An egg train of twelve refrigator cars left Newton, Kan., the other day for California.

After eighteen years Senator Cockrell has recovered a wallet, stolen from him in Philadelphia.

Kansas has a state school fund of $7,500,000 invested in such a way that it brings in interest and reduces taxation.

Piso's Cure for Consumption is an infallible medicine for coughs and colds.—N. W. Samuel, Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1900.

Waist bags large enough to hold purse, handkerchief, card, vinaigrette and often a tiny powder puff and mirror, are seen in the delicate suede or velvet.

At the back of the skirts thin materials are sometimes gathered in at the waist, but not often; flatness is produced by stitched plaits, as many as ten sometimes, which are far removed from grace.

King Edward Loves His Farm.

Among the innumerable interests that attach the royal family to Sandringham and have induced the king to decide that it shall continue to be his country home are the attractions of the beautiful home farm which has been created and developed by his majesty. The farm is only of 700 acres, and is worked by the king in his own name. The farm carts all bore the lawful inscription, "H. R. H., the Prince of Wales, Sandringham, Norfolk," which has, we suppose been altered by now, to "H. M., the King." It is mainly a stock farm, and under normal conditions maintains two or three hundred horses, 150 pedigree Shorthorns and 300 Southdown sheep. The dairy stock are Jerseys and Kerrys, and for years the pride of the establishment has been an indomitable little black Kerry bull, who usually made his appearance before company towed by five men attached by ropes to various parts of his body. "Moonlighter," as he was called, was bought by the king at the royal show in Newcastle years ago.

Kilts in the British Army.

There are ten battalions in the British army that wear the old Scotch kilts.

Western Canada's December Weather Equal to that of May in Minnesota.

To the Editor—Thomas Regan and C. Collins, of Eden Valley, Minn., went out to Western Canada last December as delegates, to look over the grazing and grain lands that are being offered at such low prices and reasonable terms. This is what they say:

"We arrived in Calgary about the 20th December, and although we had left winter in Minnesota and Manitoba, we were surprised to find beautiful warm weather at this point, quite equal to what we have in May in Minnesota. There was no snow nor trace of winter to be seen, and the climate was really splendid. Horses, cattle and sheep were running out, in prime condition, with plenty of feed on the prairie, and really better than that of ours stabled in the South. We are impressed with this country as one of the finest mixed farming countries we have ever seen. The immense tracts of fertile lands well sheltered and abundantly watered leave nothing to be desired.

Leaving Alberta, we returned east and visited the Yorkton district in Assiniboia. We drove out about ten miles at this point, and were highly pleased with the splendid samples of grain we were able to see, wheat yielding twenty-five bushels, oats sixty bushels. Roots were also good specimens. From what we have seen, we have decided to throw in our lot with the Yorktoners—satisfied that this part of the country will furnish good opportunities for any one anxious to make the best of a really good country. Any agent of the Canadian government, whose advertisement appears elsewhere in the columns of your paper, will give you full particulars of the new districts being opened out this year in Assiniboia and Saskatchewan. Yours truly. OLD READER.

BOAST OF A LANDED GENTRY.

Mexicans Cling with Wonderful Tenacity to Their Broad Acres.

The tenacity with which the great estates of Mexico are maintained intact by the families of this country appears all the more remarkable when it is considered how generally all lines of industry, aside from that of the farmer, are in the hands of foreigners. The dry-goods trade of Mexico is controlled by the French, the Spaniards of Mexico are the country's grocers, the Germans do the hardware business, the railroads are controlled by Americans and English, the bank stock of Mexico is largely owned in France, Germany and England, and a large percentage of the industrial concerns of the country belong to foreigners. Not so, however, the agricultural resources of Mexico.

During recent years a great deal of American capital has entered the republic for investment in tropical plantations, particularly in southern Mexico, but the great bulk of Mexico's rural land is held in the form of extensive haciendas or ranches, often hundreds of thousands of acres in extent. Some of these estates have been handed down in the same families for nearly 400 years, not a few titles tracing their origin back to the first grants from the King of Spain after the conquest. The aristocracy of Mexico is counted among these landed proprietors, many of whom enjoy princely incomes from their plantations, which often produce a great variety of products and embrace several manufacturing plants.

