

CROPS IN NEBRASKA

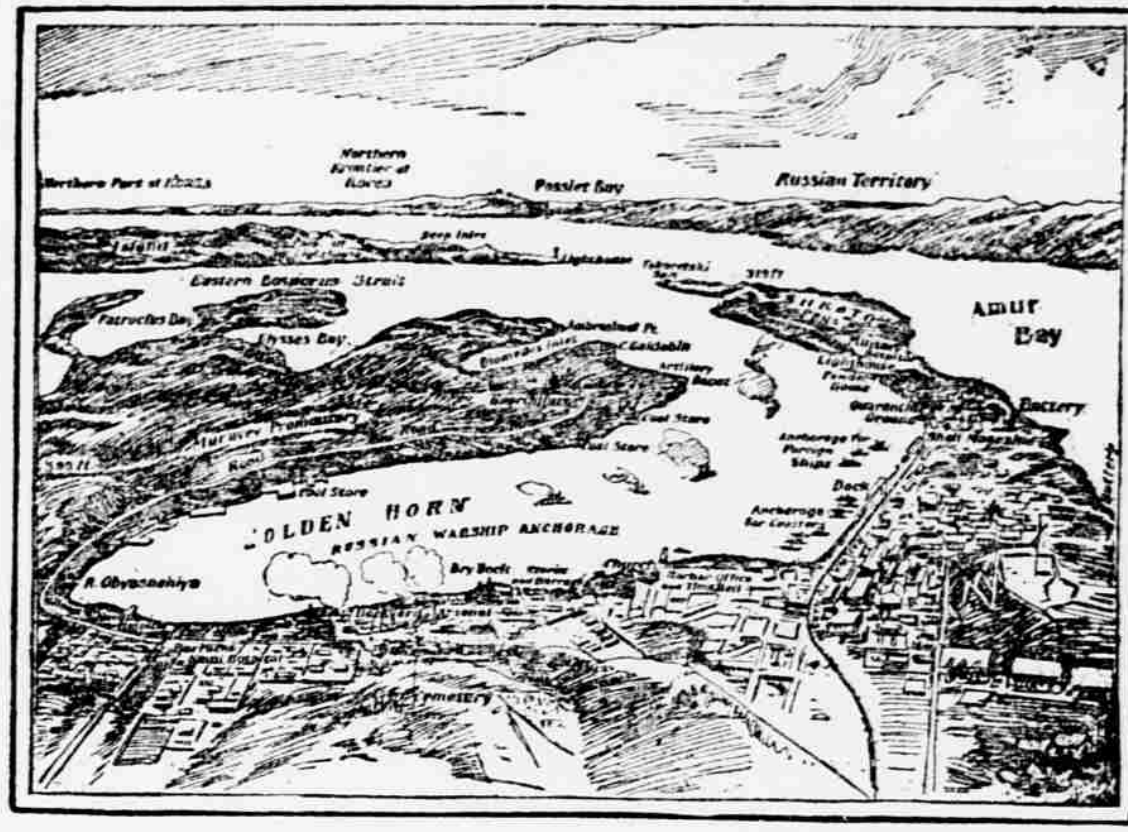
WEATHER IS FAVORABLE FOR FARM WORK.

Small Grain Doing Well and Winter Wheat in Southern Part of State Beginning to Head—Corn Planting as a Rule Nearly Done.

