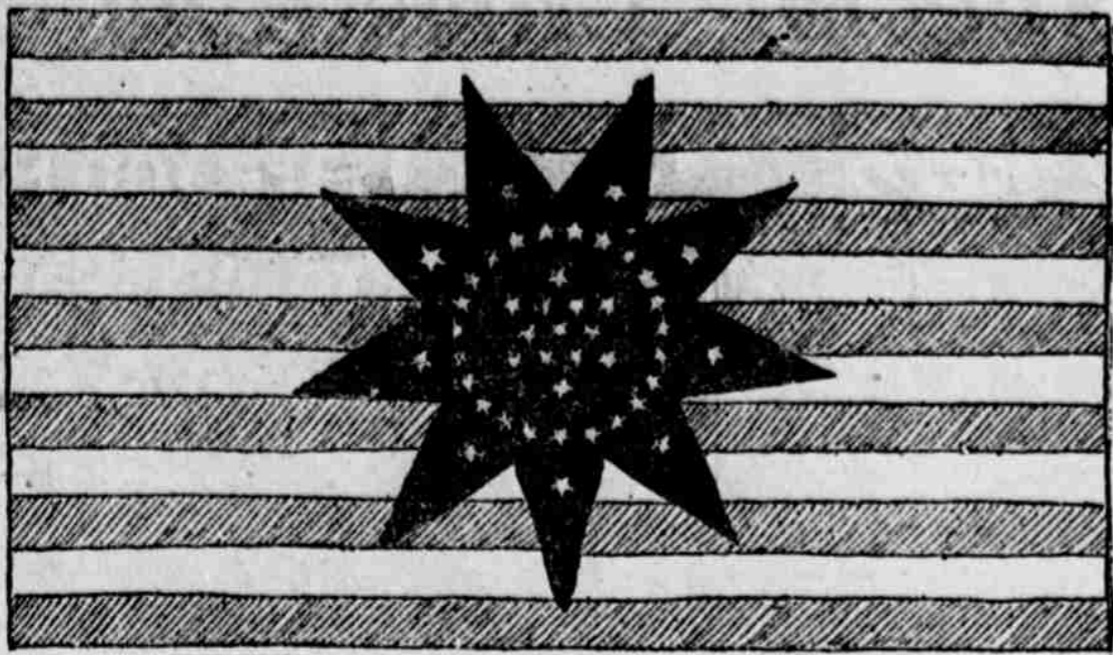
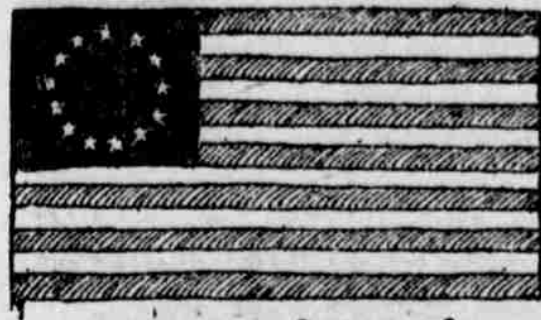


HOW SHALL THE NEW FLAG BE MADE?

Uncle Sam's new possessions will demand representation on old glory, as is certainly their right, but the fact is that on the flag as at present designated there is scarcely room for them. The last addition of states has so filled the field that the stars are too small and so crowded together that they no longer stand out distinctly when the glorious banner is waving in the breeze. This difficulty could only be overcome in the present design by enlarging the field, but this would destroy the proper proportions



PROPOSED NEW DESIGN



THE FIRST STARS AND STRIPES



PRESENT ARRANGEMENT

of our standard. The accompanying design for a new flag has been suggested, and there are many points in its favor. The many-pointed star with blue field on a background of red and white stripes is not unlike the conventional sunburst and would symbolize the birth of imperialism. The arrangement of the stars within this center is the design of John F. Earhart of Cincinnati, one of the first in this country to take up the subject of flag reform. Mr. Earhart's design is full of meaning. The inner cluster represents the thirteen states which created the union. The surrounding circle contains twenty-three stars—the number equaling that of the states admitted to the union up to the close of the civil war, this noble cluster typifying the welding together and perfect preservation of the union. The outer circle contains the new states, and it will be readily seen that there is room for many more.

