

PANAMANIANS DO NOT PLOW

Put in Corn and Vegetable Seeds and Then Let Nature Do Work—Soils Are Exceedingly Hard.

Washington.—The Panama canal zone, considered from an agricultural standpoint, is a country possessed of possibilities but utterly devoid of plows, farmers or farming.

"We find among the Panamanians the crudest agriculture imaginable," he says, in his report. "They do no plowing or cultivating, but simply put in a few hills of corn, rice, or inferior vegetables and allow nature to do the work."

"There are no plows on the Isthmus of Panama, as far as we have been able to learn, except a few belonging to the canal commission. There is not a great variety of soils, but they are exceedingly hard to get at. The topography is extremely humpy and rough."

"Trails are scarce and often impassable on foot. They are never passable in a buggy. The only way to move through the uncleared country is to cut a path. So far I have seen two important soils. One is a residual red clay and the other a brown clay loam of alluvial origin."

"I believe that, as the result of our investigations, there will be some more efforts to establish gardens throughout the zone as a means of teaching agriculture to the children of laborers and natives."

TEACH GIRLS COWBOY TRICKS

Lady Hunt Starts School to Fit Young English Women for Life in British Colonies.

London.—Lady Ernestine Hunt, daughter of the Marquis of Allebury, has founded a training school for girls at Cosham park, near Portsmouth, which holds out the possibility of making an American "Wild West" show look like a mere side show.

Lady Hunt personally will be the acting principal of this novel educational establishment, and she announces that students will be trained in those subjects which will practically prepare them so that they can "find for themselves and their homes, whether in the colonies or in England."

These will include, aside from horsemanship, gardening, cooking, darning, first aid, home nursing and housewifery.

A portion of the seven acres of meadow and orchard that surround Cosham House will be utilized during the summer for a row of tents where the feminine students may enjoy the experience of sleeping under canvas nightly. No servants will be kept at Cosham Park, and the girls will do the menial as well as the more ornamental work.

DIAMONDS FOUND IN ASHES

As Boston Policemen Seek Burglar, Janitor Finds Precious Jewels in Garbage Can.

Boston.—Mrs. Charles J. Shriner, wife of a wealthy shoe manufacturer, lost \$10,000 worth of jewels from her home, 101 Boylston street. She called up police headquarters and told her troubles.

Policemen were running around everywhere. There were visions of grim burglars and rubber-soled sneak thieves in the minds of the policemen. Patrolman Sternberg was placed in charge of the case.

Janitor Daniel Harvey found them in an ash barrel. Mrs. Shriner told Policeman Sternberg this when he called at her home to begin the police hunt. She said she had not any idea how they got there, unless she placed them in a fancy waste paper basket on her desk and that her maid had dumped them out.

Drinking More Than Ever.

Louisville, Ky.—The National Model Licensee league, by its president, T. M. Gilmore, the other day issued a statement asserting that recent reports of the United States commissioner of internal revenue show that for every day of the first five months of the current fiscal year the average daily increase in the consumption of distilled and fermented liquors was 186,827 gallons.

BEGIN CENSUS WORK

Eighteen Hundred Special Agents to Study Manufacturers.

Answers Are Kept Secret, and Employes Who Give Out Information Without Permission to Be Punished.

Washington.—The federal census of manufactures, mines, quarries, petroleum and natural gas for the year 1909 has been begun under the direction of the United States census bureau. This census, together with that of population and agriculture, comprises the principal inquiries embodied in the thirteenth decennial census. Eventually about 1,500 special agents will be employed in making the canvass, under the supervision of William M. Stewart, chief statistician for manufactures. Director of the Census Durand is appointing these agents from the eligible registers established as a result of the examination, held November 3, of candidates for these positions.

Extraordinary precautions have been taken by Director Durand to assure the manufacturers that all answers will be held confidential, this statement being prominently displayed on the front page of the numerous schedules. It is also declared that no publication will be made in the census reports disclosing the name or operations of individual establishments in any particular.

The act of congress provides that the bureau of the census shall permit only its sworn employes to examine the individual reports, and that any employe who shall, without the authority of the director of the census, publish or communicate any information coming into his possession shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Director Durand, in discussing this census, said: "There is only a limited time in which to complete this work. It is essential that all the field employes exert themselves to the utmost. Those who do good work will be reassigned to other districts and retained in the service until the work is finished."