Lincoln: United States department of agriculture. Climate and crop bulletin of the weather bureau, Nebraska section, for the week ending May 23:
 The temperature during the week was slightly below normal, and a few scattered showers occurred the fore part of the week. As a whole the weather was favorable for the growth of crops and the progress of all farm work.
 Corn planting advanced rapidly and is nearly finished except in the western and northwestern counties, where it is about half completed. Much replanting is necessary on account of the damage caused by the heavy rains of the previous week. In the southern counties corn is coming up.
 All small grain made good growth. Wheat is in fine condition and is beginning to head in southern and central counties. Oats is still reported thin in places. Potatoes are coming up and look well. Alfalfa is in good condition and is almost ready to cut in southeastern counties. Grass has made good growth and pastures continue good.
 Strawberries ripening in southeastern and are in bloom in northeastern counties. Cherries and apples promise good yields.
Report by counties:
Butler—Corn nearly all planted, much will have to be replanted; small grain and grass look well; rye heading; fruit prospects good.
Cass—Wheat looking good; corn nearly all planted, some replanting being done; oats thin and growing slowly; potatoes looking fine.
Clay—Some corn will be replanted; wheat continues in good condition; oats thin and getting weedy.
Fillmore—Corn about all planted, some will be replanted; oats fair; alfalfa about ready to cut.
Gage—Small grain doing well; weather too cool for corn, many replanting; potatoes making slow growth; pastures good.
Hamilton—Corn nearly all planted; wheat beginning to head; oats fair; apples and cherries doing well; pastures in good condition.
Jefferson—Corn planting about finished and coming up nicely; wheat looking fine; potatoes doing finely; alfalfa good crop.
Johnson—Weather not good for growth of corn; wheat heading out; oats growing slowly; apples promise fair.
Lancaster—Corn nearly all planted, some replanting done; wheat looking fine; oats a good stand, growing slowly; gardens and potatoes fair condition.
Nemaha—Corn nearly all planted and coming up; wheat and oats doing well; pastures fine.
Nuckolls—Corn planting nearly finished, early corn coming up; wheat, rye and potatoes look fine; oats fair.
Osceola—Corn about all planted, too cold for growth; oats improved, but rye thin; wheat prospect fine.
Pawnee—Corn coming up slowly, some replanting being done; wheat growing nicely; strawberries ripening, with promise of an abundant crop.
Polk—Corn planting about completed; corn coming up slowly; wheat looks well, some complaint of Hessian fly.
Richardson—Corn all planted and coming up slowly; wheat looking well and beginning to head; oats fair; apple prospects good; strawberries ripening.
Saline—Some corn being replanted, planting about three-fourths done; alfalfa doing well; oats short crop.
Sanders—Corn nearly all planted, some replanting to be done; wheat doing well; oats thin; apples set well.
Sevier—Corn planting about finished, but some replanting being done; early corn up; wheat making good growth and has good color.
Thayer—Corn planting nearly finished, but some replanting necessary; wheat and oats looking well; apples promise well.
York—Corn planting nearly finished, some replanting done; wheat looks well; rye heading out; garden truck growing slowly.
Antelope—Corn mostly planted; oats poor; pastures doing finely; strawberries in full bloom.
Boyd—Weather favorable for all crops; corn mostly planted and some coming up; small grain looking well; strawberries and fruit trees in bloom.
Burt—Corn planting about finished and corn coming slowly, some replanting to be done; potatoes coming up; fruit trees promise well.
Cedar—Weather fine for crops and everything doing well.
Colfax—Corn planting well advanced, some replanting done; winter grain doing well; oats thin and backward; rye heading.
Curry—Corn planting about finished, but some replanting will be done.
Dixon—Corn planting about completed, some replanting done; small grain looks good; pastures backward.
Dodge—Weather favorable for growing crops; corn planting nearly finished; oats and wheat in good condition; sugar beets growing well.
Douglas—Corn planting about finished; wheat and oats backward.
Holt—Corn mostly planted, some up; wheat, rye and grass doing well; oats growing slowly; fruit not damaged by frost.
Knox—Corn planting delayed; wheat and oats in fine condition; pastures good.
Madison—Corn planting progressing well; small grain doing finely.
Platte—Corn planting about finished; rye and wheat growing nicely; oats growing slowly; cherries and apples promise fair.
Sarpy—Apples and plums well set; some cherries; currant worms doing damage.
Thurston—Corn planting just begun; small grain looks well; grass picking up; wild plums in blossom.
Washington—Weather favorable for crops; some corn up, replanting being done; wheat and oats doing well; strawberries promising.
Wayne—Corn planting progressing nicely; all crops in good condition; not much damage to fruit by frost.
Blaine—Good growing week; corn about all planted; plum and cherry trees in full bloom; small grain and grass look good.
Keith—Some high winds injured crops that were just coming up.

