

There are worse things than war! ... War poetry, for instance.

Of late, General Lee has shaved off his chin whiskers, but other wise he never turned a hair.

There's internal evidence that a good many of the war birds now rhyming are spring poets in disguise.

A specialist says garlic is good for the complexion. The real question, however, is what is good for garlic?

It's all one whether whisky or water is used in naming new war ships. The essential thing is plenty of the spirit of '78.

That Delaware doctor who says that "kissing is a valuable aid to digestion" may expect a boom in his dyspepsia practice.

A certain physician says he can put himself to sleep inside of a minute by using a phonograph. Whose sermon is on the cylinder?

The objection to women taking part in century bicycle runs is spreading. A great deal is tolerated in the sex, but this is going too far.

The hay trust never can become an oppressive monopoly. All you have to do, if you don't like the trust's prices, is to buy a farm and raise your own hay.

Another uprising of the Kurds in Asia has been reported, from which it would seem that everything is playing into the hands of the powdermakers this year.

A policeman has been suspended from the Plainfield, N. J., force for striking with a servant girl. How does that town hope to recruit her police force henceforth?

New projectiles ordered for the biggest guns in the American navy cost \$212 apiece. But each one of them, if landed just right, can do at least \$1,000,000 worth of good.

The building of war-ships for our own country and others will be a greatly enlarged industry hereafter. American mechanics have already distinguished themselves in this line.

"Why is it," asks the Atchison Globe, "that a man will fall asleep in his chair while reading in the evening and can't sleep a wink after he goes to bed?" He has subscribed for the wrong newspaper.

There is a movement on foot to erect a statue to Frances E. Willard in Washington. There is no monument to any woman in this city, and the temperance women of the country will be asked to subscribe.

Congress has decided to give the lakes a warship "to take the place of the Michigan." We do not believe naval architecture of to-day is able to build it, for the Michigan, besides being amphibious, can go sideways like a crab as well as forward like a tub.

A Chicago lawyer has devised what he calls a "scheme of infallible logic." He says that he is able to "draw absolutely infallible conclusions from any facts which may be given." But of course he can't distinguish facts from falsehoods in all cases, and there's the rub.

The honor of naming our two new war vessels purchased from Brazil is impartially divided between the North and the South. In naming these twin vessels for the chief commercial emporium of Louisiana and the capital city of New York—New Orleans and Albany—the Navy Department has furnished new evidence that the divisions created by our late civil war are obliterated.

What a mighty drama is unfolding in the development of the Russian empire! The whole world watches it with absorbing interest. But there is a tragedy in progress in the empire. A Russian journal says that the lower classes in the Czar's domains have one-third less to eat than their grandparents had. The lack of proper nourishment in uncounted homes is a shadow which dims the splendors of imperialism.

Montana has set a good example by sending to prison, under a sentence of one year, a former Secretary of the State Senate convicted of secreting a bill pending before the Legislature for the purpose of defeating its passage into a law. This manner of defeating legislation has been resorted to frequently in other States—possibly in our own—but this is the first occasion of the sort in which we remember to have seen the announcement of the conviction and punishment of the purloiner. It is to be hoped, however, that it is not to be the last, should a like occasion occur for the enforcement of the law.

Wagon-roads have been the subject of some recent experiments by a Missouri scientist. A heavily loaded wagon with ordinary tires was run over soft stubble land, and the ruts found to be four to five inches deep. With broad tires the same load made ruts only five inches deep, the difference in the draft being 50 per cent. in favor of the broad tire. On corn land just dry enough to plow, the difference was 75 per cent., an enormous loss of saving of horse-power and man-labor. One of the exper-

mentive thinkers of the times dates his interest in public themes to a conversation with a wise country doctor, as the two drove on a life-and-death errand over a horrible road. "If those poor fellows bled to death," the doctor exclaimed, "it will be the fault of the narrow tires that have made this road almost impassable. Never make ruts, my boy; put broad tires on your life."