HERE ARE CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

Old Tremont bank of Boston, incorporated in 1814, is to go into liquidation. Heat and drought in New South Wales are destroying live stock and crops. At a recent sale in Brussels four orchid plants fetched prices varying from \$500 to \$2,040. Many of the cast-off uniforms of British soldiers are exported to Africa for trading purposes with the Kaffirs. Police detectives in Montreal estimate that the people of that city spend over \$2,500,000 a year on lotteries.

The number of policy tickets bought annually is estimated at 6,000,000. In the Black sea no animal life of any kind is found at a depth below 1,200 feet, owing to the large amount of hydro-sulphuric acid. A leading London bookseller has declared that the number of new books this season will exceed by 25 per cent those of any season he can recall. A tin factory situated on Sulo Brant, an island in the Bay of Singapore, turns out monthly 1,200 tons of tin, more than the product of Cornwall and more than that of Australia. The people of Richmond, Va., are being encouraged in the belief that the James river may be made as important to the ship-building industry of this country as is the Clyde in Scotland. The silk industry in the United States is assuming gigantic proportions. Thirty years ago the value of silk produced in the United States was less than \$5,000,000. Last year it exceeded \$57,000,000. A Canadian paper has a clever cartoon on the "unwonted activity" of England just now. Uncle Sam, smoking a "Manilla" cigar, says to John Bull, striding along in sailor clothes, with a gun over his shoulder: "Whar you goin' a-gunnin', John?" and John answers: "Blest if I quite knows yet, Sammy. Maybe h'over to Francco, h'eagle 'unting, and then h'again, maybe h'over to Roosher, bear 'untin', y' know."

A special dispatch to the London Daily Mail from Cape Town says that a meteor, that is described as being half the size of St. Paul's Cathedral, has fallen at Port Alfred. It made a hole in the ground 60 feet deep, 120 feet long and 60 feet wide. The highest price ever paid for real estate in the United States was paid two years ago, when 717 square feet on the corner of Broadway and Wall street, New York, sold for \$348.67 per square foot. But last week the owner of the corner of Wall and Broadway refused \$400 a square foot for his holding. The price offered was equivalent to \$50,000 a front foot or \$1,250,000 for an ordinary city business lot of 24x100 feet. The successful launching of the cruiser Nadieja, at Bordeaux, which will soon be ready for sea, marks the beginning of Bulgaria as a naval power. She is really a torpedo boat destroyer, being of but 750 tons displacement. She is an exceedingly diminutive copy of the Russian ironclad gunboat Khryvy. The Japanese nation proposed to hold in 1899 a great fair in honor of the 50th anniversary of the opening of that country to western civilization. It is noteworthy that the Japanese always date their reawakening to new ideas to the coming of Commodore Perry to that country with a squadron of United States vessels nearly 50 years ago. The British government laboratory last year analyzed 1,580 samples of so-called "temperance" drinks. Of this number over one-third were found to contain more than the 2 per cent of alcohol allowed by law. Some of the samples contained as much as 6 to 8 per cent.

DRESSING FINE FURS.

THEY ARE GREASED WITH BEST CREAMERY BUTTER.