It is largely due to the fact that the tax upon land of this character is comparatively very light that these estates have so long remained undivided, as, in most instances, only a small per cent of their area is under cultivation. As in many states the levy is practically only a tax upon products, the unused acres are no great bruden. There are, naturally, those who desire to see these tracts taxed so that the owners will be forced to sell at least portions of them and the land of the country divided among a large number of small proprietors. Such a measure would be vigorously opposed by the wealthy landed proprietors, and such is the number and importance of this class that no active measure of this kind has ever been promulgated. The ancient estates of Mexico are so large that few individuals can purchase them entire, and the owners can rarely be prevailed upon to divide their holdings in any manner. Occasionally now one of them is bought by a syndicate or company for development or for subdivision and sale. In this way smaller holdings are becoming more common than formerly, though the old order of things is not likely to be greatly altered in Mexico for many years to come.—Modern Mexico.

Heavy Rainfalls.

Exceptionally heavy rainfalls often occur, sometimes with disastrous effects. For periods of five minutes rainfalls have occurred at Bismarck, N. D., at the rate of nine inches per hour, at Jacksonville, Fla., at the rate of seven inches, and at Galveston, Texas, at the rate of six and a half inches. In periods of sixty minutes rain has fallen at these three stations at the rate of over two inches per hour, at Galveston at the rate of two and one-half inches. One inch of rainfall is equivalent to 27,154 gallons, or 226,000 pounds on each and every acre of wetted area. Rainfall at the rate of nine inches per hour represents a fall of 33,900 pounds, or 4,073 gallons per minute per acre. In five minutes, such a rainfall would cover each area of four square miles with 51,000,000 gallons—a quantity much in excess of the daily consumption of the city of Washington.

Languages Spoken by Army Officers.

The Army and Navy Journal states that 304 commissioned officers of the regular army speak Spanish fluently, and that most of these are serving in the Philippines and the West Indies. About as many more officers possess a limited knowledge of Spanish. French is spoken by 224 officers, German by 136, the language of the American Indians by 13, Italian by 3, Swedish and Norwegian by 4, and Tagalog by 5. Chinese, Japanese, Eskimo, Dutch, Hungarian, Portuguese, and Polish are also spoken by some of our army officers.

Gigantic Lunar Mountains.

During the eclipse of the sun in May, 1900, a British observer, Mr. Evershed, as reported at a recent meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society, noticed a point on the edge of the moon where the sun was shining through a very deep valley, and where the lunar mountains seemed to be about 25,000 feet in altitude. This exceeds by 6,000 feet the estimated height of Mount Everest, the loftiest mountain on the earth. The edge of the moon is so broken by peaks, ridges and valleys that the length of totality during a solar eclipse is affected by them.

Tulip Festival.

Tulips are cultivated in Constantinople, and there is a tulip festival there once a year in spring. Every palace, room, gallery and garden is decorated with tulips of every kind. At night they are all lighted by colored lamps and Bengal fires, and the Sultan sits in their midst, while women sing around him and his odalisques dance before him.

Neighborly.

Husband—Isn't it about time Mrs. Borrore was returning our call?

Wife—Yes, but if she does return it it will be more than she does with the other things she gets from us.—Detroit Free Press.

A strong will is firmness; a strong won't is obstinacy.

TRICKS OUR WATCHES PLAY.

Very Small Causes May Result in Inconvenience to the Owner.

Watches often suffer from changes of temperature. After a watch has been worn next to a warm body all day it should not be left over night on cold marble or near an open window. The cold is likely to contract the metal pivots, and, however slightly, tighten up the works. The next morning, for no apparent reason, one's watch will be found to be losing time.

It frequently happens that watches are slightly magnetized by static electricity given off by the human body. It has been found that dark people are more likely to exert this influence over their watches. This influence is, besides, more common among women than with men. Persons of this sort can never hope to carry the correct time unless they carry their watches in rubber or steel cases.

Never lay your watch down for the night in a horizontal position. It should always be hung vertically, as it is carried during the day. If the pivot of the balance wheel be in the least worn this change of position tends to loosen the "cap jewel."