Phelps—Corn planting progressing some listed corn will be replanted; wheat looking fine; oats doing well; potatoes coming up.
Webster—Corn nearly all planted, early corn up; wheat and oats made good growth; alfalfa doing finely.
Brown—Weather warm and vegetation growing better; light frost on 18th.
Cherry—Week good for growth of small grain; grass good condition; potatoes about all planted.
Sheridan—Cold and some rain; corn planting about half done; spring grain looks fine; potatoes nearly all planted.
Sioux—Some rain; crops making slow growth; stock doing well.
Rock—Corn planting progressing; oats getting good start; pastures good; apples, cherries and strawberries in bloom.
Scott's Bluff—Some rain, alfalfa and Garfield—Corn planting progressing rapidly; oats coming out finely; potatoes coming up.
Greely—Corn nearly all planted, some is up; small grain doing fine; pastures good; potatoes coming up.
Hall—Rapid progress in corn planting, early listed corn being replanted; oats look thin; fruit prospects good.
Howard—Much replanting of early sown corn necessary; weather favorable for growth of crops.
Merriek—Corn about all planted; wheat beginning to head; oats doing fairly well; alfalfa growing nicely.
Nance—Corn planting delayed by cold, wet weather; wheat, rye and oats doing well; pastures in good condition.
Sherman—Corn planting about completed; all small grain doing well; grass growing slowly.
Valley—Corn not all planted yet; oats and wheat look yellow, owing to too much rain previous week; fruit prospects fine.
Adams—Week too cold for corn to come up; listing and planting nearly done; wheat looking good.
Chase—Corn all planted; potatoes up, good stand; small grain looks fine; grass good.
Dundy—Corn planting nearing completion; wheat in good condition; oats good; barley coming up fine.
Franklin—Corn nearly all planted and first plantings up; small grain and alfalfa looking well; some report of Hessian fly.
Frontier—Cool week; corn coming up; wheat looking fine; alfalfa doing well.
Furnas—Corn mostly planted, first planting coming up; wheat continues good; barley and oats improving; potatoes coming up.
Gosper—Corn planting nearly finished; oats thin; winter wheat growing finely; potatoes coming up nicely.
Harlan—Corn nearly all planted and coming up; small grain in fine condition; wheat beginning to head.
Hayes—Corn almost all planted, some coming up; wheat and other small grain in good condition; potatoes coming up slowly.
Hitchcock—Week good for growth of crops; corn planting nearly done; wheat in fine condition; rye heading; pastures good.
Kearney—Too wet for good growth of winter wheat, some appearance of rust; corn not all planted; oats doing well.
Red Willow—Corn planting about finished, some replanting necessary; rye heading and promises good crop.
G. A. LOVELAND,
 Section Director, Lincoln, Neb.
THE A. P. A. AS A DIPLOMAT.
Melville E. Stone Estimates that the Association Makes for Peace.
 The Associated Press has been able to usurp in a large measure the functions of the diplomat, and I think it makes for universal peace in a remarkable way. Instead of public questions now passing through the long and tedious methods of diplomacy as formerly, the story is told with authority by the Associated Press. The point of view of a country is presented no longer by diplomatic communication, but in the dispatches of the Associated Press.
 A striking instance of this occurred some months ago, when a Japanese war vessel went into the neutral harbor of Chifu and captured the Rychitshni, a Russian gunboat which had sought an asylum there. Our correspondent was on the Rychitshni when the Japanese lieutenant and a detachment arrived, and was a personal witness of the occurrence. His story appeared throughout the civilized world, and was made the subject of representations by Russia, through her ally, France. In less than a week the Japanese government prepared a careful defense of their action and handed it to Mr. Egan, our correspondent in Tokyo, with a request that he send it throughout the world. It was done, and it closed the incident. They made no effort, and distinctly said that they would make none, to send an official answer to Russia on the subject through the ordinary channels of diplomacy, but chose rather to send it through the agency of the Associated Press.
 The authorities of the foreign offices of the different European governments recognize the independence of the Associated Press, and have virtually made choice of it as a forum for the discussion of current questions of international interest. They recognize that a telegram of the Associated Press, published as it is, throughout the world, unless immediately explained, may arouse a public sentiment that can never be met by the ordinary methods of diplomacy. They recognize that in the end it is the high court of public opinion that must settle international questions, and not the immediate determination of the foreign office of any country.—From Melville E. Stone's "The Associated Press," in the Century.
His Idea of Gems.
 In a schoolroom the first primary grade was listening to the teacher reading a description of Columbus' first voyage to America. The history was written in words of one syllable. The teacher reads: "Queen Isabella sold her gems to help Columbus."
"Now, children," she said, "who can tell me what gems are?"
 Instantly Robert sprang to his feet, his hands waving frantically and his eyes flashing.
"Well, Robert," she said.
"Biscuits!" yelled Robert.