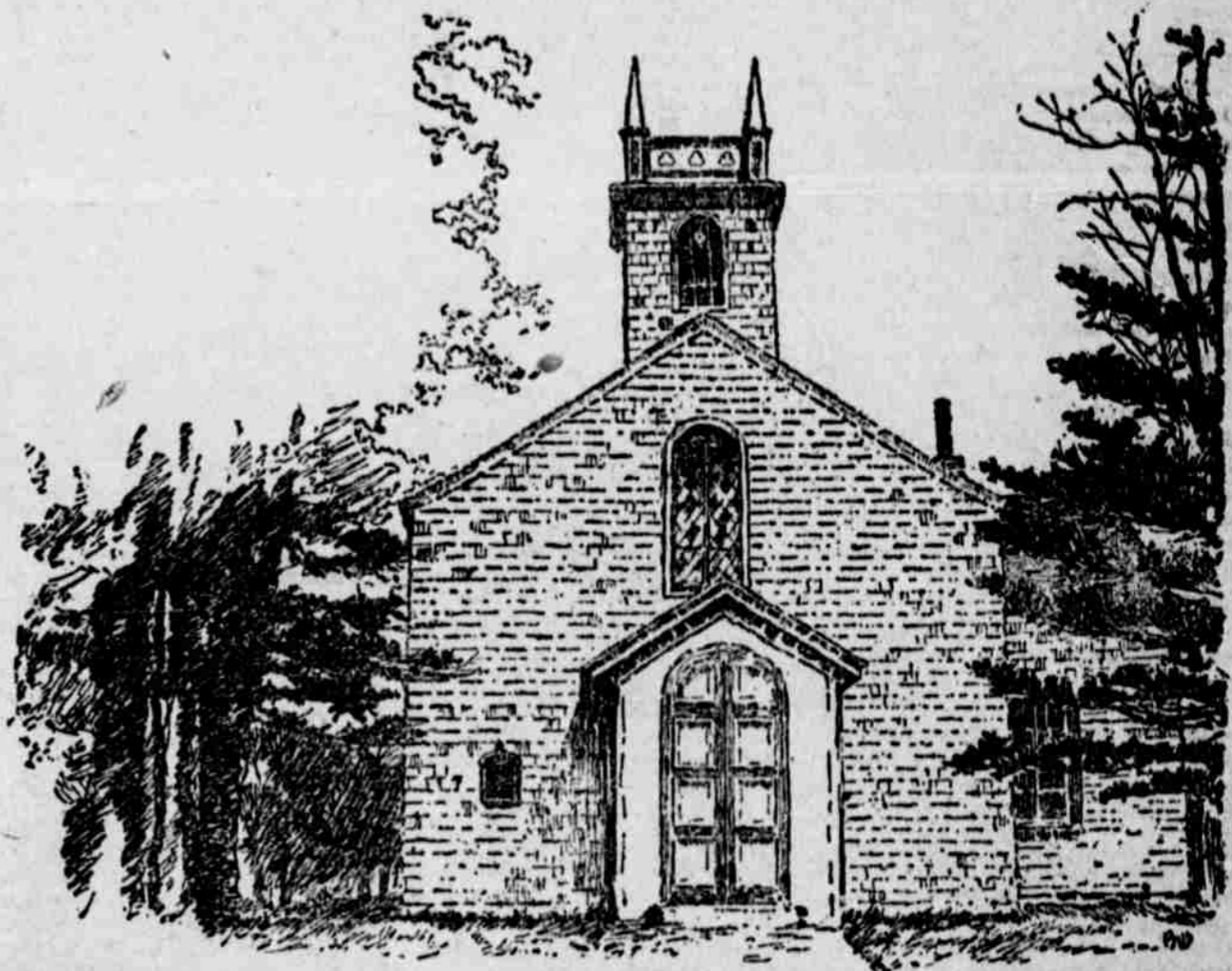
Powdered with Wood Dust—United States Leads Today in the Curing and Tanning of Costly Skins—Persian Lamb and Seal the Exception.

From the animal's back to the lady's shoulders there is much skillful handling of high-priced furs, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Aside from the trapping and selling and the making into modish wraps, an intermediate step occurs, and upon this depends more truly the ultimate value of the skin than its depth of tone, purity of color or even rare breed to which it was assigned by the creator. In consequence ordinary skunk skins have been made beautiful martens at the dresser's shop, while the rarest of sable has been rendered useless. As a trade this intermediate handling has been little affected by the advance of mechanical ingenuity. It still remains primitive—a trade of hand work and foot work and man's labor. No mechanical device has ever been made to equal in delicacy and result this contact with the human flesh. Machines there are for the curing and tanning of skins—skins of the lower grade—rabbit and opossum and the heavier pelts are put through a machinery process. But the high-grade furs—the costly skins—sable, ermine, mink and chinchilla, still are manipulated almost entirely by hand, and this, together with the increasing demand and decreasing

