

POTATO CROP OF THE WORLD.

Millions of Bushels Annually Produced—States of the United States.

The abundance and cheapness of American potatoes this season lead considerable interest to the culture and distribution of those important and staple articles of diet. The world's average annual crop for many years has been estimated by experts, aided by official statistics, at over 8,000,000,000 bushels, exceeding the average annual crop of grain by fully 750,000,000 bushels.

There are many distinctions of rank among them. The Soudogola beggars, for instance, who work on the soil for six months of the year, are socially of no account whatever; whereas the Kalouni, who would as soon think of flying as of working, are quite important personages—aristocrats of beggards, in fact.

Speaking Up for Old Ireland. An English gentleman addicted to field sports arrived in Cork last autumn, and engaged a car and driver to convey him to a village some miles from the city.

Clapp was a shrewd detective and a most excellent judge of human nature. He could tell a rogue as far off as he could a black man, and he never made mistakes.

While we were wondering how the feat was to be accomplished, the veteran quickly beckoned to a police officer, and, taking a pair of handcuffs from his pocket, directed the officer's attention to the party in the gallery.

The man made his way toward the door, and at the same instant the gentleman with the white cravat bolted like lightning through the crowd to the door and disappeared.

Plants Thrive on a Meat Diet. It has been proven time and again that the so-called "cannibal plants," of which the Venus flytrap is the type, are much more healthy when allowed their regular insect food than they are when reared under netting or in any other manner which excludes them from their regular meat diet.

The word "crank" is frequently used. Its origin may not be generally known. The crank was one of the rogues and vagabonds of Shakespeare's time. It was the character name of one who feigned the falling sickness.

Bacon—Does that young man who is paying attention to your daughter leave at a reasonable hour at night? Egbert:—Yes, I have no reason to kick. —Yonkers Statesman.

FAMED DEAD BEATS.

Men Who Live Upon the Industry of Others.

"The fact is this city swarms with dishonest persons—whole families, I mean—who move from flat to flat without payment of rent. I am not exaggerating the least bit when I say that there are hundreds of families in this city of seeming respectability who have scarcely paid \$100 a year in rent in the last five years.

"Why, how in the world is that managed?" I asked. "It is very easily done," replied the real estate man, "or rather it was very easily done before we west side agents were forced last summer to combine for self-protection.

"He puts on a good front, refers to several persons who know him in a social way and are free about vouching for his respectability, and takes the apartment. He asks for and gets receipts for the rent of the months he gets free and moves in, bag and baggage. All goes well until the time comes for the payment of the first month's rent.

The Engineer Was Color Blind. A story is told of the late Railroad Commissioner Stevens, on the occasion of the rear-end collision at West Somerville three or four years ago.

"I am only able to devote a small fraction of my time to these experiments, as I am, and have been for many years, the managing director of a great English company, but I have put in all the time that I had to spare for the last five years, and the experiments have led me to believe that the flight of man is possible even with a steam engine and boiler."

Women Agriculturists. A farmer's wife wants to discover the reason why farmers' boys are provided with agricultural colleges while girls are left to get along as best they may.

His Wife's Question. A man is known by the questions he asks. And the same is true of a woman. Mr. Hayes has a mind that delights in facts.

A Mulberry's Growth. In the year 1834 Captain A. S. Allen, then a boy on his father's farm near Zebulon, Ga., stuck a mulberry sprout in the ground. At that time the sprout was not larger than a lead pencil, and had been used by the boy as an "og."

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Even a dead duck can claim that he died game.

DESERT OSTRICH FARMS.

Rearing the Giant Birds Among the Sands of Sahara.

A writer in La Revue Scientifique suggests that the French Sahara, upon the southern edge of Algeria, may be profitably used for the breeding of ostriches. The Barbary ostrich was once greatly prized for its plumage, and the ostrich feather houses of Paris made their reputation by the curling of these plumes.

It is believed that there are now in south Africa at least 350,000 ostriches, domesticated and bred for their plumage, and the writer says that there is no reason why northern Africa should not become quite as important a region in this industry.

Advocates of road improvement in town and country will welcome the "Federation of Wheelmen of Kansas City and Jackson County," which was organized Saturday night for the avowed purpose of accomplishing "good streets, good roads, proper street sprinkling and systematized street cleaning."

Why Good Roads Are Needed. It is reasonable to predict that the road improvement is destined to spread with great rapidity in the next ten years, and that capital, which heretofore built railroads, will now seek investment in fine macadamized roads.

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GOOD ROADS.



A Cheap but Durable Road.

Avoid all steep grades, and where sufficient gravel is not near to make a road that will not get muddy, put in a pavement of poles, like the old corduroy roads, and spike on this by beveled edges two steel rails about twelve inches wide by one-fourth inch thick, for the wheels to run on, says the Agriculturist.

Making Better Roads. Capt. Sligh with his chain gang have been doing some good work on the public roads in the Crane Creek section of the county.

Bicyclers and Good Roads. Advocates of road improvement in town and country will welcome the "Federation of Wheelmen of Kansas City and Jackson County," which was organized Saturday night for the avowed purpose of accomplishing "good streets, good roads, proper street sprinkling and systematized street cleaning."

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Lisbon. I saw very few miserable people; beggars were not at all numerous; in a week I was only asked twice for alms. One constantly hears that Lisbon is dirty, and as full of foul odors as Coleridge's cologne. I did not find it so, and the bright sunshine and the fine color of the houses might well compensate for some drawbacks.

Keeping Track of Drummers. In some houses that send out a great many drummers there are in use certain peculiar little maps pasted on the bottoms of cabinet drawers and constantly studied by the proprietors and clerks.

More Gold. Gold strikes of wonderful richness are reported to have been made in several parts of British Columbia in the last week or two.

Favorite Perfumes. Odors have played an important part in the world's history. No far back as the fourteenth century the fad of the hour was the "Birds of Cyprus." They were aromatic herbs, ground and molded into the form of birds, and they were burned at banquets.

Elks in Harness. A man living in Exeter, Ontario, has succeeded in breaking a pair of elks to harness. So accustomed have they become to the sights and sounds of city life that they are daily driven about the streets with perfect ease and safety.

Duke of Westminster's Property. The Duke of Westminster himself has not anything like an exact idea what his London property, if it were realized, would be worth.

Needless Worry. "Station master, are there no more trains to-day? I am looking for my mother-in-law." "No, there are no more trains to-day; so rest quietly."—Piquette Bleeter.