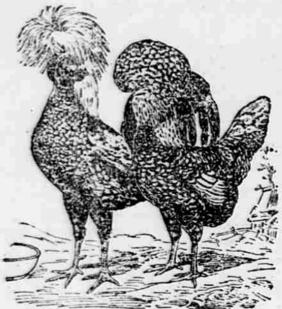


AGRICULTURAL



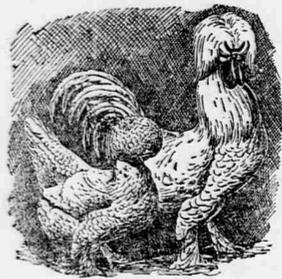
Some Rare Birds.

We have many kinds of fowls described in the American Standard, but we have not exhausted the world's stock by any means. Here are two kinds which are remarkable for their grotesqueness. The Sultans are all fussy and feathers, and the military style of the cock's head-dress is amusing along



GOLDEN PADUAS.

with the air of importance put on by this bird. The golden Paduas have an unbalanced look, which throws doubts on their business abilities. Indeed we would put our faith on the Transylvania hen, whose attention seems to be rather than to worms and its favorite grub, rather than to any claim it may have to beauty. The Sultans are pure white;



SULTANA FOWLS.

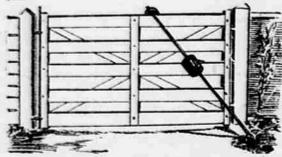
The Paduas are laced or spangled with golden yellow and black and white, and the Transylvania have bare red-skinned necks and brown plumage on the body.

Novel Self-Closing Gate.

An invention has recently been patented by Dr. Peyton B. Green, of Wytheville, Va., in which a simple and ingenious device is provided for closing a gate automatically.

Referring to the accompanying engraving, it will be observed that, on the top bar of the gate, a roller is journaled which is engaged by an inclined rod fulcrumed at its lower end on a fixed support set at a proper distance from the hinge-post. A weight is held on the rod and can be fastened in any desired position by means of a set screw. To prevent the rod from leaving the roller when opening and closing the gate, the bracket in which the roller is journaled is provided with a loop.

When the gate is swung open the free end of the rod travels over the friction roller and assumes nearly a vertical position. As soon as the gate is released, the weight of the rod pressing against the roller closes the gate. By



SELF-CLOSING GATE.

changing the position of the weight, the gate can be closed with more or less force.

Seed Corn.

Select the seed corn while the stalks are standing in the field. Much can be done by selection. Over 100 bushels of corn were raised on an acre in Nelson County, Va., by a former member of Congress by selection of seed. Some stalks contained from five to seven ears, and grew to a height of fourteen feet. This may appear remarkable, and may not be repeated, but it shows that in order to secure the largest yields the seed corn must be selected every year until the variety is made better.

Turnips Growing After Frost.

The turnip crop is so hardy that light frosts not only do not kill the leaves, but possibly by destroying weeds that have before interfered with their growth, they seem often to make the turnips grow faster. The roots sometimes double in size after an early frost followed by warm, moist weather. There is also an improvement in the quality of turnips after freezing weather, and it is usually a mistake to harvest the crop until the surface soil in the field has once been frozen.

Fast Husking.

Whether a man shall all his life be a fast or slow husker depends very much on how he begins. If he is always slow

and easy, and does not try to husk fast, he will get this habit so fixed that try as he may he will not get rid of it. Yet the husker must avoid all nervousness. That may make him seem to work fast, but he will make many false motions, and the work will go on much slower than it looks. The fastest huskers say the secret of this work is to have strong hands, thumbs and fingers, and to make every motion tell.

Weaning the Colt.

A spring colt ought to be weaned before the pastures have been destroyed by frost. At the same time it should be used to taking a little grain twice a day while it is still running at pasture. The oat is, of course, the best grain for colts, as it is also for the horse. It does not take much oats or meal to keep a young colt thrifflily growing during its first winter. If oats and corn are ground together, without the cob, and some wheat bran is added, it will, in most cases, make a better ration fed with cut hay than could be got from feeding oats alone. No corn or cob meal should be fed to young colts, or, in fact, to any young animal. The cob is extremely hard to digest, and at least for all young stock has not enough nutrition to compensate for the danger from using it.