and supply. Out of a dozen—are trodden. When the butter skins are removed to spread over the floor. At point of dryness they are gathered together and taken to the sawdust room. This sawdust is, in truth, pulverized wood, as fine in quality as cornstarch. Sometimes it is of mahogany, sometimes of rosewood. The latter, however, contains so much acidity that it is used more sparingly. For the different sorts of furs different dusts are used—wood dust for the darker coats and flour and marble dust for ermine. This wood dust is expensive and the supply limited. In the curing season it becomes a serious item in the dresser's trade. As only 10 per cent of the butter is actually absorbed by the pelt, the rest clinging to the fur, the dust is worked very thoroughly into the greased fur and cleanses it of the butter and renders the fur soft and silky. The first mechanical labor is here introduced, when the skins, with a copious supply of dust, are thrown into a big revolving tub which imitates closely the rotation of treading, and by passing over coils of steam pipes get warmth similar to the heat of the treader's body. The furs and dust are revolved rapidly until sufficient dust has been taken up, when they are dumped out, picked up separately and given a deft shake, and the hand labor is again called into use. The skins are spread to air, beaten, turned fur out and given to the comb. He finishes the silky coats; evens up skins to a point of symmetry. For with the Indian trapper a hind leg comes very handy for his chief or to

lowing and experiences with a well imagine around here while tamed camels first I heard a tremendous growling of the door and, on going out, one of these amiable beasts being by his keeper, but walking along every expression of disgust both in his countenance and voice. The man stopped (ditto camel) and attempted to tie the beast's forelegs together, when it reared and, striking out with its forefeet, landed on the keeper's stomach and head, sending him flying through space as if shot out of a cannon. The man picked himself out of the ditch with a hand on each bruised part, and the camel, which had never ceased roaring, was taken in charge by two other and more robust natives and led to the tents, or rather induced to go by energetic assistance of a very sharp iron rod applied in a most vigorous and miscellaneous manner. Similar exhibitions are being conducted here daily and we are now ready to lead the recently broken camels. Within three or four days they become tractable. "I first formed my opinion of a camel some years ago, when I rode across the Arabian deserts, and see no reason to alter it in any way. The creature has so many talents and so

CENTENARY OF AN OLD EPISCOPAL CHURCH.



St. John's Episcopal church, on the outskirts of Tuckahoe, is one of the oldest edifices of its denomination in Westchester county, New York. It was 100 years old the other day, and, de-

spite the many years the structure has withstood the storms and is still in good condition. St. John's church is on historical ground. Previous to the battle of

