

Good Roads

New York's New Law.
After several years of agitation and discussion the State of New York has a road law which presents a comprehensive plan for the improvement of rural highways, says the New York Sun. It provides that any board of supervisors may adopt a resolution declaring that public interest demands the improvement of a certain piece of highway not located in a city or village, and upon a petition of the owners of a majority of the lineal feet of property fronting upon such a highway they must adopt such a resolution. A copy of this resolution is then transmitted to the State Engineer, who is to determine whether the piece of highway indicated is of sufficient public importance to receive State aid. If so, he is to have maps, plans and specifications for the work and estimates of the cost made and transmit copies to the Board of Supervisors.

The Supervisors, with these facts and figures before them, may then adopt a second resolution declaring that such a highway shall be improved or may refuse to go any further with the matter. This plan was adopted so as to preserve the principle of home rule to the counties of the State, to make it impossible that any county should be compelled, if unwilling, to improve any portion of its highways and to prevent any county from undertaking the work until it had all the facts and figures before it.

If a county desires merely to know how much it will cost to improve a certain piece of highway, it need only adopt the first resolution and get the plans and the estimate of the cost free of charge. Then it can refuse to go any further. If it chooses, after ascertaining the facts, to adopt a second resolution, it may, but cannot be compelled to do so. If the Supervisors adopt the second resolution, they must transmit a copy of it to the State Engineer, who advertises for bids for the work. If no responsible bid is made within his estimate, he must make a new estimate and transmit it to the Board of Supervisors, and if the board then adopts a new resolution, based upon the new estimate, declaring that nevertheless such highway shall be improved, the State Engineer must advertise again for bids, as before. When a responsible bid within his estimate is made, the State Engineer awards the contract, but if the town or county desires to do the work itself, it has a preference over all the bidders.

Each Board of Supervisors has, under the general highway law, the power to elect a county engineer. If it has elected such an officer, the State Engineer must act through him. If it has not, he must himself supervise the performance of the contract. When the work is completed, he must draw a warrant upon the State Treasurer for one-half the cost of the work and certify the other half to the Board of Supervisors, which must levy 35 per cent. of the whole cost of the work upon the county. The other 15 per cent. is payable in one of two ways—viz. if the Board of Supervisors adopted the first resolution for the improvement without a petition from the adjoining owners, the Board of Supervisors must levy the 15 per cent. upon the town in which the improved highway is. If the first resolution was adopted after such a petition, the Board of Supervisors must levy the 15 per cent. upon the property-owners on the improved highway.

The act further provides that improvements of highways shall be taken up in the order in which the final resolutions are received by the State Engineer, but he shall not undertake any work in excess of the appropriation made by the Legislature for the purpose from year to year. The appropriation made to start the work was \$50,000. This amounts to a tax of about 11-1,000 of a mill on each dollar of assessed valuation in the State. The first counties to apply will be the first served. It is expected that the next Legislature will appropriate at least \$250,000 as the State's share of the expense for improving highways next year.

After a highway is improved the adjoining owners must pay their highway taxes in money, as provided under the general highway law, which permits such highway taxes to be commuted for cash at one-half the regular rates. The act provides that the State Engineer must collect information relative to the public highways and give to all officers having the care of roads, whether improved or not, such information free. He must furnish them plans and directions for the improvement of roads and bridges free of cost when requested by them.

AN EARNEST PAINTER

The Labor Expended by Sir Frederick Leighton in Order to Be Accurate.

An eminent American artist, who is now an old man, has never forgotten the lesson he learned from Sir Frederick Leighton in his youth. Leighton was then a brilliant and fascinating young painter, whose future was still before him. He was at work upon an Italian landscape, or upon a picture with an Italian background. In that background he was anxious to introduce an olive tree. He remembered a tree which he had seen in the south of Italy, and remembered it quite distinctly enough to reproduce it, but he was not enough to trust his memory.