Tax dodgers are mostly rich men and corporations. And so men argue that, inasmuch as we cannot tax them fairly and equitably on all their property, it is no more than right to tax them heavily, and perhaps unfairly in some cases, upon such property as we can find and lay our hands on. We do not say that the reluctance of the average man to pay taxes is altogether due to the feeling that our laws are unjust. But we do insist that the rich men of the country are laying out trouble for themselves when they fail to perform their duty in the fullest way.

The Alaska boundary controversy with Great Britain has been settled. The Canadians are not very well pleased because the contention is conceded to us that the three marine leagues provided for by the treaty between Russia and the United States shall be measured from the shore of the mainland instead of the outer shore of the islands formed by the inlets. In our first survey the boundary was fixed in accordance with the treaty that the line should extend from Dixon inlet or Port Simpson northward, at a distance of three marine leagues from the sea, to a point near Mount St. Elias, and from there the boundary was to extend due north along the 141st meridian of the Northern Ocean. There never has been any controversy as to the boundary line between the main body of Alaska and British America. The only differences were as to the deviation in surveys made by different engineers in locating the 141st meridian. The main controversy has been as to the boundary of the narrow strip of Alaska extending southward from Mount St. Elias to Port Simpson. The Dominion government took the position that in establishing the boundary line the three marine leagues should be measured from the outer coast of the islands and not from the coast of the main land, claiming that the inlets should be regarded as rivers. This would have taken away from the United States a strip of territory rich in minerals, and would have left in some doubt the control of the coast. The present decision is undoubtedly just, and a correct interpretation of the treaty. Moreover, it is well, at this time of international complications to remove this bone of contention between ourselves and Great Britain.

The measure known as the "Loud Bill" was defeated in the House of Representatives. It was reported in the last Congress from the Postoffice Committee, by Mr. Loud of California, who was then and is now chairman of the committee. It was intended to reform what are regarded as abuses of the postal laws, in the sending of "second-class" mail matter. Second-class matter consists of newspapers and other periodicals sent from the offices of publication, and is entitled to transmission at one cent a pound. Under the law many publications have been admitted to second-class rates which Congress originally did not intend to include in that class, such as printed books and newspapers for advertising purposes only. Moreover, publishers are authorized to send "sample copies," and under this clause enormous numbers of periodicals are sent with every issue, as a very cheap method of advertising. The cost of sending matter by mail is much more than one cent a pound; and thus the government is made to bear a part of the expense of private enterprises. If this were the whole argument in relation to the measure, the bill would have been passed almost unanimously. There is another side of the question. It is universally admitted that the sending of bona fide newspapers and magazines at less than cost is desirable, in that it places intelligence regarding current events within the reach of all men. The difficulty lies in drafting a measure that will lop off the abuses without inflicting severe injury upon legitimate use of the "second-class" privilege by publishing houses that have grown up under it. This may seem a simple matter, but in practice it is not so easy. Mr. Loud and his fellow-committeemen labored to produce a bill that would draw the line between the proper and the improper use of the low-rate privilege; and they are entitled to the credit of making a fine effort to protect the postal revenues. But in the opinion of a majority of the House of Representatives the present law, with its admitted evils, is to be preferred to the Loud amendment. Of course those who profit by a loose interpretation of the law were united in their opposition to the measure. They were, however, by no means the only opponents of it. The bill was objected to in the interest of the people who get cheap literature—often times, alas! cheap in two senses—and of those innocent publishing houses which would suffer from the guilty, were the act to be passed. No doubt the effort to effect a reform will be continued. If there is any way to accomplish it without incidentally doing great harm, it ought to be found, and adopted.

Long Finger Nails. The countries where the long finger nail is most affected are Siam, Assam, Cochin China and China. The approved length varies from three or four to twenty-three inches. A Siamese exquisite permits the nails on his fingers to grow to such an extent that his hands are practically useless. The aristocrats who affect these nails cannot write, dress themselves or even feed themselves.—Chicago News.