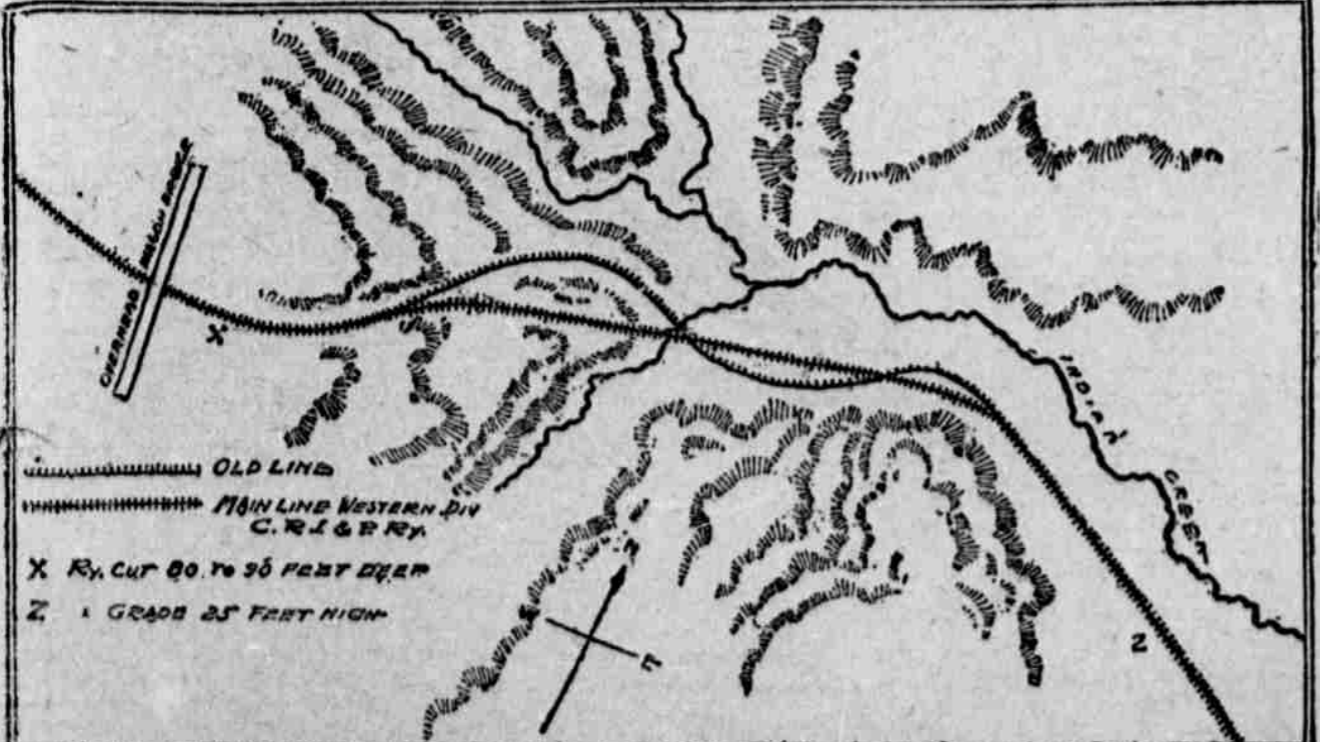
White Plains, it is said, nine patriots were slaughtered by the enemy nearby. The high-back pews, the steep stairway leading to the organ loft and the old tower are still in existence.

STRAIGHTENING THE "DEVIL'S ELBOW" ON AN IOWA RAILWAY.

In every hazardous occupation there are special dangers that arise at times which are known only to the men that follow that special vocation. To all appearance the men pass the dangers without the least thought of them, but whose nerves are strung to the highest tension. The fireman who climbs to the dizzy heights on the pole at the curb is in constant dread lest in the ascent the spur on the foot strikes a rotten knot and when the weight of the body is felt it gives away, causing a dangerous and often fatal fall. Railroad men in the same way dread new grades and sharp curves, but dare not hesitate if they run their train on schedule time. One that was always dreaded by the boys on the West Iowa division of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific was the O'Neill hill, near

Atlantic, Iowa, better known as Devil's Elbow. It was a reverse curve on a 1 1/2 per cent grade, commencing in a deep cut and running in an easterly direction only about three-fifths of a mile, and containing all the main problems of railroad engineering in a prairie country. To train dispatchers it was always a source of annoyance, as nearly every freight train had to be divided and half left there, protected by proper signals, while the engine pulled the other half to the next station. Three years ago the contract was let for the cutting and grading of the new roadbed at this point. The contractor left the job a ruined man, as, after digging down a short distance the men

which made the soil so wet the work struck a large number of springs, was abandoned. A year ago the railroad men took up the work again and have just completed it. They excavated in the cut to the depth of seven feet and with the earth removed built up the dump and approaches seven feet, making the difference of over fourteen feet in the grade of the short or new track. To complete the work required the moving of over 540,000 cubic feet of earth; to keep the track from sinking into the roadbed two lines of six-inch drain tile were laid under the track, through which fair-sized streams of water are constantly flowing. The money spent on this one piece of track, less than a mile in length, has been considerable over \$108,000.