Salt the Manure Heap.

Salt in the manure heaps will prove beneficial. As kainit contains a large proportion of salt and also a percentage of crude sulphate of potash, it may be mixed with the manure by turning the heap over, care being taken that all portions of the manure be sprinkled with the kainit. It prevents loss of ammonia to a certain extent, and adds potash to the manure, while salt attracts moisture and serves as an aid to prevent "fire-fanging" of the manure. Whenever manure is turned over the coarse materials should be placed in the center in order that they may be more quickly decomposed.

Grape Vines in Fence Corners.

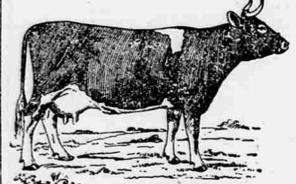
A great many fences are of no use as barriers, because they surround lots that are never pastured. It was on one such that years ago we saw a farmer trying to train a grape vine and make a trellis of it. Of course all the work of cultivating the vine which was planted in the corner of an old worm fence had to be done by hand with spade and hoe. But the experiment succeeded until the fence rotted under the mass of vines which covered it. Then the farmer was obliged to build a trellis for his vine, which he might better have done at first.—Exchange.

Corn Meal vs. Shorts for Feeding Pigs.

Experiments at the Indiana station to determine the comparative value of pure corn meal and a ration consisting of equal parts of corn meal and shorts showed that there was practically no difference in the two foods when used for fattening pork. The corn meal used cost 65 cents per 100 pounds and the shorts 70 cents.

Good Guernsey Cow.

Princess May XII, imported 4-year-old Guernsey cow, owned by J. N. Greenshields, Danville, Que., won first



prize at the New England State Fair, 1898, and first at the Industrial Fair, 1898.

Cutworm Remedy.

Cutworms can not be exterminated in one season. An excellent plan is to plow the land very early in the spring about 6 inches or more deep, leaving the land unharrowed (rough), so as to permit the frost to enter. The cutworm can endure frost, but if brought to the surface succumbs to dampness and alternate freezing and thawing of the land. Land so treated for two or three years, and kept in cultivation, will be cleared of them.—Pennsylvania Record.

Care of Bees.

Feed only the best of granulated sugar for winter provisions. Poor feed is unhealthy and will result in loss.

Feed sparingly at first in order that the queen may occupy the center combs with brood, and then increase the quantity.

A worker bee is hatched in twenty-one days from the time the egg is laid. Queens in sixteen, and drones in twenty-four days.

It is a good plan at this time to requeen every colony that has in any way a defective queen.

Arrangements must be made so that the bees can pass from one comb to another without going around in order to secure food in winter.

The best plan to make strong colonies is by good feeding. The next best plan is to unite all weak colonies in good season.

The objections to uniting swarms during the day is that it tends to produce robbing and causes the bees united to war among themselves.

In any colony that during the month of September is found queenless, a laying queen should be introduced, as it is not safe to depend upon their rearing one from the brood given them.

CAUSES OF POVERTY.

Some Conclusions of Statisticians as to the Misfortunes of the Poor.

Various attempts have been made recently to get at the causes of poverty by means of statistics. In Europe paupers are defined to be those who receive aid from government or charitable funds. The proportion of paupers to the whole population is highest in England, 28 per 1,000. In Scotland it is 24, in Ireland 23, in Holland 20, in Italy 10, in Austria 9, in France 8, and in Germany 7. There is no similar division made officially in the United States, and taking the country through, the proportion here is less, probably, than 2 per 1,000. When it comes, however, to the causes of poverty the American statisticians are, so to speak, right in line with what some persons would call their conjectures, but what they describe as their conclusions. Thus, of 100 cases of poverty 11 per cent. are chargeable to drink in excess, 21.3 per cent. to what the statisticians call "misconduct," a rather vague designation for unwise or reprehensible acts; 28.5 per cent. to lack of work or inadequate pay for work done, or insufficient, half-time employment, and most of the remainder to "misfortune."