AGRICULTURAL



The Ox Warble Fly. The warble or swelling on the back of cattle is caused by the larva of a fly which attaches its eggs to the hair on the legs, flanks and neck of the animal. These hatch and the larvae establish themselves under the skin, usually on either side of the backbone. Here they feed upon the animal juices until ready to pupate, causing the swelling or warble. When growth is completed the grub leaves the warble, drops to the ground, crawls under the most convenient shelter, such as a piece of board, log, etc., and there transforms into the fly or adult stage. There is a difference of opinion as to how the grub gets under the skin. Some entomologists claim that the eggs are taken into the stomach by the animals licking themselves, hatch there, adhering to the walls, then the grubs gradually work their way toward the surface, where they remain until fully grown. Others hold that the eggs hatch where they are laid and the young larvae bury themselves at once under the skin. Whatever method is employed the results are the same.

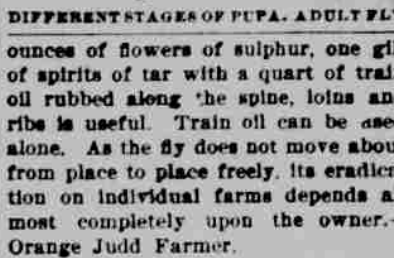
The best way to get rid of the pest is to kill the maggot. This may be done by squeezing them out. Place the thumbs near the base of the swelling and press firmly until the grub is forced out. To prevent the attacks of the fly in summer, a mixture of four



SECTION OF WARBLE.

ounces of flowers of sulphur, one gill of spirits of turpentine, one quart of oil rubbed along the spine, loins and ribs is useful. Turpentine can be used alone. As the fly does not move about from place to place freely, its eradication on individual farms depends almost completely upon the owner.—Orange Judd Farmer.

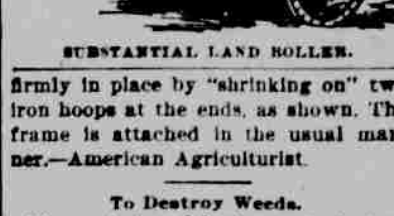
To Make a Good Roller. Cast-off mowing machine wheels may be utilized very readily for making a land roller. Use narrow strips of plank with slightly beveled edges, putting them around the wheels in the manner shown in the cut, making slots in the planks to fit the cogs on the rims of the wheels. These strips are held firmly in place by "shrinking on" two iron hoops at the ends, as shown. The frame is attached in the usual manner.—American Agriculturist.



SUBSTANTIAL LAND ROLLER.

To Destroy Weeds. The easiest and best way to destroy all kinds of weeds is when they are just beginning to appear above ground, as even a slight stirring of the soil will then seriously cripple them in growth or destroy them. If weeds are permitted to grow, however, they make excellent green material for plowing under, but while they may nearly reach maturity before thus utilized, under no circumstances must they be permitted to produce seed. If no weeds are allowed to scatter seeds it will be but a few years before the farm will be entirely clear of them. It will pay the farmer, however, to keep weeds down by stirring the top soil when the weeds are young.

Holding Up the Wagon Pole. Where two horses are driven the weight of the wagon pole is often a very considerable factor in making the team tired or fretful. Help the horses all that is possible. Put a light pulley on the pole, as shown in the illustration, and carry a small piece of rope so as to attach to the lead in the way suggested whenever it's possible to do so. The best farmers are most thoughtful of the comfort of their animals.



FACTS ABOUT WAGON HEADS. Some one has estimated that we have roads in this country, 1,500,000 miles in length, over which are hauled every year 500,000,000 tons of material, the average haul being eight miles, at a

cost of \$2 per ton, which makes the total cost of hauling reach the enormous sum of \$1,000,000,000. It is urged that with good roads the hauling would cost only 80 cents per ton instead of \$2, thus making a saving of \$800,000,000 per year, which is one-fourth the value of all the farm products of the country used on the farms. It is, therefore, cheaper to expend a sufficient fund at once to put roads in good condition than to attempt to repair them every year.

