

CURRENT TOPICS.

Over 1,400 people were killed last year on Russian railway lines. A nugget of gold weighing 80 ounces has been found at Ballarat, Australia. The paper bills of the United States printing office amount to \$750,000 a year.

In 1880 the average New Yorker took 182 rides in street cars; last year he took 415.

In a year nearly 100,000 persons traverse the 47 miles of railway across the isthmus.

For hoisting from the 1,529-foot level of the Kimberly diamond mine 40 seconds are required.

Our total trade with Alaska for the fiscal year was: Imports, \$10,288,000; exports, \$9,497,000.

Recent returns show that divorce cases in Germany increased last year from 4,675 to 5,278.

In the Santa Clara valley, California, five square miles are devoted to the raising of onion seed.

The daily newspapers of the United States use in a year \$29,197,000 worth of paper; in weight nearly 100,000,000 pounds.

Rev. Ronald D. Sawyer is leading a crusade against profanity in Boston. He is the organizer of the Anti-Profanity league.

The Korean government has ordered that all Koreans, without regard to rank or class, shall wear clothes of a blue or dark color.

Canada has reaped great profit from this year's apple trade. There have been 254,400 more packages shipped to England than last year.

The first equestrian statue erected in the new world, which still stands, is a colossal statue of Charles IV. of Spain, in the City of Mexico.

The report of the auditor of the state of Iowa shows that there are 1,200 telephone companies in the state, as compared with 700 last year.

Ethnologists are of the opinion that when America was discovered there were not on the continent of North America any more Indians than exist now.

Norwegians and Swedes who live far away from railways spend their long winter evenings dressing hides and skins, and making homespun cloths.

Corn has been bred to show that by intelligent cultivation the parts of the kernel that yield the oil can be minimized, while those that produce protein can be developed.

A Chicago experimenter has succeeded in coloring diamonds several different tints by use of the X-ray, but has not thus far added to the commercial value of the stones.

The largest oil ship in the world, the Naragansett, has just been launched in the Clyde. She will hold 10,000 tons of oil, which can be discharged at the rate of 900 tons an hour.

TOOT FOR MISSOURI CORN.

Poetic Puke Peals a Pean of Pride—May Have Had Corn Juice on the Inside.

The Joplin Globe's poet, having read that Missouri beats the world in the production of corn, took his horn in hand and blew these few blasts in celebration of the fact:

"When you think about Missouri and are wont to toot her horn, please to give a passing mention to her golden yield of corn. Though she sets the pace industrial in apples, roses, red, and in other lines of effort serenely at the head, it is only very recently she's come into her own as the state where in the biggest crop of yellow corn is grown. The bureau of statistics agricultural relates that Missouri now has distanced all her sisterhood of states in the number of acres dedicated unto corn and the number of bushels from each fruitful acre born. The statistics draw comparisons, which show upon their face that Miss Prohibition Kansas is assigned to second place, and ambitious Oklahoma, of whom a deal is heard, the facts and icy figures stick in corner labeled third. So hereafter, when you feel inclined to toot the old state's horn, don't forget to blow a blast or two in honor of her corn."

Earliest Green Onions.
The John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., always have something new, something valuable. This year they offer among their new money making vegetables, an Earliest Green Eating Onion. It is a winner, Mr. Farmer and Gardener!

JUST SEND THIS NOTICE AND 16c, and they will send you their big plant and seed catalog, together with enough seed to grow:

- 1,000 fine, solid Cabbages,
- 2,000 delicious Carrots,
- 2,000 blanching, nutty Celery,
- 5,000 rich, buttery Lettuce,
- 1,000 splendid Onions,
- 1,000 rare, luscious Radishes,
- 1,000 gloriously brilliant Flowers.

In all over 10,000 plants—this great offer is made to get you to test their warranted vegetable seeds and

ALL FOR BUT 16c POSTAGE, providing you will return this notice, and if you will send them 20c in postage, they will add to the above a package of the famous Berliner Cauliflower. [K. L.]

The best of prophets of the future is the past.—Lord Byron.

If things fail to come your way go after them.—Chicago Daily News.

There is no impossibility to him who stands prepared to conquer every hazard. The fearful are the falling.—S. J. Hale.

THREE YEARS AFTER.

Eugene E. Lario, of 751 Twentieth Avenue, ticket seller in the Union Station, Denver, Col., says:

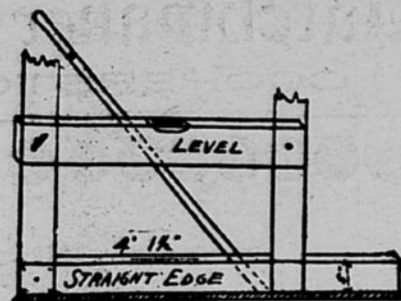
"You are at liberty to repeat what I first stated through our Denver papers about Doan's Kidney Pills in the summer of 1899, for I have had no reason in the interim to change my opinion of the remedy. I was subject to severe attacks of backache, always aggravated if I sat long at a desk. Doan's Kidney Pills absolutely stopped my backache. I have never had a pain or twinge since." Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. For sale by all druggists, price 50 cents per box.