The American artist remembers how Leighton came into a cafe in Rome on his way to south Italy, making the long journey from England for the express purpose of studying that olive

tree and of taking home an exact sketch of it, and he remembers also how, four or five weeks later, the ardent young Englishman, brilliant, enthusiastic, versatile, but with a capacity for taking pains, reappeared with a wonderful sketch of the olive tree, upon which he had spent days of unbroken observation and work. From this little incident the American student learned a lesson, which he never forgot and which went far to secure the success which came to him in later life. The story illustrated the great quality which lies behind all real success, alike for the man of genius and the man of talent.

He Took the Tip.

"Cleanest knockout I ever got," said the broker, who is now prosperous, "was when I thought I was making the smoothest move of my life. I was going with Shrewdly's daughter and he had more inside information on stocks than any other one man in the city. I know now that I shouldn't have done it, but Shrewdly didn't treat me as though he wanted me for a member of the family, and I wanted to show him that he wasn't the only pebble on the beach.

"One evening I said to her, as if on the inspiration of the moment: 'Grace, why don't you take an occasional flyer on the market? Get some pointers from your father, and make some pin money for yourself.'

"Being a chip of the old block, she fell in with the idea at once, and consulted with the old gentleman next day.

"He told me," she said, "to buy Union Pacific for all I was worth. That isn't much, you know, but I'm going to put in every dollar I can rake and scrape. Papa's sharp about these things, you know."

"I had the tip I had played for. I bought to the limit of my pile and took half a dozen friends in on the shares, their money against my information."

"What a harvest!"

"Yes, what a harvest! I went broke, lost my friends' money, and lost my friends. What made me too hot for utterance was that Shrewdly did all the unloading and raked down the plunder. The daughter innocently told him of our conversation and he set the trap. I was wild and Shrewdly had a broad grin on every time I met him. The old chap was so tickled that he warned toward me and squared things by permitting me to become his son-in-law."—Detroit Free Press.

Debts of Twenty-two Years.

A case of rather remarkable commercial honesty has just come to light. In 1875 one of Springfield's well-known shoe dealers found himself so embarrassed by depreciation in value of stock and the difficulty in collecting accounts that he failed, and made a compromise with his creditors of fifty cents on the dollar. After twenty-two years the merchant, now considerably over 70 years old, has settled all these old claims in full, paying the balance unpaid at that time, amounting to several thousand dollars. There was no claim on him other than that of his conscience. All his creditors had signed a paper acknowledging their satisfaction, and, in fact, a large number of the original papers had been destroyed, so that the merchant had to settle in accordance with the figures he had in his possession, paying over money in some cases to heirs, or to surviving partners who knew nothing or had nothing to show of the original transaction. The conscientious old shoe dealer is very anxious not to have his name appear—his act would lose its merit through advertising, he says.—Springfield Republican.

Coffee and Its Uses.

When there are in a community epidemics of typhoid fever, cholera, erysipelas, scarlet fever and the various types of malarial fever, which are transmitted almost entirely through the medium of food and drink, coffee is a valuable agent and may be used as a drink instead of water.

It is a valuable agent in assisting in the digestion of food, and aids the blood in taking up more nourishment than it would without it.

It quickens the circulation of the blood and respiration.

It is also stimulating and refreshing, due to the caffeine it contains.

In tiding over nervousness is emergencies it is a sovereign remedy.

As a stimulant and caloric generator in cold weather it is 100 per cent. ahead of whiskey or other liquors.

As a disinfectant it is one of no small usefulness in the sick chamber.

Society Hours in Olden Days.

The fashionable folk of Edward IV.'s court rose with the lark, dispatched their dinner at 11 o'clock, and shortly after 8 were wrapped in slumber. In the Northumberland House Book for 1612 it is set forth that the family rose at 6 in the morning, breakfasted at 7, dined at 10, and supped at 4 in the afternoon. The gates were all shut at 9 and no further ingress or egress permitted. In 1570, at the University of Oxford, it was usual to dine at 11 o'clock, and sup at 5 in the afternoon. The dinner hour, which was once as early as 10 o'clock, has gradually got later and later, until now it would be thought very eccentric in the fashionable world to sit down to table earlier than 6:30 o'clock, while others extend it to 9 or 10.