Varieties of Corn. Every year new varieties of seed corn are offered which are claimed will give extraordinary yields. Farmers should hesitate before investing in new seed corn, except with a small quantity for experimental purposes. Corn produces only when the climatic conditions are favorable, and varieties that flourish south of this section may fall when brought North. Frequently, when the frost has appeared late in spring, and delayed planting, an early maturing variety may be required, as an early frost in the fall of the year may destroy a variety that requires plenty of time for maturing its seed. Do not abandon the old and tried varieties until experiment demonstrates that newer kinds are much better.

Points in Praying. When to spray apple trees depend on the purposes desired. Use Bordeaux mixture when the buds are swelling and if canker worms are abundant spray also when the blossoms are about to open. After the blossoms fall spray again with Bordeaux mixture and also paris green, repeating both applications a week or ten days later. In about ten days or two weeks another application may be made of Bordeaux mixture. These remedies or preventives are for scab, bud moth, codling moth, ten caterpillar, curculio and canker worm.

Corn Planting. Before planting the corn crop be careful to have the land worked as fine as possible. Many farmers are satisfied to plow the corn land, harrow it and plant the seed, trusting to the corn roots to spread and increase, as the corn is a gross feeder, but while corn may thrive under such conditions yet an increased yield over the average can only be obtained when the ground is manured as fine as that of a garden, as then the feeding capacity of the roots is increased and a larger available supply of plant food can be obtained.

Which Eggs Are Fertile? The statement is often made that eggs from old hens are best for hatching. Recent experiments at the Utah station indicate the contrary, so far at least, as concerns the per cent. of fertile eggs. The comparative size and strength of the chicks is not stated. The percentage of fertility was highest with the early hatched pullets and lowest with the old hens, though the results are not conclusive. The fertility of eggs averaging five days old was 300 per cent. higher than of eggs averaging twenty-two days old.

Management of Hen Manure. The best method of handling hen manure is to keep constantly some dry muck, earth, soil or sand under the roosts and catch it out at least once a week. Then mix all with three or four times its bulk of dry soil or muck, and keep in a perfectly dry place. Work over whenever the heap commences to heat until ready for use. Such fertilizer should not be plowed or spaded under deeply, but lightly raked or harrowed in the ground at the time of planting.—Exchange.

Melons and Tomatoes. To make hills for melons and tomatoes, first dig out the earth at each location where the plants are desired and fill with clean manure, covering the manure with earth, hilling up. Use plenty of manure—a wheelbarrowful not being too much—and when the time for putting out the plants arrives work the manure well into the soil, covering a space of four feet square, and dig the ground to the depth of a foot or more.

Sulphur for Potato Scab. After preparing my potato seed for planting last season, I sprinkled the greater part of it with sulphur so that each piece was thoroughly coated. The remainder I planted in the same field and gave all like culture. When digging time came those treated with sulphur were almost free from scab or other disease, while the untreated seed produced tubers almost worthless because of scab.—S. F. Deane.

Grow Clover. In growing clover for enriching the soil the only benefit derived in that direction is the nitrogen gained by the clover. The ground will also require potash, lime and phosphoric acid, which must be supplied in some manner, but potash and phosphoric acid cost only about one-third the sum required for nitrogen, and that is why clover is so valuable in the system of rotation of crops on the farm.

Early Plants. Seeds for early plants may be sown in boxes of rich earth and kept in a window of the house where the warmth of the sun will reach them. Flower pots, old fruit cans, small fruit boxes or egg shells are also excellent. For a garden supply nearly all of the early plants can be grown in the windows.

Austria is the only country in the world which has never had cholera, or even transmarine cholera.

GOOD ROADS

Rural Mail Delivery and Good Roads. There is prospect that the national government may get behind the good roads movement in a peculiarly effective way. If the price of free mail delivery to the farmers is to be the construction and maintenance of macadamized country highways it is believed that the thrifty agriculturists will not hesitate to pay it. If the experiments in free rural mail delivery to be inaugurated by the postal department are a success, they will establish a basis of co-operation and reciprocity between the government and the farmers that will lead to a general movement in the building of interurban highways all over the country.