ROAD TO FARM IMPROVEMENT

DITCH-GRADING LEVEL.

Farmers Who Learn How to Use It Will Seldom Require the Services of a Surveyor.

I here give a rude sketch of a straight edge and level for grading the ditch, which I will try to explain. First, the straight edge is five inches wide by seven-eighths inches thick and four feet one and a half inches long, making one-fourth of a rod of 16 1/2 feet. The straight edge is leveled on the bottom, so that no lump of dirt or gravel stone can get underneath to hold it off from the bottom of the ditch. The two uprights, marked a, can be any length to suit the operator, made of one-half



LEVEL FOR GRADING DITCHES.

by three-inch stuff nailed on right-hand straight edge and the level fastened on the right-hand side of the uprights, so as to be out of the way of the staff or handle, which can be of any length to suit the operator. The level is fastened on the uprights with one common screw at the further end of the level. The other end opposite is fastened onto the upright by cutting a narrow slot hole in the upright, through which put a small bolt that will just fill the slot hole side-ways, also coming through the level provided with a thumb nut and washer as shown on the drawing. There must be great accuracy in putting the level upon the uprights to have the bottom of the level and the bottom of the straight edge exactly parallel. When you are getting the grade or fall of ditch to the rod by raising or lowering the rear end of the level by taking the difference on a straight line with the bottom of the level measured down at each extreme end of the straight edge, you can tell just what incline your ditch will have per rod multiplying the variation by four. For instance, if the difference in length of the straight edge and the line of the bottom of the level was three-eighths of an inch, the fall in the ditch per rod would be twelve-eighths, equal to 1 1/2 inches, as the straight edge is one-fourth of 16 1/2 feet.

Always drive the tile tight at the top of the joint to keep out all the loose dirt. My experience teaches me that the water always enters the tile at the bottom. Always use a scoop to fit the size of the tile, then, when you fill in, the dirt will not crowd the tile out of line. In setting the level for work, have the incline so as to have the bubble always occupy the center of the opening of the level. In so doing you seldom require the services of a surveyor.—Prairie Farmer.

MARYLAND LEADS OFF.

Granges of That State Support National Demand for Federal Aid in Road Building.

The state grange of Maryland is the first of the state granges to follow the National grange in demanding that the government aid in improving the highways. At a fully attended meeting in Baltimore recently a strong resolution on this subject was adopted, and Master J. B. Ager in his annual address said:

"There seem to be great interest at this time all over the state in regard to good roads. It is said that the government has expended \$500,000,000 in improving the rivers and harbors and proposes to spend \$200,000,000 in building the isthmian canal. Therefore we believe something should be appropriated to assist the farmers in building permanent highways.

"According to Secretary Wilson's report the farmers have aided the government very materially. Discussing the balance of trade, the secretary says that the favorable balance of trade to the credit of this country is due entirely to the farmers. The balance of trade in the farm products during the last 14 years, no year excepted, aggregated \$4,806,000,000 in products. Other than the farm products during the same period, the balance of trade was adverse to this country to the extent of \$866,000,000. Our farmers not only canceled this immense obligation, but placed \$3,940,000,000 to the credit of the nation, when the books of the international exchanges were balanced. He concludes that it is the farmers that have paid the foreign bondholders. Now, why should not the government aid the farmers in the construction of roads? It is shown by careful estimates that it cost \$900,000,000 to haul the products of the farm to railway stations, rivers and canals, which is vastly more than it costs to maintain 200,000 miles of railway, and by careful estimates the cost could be reduced one-half, and have no doubt that on some roads it could be reduced much more."

Weeds Along Roadsides.
Some states that have laws that require the removal or destruction of weeds from the wayside roads are insisting on strict enforcement of the law. It is a question whether the farmer or the overseer of the highways or road commission should do the work of weed destruction. In some states railroads are compelled by law to destroy all dangerous weeds under penalty. Roadsides are a pregnant source for distributing weed nuisances on farmers' fields.

EFFECT OF BAD ROADS.

It is Felt Not Only by Farmers, But by Merchants and Railroad Companies as Well.