Omnipotence of Sheba's Queen.

Negus Menelik of Abyssinia, the Lion of Judah, is preparing to visit Jerusalem in 1900. He wishes to visit the scenes where the mother of his race, the Queen of Sheba, was entertained by King Solomon. According to his own genealogical tree, Menelik is the 97th successor to the Queen.

The police should be given some power to arrest any abolitionist who practices with the doors open.

Queer Stuff

In London, out of one hundred widows who marry again, twelve marry their housekeepers.

A shipyard in Omiato, Japan, still in operation, was established over nineteen hundred years ago.

On the coast of the Mediterranean, the tide rises and falls from twenty-six to thirty-eight feet.

A 9-months-old infant died from nicotine poisoning in Scotland recently. It was given a pipe as a plaything.

The only States in which capital punishment is forbidden by law are Michigan, Wisconsin, Rhode Island and Maine.

More than five hundred thousand sewing machines are made in this country annually, which is 90 per cent. of the production of the world.

Food is served in a London (England) restaurant on electrically heated plates, so that the guests can eat leisurely and have the viands warm.

The insect known as the water boatman has a regular pair of oars, his legs being used as such. He swims on his back, as in that position there is less resistance to his progress.

The Swedish bride fills her pocket with bread, which she dispenses to every one she meets on her way to church, every piece she disposes of averting, she believes, a misfortune.

In France it is a punishable offense for any one to give infants under 1 year any form of solid food unless such be ordered by written prescription signed by a legally qualified medical man.

Debtors in Siam, when three months in arrears, can be seized by the creditors and compelled to work out their indebtedness. Should a debtor run away his father, his wife or his children can be held in slavery until the debt is cancelled.

A strange custom is followed by Mexican farmers. They use oren of one color in the morning and another color in the afternoon. They do not know why, but they know that it must be the right thing to do because their forefathers did it.

THE QUEEN'S PURSUITS.

She Has Enjoyed Music and Drawing and Light Literature.

During the whole of her long life, in the midst of public business which has daily become more voluminous and exacting, the queen has never entirely abandoned the pursuits which were the pleasure and relaxation of her earliest years. Mention has been made of her practice of music and of her instructors, and here it may be noted that within the last fifteen years her majesty has sung with Signor Tosti, as at an earlier period she sang with Lablache and Mendelssohn. In all the extracts from the queen's journals which have from time to time been made public, it will have been noted how constantly she mentions that she sketched the scenery of the places visited by her. The early instruction, given by Westall and supplemented by the hints occasionally given by Sir E. Landseer, was not in landscape drawing, which was taught by Mr. Lear in 1846 and 1847. Since that time the queen has taken lessons from Mr. Leitch, and within the last twelve years also from Mr. Green. The queen has always followed with the closest interest the course of current events, which have necessarily absorbed the greater part of her time and attention. But her majesty has also made herself familiar with great imaginative writers, with poets, such as Shakespeare, Scott, and Tennyson, or with novelists such as Jane Austen, Charlotte Bronte, George Eliot and, it may be added, Mrs. Oliphant, whose recent illness and death aroused the queen's deepest sympathy. The queen's acquaintance with German and French literature is considerable, and her intimate knowledge of these languages is very noticeable in the purity with which she speaks them. In the last ten years a signal proof of the warm interest which her majesty has always taken in her Indian empire has been given by the queen's study of Hindustani, under the instruction of the Munsif Abdul Karim.—Holmes' "Queen Victoria."

BUYING WIVES.

How Settlers in the Hudson Bay Region Secured Helpmates.

In the old days, when the English-speaking race were gradually spreading themselves over the world, the men who settled in out-of-the-way places either had to live a bachelor life or content themselves with a wife from the native population of the country in which they had taken up their abode.