With the view of testing the efficiency of different styles of roadbed Postmaster General Gary has authorized the opening of routes for free rural mail delivery through portions of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, which embrace macadamized, gravel, clay and common dirt roads. The routes are intended to be experimental, and will show relatively upon what character of roads the best results can be obtained in the way of prompt and efficient service.

There is little doubt that free mail delivery is just as practicable in many of our more thickly populated rural communities as it is in England. The continuance of the service, if successful, should be dependent upon the proper maintenance of the roads. If the farmer wants his mail delivered at his door he must contribute his share to the building of passable highways.—Chicago Times-Herald.

To Vote for Free Roads. The people of Jefferson County, Kentucky, are asking for an election to decide on the question of free turnpikes, which may be secured in the following way:

The roads can be either leased, given to the public, or purchased. The magistrates and the county judge are the officials to appoint appraisers to value the respective roads; these appraisers must be residents and property owners on the road to be valued by them. Bonds may be issued for the purchase of the roads at the price agreed on by the appraisers. These bonds will be spread over a term of thirty years.

All taxes, which cannot exceed 25 cents on each \$100 worth of taxable property, must be used to keep the roads—turnpike, gravel and all others—in good repair; to pay interest on the bonds issued, and to provide a sinking fund for the redemption of the bonds.

Why Business is Stagnated. "The worst drawback of this section of country," says the Clifton (Mo.) Comet, "at the present time, is the exceedingly bad roads we meet with at wet seasons of the year. As has been the case the past few days, farmers cannot market their products, and on this account they do little buying of the merchants, and business is stagnated at the very season when it should be the liveliest of any season of the year."

Keep the Mud Off. They are making an effort to keep mud off the new macadam roads in Pennsylvania by paving for fifty feet or more each side road or lane that joins the stone roads. Mud soon rolls off wagon wheels when they strike a hard surface, and the intention is to have wagons get rid of it before the main roads are reached.—L. A. W. Bulletin.

Early Beliefs About the Great Lakes. W. S. Harwood writes of "The Great Lakes" in St. Nicholas. The author says: All that region to the north of the lakes and immediately skirting them from Quebec to Lake Nipigon, and around to and beyond old Fort William, was the exploring ground of the French. It was their new country—the place where they were to found a mighty empire, their "Nova Francia," or New France. The French explorers and their belief was strengthened and supported by the tales of the Indians, that a way beyond the Klitchi Gumbi, or Big Lake—our present Superior—there was a vast salt sea. It is hardly possible in these days to understand how little they knew of that region. They talked about a northwest passage to Cathay; and they not only talked about it, but they wrote learned and laborious treatises, and spoiled many valuable reams of paper, and made very many amusing volumes, in their efforts to prove that just beyond the head of Lake Superior there was a great and short river, whose mighty course led to a mighty sea, which was certainly not more than 1,500 miles from Japan.

Hygiene of the Bed. The bed is the place where we spend about one-third of our lives. A woman who has reached 60 has spent twenty years in bed. Many bad habits and bad positions are formed during sleep. Some persons assume an attitude which cramps the chest so that respiration is not full and complete. The shoulders should not be drawn forward, or the arms folded tightly over the chest. A narrow bed is preferable for growing girls, so they will not have room to sprawl over a large space, nor to assume a dozen grotesque shapes. The pillow should be small and hard. A large, soft pillow should not be tolerated by any girl who desires to have her head well set on her shoulders. The bed clothing should be light but

warm, of such a nature as to allow the air to pass through it freely. If the air in a bed which soon becomes saturated with the perspiration from our bodies, does not pass off, it makes us uneasy and sound sleep is impossible.

