

PICK HOPS AND HAVE FUN

Annual Holiday in the Yards in York State.

HOPS A GAMBLE, PICKERS NOT

Work to which Whole Families of French Canadians Devote Themselves--Not Much of a Crop This Year.

MALONE, N. Y., Sept. 28.--"Course now I mus go peck hop."

This is the disconcerting announcement of the French Canadian servant girl in these September days when the hops hang ripe in the hop yards of northern New York.

"Ever year, ever year I go, me." Perhaps, too, it is not strange that she should go and that all her brothers and sisters should go and, indeed, her whole family from the grandmother in her eighties to little Yvetal, who lies all day in his carriage and plays with a spray of the vine.

"What really gave the black eye to hop raising up here was the dollar hops of '02," said one grower. "Fifty or 60 cents a pound was the highest price ever heard of before."

"By spring a whole lot of these same people were mighty glad to unload at 20 or 25 cents, but while the boom lasted I tell you we felt rich. There was one fellow, Mose Lovette, who'd squatted on a little plot of land just outside of the village. He had a fourth of an acre of hops, and he got \$1,000 for those hops. I don't suppose he'd ever had \$10 at one time before in all his life."

"There was a temperance lecturer here once who said he noticed the road to our poorhouses was lined with hopyards and I guess he wasn't so far wrong. Every year more and more of the farmers make up their minds that hop growing is too much of a gamble, and if we have many more years as bad as this one I shouldn't be surprised if the time would come when there wouldn't be a hop-raised in Franklin county."

FRATTLE OF THE YOUNGSTERS. Teacher--Tommy, the lesson speaks of the "bread of life." Does that convey any idea to you? Tommy Tucker--Yes'm. That's what you feel when you've got a stitch in your side.

Small Gilbert was watching the blacksmith shoeing his father's horse. When the smith began to pare the horse's hoof, Gilbert thought it time to interfere. "Say, mister," he exclaimed, "my papa doesn't want his horse made any smaller!"

Anxious Mother--Are you better this morning, darling? Small Invalid--I don't know. Is there any more jelly? Anxious Mother--No, dear; you ate the last of it yesterday.

Small Invalid--Then I guess I'm well enough to get up. In a recent examination in one of the schools of Baltimore a teacher asked this question: "Name three classes of people." One of the answers was, "Men, women and babies."

In answer to "Name one animal which provides you with both food and clothing?" one boy said, "My mother."

A little girl was being put to bed one summer night, and after she had said her prayers her mother kissed her good-night, and said: "Now go to sleep, dear. Don't be afraid, for God's angels are watching over you."

In a short time, while the mother and father were at tea, a small voice from upstairs was heard. "Mamma!"

"Yes, little one; what is it?" "God's angels are bussing around and one's bitten me!"--Harper's Weekly.

JAPAN HAS A RACE PROBLEM

Protests Against the Hiring of Chinese Coolies.

FRISCO INCIDENT MATCHED

Laborers from China Brought into Japan to Work on a Railroad at Cuts Rates Anger Japanese Laborers.

It seems that Japan has been having a little race problem of its own. The details are sparingly given by a native press that courts consistency. From the sparse news accounts and the editorial comments of some of the Tokio papers, it appears that the importation of Chinese laborers to work on a new railroad line in Kagoshima province has helped to show the Japanese where the shoe pinches in San Francisco.

Early in July the contractor to whom the construction work on the railroad had been awarded imported thirty Chinese laborers. The wages he paid were 10 yen a month--about \$5 gold--and that was about 50 per cent cheaper than the hire of Japanese laborers. Still the Chinese were satisfied and they were good workmen.

So pleased was the Japanese contractor with his experiment that he sent to China for 100 more, and before those coolies had landed at Nagasaki a third consignment of 800 was contracted for with Chinese emigration companies in Chefoo.

The Mainichi Dempo naively states that the Japanese laborers took great alarm at the importation of the Chinese coolies, who were willing to work for half of what a Japanese laborer demanded. Mass meetings were held by the citizens of Kagoshima-ken "to consider this grave peril to the laborers of Japan," as the Mainichi puts it.

But the sentiment of the outraged laborers of Kagoshima-ken did not stop at mass meetings. One night in the latter part of July they posted a notice written in Chinese on the doors of the Chinese laborers' huts that if they didn't stop working in Japanese men's places they would be driven back to China.

The local police officials took alarm at the indignation of the citizens from Japan and sought advice from the central government at Tokio. Tokio, realizing the possibilities of embarrassment in any overt act against the Chinese, ordered the police of Kagoshima-ken to use their utmost powers to protect the foreigners in case of an outbreak and then summoned the enterprising contractor to a conference in Tokio.

It happens that an imperial ordinance, No. 353, which was promulgated in 1888, forbids the employment of foreign labor in Japan except under limited conditions, which restrict such employment only to the old treaty ports, where foreigners congregated. The latest papers from Japan have it that the contractor has either unconsciously disobeyed this law or that he has knowingly taken steps to force a test case.

In the early part of August the matter was still under advisement by the Tokio government and the Chinamen were still working under close police protection.

In July the contractor against the Japanese in and about San Francisco was scrupulously reported by the Japanese consul there to his home government. This was an instance of boys throwing stones through the glass of a Japanese gardener's greenhouse at Berkeley.

The outrage was duly noted by the Japanese press and diluted upon by that part of it which had been yellowed in exploiting the San Francisco incident. Yet at this very time the Chinese laborers who were working for half pay in Kagoshima-ken were working under police protection because of threats against them by Japanese.