What particular distinction the statisticians are able to establish between "misconduct" and "misfortune" is not easily stated, for some acts of misconduct are clearly due to misfortune, and many instances of misfortune are directly traceable to misconduct, but the statisticians do not concern themselves with such trifles as these. They only deal with what they call "broad propositions," and one of them, Charles Booth, of East London, has ascertained by investigation that in the poorer districts of the British capital exactly 13 per cent. of those male or female adults who are a charge either upon the government or upon others for reasons not arising from physical causes owe their indigence to drink, though it has been observed by some travelers in East London (and travelers who are not statisticians) that the absence of drink is at times a more poignant cause of visible distress than is unbridled indulgence in ale, porter or bitter beer.

London spends \$6,000,000 for the relief of the needy, Paris \$4,500,000, Vienna \$3,000,000, and Berlin \$2,000,000. Greater New York will spend, approximately, \$2,500,000.—New York Sun.

Tarleton and Queen Bess.

In St. Nicholas there is an article on "The Court Jesters of England," by Amelia Wofford. The author says:

Queen Elizabeth inherited much of her father's disposition; she was gay, fond of laughter and wit, and, like him, she surrounded herself with jesters. Tarleton was "the bright, particular star" of the number; Pace, Clod, and Chester were the lesser lights. Tarleton was a native of Shropshire, and one day, while tending his father's swine, was met by an officer of the Earl of Leicester. The officer talked with him, and was so much pleased with his "happy unhappy answers" that he took him into his master's service, and from the Earl of Leicester's household he passed into the Queen's court.

Elizabeth was a very fond and indulgent mistress. She not only had him attend her at dinner, but when she dined abroad she took him to make sure of good entertainment; and "her highest favorites would in some cases go to Tarleton before they would go to the queen, and he was their usher to prepare their advantageous access to her. In a word, he told the queen more of her faults than most of her chaplains, and cured her melancholy better than all her physicians." Besides being a jester, Tarleton was also player to the queen, to which office he was appointed in 1583. He had great fame as an actor, and appeared principally in rhyming compositions and jigs composed by himself, which he danced and sung. We would call him a come-dian; it is said that his fun lay more in the telling than in the words, and that his mere appearance on the stage with his aquint would send the people into shouts of laughter.

Court Fools Who Owned Towns.

Hitard, who was attached to Edmund Ironsides, is the first court jester of whom we have record. He owned the town of Walworth, a gift from the king. He held it through four succeeding reigns; and before leaving England for home, where he spent his last days, he presented it to the church, placing the deed upon the altar of the Cathedral of Canterbury.

Gaiet, Gaiet, or Goidet, a native of Bayeux, was one of William the Conqueror's jesters. He was attached to William when only Duke of Normandy, and saved his master's life by disclosing a plot for his assassination. Bendic was another; he is enrolled in Domesday Book at Joculator regis, and lord of three towns, all rent free, and five carucates in Gloucestershire. Ralere was jester to Henry I., and William Fitzlup, or Peol, jester to King John. "Master Henry" who, it is thought, may be identical with Henry of Avranches, the poet-laureate or versificator, was jester to Henry III.—St. Nicholas.

Street Nomenclature in Worcester.

Ararat street, in Worcester, gets its name from the hill near by, which some wag of long ago considered might have played an important part in the deluge. Liberty street was the home of a number of colored families, and Burncoat street proceeded from the natural result of a hot pipe in a coat pocket.—Worcester (Mass.) Gazette.

Deceptive Appearances.

He spake slowly, almost painfully, as one not accustomed to much talking. And yet, he had been married thirty years.—Indianapolis Journal.

ROTTEN POLITICS OF THE DAY

WAYS AND MEANS FOR 1900.

Through the recent action of the Democratic National Committee the following Committee on Ways and Means has been appointed: James K. Jones, Senator from Arkansas and Chairman of the Democratic National Committee; Wm. J. Stone, ex-Governor of Missouri; John P. Altgeld, ex-Governor of Illinois; Wm. V. Allen, Senator from Nebraska; and Henry M. Teller, Senator from Colorado. These five gentlemen represent each of the great political parties which gave support to the Chicago platform in 1896, and the representation on this committee is not only in about the proportion of the vote cast by each party, but is by the recognized heads of the three organizations. It means a unification of the forces that are striving to better the condition of the laboring man and the great middle class of our citizens which forms the warp and woof of this republic. There is no representation on the committee of that pernicious element now in power that seeks only its own individual advancement and prosperity at the expense of the common welfare.