supply, adds to the final cost. The work of the dresser is interesting and in stages highly picturesque. The skins are turned over to him by the firm which buys its season's supply in the raw state. The trapper has literally skinned his game—turned the outside or fur side in, leaving the entire pelt exposed—hence the old nursery joke of "skinning the rabbit." The skins are greased to preserve them from vermin and soon turn stiff. This constitutes the raw state. In curing the pelt is first put through a softening process—a chemical solution—and the skins are then rubbed. Here they remain in the salt and water or similar wash as required over night, possibly twelve hours longer. The skins are wrung out of this bath and practically dried, then turned over to the fletcher. This is another department of the trade and requires skilled hands to scrape these skins properly. This is done on upright knives set slightly oblique at the end of a narrow bench on which the fletcher sits astraddle. From the fletcher the skins go through a greasing process, where fine creamery butter is liberally slapped over the pelt, the skin all this while remaining pelt out, of course. The next departure leads one to the picturesque details of the dresser's shop. Along either side of the room are ranged large barrels of three-quarters height. In this the men stand waist deep, while sacking forms the cover from the edge of the barrel to the man's body. This keeps in the heat, which in time becomes excessive, and in these barrels the half-naked men tread and tread day after day, and look as though they were practicing the couche-couche dance. With their naked feet they work the butter into the pelt and fur, and the heat which emanates from their body forms a most important item in the curing of the skins. A shuffle board fastened obliquely across the front inner side of the barrel aids them in rotating the skins, which in time acquire a high degree of heat, very surprising to the novice. This heat renders the fur soft

work into his tribal robes, and many a four-legged animal arrives with a three-legged skin at the dresser's shop. Then half of the hind leg is deftly sewed to the trunk and the skin is dressed. With the above process faithfully worked out, the fur is never furred or cottony. This system and the honesty of the trade has won for the American dresser a front rank in the curing of skins. Except for broad-tail or unborn Persian lamb and the treating of the Persian lamb itself, which is excelled only in Leipzig, and the London dyeing of seal, which our climate and chemical conditions of the water make impossible, the United States of America leads today in the curing and tanning and dressing of furs, as its women do in creating the greatest demands and the most appreciative fur market.

many ways of exhibiting them. And, to begin with, it can kick harder, higher, swifter and oftener than a mule and can use all four feet at one time in a kicking match. Then it can bite worse than a vicious horse and back in a way to make a broncho blush with absolute shame. No rider ever lived who can stay on that perch seven feet from the ground during a camel's exhibition of gymnastics. Then he can run away when he feels like it and is often seized with a desire to stop. Upon an occasion of this kind his rider experiences a sensation between being blown up with dynamite and being against the throes of a bear until all his joints are loose and he drops a lime on the ground. Then he is at least effective. He twists his snout and, poking his head out of the rider's mouth and letting in such a fetid, yavated human into the middle of a week's belt. And yet, with all these commendations, we consider object makes a bladder, dear animals I need so much of in contact with us or all too few, even beginning.

Burmese Marriage Rites. Of all the marriage rites of which one ever heard, those of Burmah bear away the palm for conciseness and sweet simplicity. Here it is upon the dusky lady that the pleasing duty of courtship devolves. She sees a youth whom she deems calculated to make her happy and forthwith offers him a stick of candy. If he accepts her proposal he promptly cuts the token of affection and they are thereby made man and wife. There is no further ceremony and no witnesses are necessary. In the act of eating alone this most primitive marriage rite consists. But if, on the contrary, the youth is not willing, he assures her that that particular kind of candy is not to his taste, and the maiden must seek elsewhere for one more appreciative of her candy and her affections.

England Crazy Over Croquet. Croquet, the revival of which in England was announced not long ago, is said to be making alarming strides, and in places to threaten the sovereignty of golf. They have made a new game of it—three times as difficult and scientific as the old, and the craze is spreading.

England a Warm Country. The extremes of outdoor temperature in England during the last few years on record was 70 degrees below zero and 100 degrees above. The thermometer in the Medway in the month of November was 11 degrees below zero and in the month of July 100 degrees above.