Some women say they can sleep only on one side. If so, then there must be something wrong with them. One side is probably not evenly developed with the other. A healthy woman or girl can sleep and should sleep on one side and then on the other, even changing unconsciously in the night. Some women twist and contort their faces during sleep, and thus form wrinkles which continue during their waking hours. The reasons for this are various. Indigestible food in the stomach is one cause. Going to bed in a depressed state of mind causes the corners of the mouth to be drawn down and gives a sad expression. In going to sleep, think of pleasant things—of your many blessings, the goodness of God, of the joys of life, the blessings of home, friends, parents, or children. Under no circumstances let the sun go down on your wrath, or any other evil thought. If you have enemies, forgive them—love them. Love is the greatest beautifier of the faces of women, and hateful and evil thoughts act contrarily.—Journal of Hygiene.

PACIFYING PATTI.

By a Deception as to the Size of Her Name on Posters.

It is strange how largely the happiness of a theatrical or operatic star is dependent on the size of the letters of his or her name as it appears on the handbills and programs. An incident in illustration of this is told in regard to Adelina Patti's appearance here at the time of the grand opera festival in the old Exposition Building. She had ordered her name to appear on the handbills in letters an inch taller than those used in any of the other stars' names. When they were printed she sent for one and went at it with a tape measure. What was her wrath and mortification to find that, instead of an inch, the letters of her name were only taller by a half inch than those of Nevada, Fursch-Madl and Scaletti! She sent at once to her manager for an explanation.

The poor man was in sore straits. It was too late to have new handbills printed, aside from the expense of it, yet the great diva must be pacified or she might fall them at the last moment. May the deception be forgiven! He cut the handbills in two through the middle of Patti's name, and pasted the two pieces on a piece of paper within half an inch of each other; thus with the use of black ink he was enabled to elongate the letters the desired amount. A printer's boy assisted him to make a neat job of it, so that the deceit was not apparent. Armed with this he presented himself before the diva and measured the letters in her presence, assuring her that the other could not have been a correct copy. Patti was pacified, and the manager still carries the sin upon his conscience.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Tell Reporters the Truth. In his address at the New Orleans Press club recently Cardinal Gibbons said: "If I had one piece of advice to give a public man more than another it is, be frank with the reporter. It has been my privilege and pleasure to come in contact with and to know a great number of reporters. I have steadfastly adopted a policy of absolute frankness with them, and I have yet to have a confidence betrayed. They have never proved themselves unworthy of the estimate I placed on them as gentlemen. It is the public man who conceals, whose very act of concealment is perceived by the reporters (for in the very nature of their business they must be quick to perceive), it is this very concealment which induces the reporter to further conduct his investigations and often to get wrong what, had he been in the confidences of the man whose manner provoked investigation, he would have understood and written intelligently about. And it is in this very manner that much of the complaint against the reporter originates. Tell the reporters the absolute truth. Never deceive them."—Baltimore Sun.

New Home for Italy's Parliament. The Italian Government has at length taken steps to provide a more suitable abode for its Chamber of Deputies than the so-called Monte Citorio, which is utterly unfit for legislative work. Its acoustic properties are so bad that members are obliged to leave their seats and gather round the speaker if they do not wish to lose his words, while it is impossible to hear him from the press gallery. The building itself is imposing, and was partly designed by Bernini. From the time of Pope Innocent X. it served as the Curia Inconsolata, or Papal Law Courts. But when Rome became the capital of Italy in 1870—some two hundred years after the Curia was built—it was found that by inclosing the courtyard a sufficiently large chamber of deputies could be made. But each year its inconveniences have become more intolerable.—New York Tribune.

Long Fast of a Hog. A hog belonging to Fred Hancer was shut in under a driveway during a heavy snowstorm, and when Mr. Hancer missed his porky he made a search of his own premises and made inquiries of his neighbors, but was unable to learn anything as to what became of the hog. Twenty-two days after the storm Mr. Hancer heard the muffled grunting of a hog under the driveway, and, shoveling away the snow, found the missing hog. The hog was very thin, but after light feeding it became as lively as the other hogs, which had been well fed during the long fast.—Merrill (Iowa) Record.