The old Hudson Bay factors were confronted with this difficulty when they wished to become benedicts, and often married Indian girls. These wives they acquired by purchase, in accordance with the red Indian custom. A gun, a colored blanket, or a twist of tobacco would secure a most desirable hawoo in those days. The wife was certainly obtainable at a reasonable price, but those early traders found the possession of a red Indian wife an expensive luxury. In bad times, which they often experienced in those cold regions, the husband was looked upon to feed all the wife's near relations. The number of these relations was astonishing, and the poor trader found it rather expensive to supply food to a small tribe of Indians who claimed themselves to be "near" relations of his wife.

Many of them, however, did not care to marry the Indian maidens to be found near their posts, and, seeing how expensive their companions found them, they petitioned the company to select wives for them and send them

cut by the next boat. Their wishes were invariably complied with, and the selections, as a rule, were perfectly satisfactory. Among the archives of the Hudson Bay Company are to be found receipts from factors running something like the following:
"Received, per Lapwing, Jane Goody, as per invoice, in good condition;" and "Received, per Osprey, Matilda Timmins. Returned per Lapwing, as not being in accordance with description contained in invoice."—London Times.

Floatin' Up a River.

It was a vexed question in 1890 whether the Pilcomayo River, which flows for hundreds of miles from the Bolivian Andes to the Paraguay, might be used as a commercial highway from Bolivia to the ocean. Our countryman, Capt. Page, settled this question conclusively that no further effort to utilize the Pilcomayo is likely to be made; and in this work, that cost him his life, for he died of his privations after being hemmed in for months by hostile Indians, he devised a plan for steaming up-river when the water was so low that his vessel was stuck in the mud. He was determined to go still further, though his little steamer, which drew only eighteen inches, rested on the river bottom; so behind the boat he threw up an embankment of earth clear across the channel, backed it with palm trunks and brush wood, and before long the water had risen a couple of feet, and the little Bolivia was able to go on her way four miles before she stuck again. Then another dam was built, and this process was repeated seven times, and with the aid of the dams the vessel advanced about thirty-five miles above the highest point she could reach at the natural low-water stage.—Harper's Round Table.

Gave Herself Away.

The woman mentioned in this little story will be called Mrs. Haughty, but she is known in almost every community by other names. She is inclined to do all she can to make other people believe she is somebody, and that she is fitted for a higher sphere than the one she is forced by adverse circumstances to live in.

A short time ago Mrs. Haughty called on a neighbor and accepted an invitation to stay to supper. Mush and milk was the principal supper dish, and Mrs. Haughty declared with sundry ejaculations that she had never eaten that delightful compound. The steaming platter of mush was set in the center of the table and a bowl of milk placed before Mrs. Haughty.

"Just help yourself, Mrs. Haughty," remarked the hostess.

"Really, I do not know how to begin," said Mrs. Haughty, as she picked up her spoon.

Mrs. Haughty made a move, and one of the children at the table leaned over to her mother and whispered:
"She said she never ate mush and milk, but she dipped her spoon in the milk before she dipped it into the mush."

That little movement gave Mrs. Haughty away, for every lover of mush and milk knows that if the spoon is first dipped into the milk the mush will not stick to it.—Omaha World-Herald.

Unfortunate Arch.

A gentleman living in a large country town has a coachman who is quite a character. Recently the master purchased a small property and enlarged the house without interfering with the grounds, which had been very well planned. An iron trelis in the form of an arch spanned the carriage drive, and the branches of a weeping willow having been trained over it, it made, with the shrubbery, an effectual screen between the hall door and the gates facing the public road. Driving up to the door for the first time after the house had been made ready for occupation the gentleman stepped out of his carriage and expressed a hope that the horses would like their new quarters. John touched his hat and remarked that they ought. "But," said he, "I don't like that arch over the drive, sir." "Why," said the master, "what's the matter with it?" "Well, sir," was the coachman's not over cheering reply, "you can never drive a horse under there without taking the plumes out."—Pittsburg News.

Fine Park for Cyclists.