"If manufacturers or others furnishing data object to a supposed disclosure of the secrets of their business, the special agents will assure them that the results of their individual business will not be made public. They are required also to explain that the information will not be used for the purposes of taxation, nor in any manner to identify the operations of the individual establishments, and will not be disclosed to any other bureau of the federal government. The intent of the law, which will be strictly carried out, is to prevent the disclosure of information which might operate to the detriment in any way of the person or establishment supplying it."

"The period covered will be, wherever possible, that of the year ended December 31, 1909. In the majority of cases the data can be secured for it, as the business year of most establishments will correspond to the calendar year 1909."

"The method of the canvass requires that a few days prior to the day when a given firm is to be canvassed the special agent shall mail to the manufacturer a copy of the general schedule, with the proper supplemental schedules, together with the request that they be filled out in readiness for the special agent on his arrival. In the event this has not been done at the time the agent calls he will proceed to get the facts immediately."

"The information secured must be accurate. In drafting the schedule every effort was made to frame the inquiries in such a form that the answers to them can generally be taken directly from the books of accounts and the records of the establishment canvassed. In no case are general statements or estimates to be accepted where it is possible to secure answers directly from the books of accounts and records."

"As there is a general interest in the subject of the comparative importance of the cities, states and territories with reference to the larger selected industries, it is exceedingly desirable that, from the standpoint of civic pride alone, the manufacturers throughout the United States should furnish the data without delay in order that the industrial centers in which they operate may be completely and correctly represented in the statistical tables. Every manufacturer is therefore urged to co-operate promptly and fully with the bureau of the census."

Big Offer for Tiger.

Calcutta.—The Madras government has offered a \$350 reward for the destruction of a tiger which has created panic in the Ganjam villages, having, it is alleged, in the past three years killed upwards of a hundred and fifty people, carrying some of them off from among bands of twenty or thirty men. A reward of \$80 previously offered proved inadequate, local shikaris being afraid to approach the creature's haunts.

Bad Road Causes Damage Suit.

Uniontown, Pa.—Dr. J. T. Burnitto of South Brownville has sued Redstone township to recover damages for injuries received in an automobile accident, which is said to have been caused by a bad piece of road. The doctor asks \$22 for each foot he tumbled down a hill into Redstone creek, the total damage asked being \$1,350.

MEXICAN SWEETS ARE QUEER

No Variety of Fruit or Vegetable Which Natives Do Not Candy, or Preserve in Sirup.

Boston.—"I was surprised at the Mexican sweets," said a man just back from Mexico. "I do not think there can be any fruit or vegetable which they do not candy, preserve in sirup or convert into jam."

"In a queer little pueblo in the state of Zacatecas I heard a woman calling monotonously, 'Cimarrones, calabasas.' Now, these words in English mean sweet potatoes and pumpkins. She had a small tray, held in place by a leather thong that went around her neck."

"I crossed the plaza and asked her for five cents' worth of calabasas. She placed several pieces of a sugary yellow substance in a paper bag and I realized that I was going to have the experience of tasting candied pumpkin."

"If you can imagine pumpkin pie frozen hard and saturated with sugar you can get an idea of the flavor of that queer confection. One grows to like it after one has lived in Mexico for awhile."

"The cimarrones were also rather nice. The sweet potatoes are boiled in water until they are soft. Then they are soaked in hot sirup and candied. A final coating of powdered white sugar is added and gives them the appearance of large Easter eggs. Beets, carrots, turnips and artichokes are some of the vegetables made into sweetsmeats in Mexico. Tropical fruits of every description are also used for this purpose, and candied watermelon peel is a great favorite."

"Last New Year's eve I was in Nogales, a pueblo on the International line between Arizona and the Mexican state of Sonora. A vaudeville entertainment was being given at the little theater, and about eight o'clock I strolled over to take in an act or two. It was almost impossible to make my way to the box office through the crowd of peddlers that blocked the street and sidewalks."

WORKER AT A DIZZY HEIGHT

Man Repairs Headress of Statue of Freedom on Capitol Building 300 Feet Above Ground.

Washington.—Crowning the imposing dome of the capitol building is a statue of freedom 19½ feet tall, which stands nearly 300 feet above the ground. Those who passed the capitol grounds the other day saw a man crawling through the uppermost window to what appeared to be a narrow ledge outside, followed almost immediately by a second man with a long scaling ladder in his hand. After passing out one ladder he brought forward another and the two men were soon scaling the perilous ledge at the foot of the figure.

"What's he doing?" demanded many people of the capitol police, as one of the men reached the feet of the bronze female figure.

"Chimprodding work," the policeman answered, and went on his way.

Soon the second ladder was drawn up and placed alongside the figure and bound in place with straps, so that the man could reach the head of the statue.

One man began an examination of the enormous headress of bronze feathers.