Many people look upon the road question as one which affects mainly, if not wholly, the people of the rural districts. This is a mistaken idea. Road conditions seriously affect the people of all towns depending on trade with the rural population. Bad roads hinder and depress local trade by making it almost impossible for the farmers to get to town sometimes for weeks at a stretch. This depression in turn affects the wholesale trade. Local dealers reduce their orders, are slow in making remittances and have to ask for extensions of credit.

The business of the railways is also seriously affected. The farmers must haul their produce to the shipping points at times when the roads are in fairly good condition. This causes congestion of traffic at times, and partial suspension at other times. As a result of this, the railway companies must have a great many more cars and engines than would be needed if the traffic were regular and uninterrupted by impassable roads.

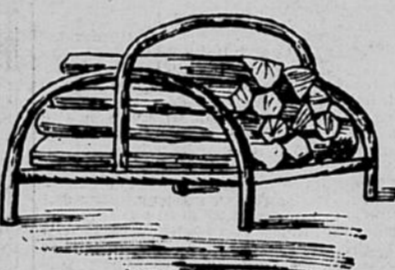
The road question has an important influence on our national finances in much the same way as it affects railroad interests. It is well known that a large amount of ready money is needed in the fall of the year for "the movement of the crops." This always causes more or less stringency in the money market. Good roads would make it possible for the farmers to market their crops more at leisure, would greatly extend the time during which their surplus would be carried to market, and would relieve these periodic strains on the money market, which really have a depressing effect on the business of the whole country.

It can thus be seen that the effect of bad roads is far-reaching, affecting directly or indirectly the people of the towns and cities as well as those of the rural districts. The road question is, therefore, a national as well as a local question. As such it is a proper subject for consideration in the halls of congress, and it is at last receiving the serious consideration it deserves. Just what action will be taken cannot, of course, be forecast with certainty, but all indications point to the enactment of a national aid law—the Brownlow bill, or some similar measure. Much, of course, depends on the popular demand. If the people who are most vitally interested in road improvement remain silent, congress will be slow to act. On the other hand, if the farmers, business men, manufacturers and railroad men express their wishes plainly and strongly, congress may be spurred to prompt action.

GREAT CONVENIENCE.

Combined Wood Box and Carrier Which Can Be Put Together by Any Bright Boy.

A great convenience is a combined wood box and wood carrier, such as is shown in the cut. Any ingenious boy can make one from green sticks with the bark left on, by boring holes for the in-



WOOD BOX AND CARRIER.

sertion of ends where practicable, and elsewhere using round-headed screws. Such a carrier can be filled with wood at the pile, carried to the stove, and allowed to set beside it until the wood is used.—Farm Journal.

A Pound of Farm Seeds.

Number of farm seeds in a pound varies greatly with even the leading farm crops. Red top 603,000, reed canary grass 600,000, smooth-stalked meadow grass 2,400,000, rough-stalked meadow grass 3,000,000, sheep's fescue 680,000, various-leaved fescue 400,000, creeping fescue 600, awnless brome grass 137,000, perennial rye grass 336,800, Italian rye grass 3,000,000, sheep's fescue, 680,000, meadow fescue 318,200, meadow oat grass 159,000, yellow oat grass 2,045,000, velvet grass 1,304,000, timothy 1,170,500, meadow foxtail 907,000, vernal grass 924,000, crested dog's tail 1,127,000; alsike clover 707,000, sainfoin 22,500, red clover 279,000, white clover 740,000, common kidney vetch 154,000, alfalfa or lucern 209,500, trefoil 323,000, bird's foot trefoil 375,000, official goat's rue 62,000.—Orange Judd Farmer.

Corn Forty Years Old.

An Indiana farmer will exhibit at the St. Louis world's fair corn which has been in his possession for 40 years. The cereal, in spite of its age, is in a splendid state of preservation, and all this time has been kept in an ordinary corn crib. If corn improved with age, as wine does, this collection would be very valuable by this time. It is not often that farmers keep corn very long nowadays. The demand for feeding purposes and the temptation to convert it into cash at market are too much; besides, there would be no advantage in storing away corn indefinitely unless for the purpose of ascertaining how long it would keep.—Chicago Daily Sun.

Will Build Good Roads.

The county board of supervisors, of Elmira, N. Y., appropriated \$254,000 for the construction of good roads through the county. The roads will be laid out in accordance with the plans of the state engineer and in harmony with the suggestions of the New York and Chicago Good Roads association. The roads are intended to form a part of a highway running from New York to Chicago.

THE OLDEST MAN IN AMERICA

Tells How He Escaped the Terrors of Many Winters by Using Pe-ru-na.

Mr. Brock's Age is 115 Years.



MR. ISAAC BROCK, BORN IN BUNCOMBE CO., N. C., MARCH 1, 1788.

His age is 115 years, vouched for by authentic record. He says: "I attribute my extreme age to the use of Pe-ru-na."

