her proper place, and that, being there, she will regain the charm of simplicity she has lost."

His majesty and his advisers have made a beginning. The lord chamberlain has courteously informed a young girl through her mamma, that in the future her attendance at court is desired for presentation purposes only, since it has been decided, after long and anxious deliberation, that only those women who have entered upon the holy state of matrimony can, other things being equal, count upon annual admission tickets.

A kindly hint that she may perchance be bidden to other and milder frolics and gambolings, such as ping-pong and garden skippings, has somewhat tempered this cruel wind to the shorn lamb in question.

SHOWS INDOMITABLE COURAGE. Harry de Windt, the Explorer, Succeeds in Reaching Verkhoyansk, Eastern Siberia.

Letters have just been received at London from Harry de Windt, leader of the expedition which is attempting to make its way overland from Paris to New York.

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LAYS DOWN RULES.

Wife of Secretary Hay Fixes a Code of Etiquette for Cabinet Ladies.

Demands That the Wives of the Ambassadors of the President Shall Observe the Rules Prevailing in Courts of Foreign Countries.

Mrs. Hay, wife of the secretary of state, has laid down a code of official etiquette to end the friction which has existed for years. This was done after consultation with Mrs. Roosevelt.

When Signora Mayer Des Planches, wife of the Italian ambassador, arrived Mrs. Hay wrote the women of the cabinet circle and the wives of the justices of the supreme court, of the senators and of several representatives that the ambassador would be at home on a certain day. She will pursue a similar course when Mrs. Cambon, wife of the French ambassador, arrives next week.

For the first time it is definitely laid down that the cabinet hostesses and all other women in official life who mingle in society must make the initial call in the case of an ambassador. The wives of ministers and of all minor diplomats must call on the cabinet women and on the senators' wives first.

The wives of representatives are expected to call on the diplomatic ladies first, and this duty is especially imposed upon those whose husbands served on the committee on foreign affairs.

As the wife of the secretary of state Mrs. Hay has delicately conveyed to the diplomatic contingent that the same observance of etiquette is expected at this capital as in other countries.

Mrs. Hay's programme has been adopted by a large proportion of the official hostesses. Mrs. Fuller, however, still maintains that her dignity as the wife of the chief justice of the United States is such that she can call on no one but the president's wife--hence no calls have been exchanged between her and the ambassador's wives.

NEW CHINESE LEGATION. Prospective Building to Be One of Most Imposung Belonging to Foreign Nations at Washington.

Work will be begun on the new Chinese legation and it is hoped by the minister and others concerned that there will be absolutely no more delays in the work.

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