Inquiry at the office of Capitol Superintendent Woods developed that this headress contains 18 platinum points within conical settings of gold which are designed to protect the cap from lightning. When lightning strikes one of these points it fuses and has to be replaced. Once each year the fused points are replaced. After working over the headgear for some time the men came down with their ladders and disappeared within the dome.

ELECTRICITY IS ANESTHETIC

Recent Experiments Just Made Public Show Current Is Better Than All Present Drugs.

Philadelphia.—Years of investigation by noted surgeons for a perfect anesthetic which would have no detrimental effect on the heart or other vital organs of the patient apparently has been at last rewarded.

Electricity has come to the relief of the surgeons, and investigations going on here and abroad, which have just been made public, show that electricity is far superior to any of the drugs now used to produce analgesia.

This discovery, if confirmed by future investigations, and there seems to be no reason that it will not be, is one of the greatest boons to humanity of modern times. It will mean a revolution of modern methods of surgery. Persons suffering from diseases that call for operations, but who cannot get relief through danger of death if put under ether or chloroform, will now be able to be cured.

Electricity, when used as an anesthetic, has no bad effects on the heart. It produces a state of insensibility by acting on the nerve centers of the brain that is called "electric sleep." The sleep is not fatal and when the electric circuit is opened the influence of the anesthetic is immediately lost and the patient becomes conscious without feeling any of the after effects common to a drug anesthetic.

Waldorf Tips \$100 a Week.

New York.—In asking for alimony from William Wendling, a Waldorf Astoria waiter, Mrs. Wendling made \$100 a week in the supreme court that his income from tips alone amounts to at least \$100 a week.

GIVE QUAKE ALARM

When Mexican Parrot Seeks High Altitude People Flee.

Those of Tierra Caliente Have Saved Thousands of Lives by Giving Warning of Seismic Disturbances.

City of Mexico.—That geese once saved ancient Rome from destruction at the hands of its enemies is a legend which has almost become a truth; but the parrots of Mexico, particularly those of the Tierra Caliente, or hot country along the coast, have saved thousands of lives in real fact by giving warning of approaching seismic disturbances.

Not alone have the tame parrots, of which there is one or more in almost every house in Mexico, done this, but the wild flocks down along the west coast have saved thousands of dollars' worth of bridges and other railroad construction work from destruction. Whenever there is a heavy storm coming the parrots silently take to the highest and thickest foliaged trees in the jungle, but when an earthquake is destined to come off within the next few hours every parrot in the country immediately seeks a bare, open, level space in the wild forest and alights on the ground.

The parrot being exclusively an arboreal bird, this is unusual in itself; but, in addition to this, the birds, which are usually unbearably noisy, become suddenly silent, emitting now and again a peculiar cry which they use at no other time. This fact is amply attested by engineers of the Southern Pacific and other railroads through the parrot-infested parts of Mexico.

What the wild pigeon once was in point of numbers to the United States, that the parrot, of varying shades of color and all sizes, is to Mexico. Flights of these birds frequently darken the midday sun in the hot country, and they become so tame around the camps of engineers that the birds are given individual names and soon become regular pets.

"Whenever we saw the parrots deserting the forest and alighting on the ground in the open spaces of the jungle we immediately withdrew the pile drivers from the bridges," said C. J. Green, an engineer, just returned from 11 months' work on the Southern Pacific in Mexico, in which he passed through the states of Sinaloa and Colima and a portion of the territory of Tepic, the heart of the parrot country.

"The birds," said Mr. Green, "gave us sure warning of the approach of an earthquake, and we never failed to heed their warning that we did not have trouble with the pile drivers, and any steel or wooden beams standing upright were sure to be toppled over. In fact, we lost the greater part of one steel bridge because we did not pay attention to the parrots and take a great weight of cars loaded with stone off the outer end."

"There is, of course, no warning of those quakes, and were it not for the parrots hundreds of the Mexican laborers working around the piers and abutments would have lost their lives."

"In the towns of the hot country, just previous to the last series of earthquakes, one of which shocks was so disastrous to Acapulco, the people were warned by the struggles of every parrot confined in a cage throughout the length and breadth of Mexico that earthquakes were coming on. For several hours before the heavy shocks began to come the birds were making their low and plaintive 'earthquake cries,' as the natives call them, and were trying to escape from their cages."

Other engineers and white men who have spent much time in the jungles of tropical America tell the same story. Monkeys are afraid of quakes, and can feel them coming as well as the birds, but do not give such a plain warning, merely scurrying for the tops of the highest trees and quieting their chatter when the shock is beginning to be felt.