RUSSIA'S LAST EASTERN STRONGHOLD.



VIEW OF VLADIVOSTOK.

Vladivostok, which the Japanese are preparing to besiege, is now Russia's only stronghold in the far East. It is the terminus of the Trans-Siberian road, stands on a peninsula jutting into the Sea of Japan between Ussuri Bay and Amur Bay, and was founded in 1861. An important report as to conditions at Vladivostok was made a few months ago by the captain of a Norwegian steamer. He said that the land fortifications had been extended many miles from the city proper, that food and war munitions were being gathered in great quantities, and that there was an immense supply of coal. The harbor had been mined for a distance of seven miles, while the mines three miles from the town were electrically connected. At various times reports have come of the arrival of submarines at Vladivostok, and it is believed the Russians have at least three there.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR

World Has Been Anxiously Expecting Naval Combat.
 With Rojstevsky's fleet finally at sea and a naval combat within the possibilities at any day, and the Japanese armies north of Mukden advancing on the Russian positions, the war in the far East again assumed momentous interest.
 Rojstevsky's fleet left the friendly shelter of the bays along the French Indo-China coast on May 14 or 15. The fact was officially reported to the French admiralty. The Russian vice admiral left sixty-three transports and colliers behind him, and these have assembled near Saigon. All this seemed to indicate that the Russian vice admiral had started on the final stage of the voyage that would end either with battle and disaster with Togo or at Vladivostok.
 The Russian fleet was last sighted on May 16. It was then 150 miles from the Indo-China coast and 700 miles south of the island of Formosa, steaming northward slowly. From where the fleet was sighted it had the easy choice of three routes: Either north of Luzon into the Pacific, or through the Bashee channel and thence northward east of Formosa, or between Formosa and the China coast. Or, as suggested by French naval officers, Rojstevsky may divide his fleet, thus making Togo's problem doubly difficult.
 Togo still continues to baffle the scrutiny of the merchant shipping of the far East. His whereabouts have not been discovered. From Tokio comes word that the Japanese fleet ultimately will be re-enforced by four battleships and two cruisers from among the Russian ships sunk at Port Arthur. It is asserted that the battleships Retvizan, Poltava, Peresviet and Pallada can be put in fighting shape by an expenditure of \$700,000 each—\$1,200,000 for the six—or less than the cost of one first-class battleship. If this report be true, Russia's task of regaining control of the sea in the far East will be made increasingly difficult.
 The land campaign has developed to the point where a battle is imminent. Field Marshal Oyama has spent two months in reshaping his campaign plans. He has brought up 80,000 fresh troops and is now said by Russian officers to have more than 400,000 men ready for the advance, which is to capture Kirin and Harbin, isolate Vladivostok, and perhaps drive the Russians west of Tsitsihar.
 The war may be said to be entering its most dramatic stage. Both Russia and Japan seem about to stake their military and naval resources in decisive combats. If Rojstevsky's armada is scattered and sunk and Lincolnevich's army defeated and cut off from the railroad, Russia's cause will be lost, for the czar's naval resources for the present decade are exhausted, and without command of the sea he is helpless against Japan. If, on the other hand, Rojstevsky is victorious and regains command of the sea, Japan's unbroken series of victories from Port Arthur to Mukden will be of little value to her in the final settlement.
 Oyama or Lincolnevich, Rojstevsky or Togo—upon their fortunes on land and sea depends the fate of the war—and that fate may be decided within the ensuing few weeks.
A New Silk Country.
 During the last two years about 5,000,000 mulberry trees have been planted in Argentina, which has now about 10,000,000 of such trees. The production of raw silk will eventually become an important product of that country.
The Deadly Automobile.
 Since Jan. 1 last 62 persons have been killed and 793 injured in automobile accidents in and around New York. All through the country similar accidents are of frequent occurrence. In one week at Philadelphia there were four fatal accidents; at Chicago during the same period, five, and at Pittsburg three. And so the list goes on. The juggernaut of India is a harmless toy compared to the American automobile.
Love is a disease. See to it that you have an incurable case.

