

IRISH POTATO BLIGHT

The Failure of Crops is Disastrous in Thickly Populated Districts of the Island

A cablegram from Dublin, Ireland, follows: "Americans having friends and relatives in Ireland are naturally deeply interested in the accounts of the potato blight. Probably the best reports are those made by the correspondents of the Farmers' Gazette. And it is significant to note that the latest accounts published by that paper are decidedly disheartening. In the poor, overtaxed land in the congested districts especially the failure has been disastrous. There is a new theory of the disease, which indicates that even spraying, though a valuable preventive, cannot be looked upon as a wholly effective remedy to the disease. Hitherto it was believed that "spores" were solely responsible; but Mr. Massee of Kew, a very high authority on the subject, has discovered that epidemics of the disease are due

to a "hibernating mycelium" in the tuber, which, in certain damp, hot muggy weather, infects not merely the plant itself, but the whole crop. From this discovery, it is plain that spraying, which deals only with the spores, or the danger of spores on the stalks, cannot affect the development of the seed of the disease in the tuber. The selection of clean, healthy seed is a precaution as essential as the spraying. But even then, there is no assurance that the disease may not, in one form or another, remain latent in the soil, especially in those exhausted patches which year after year have been given over to potato crop. Proper sized farms, properly cultivated, are essential before the plague of blight can be thoroughly exterminated from stalk and tuber.

INSURRECTION IN CUBA

Palma's proclamation announcing a cessation of hostilities in Cuba only serves to give the liberals greater liberty of movement, and they travel freely about the streets of Havana.

City of Cienfuegos is in a state of siege and all communication is cut, news of an attack being expected at any moment. Three thousand insurgents are camped near Havana ready to attack the city.

Announcement from the Cuban government that "hostilities are entirely suspended and peace is at hand" does not interfere with the plans of the United States government, and the representatives of the president, backed by the navy, will carry out the program for mediation.

Secretary of State Root will stop at Cuba on his way from South America and aid Secretary Taft and Secretary Bacon in the work of mediation.

May Endorse Hearst

New York—An exhaustive inquiry indicates that as things stand today W. R. Hearst's chances of securing the endorsement of the democratic convention at Buffalo have greatly improved. Even some of his strongest opponents admit that the opposition is disorganized and that the situation from their point of view is desperate. New York politicians say that Hearst will control the delegates from nearly twenty up state counties, and that if he can get either New York or Kings he will be master of the situation. Murphy, the Tammany leader, is openly for Hearst.

Thousands on Strike

Winnipeg, Man.—Three thousand men are out on a strike in the building trades in this city. The master plumbers refuse to arbitrate and other trades out out in sympathy.

Consul is Murdered in China

Berlin—The murder of the Austrian consul to Tien Tsin, Emil Thiels, by Chinese, is reported by the Tageblatt's Tien Tsin correspondent. The consul's body was robbed of \$2,000.

The Old Lady and the Ticket Agent

It was a little rural station in the middle South. The ticket agent was not an intellectual giant, but he held the job and connected with the pay car regularly once a month. Enter a little old woman, fidgetly, confused, scared at even so much grandeur as the rural station exhibited because it was all new and strange to her. She looked about the room inquiringly, then approached the ticket window and said anxiously:

"Say, mister, is this the place where you come to know where you have to go to?"

The ticket agent saw only the humor of the situation and got gay at once.

"Yes, ma'am; this is the place you have to go to see where you come from."

The little old lady hesitated, then steadied herself and fixed a thoughtful, kindly eye upon him, then straightened up and spoke.

"Well, if you are so smart as all

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that, just give me a ticket back to the place I come from, please."

"Where did you come from?" mockingly inquired the agent.

"I come from a place where gentlemen are not pert enough to make fun of old ladies traveling alone," was the crushing reply.

A moment later, acting under a modus vivendi, a ticket to Pudacah was delivered and duly paid for, and the incident was closed.—Judge.

Strange English Rentals

Strange rents were being discussed—how this church paid one lily annually and that convent paid two doves. A real estate man said:

"We have some remarkable rentals, but England beats us here, for she is the older country, and she delights in maintaining the quaint customs of the past.

"The splendid manor of Farnham Royal is held by the service of putting the glove on the king's right hand and by supporting the arm that holds the scepter on coronation day. There is no other payment.

The rental of the manor of Aylesbury is three eels in winter and three green geese in summer, besides a litter of straw for the king's bedchamber thrice a year if he comes that way so often.

The manor of Addington's rental is a pair of gilt spurs, a pair of tongs, a snowball on Midsummer day and a rose at Christmas.

The rental of the manor of Copeland is the holding of the king's head, if needful, as often as he crosses the sea between Dover and Whitsand."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A Newport

Miss Gaysett—Oh, mamma! What a nice, sensible, decent looking young fellow that is over there!

Mother—Hush, child! It must be a waiter.—Puck.

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