ICE FAMINE IS NOT LIKELY

Extremely Cold Weather of This Winter Has Provided Dealers with Plentiful Supply.

New York.—New York and other eastern cities should have a plentiful and cheap supply of ice next summer. Nature has done her share and it remains only for the trust and such independent dealers as there are to garner the harvest. No cry of "ice famine" can possibly be raised.

All reports show that the ice is of excellent quality and of the proper thickness for commercial use. The Cold Storage and Ice Trade Journal, the official organ of the trade, says editorially: "The natural ice men at least have no cause for complaint of the present winter. From all parts of the country where ice is cut comes word that the conditions are better than for five or six years past. As a rule, the ice is of excellent quality."

In spite of the favorable conditions there are not wanting signs that much of the ice will not be harvested. For instance, in Maine, although the ice there is of even better quality than usual, little more than enough for local use has been cut, while many ice-houses have been allowed to fall into decay. In the Kennebec river, where there is a storage capacity of 500,000 tons, only a partial harvest is being made.

ON SOCIAL MANNERS

Book Cautions Against Eating Peas with a Knife.

One Chapter of Volume Is Devoted to Gentle Art of Lying—Americans Are to Profit—Ground Rules Given.

London.—It's all clear now. Any one, apparently, can take down the blue ribbon in the "social success" class in London. All that seems necessary to accomplish this result is to study the "ground rules," just as the golf aspirant ponders over the book of instructions or the person ambitious to annex prizes in bridge whist circles studies the cautions as to returning a partner's leads.

The way to the society goal has been swept of obstacles, ostensibly, by the volume entitled "Manners and Rules of Good Society," which has just been issued in a revised edition that is guaranteed to be up to the ultimate minute.

This route book to 24-carat manners attempts to tell the eager reader everything from how to be born up to how to meander along the path of life from the cradle to the grave. In all seriousness—for the Englishman takes everything that life affords most seriously, as a rule—it is set down that "peas should be eaten with a fork." That is "ground rule" No. 1. It would seem, therefore, that the artist who can successfully consume these flighty vegetables by balancing them upon a knife must be counted down and out even before the contest begins. When oysters are eaten in Buckingham palace this rule should be adhered to rigidly.

"The shell should be steadied on the plate with the fingers of the left hand; the oysters should not be cut, but eaten whole with a dinner fork. Very many ladies do not like them, whilst others refuse them under the impression that it is more ladylike not to eat them."

With reference to this latter charge it has been affirmed by the average American who has wrestled with English oysters, which taste like so many chunks of sulphur in comparison with the succulent American bivalve, that the refusal to eat them has designated good judgment rather than any desire to appear more "ladylike." The social aspirant, also, should give careful attention to handling the cheese course.

"When eating cheese," so the guide book advises, "small morsels of the cheese should be placed with the knife on small parcels of bread, and the tow conveyed to the mouth with the thumb and finger, the piece of bread being the morsel to hold, as cheese should not be taken with the fingers and should not be eaten off the point of the knife."

This evidently takes much practice, as the morsel of cheese has an embarrassing habit of tumbling off the parcel of bread in the critical periods of its voyage. Until the entrant can be sure of a score of about five times in six, it is inferred that the doors of society will be closed to him. Other rules which must be learned by heart, according to this form chart, are:

"In eating asparagus a knife and fork should be used, and the point should be cut off and eaten with the fork."

"All made dishes, such as quenelles, rissoles and patties, should be eaten with a fork only."

"Cucumber is eaten off the dinner plate."

Of course, the knife seems to fare badly as a vehicle of conveyance, but—well, unless expertness is obtained in its handling one is liable to cut himself with such an implement, anyhow.

"Not at home" is the formula that should be expressive of a desire of not wishing to see certain visitors. There is extended explanation that this message, when conveyed to a caller by a servant, is not intended to imply an untruth, but to signify that, for this reason or that, the person called upon does not desire to see the visitor. As it would be inconvenient to explain in detail the why's and wherefores of this decision, the formula of "Not at home" is an all-sufficing explanation in itself.

Callers may have views of their own upon this matter, now that it has been thus exposed to public view, but the guide book to etiquette does not consider that point. When certain embarrassing situations arise at dinner parties, here is the way out of the difficulty:

"The leg of a chicken, pheasant, duck or wild duck should never be given to a guest, save on those unfortunate occasions when there are more guests present than there is meat from breasts and wings to give them. Under the circumstances the carver is reduced to the necessity of falling back upon the legs of the birds, but in this case only the upper part of the thigh should be given."