The committee has organized and opened its office at Room 1044 Unity Building, Chicago, Ill.; Mr. W. H. Harvey, author of "Coin's Financial School," has been appointed by the committee as its general manager and



WILLIAM H. HARVEY.

will personally direct the work. Mr. Harvey's writings on the financial question have made his name a familiar one to all our readers, and his disinterestedness and honesty in his advocacy of the reorganization of silver are so well known that his name will inspire additional confidence in the success of the work this committee has undertaken.

The plan adopted and approved by the committee is to secure a subscription from as many persons as possible to pay one dollar per month for each month from now till October, 1900. Thus a person subscribing to the fund of the Ways and Means Committee in October, 1898, will agree to pay one dollar per month for twenty-five months, or in all, \$25. One subscribing in November following will agree to pay one dollar each month for twenty-four months, with the last payment due Oct. 1, 1900. A subscription in December, 1898, means twenty-three payments, the last due Oct. 1, 1900, and so on. The number of payments depends on the month and year in which the subscription is made and all ending on the first day of October, 1900. Where one is willing and able to pay more than \$1 per month, the subscription will be accepted for such increased amount as the subscriber is willing to make. Where one is not able, in his judgment, to subscribe one dollar per month, he will be expected to get one or more to associate themselves with him jointly in the subscription for the one dollar per month. It is the opinion of the committee that it is only in this way that the money needed can be raised—that it must come from the people whose rights and interests are to be protected.

All money collected will be paid to the National Treasurer of the committee and no money will be paid out except as appropriated by the committee in session deliberating upon its expenditure. When subscriptions are received at the office of the committee, a receipt is sent and also blanks governing the details of remittances to the National Treasurer.

It is from the earnest, honest advocates of this great cause that subscriptions are expected, and as it will come from all sections of the country and be a spontaneous offering in aid of the great struggle for human liberty, so will it place the leaders of the allied forces under obligations to the people for their victory, and the voice of the latter will be all powerful in shaping the affairs of state.

Afraid of It.

It will be observed that none of the Republican papers is saying anything about the "enlightened currency legislation" which the grand old party has pronounced for. Why don't they print the bill reported by the House committee on banking and currency, to which the Republican party stands committed, and explain and defend its provisions. This bill, which is substantially the measure prepared by Mr. Hugh Hanna's monetary reform committee, and introduced in the House by Jesse Overstreet, provided for the destruction of the greenbacks, for the total abandonment of silver as standard money, for the irrevocable establishment of the single gold standard,

for the granting of a monopoly of the issue of paper currency to the national banks, and the most vicious and dangerous expedient of reckless and dishonest finance known, as banking on assets. The issue presented by this measure is the most important before the country save the question of humanity and justice raised by the War Department scandals. Why don't the Republican press discuss this issue?—Indianapolis Sentinel.

Sixteen to One.

O, what is the cry that is rending the sky, All over the South and the West? From far and from near the same slogan we hear.

With never a pause or a rest, Though faint in the East, it is ever increased.

As you follow the course of the sun, Till the Rockies are passed, with a wild trumpet blast, For silver at sixteen to one.

It sounds to the tramp of the far mining camp, Then comes over mountain and plain; Till caught in the mouth of the planter down South.

While the farmer takes up the refrain, Wherever 'tis found 'tis a magical sound, And a wonderful work it has done, Here, there, everywhere, it is filling the air.

Free silver at sixteen to one.

From the far Golden Gate to Washington State, Thence east to Superior's beach, Take your course; and then ship down the broad Mississippi, Till the shores of Kentucky you reach; Up the fair Ohio past Virginia go, Thence eastward the boundary run; You will thus understand that three-fourths of the land, Is howling for sixteen to one.

Though goldbugs berate, and their partisans prate, And their newspapers fill up their space; They tremble in fear when that slogan they hear, And find it growing apace.