Phoenix Park, Dublin, is one of the finest cycling grounds in the world. There are seven miles of excellent roads. Several miles of broad pathways tempt the scorchers, with whom the authorities do not interfere. Several ridable hills add a variety, and the scenery, especially from Knockmaroon along the Furry Glen, up the Magazine fort, is pretty. In fine weather it is the favorite homing ground for scorchers, who may be seen in multitudes at evening.

Wanted to Go by Freight.

Jeff Falk tells a story about a man who stammered badly. The man was in a railway office trying to purchase a ticket, and this is the conversation that took place:
"G-g-give me a t-t-ticket t-t-t-t-t-t."
"Well, where do you want to go?"
"T-t-t-to N-n-n-n-n-n."
"How do you want to go?"
"B-b-by f-f-freight."
"By freight? Why do you want to go by freight?"
"C-c-can't ex-ex-express myself."—New York World.

Steel for Polishing.

A fibrous preparation of steel, made in the same manner as the so-called "mineral wool," by passing an air-blast through the molten steel, is coming into use for cleaning, polishing, etc., instead of sandpaper.

Blackfish Disappear.

Blackfish have not been seen in Massachusetts bay for thirteen years.

Woman at Home

IMPROVIDENT MARRIAGES.

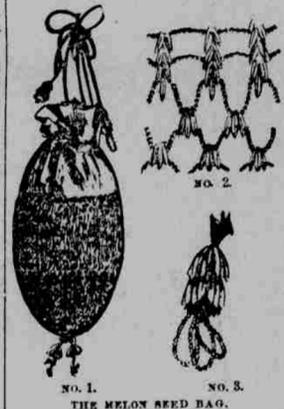
THE beginning of debts and difficulties lies in "improvident marriages." Happily they are less popular than they were, says an exchange. Still one hears apparently sane middle-aged men and women carping at the increased prudence and forethought of the young men and women of to-day. We were romantic! says some worn-worried lady, who has hardly known an hour's freedom from care since the days of that honeymoon which was also quickly metamorphosed into a vinegar moon of a never-ending description. She still, however, congratulates herself on having been romantic, though it is patent to her friends and acquaintances that her romance has not been a success.

There are very few people possessed of the temper, nerves, disposition or ability which would enable them to marry happily, and manage successfully, on a small income.

There are certain set of young men and young women who are able to make themselves happy on very little. Low living and high thinking contents many superior beings; but among the upper classes this tone of mind is distinctly rare. It requires a peculiarly excellent, cheerful, strong, clever person, who is willing to forego all the luxury to which he or she has been accustomed, and yet be honestly happy and content to have only the necessities of life and do without its amusements. It is true a great many men and women are obliged to forego all pleasure and luxury; but they betray such discontent and annoyance at their fate that they are far from being pleasant companions! Moreover, their ignorance of the domestic arts and sciences renders their homes remarkably uncomfortable.

Fancy Work.

The melon seed bag is one of the latest fancies. It is pretty work and makes a pretty bag for handkerchiefs, opera glasses or anything one wishes. The bag illustrated is made of musk-melon seeds and steel beads, and a glance at the small illustration will give an idea as to the manner of stringing the beads and seeds so as to form the network. They are strung on strong silk, and a string of twenty seeds separated from each other by alternating



steel beads forms the foundation of the net, which widens about ten rows as shown in the two lower rows of No. 2, then continues in clusters of three melon seeds as shown in upper part of No. 2. The bag proper is made of satin or velvet, any shade, twelve inches long and fourteen inches wide, gathered firmly together at the bottom, has a heading two inches deep at the top, where the draw-string may be of pretty ribbon or silk cord.

To Get Rid of a Double Chin.

Eat as little flesh forming food as possible and plenty of fruit and vegetables. Bread and pastry should be left almost entirely out of the diet; also any food of an oily nature. Take plenty of long walks, avoid easy chairs and soft cushions and be as active and energetic as possible. Pat the chin with the backs of the fingers for about five or ten minutes each time after washing it, and you will find your weight gradually being reduced and your double chin disappearing. The process of reducing superfluous flesh should always be gradual; otherwise unsightly wrinkles will take the place of plumpness.