Policeman Same as Others.

New York.—Hereafter policemen who get drunk and use their clubs on citizens will be arrested, locked up and taken to police court on regular complaints, just like any other offender. It has been the custom in such cases, and they have been numerous, to take the obstreperous officer's shield from him and relieve him from duty, but Commissioner Baker, in view of a case a few days ago, has issued the new order to commanders of all police precincts.

TO IMPROVE CHINESE COTTON

Japanese Manufacturers Working Earnestly to Better Quality to Compete with America.

Washington.—Japanese cotton manufacturers are working earnestly to improve the quality of cotton grown in China so that they will not be dependent on the American grown product.

According to Vice-Consul Heintzman of Shanghai, a Japanese firm close to the Chinese government began experiments last year at Kangwan, province of Kiangsu, with cottonseed, obtained from several countries. Seeds from India and Japan gave poor results. The American seed, however, has produced a cotton greatly superior to the native.

The staple is good, but the color, owing to heavy rain, is poor. If future trials are successful, seeds will be distributed to the farmers gratis. The Japanese hope in this way to procure a cotton of American grade which they can purchase at low price and lay down in their own country with small cost of transportation. This accomplished, American cotton will only be bought by Japan when her requirements exceed China's production.

Most of the cotton is grown on small farms of five to seven acres. The whole family, says the journal of the American Asiatic association, engages itself in the cultivating and works as many as twelve hours a day. If the work exceeds the capacity of the family, coolies are hired at 16 cents a day.

The implements used in the cultivation are of a rude type. The wooden frame plough, with an iron blade is drawn by cows and buffaloes. The hoe used corresponds to the American adze. The method used in raising water for irrigation is by a pump consisting of a string of cups, sometimes operated by animals. A rude sickle is used for cutting. Transportation about the fields is done on human backs, while the haul to the market is done by wheelbarrow.

Small ditches led by creeks surround the fields for irrigation. The ground is broken twice a year, in spring and autumn. The plants grow to six or seven feet in height and the crop is gathered in September or October. About 60 per cent of the cotton is manufactured by native process. In the treaty ports most of the cotton is sold to foreign manufacturers.

BOUND COW SHOULD BE SHOD

Bosy Treasured by Connecticut Lad as Draft Animal Given Plates to Prevent Slipping.

Winsted, Conn.—"I've been in business nigh onto 50 years, but never have I heard of a cow being shod," Marshall Case, the village blacksmith in Barkhamstead, told Rupert Stevens, 10 years old, when the lad led Ruth, his four-year-old bovine, to the smithy. Not disturbed by lack of precedent, the lad insisted, and Case agreed to do the job, "providing she'll stand for it." Assured by Rupert that Ruth would not "cut up badly," Case shod the animal. Rupert then hitched Ruth to his cutter and drove home, covering the round trip of 15 miles in five hours.

Rupert begged his pet from his father when Ruth was a calf and she is now so thoroughly broken that she can be driven to any sort of vehicle. For some time the lad has insisted on the animal being shod because of the ice and snow on the roads.

AGED MAN ON GIFT RAMPAGE

Bound to Die Penniless, and Says He Is Having More Fun Than Any Plutocrat on Earth.

Chicago.—After having given more than \$4,000,000 to various struggling colleges in many parts of the country, Dr. D. K. Pearsons, a retired capitalist, now nearly 90 years old, reiterated his intention of giving away every cent he possesses before he dies.

"I am having more fun than any other millionaire alive," he said. "Let other rich men go in for automobiles and steam yachts. I have discovered that giving is the most exquisite of all mundane delights. I am going to have a squaring up April 14 with all the small colleges I have promised money to, and I serve notice now that beginning then I am going on a new rampage of giving. I intend to die penniless."

"I am going to live ten years longer, and during that time I expect to do nothing but give away money."

Magnet Gets Needle Point.

Chester, Pa.—While putting on a pair of boots and leaning backward in a rocking chair against a pair of socks from which a darned needle protruded, Charles W. Hopkins, a musician, met with a peculiar accident, the needle penetrating his back.

When efforts were made to remove the needle it broke, a piece remaining imbedded in Hopkins' back. He went to the Chester hospital, where the piece of steel was removed by the aid of a powerful magnet.

Electrocution Is Costly.

Trenton, N. J.—It cost the state \$7,028.78, or an average of \$1,171.46 each to electrocute six condemned murderers last year, according to the annual report of the board of inspectors of the state prison, which has just been filed with Gov. Fort. This cost is considerably more than for executions under the old method of hanging in and at the expense of the counties in which the crimes were committed.