EMPEROR SAID TO BE IN DANGER OF ABDUCTION.



EMPEROR OF KOREA.

Russia has warned the United States that behind the Japanese plan to have the Emperor of Korea visit Tokio is a plot to keep the Emperor in Japan and put on the throne in Korea a some one who will be ruled absolutely by the Japanese, making Korea virtually a Japanese possession. Russians claim the Emperor has gone so far as to erect a palace in Tokio in which the Korean Emperor is to live. The Japanese minister at Washington denies that there is any plan to detain the Emperor in Japan.

CENTER IS MOVING EAST.

Population Increase in Eastern Cities Offsets Growth in West.
 Population experts of the census bureau are inclined to the belief that the center of population of the United States, which has traveled westward steadily since the foundation of the republic, has turned and is now headed eastward. If this be true, the fact is of interest as indicating that the movement of population toward the East and Southeast is greater than the movement toward the West. It is expected that censuses to be taken in a dozen States during May and June will throw light on the present location of the center of population, which the census of 1900 placed six miles southeast of Columbus, Ind.
 The year 1905 is just half-way between two national census periods, and there is curiosity which cannot be accurately satisfied as to how far and in what direction the center of population has gone since its location was established five years ago and how far and in what direction it will continue to go during the next five years. Because of the increase of population in eastern cities, especially New York, and a steady trend of growth in the southeastern Atlantic seaboard States the population experts have formed the opinion that if there is a westward movement of the center it is very slight and that if its direction has not been reversed there is a possibility that it will be before the end of the present decade. The only fact which they find to combat this theory is the rapid growth of population in the State of Washington, which offsets a much larger growth in the Eastern States.
 The tendency toward reversal of the direction of the center of population was noted in the decade between 1890 and 1900. It then moved westward only a little over fourteen miles, which is the smallest movement that ever has been noted. The course until possibly within the last year or two has been uniformly westward, clinging closely to the thirty-ninth parallel of latitude. Starting in 1790, twenty-three miles east of Baltimore it traveled forty-one miles in the decade from 1790 until 1800; thirty-six miles in the decade from 1800 to 1810; fifty miles from 1810 to 1820; thirty-nine miles from 1820 to 1830; fifty-five miles from 1830 to 1840; fifty-five miles from 1840 to 1850; eighty-one miles from 1850 to 1860; forty-two miles from 1860 to 1870; fifty-eight miles from 1870 to 1880; forty-eight miles from 1880 to 1890, and fifteen miles from 1890 to 1900. This is a total continuous westward movement of 519 miles since 1790.
 Two squads of policemen were required to keep back the thousands who had gathered at Hicks and Morris streets, Philadelphia, in the hope of seeing an apparition of the Virgin Mary on the wall of Thomas Morris' house. An electric light caused the supposed phenomenon.
 Edward Gottschalk, who pleaded guilty at St. Paul, Minn., to the murder of Joseph Hartman, his accomplice in the robbery and murder of Christian Schneider, Feb. 18 last, must hang Tuesday, Aug. 8.

COST OF THE CHICAGO STRIKE.