Everyone has had a watch suddenly stop for no apparent reason and go on again when slightly shaken. This may not happen once a year, but all watches are liable to such an accident. This is due usually to the catching of the delicate hair spring. It is caused by some sudden movement such as jumping on or off a car. The jolt must come at the exact fraction of a second when the spring is in position to catch, so that the chances of such an accident are rare. A watch should be oiled every eighteen months. The oil dries up in this time as a rule and if the mechanism be run with the oil dry it quickly wears out.

In examining a watch all jewelers follow the same plan. They first look to see if the hands are caught. If the fault lies deeper they next take out the balance wheel and examine the pin and pivots. Next they let down the main spring and examine the wheels. It sometimes happens that a jeweler will not find the cause of the trouble for days. The most difficult disorder to locate is a slight burr on one of the wheels.

Many jewelers have collected fees for repairing watches when the watches refuse to go merely because they have run down. Women are said to be the best customers of the watch doctor since they seldom wind their watches regularly. A watch should be wound early in the day, and not, as is the common practice, at bedtime. The reason for this is that the spring is then tightest during the day while the watch is being carried and is less sensitive.

Had an Excellent Reason.

It was only a week after the annual meeting of the corporation had been held that Mr. Brown, one of the heavy stockholders, accompanied by his worthy spouse, went over to the Smiths one evening to while away the time with a bit of whist and later perhaps a rarebit with trimmings. Smith also owned considerable stock in the same enterprise as his guest and while the women were off together discussing some matters of great feminine importance which completely engrossed their attention, it was perfectly natural that the male portion of the assembly should adjourn to the dining room for a whiff of nicotine.

"What I can't see," said Mr. Brown with much astonishment and perplexity on his features, "What I can't see is why under the canopy you declined a directorship at the meeting the other day."

"That's an easy one," remarked Smith. "You see—er—the fact of the matter is, I looked the thing all over and then concluded that I would rather be one of the many fault finders than one of those with whom the faults are found."—Bangor Commercial.

Roosevelt Never Dodged Trouble.

"When Theodore Roosevelt was a little boy he and a playmate used to walk together to a private school," says the Ladies' Home Journal. "Their way took them past a public school. One day young Teddy appeared in a new sailor suit. This was too much for the public school boys. To them the suit was the distinguishing mark of a 'dude.' The sneering crowd planted itself across the sidewalk. Teddy and his chum, seeing trouble ahead, came on with fists clenched, and the battle began. A few minutes later the 'dude' and his companion went on their way somewhat less 'dude' than when they started, but leaving behind them a tamed and lame bunch of surprised boys. For a week there were daily fights with the same results. One morning after an especially hard battle, young Roosevelt said to his friend, 'Let's go around the block and come back to fight 'em again.'"

Big Price for Old Carpets.

When a carpet gets to be half a century or more old you usually expect to be able to pick it up for a song—perhaps a song of a few sixpences—in some second-hand shop, but sometimes you will find yourself mistaken, which would have been the case had you been at a recent second-hand carpet sale in Lisbon. Two carpets sold there were four and a half centuries old, and yet they were not bought for rags. They were carpets presented by the Infanta Donna Sancha to the Royal Convent of St. Antonio in 1500, and were put up at auction to raise money with which to repair the convent. French and German bidders were the most anxious and the carpets were started at $4,400. A Frenchman finally got them for $8,500, and was congratulated on his bargain.

Politeness is a coin that passes current in every land.

Stood on Her Rights.

"We had a fire at our house, and the servant girl was nearly burned to death."

"Lighting the fire with kerosene, eh?"

"No; it was a defective flue. You see, I yelled to the girl to get out as soon as we discovered the fire, but she said she wouldn't leave without two weeks' notice."—Philadelphia Record.

Maintains His Consistency.

"You told me you would make married life heaven for me, and now you won't even give me money to go to the shore."

"But, my dear," he argued, "that's because I'm consistent. Nobody in heaven at least wants to go to watering places."—Philadelphia Times.

Fire destroyed eleven business houses at Danville, Va.