Girls Buy Boys' Shoes.
The latest idea of the girl of the period is the wearing of boys' shoes and boys' gloves. Heavy projecting sole, broad-toed footwear is all the rage. So, too, are thick gloves, whose fingers never taper. The athletic, energetic, outdoor game-playing girl is the fashion. The boots and gloves built for her have a cut of their own that is anything but feminine along the old lines. Some clever person discovered that these boots and gloves were identically the same as those sold for boys, material, cut and all.

Incompetency.

Long and loud is the outcry among women of the better classes for profitable occupation, and many are the complaints from all quarters at the lack of lucrative employment. To the superficial observer the complaints appear to be just, and the outcry laudable; it is only when you scratch below the surface that you become acquainted with its real nature. From those who have interested themselves

sufficiently to make careful inquiry into the subject, we learn that in the majority of cases where female industry has been tried it has been "found wanting." The "lady in reduced circumstances" who has expressed the commendable desire to do anything that may come to hand, has often been proved ignorant of the commonest duties of everyday life, and though professedly anxious and ready to acquire these, she has brought so little system to bear on her efforts that they have invariably been fraught with either loss to her employer or injury to her own health.

An Autumn Model.



Some Queer Finger-rings.

Rings have been made for almost all purposes. Thus we find cramp-rings, said not only to cure cramp, but to prevent its return; amulet-rings, infallible protectors against the "evil-eye;" astronomical, dial and zodiacal rings; garter-glasses or anything one wishes. The bag illustrated is made of musk-melon seeds and steel beads, and a glance at the small illustration will give an idea as to the manner of stringing the beads and seeds so as to form the network. They are strung on strong silk, and a string of twenty seeds separated from each other by alternating

Women Upholsters.
The frequent advertisements seen in the public prints of the visiting upholsterer, if the word may be permitted, indicate that this class of workers is being considerably recruited. It seems to offer an excellent field for the industry of woman not yet classified in other pursuits. A number of the technical institutes have classes where the work is regularly taught, and as the field is still comparatively unoccupied, the prospect of fair success is good. The work of making over a mattress is not in the least hard for a woman, and knowledge of the operation is easily obtained. Other legitimate work of the upholsterer is also quite within her strength and skill after very slight experience.

A Housekeeper's Record.
The average housekeeper finds that her memory is shortest when it comes to the daily planning of meals. Her frequent cry that she cannot think of anything to order never seems to be suggestive to her of its own remedy. She orders every day the round of family dinner, and if when the process is over she would arrange in a little book the chief dishes that have appeared on the table during the twenty-four hours, she will find that she quickly accumulates a valuable memorabilia. Classify them breakfast, luncheon, dinner; substantial and deserts. A housekeeper who practices this plan will be amazed to discover how the useful simple dishes escape her memory without it.

The Secret of Beauty.
The secret of beauty is health, and those who desire to be beautiful should do all that is possible to restore their health if they have lost it, or to retain it if they have it still. To possess a fresh complexion and bright eyes, even to have white hands and a graceful figure, you must be well, and to be well you must take plenty of exercise, eat proper food, and not too much of it, and do your best to be cheerful and look on the bright side of everything. Health, and the happiness which comes with it, are the true secrets of beauty.

The Lock Bracelet.
One sees a good many bracelets of the chain and lock variety on fair wrists nowadays. The war is responsible for this. Many a soldier boy has marched away carrying a tiny key hidden away in his pocket. The handsome chain of the bracelets are heavy gold chains with a sparkling diamond set in the locks.

A Dainty Sack.
An excellent perfume, which will retain its properties for a long time, can be made in the following way: Pound to a powder one ounce each of cloves, cerise seed, nutmeg, mace, cinnamon and Tonquin beans; also, as muchorris root as will equal the weight of all the foregoing ingredients.