Teamsters' Struggle Involves Heavy Loss Both to Men and Employers.
 The strike of the teamsters has involved the business interests of Chicago in enormous losses, cost the strikers great sums in loss of wages and decreased the earnings of employed union teamsters to a material extent through strike fund assessments. It has been a source of heavy expense to the city and county and for weeks has kept the city in a state of violence and disorder, resulting in nine deaths and injury to nearly 300 persons.
 It is a sympathetic strike, growing out of a labor issue which had been practically dead for months, but was inexplicably revived. This was the trouble of the garment workers, which dates back to the middle of last November. At that time the Wholesale Tailors' Association, following negotiations for the renewal of contracts, which the employers claimed had been broken by the union, declared for the open shop, and between walkouts and lockouts over 5,000 garment workers soon were idle.
 Montgomery Ward & Co. kept their union garment workers employed until Dec. 14, when the union protested against the firm sending out piece-work to two non-union tailors, and Business Agent Olivey called out the union workers. Their places, as had been the case with other concerns, were filled with non-union men.
 Early this year the garment workers appealed to the teamsters for assistance, but nothing came of it until the latter part of March, when the drivers began to assume a threatening attitude, so far as Montgomery Ward & Co. were concerned. Then an ultimatum was submitted to the firm by the teamsters demanding that the garment workers' trouble be submitted to arbitration. This was disregarded, and April 7 the seventy-one teamsters employed by the firm walked out.
 The firm demanded police protection and began sending protected caravans through the streets. At the same time the managers of the express companies met and decided that teamsters who refused to deliver to Montgomery Ward & Co. would be discharged. In the meantime C. P. Shea, international president of the teamsters, had been called to the city and took active charge of the strike.
 Matters quickly assumed a more serious aspect and April 13 the employers met and organized the Employers' Teaming Company. Steps for aggressive action were taken. Stock to the amount of \$100,000 was subscribed within a few minutes, and the purchase of horses and trucks began, and already there was talk of applying for federal injunctions against interference with the operations of the company, which was incorporated under the laws of West Virginia.
 The teamsters also at this point assumed a bolder attitude and began to extend the strike. The union proposed arbitration, but the employers maintained that as they were not involved in the garment workers' strike and as the teamsters had broken contracts there was nothing to arbitrate.
 President Shea demanded that the striking teamsters of Montgomery Ward & Co. be reinstated, but that firm put the proposition up to the Employers' Association, and the latter organization decided against the reinstatement of striking teamsters by any of the companies involved.
 April 27 the strike was resumed with renewed vigor and extended to scores of wholesale and retail establishments which had dealings with Montgomery Ward & Co. Within twenty-four hours 2,800 teamsters were out, and the following day the number was increased to 3,500.
 The first aid sought in the federal courts was April 28, when an injunction was secured against interference with employes, wagons or barns of the Employers' Teaming Company. As the strike progressed other injunctions were asked, and altogether nine of these writs have been issued. At the same time the matter was taken before the Cook county grand jury, and April 29 indictments were voted against President Shea and eleven other union officials for conspiracy to ruin the business of Montgomery Ward & Co.
 With the beginning of May, rioting, slugging and general disturbances by mobs in the streets developed to such an extent that the entire police force was kept on constant reserve duty. Under these conditions the exertions of the police were taxed to their utmost, and Assistant Chief Schuetzler, who had direct charge of the strike, was given 800 additional policemen.
 A committee of business men called on Gov. Deussen and urged him to call out the State militia, but he refused on the ground that the resources of the county had not been exhausted. At this point Sheriff Barrett became a factor in the strike and began swearing in deputy sheriffs, the number finally reaching 3,000.
 The extra cost to the city to date for added police service, including allowances for meals to the 3,000 policemen kept on constant duty, will foot up nearly \$50,000, and the expense to the county for special deputy sheriffs will aggregate \$25,000. The losses in business to the wholesale and retail firms involved in the strike is roughly estimated at \$5,000,000, while railroad freight business is said to have suffered to the extent of more than \$1,000,000. The amount lost in wages by the striking teamsters is estimated at \$250,000, and the amount paid as assessments into the strike fund by working members of the union reaches close to \$100,000.
 Efforts toward peace were numerous, various commissions and committees being appointed by the Mayor from time to time, but all to no purpose. When President Roosevelt visited the city the labor leaders presented a protest to him, but his neutral stand and his firm declaration that order must be maintained and that to assure it the State stood behind the city and the nation behind the State, afforded no satisfaction to the strikers.
 Chicago and Alton employes have been instructed not only to give up drinking intoxicating liquors, but to stay away from gambling places and dance halls. The company says it means to keep its men up to as high a physical and mental standard as possible.
 The Public Service Corporation of New Jersey has posted notices prohibiting all employes of its car lines from gambling or betting in any form. Investigation had showed that a large number of employes were gambling away their earnings on paydays.
 Expansion seems still to be the national watchword. The general staff of the army has decided to lengthen the United States bayonet by four inches. Still, it was a dictum of Oliver Wendell Holmes that as nations twelfth their weapons they narrow their boundaries.
 A protest is made against the nomination of Mme. Patti to the Legion of Honor on the ground that Mme. Bernhardt has a prior claim.