Only two Japanese journals paid any attention to the Kagoshima-ken incident and that one, not of the sensational type. The Asahi, one of the steady of the Tokio journals, defended the importation of the Chinese editorially, saying that because the capitalists who were building the railroad would profit by the cheap labor general prosperity would be reflected through their individual prosperity all over the province.

The Mainichi Dempo of Osaka took a different view of the delicate situation. "This is a very grave question," said the Mainichi's editorial of August 17. "It is not merely a local one."

"For Chinese to engage in labor in Japan it is necessary to obtain official permission first, otherwise a legal penalty is incurred. To permit the entry of Chinese cheap labor in Japan will create a tremendous social problem and such permission will be ruinously costly."

"If the Governor of Kagoshima-ken permitted the contractor to bring in the Chinese coolies the responsibility he took was very great and official action should at once be taken."

The Japan Advertiser, the only American paper published in Japan, did not seize the opportunity for making comparisons, but warned the Japanese government of the seriousness of the problem that was presented. It said in an editorial on August 15:

"The problem that has thus been presented to Governor Chikanao of Kagoshima-ken in particular and to Japan in general is of paramount importance for two reasons, not as regards the material effect of the present innovation, but on account of the principles involved. First, because this is the only instance where the provisions of Imperial Ordinance No. 353 have been either disobeyed or brought to test, and second, because Japan is brought into the disagreeable alternative of permitting the entry of Chinese labor or of playing the inconsistent part of demanding of America what she herself withholds from China."



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SULPHUR CRISIS IN SICILY

American Competition Hurts Mine Owners. MINERS DEMAND HIGHER WAGES. Bad Treatment Causing Them to Emigrate, So That the Labor Supply is Short--Chinese Coolies Suggested.

ROME, Sept. 28.--The mine owners of Sicily find themselves facing a situation which threatens to cripple the sulphur trade of the island. On one side there is American competition, which every day becomes more serious, while on the other are the high taxes levied by the government.

Until 1906 the sulphur trade was in a flourishing condition and the workmen were contented, strikes were unknown, and although the life was a trying one, still the miners were satisfied. Gradually things changed and an industrial crisis crippled the people of the island.

The mines were closed down, with the consequence that many of the miners were forced to emigrate, trusting to find work in the New World, instead of suffering from hunger in their own lovely island. This constant emigration depleted the ranks of the miners and their numbers lessened to such an extent that when an English company took over the mines it was forced to increase wages.

This company, the Anglo-Sicilian Sulphur company, installed new life into the industry and prospects seemed very bright. Many concessions were obtained from the government, while several private owners sold their holdings to the company. Prosperity seemed to return to the island.

This state of affairs continued for some years. The price obtained for the sulphur rose to \$15 a ton, and even the few private owners concerned in selling the output of their mines for the same price.

These conditions continued until two years ago, and many small mines which had not been worked for fifteen years opened up. The company, in order to sustain high prices, was forced to buy in all these small holdings.

Thus it came about that it found itself with a stock on hand of \$60,000 tons which it was difficult to dispose of, as in the meantime the mines of Louisiana, which had previously been considered almost useless, had been made into a paying concern, owing to an invention by which the sulphur was forced through heated pipes and brought to the surface in a semi-molten state. America in former years imported from Sicily 12,000 tons of sulphur, but last year considered 4,000 sufficient for its needs, the rest being supplied from native mines.

COLORADO'S AT HOME DAYS

Pumpkin Pie, Peaches, Melons and Other Delicacies Given Away. Nearly all of Colorado is at home during September. From Rocky Ford, in the southern corner, to Grand Junction, far out on the western border, the carnival spirit pervades the state. A half dozen towns vie with one another in an effort to provide the most attractive entertainment.

In each town the show is a home product affair. Primarily patriotism is the motive, effort to show the world that, great as is the state in mining, Colorado is by no means lacking as an agricultural and fruit growing region. But the shows are not money making enterprises. The rules prevent the sale of any of the wares. Everything is free.

Grand Junction has its peach day, Colorado Springs is famous for its flowers, Rocky Ford is known for its watermelon day, the corn roast has made Loveland a household word in the west, and Longmont has acquired fame from its luscious pumpkin pies.

Longmont celebrated its annual pumpkin pie festival recently. Ordinarily the town has a population of only 2,000, but for this occasion 10,000 pies were made and all of them were eaten between sunrise and sunset.

Excursion trains were run from every direction and Denver alone sent 1,000 persons to enjoy the fun. Everybody joined in singing the official Longmont ode to the tune of "America."

Prize to the pumpkin pie. Lift up your plate on high. And yell for more. Who'll do it? He'll do it. No pie nor cold nor hot. You still could hold a lot.

The pies were served by the best looking girls in town, assisted by the members of the volunteer fire department. At night, as a kind of dessert, a street festival occurred. Of course all the pumpkins used in the pie were grown in the immediate vicinity of Longmont.

Loveland is in the heart of a fertile belt which produces green corn and an excellent quality and in great abundance. For festival day long tables were erected in the town square. Behind them were steaming ovens, from which the smoking ears were taken to be devoured by the thousands who thronged on the other side.

Rocky Ford's reputation as a distributing point for cantaloupes extends from ocean to ocean and perhaps beyond, but eastern Colorado is becoming famed now for its watermelon. The Rocky Ford celebration is responsible for part of this reputation. Not only Colorado but western Kansas contributes to the crowd which visits this little town annually on its greatest day of the year.

Colorado Springs showed the world that in the very shadow of the mountains is a garden of flowers. A person may stand on the sidewalk at the Springs and view the floral fete, while high above Pike's Peak, with its perennial covering of snow, is in plain sight.



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