Born before the United States was formed. Saw 22 Presidents elected. Pe-ru-na has protected him from all sudden changes. Veteran of four wars. Shot a horse when 99 years old. Always conquered the grip with Pe-ru-na. Witness in a land suit at the age of 110 years. Believes Pe-ru-na the greatest remedy of the age for catarrhal diseases.

A short time ago, by request, Uncle Isaac came to Waco and sat for his picture. In his hand he held a stick cut from the grave of General Andrew Jackson, which has been carried by him ever since. Mr. Brock is a dignified old gentleman, showing few signs of decrepitude. His family Bible is still preserved, and it shows that the date of his birth was written 115 years ago.

Surely a few words from this remarkable old gentleman, who has had 115 years of experience to draw from, would be interesting as well as profitable. A lengthy biographical sketch is given of this remarkable old man in the Waco Times-Herald, December 4, 1898. A still more pretentious biography of this, the oldest living man, illustrated with a double column portrait, was given the readers of the Dallas Morning News, dated December 11, 1898, and also the Chicago Times-Herald of same date.

In the Olden Times.
Nebuchadnezzar was eating grass. Pretty soon the small boy living in the house next door, where the people haven't any lawn mower, was seen coming up the walk.

"Oh, Nebuchadnezzar," he said, with confidence, "my father sent me over to see if you would lend him your husband for a while, to trim up our front lawn."—Somerville Journal.

Teosinte and Billion Dollar Grass.
The two greatest fodder plants on earth, one good for 14 tons hay and the other 80 tons green fodder per acre. Grows everywhere, so does Victoria Rape, yielding 60,000 lbs. sheep and swine food per acre. [K. L.]

JUST SEND 10c IN STAMPS TO:
John A. Salzer Seed Co., La Crosse, Wis., and receive in return their big catalog and lots of farm seed samples.

Refinement creates beauty everywhere. It is the grossness of the spectator that discovers anything like grossness in the object.—Hazlitt.

Worth All It Would Cost.
The Wife—I think we ought to have Lucy's voice cultivated, John, if it doesn't cost too much.
The Husband—It can't cost too much, my dear, if it will improve it.—Stray Stories.

The New York Central Lines have decided to put on fast and luxurious service for the World's Fair and trains of the most approved pattern are now being built for this purpose. The train will be called the "Louisiana Purchase Limited."

Wife—"Now, don't you think my new hat is a perfect dream?" Husband—"Well, no. To be a perfect dream the bill attached to it should also be merely a dream."—Philadelphia Press.

"Grace, can you tell me what is meant by a cubic yard?" "I don't know exactly, but I guess it's a yard that the Cuban children play in."—Boston Christian Register.

Moneybags—"That cashier must be pretty well off by this time." Witticus—"Yes, he's in Canada."—Columbia Jester.

Looking for a Home?

Then why not keep in view the fact that the farming lands of

FARMS WESTERN CANADA FREE

are sufficient to support a population of 50,000,000 or over! The immigration for the past six years has been phenomenal.

FREE Homestead Lands easily accessible, while other lands may be purchased from Railway and Land Companies. The grain and grazing lands of Western Canada are the best on the continent, producing the best grain, and cattle (fed on grass alone) ready for market.

Markets, Schools, Railways and all other conditions make Western Canada an enviable spot for the settler.

Write to the SUPERINTENDENT IMMIGRATION, Ottawa, Canada, for a descriptive Atlas, and other information, or to the authorized Canadian Government Agent—

E. T. HOLMES, 215 Jackson Street, St. Paul, Minn. G. PELLISSIER, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

U.M.C.

CARTRIDGES AND SHOT SHELLS

represent the experience of 35 years of ammunition making. U.M.C. on the head of a cartridge is a guarantee of quality. Sure fire—accurate—reliable.

Ask your dealer. Catalog sent upon request.

THE UNION METALLIC CARTRIDGE CO.

SPECIAL

A prominent sales man has spent large sums of money after many failures, famous doctors, and has finally been glad to send me, who has been suffering for years, to you. Y. Brock, age 87.

Millions Use

CASCARETS. Surprising, isn't it, that within three years our sales are over TEN MILLION boxes a year? That proves merit. Cascarets do good for so many others, that we urge you to try just a 10c box. Don't put it off! Do it to-day.

CANDY CATHARTIC
Cascarets
WORK WHILE YOU SLEEP

When you ask for Cascarets, don't let the dealer substitute something else. There is nothing else as good as Cascarets, and if you are not pleased we pay your money back. 10c, 25c, 50c, all druggists. Sample and booklet free. Address Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago or New York.

Best for the Bowels

For Rheumatism Lumbago Frost Bites use Mexican Mustang Liniment Best Remedy for