The Brooklyn Bridge.

The twenty-first anniversary of the opening of the Brooklyn bridge took place recently. It has been a busy place since 1883. The total receipts thereform from 1883 to 1898, when the structure passed into the possession of the railroad companies, were \$17,272,890, and the expenditures for the same period were \$18,151,301. The railroad earnings from 1883 to 1898 were \$13,734,818, and the earnings from the roadway in the same period \$1,205,460. The Brooklyn bridge cost in the neighborhood of \$16,000,000. The cost of the structure itself was \$11,500,000, while the cost of acquiring real estate, etc., for the terminals was about \$4,500,000. The cost of the Williamsburg bridge, the second of the East River bridges, will be in the neighborhood of \$20,000,000. The cost of the Williamsburg structure will be less than that of the Brooklyn bridge structure, but the expense of acquiring real estate for terminals and approaches was greater.

A Paying Washington Industry

Cascara bark peeling has become an active industry in the forests of western Washington. The bark is taken from the barberry and chittimwood trees that grow profusely in the Grays harbor district. It has a commercial value of 8 cents per pound. An ordinary tree yields from 50 to 100 pounds of the dried bark. Whole families are engaged in collecting the bark and selling to dealers. Some men make \$5 a day at the work. Entire sections are contracted by eastern buyers and peelers engaged to supply the bark. There is talk of petitioning the legislature to enact laws for preserving the trees, which are more valuable than any timber grown in the native forest. The bark is used for medicinal purposes. It is estimated that one pound of dry bark will make enough liquid extract to sell for \$2 at wholesale.

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If fowls roll in the dust or sand, rain is near at hand.

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