Imports, like immigration, always increase in prosperity. Immigration at this moment is at the highest figures ever touched. Imports are also making new records. This was expected by everybody who had watched these things for many years, and who had marked the connection between them in previous decades. The panic of 1837 sent immigration down to half of its previous figures, but when the recovery in business set in immigration again went upward, and soon broke all records along to that time. The 1857 panic sent the inflow down again to half its previous total, and the war which came on immediately afterward held the figures to a low level for two or three years. Then an upward swing took place. That has been the experience from the beginning. The world quickly finds out the industrial conditions in the United States, and when they are favorable immigration responds. Imports go up in good times here because the people have more money to spend than in ordinary periods, and also because the home producers are not able to meet the home demand.
 Maple-sugar-making is getting to be a restricted industry, and may, indeed, become a lost art. The Bureau of Forestry, which has recently made a study of the business, has brought some interesting facts to light. Since 1850 the area of maple-sugar-farming has greatly changed and shrunk. In early days maple-sugar was made even in the South, because cane-sugar was scarce and expensive. In New England, New York and a few other States the industry has held its own or been extended. The bureau finds that seven-eighths of what is sold as maple-sugar or maple-syrup is spurious; but in most cases the adulteration is the work of middlemen, not of the producers. The net income of a maple-sugar grove is conservatively estimated at \$3 an acre; and since the work can be done at a time when there is little other farm employment, and the grove will also furnish the family firewood without deterioration, a sugar-orchard is a fairly profitable investment.
 Greater secrecy than ever before will be exercised this year concerning the scores made at target practice by the various vessels of the Atlantic fleet. While some of the details of the results may be made public, it is not the intention of the Navy Department to give out the scores. This government has never been able to gather information concerning the target practices of other navies and there seems to be no reason why the scores of our navy should be made public. Great Britain carefully guards all of the scores made by her warships. Some years ago an officer of a British vessel on the Asiatic station told of the results of the target practice then just finished. The information reached this country and was published. A thorough investigation was made and the officer would have been court-martialed if it had been possible to produce positive proof against him.
 The expenditures of the government exceeded its current income by more than \$9,000,000 in April, and the treasury deficit for the first ten months of the fiscal year is upward of \$34,000,000. While the months of May and June nearly always show a balance on the right side of the government's account books, many fear that the deficit at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, will reach \$30,000,000. The problem of the deficit is a serious one in the opinion of the treasury officials. The cash balance in the treasury has declined to \$123,181,777, including the amounts held by the national bank depositaries, and Secretary Shaw has found it necessary to withdraw from the banks \$20,000,000. The cash balance actually on hand in the treasury is said by some to have fallen below the point of absolute safety.
 Of the \$12,870 immigrants who came to the United States last year 210,426 were classed as unskilled laborers, 152,191 skilled laborers, 85,850 farm laborers, 104,937 domestic servants, 23,580 tailors, 19,848 merchants and dealers, 13,404 carpenters, 10,567 shoemakers, 10,420 clerks, 10,226 sailors, 9,110 miners, 2,225 engineers, 1,419 musicians, 1,983 teachers, lesser numbers as umbrella makers, die cutters, scissors grinders and followers of other trades. The great majority of the balance were the wives and children of those enumerated above.
 During the last year more than five thousand rural mail routes have been established, and during the coming summer a thousand more will be opened. Every route over which the carrier takes his little packet is a thread which binds this great, spreading country into more solid unity.
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