Though they fume and they sweat, we will wallop them yet, And won't we have oceans of fun, As we bury them deep in their ultimate sleep, 'Neath ballots of sixteen to one?

As fair futures ope through a glory of hope, To the vision enchanted of youth; As the forces of right come on like the light,

And triumph with justice and truth; So the prospects we see of a swift victory, When the battle at last is begun; Things are coming our way; 'tis the break of the day, For silver at sixteen to one! —J. A. Edgerton, Lincoln, Neb.

Bismarck and Silver.

Bismarck, the creator of the German empire, is dead and his works live after him. He was the great statesman of the century, for he succeeded in accomplishing his purpose in spite of great obstacles. When Bismarck was called to the task of governing Prussia Germany was composed of petty states. He undertook the giant's labor of consolidating them into an empire, and it is because he discharged it completely that he stands forth in history as one of the few great statesmen of the era. Happily for Bismarck, the king, his master, was also a great and wise man, with strength of purpose to maintain his chosen minister through good and evil report. Where in history can be found a parallel of three mighty minds working in unison for so many years as the Emperor William I., Bismarck, and Von Moltke? They tumbled Austria, and crushed France, and through the political sagacity of Bismarck united Germany, reaped to the full the reward of the victor. He gave the German people confidence in their selves and on that confidence Bismarck built the German empire and made his king an emperor. He did not shrink from the harness the task demanded; more than once he committed great crimes against the people in the belief that it was necessary for their preservation and the unification of the fatherland. Many of his acts were dramatic, and he stooped to ignoble subterfuges to attain his end. He disdained the old-time diplomacy, and his knowledge of the diplomats of Europe enabled him to outwit and bewilder them, and the gibes and jokes with which he taunted them made him feared and respected, but in many cases hated with a bitter hate. From our Democratic standpoint he was a tyrant and caused untold woe to the people of Europe by the militarism that he did so much to build up and foster; which nothing but revolution can undo. On economic questions Bismarck was dominated by the money power, brought about the great necessities of the German government before the large indemnity extorted from France was acquired. He demonized silver at the command of the Rothschilds, and it is said that he was led to this by the promise of the great increase in value of the French indemnity if paid in gold. In his later years he advocated bimetallicism, seeing that the increase in the value of the standard was weighing too heavily upon the German people. Upon the consolidation of the German states he established free trade, but reverted to protection to appease the agrarians, whose vote he needed in his management of the German Parliament.

Words of Advice.

Vote for the man who you think will best represent your interests. That is just what other folks are going to

do this fall—vote for their own interests first and their party afterward, especially for Congressional candidates. If the farmer and laboring class of people in general would vote for their own interests instead of party, legislation would trend different. We believe that the Democratic candidate would represent your interests at all times, if elected.

Alger a Jonah.

President McKinley has clung persistently to Alger, although the wiser members of the Republican party have urged him to throw overboard the Jonah whose presence threatens to bring disaster to the g. o. p. There are good reasons why the President refuses to part with Alger. The two men are linked together and must stand or fall together. McKinley's political appointments to the army were approved by Alger and Alger's actions were approved by McKinley. It is evident, therefore, that McKinley cannot afford to ask for Alger's resignation.

Nevertheless, many Republican newspapers, realizing the menace Alger is to his party, are urging his dismissal. The Philadelphia Ledger, a strong Republican newspaper, says:

The heavy load of Algerism is threatening the Republican congressional ticket in many parts of the country. It is reported that the Republican party managers are awakening to the danger of defeat, and are sending appeals and warnings in all directions that great diligence and watchfulness must be exercised to avert disaster.

Unfortunately, while they recognize the risks of defeat, the political managers refuse to see what is plainly apparent to every one else, that the only hope for salvation is for them to insist on the dismissal of the present incompetent Secretary of War, for, not to save his best friend could the incumbent be induced to resign of his own accord. To cling to Alger is to invite defeat; to bid him promptly to strengthen the chances of success.

What the Ledger says is undoubtedly true, but McKinley is not in a position to take its good advice. The best he can do is to abide in hope that his whitewashing committee will help him and his party out of their present dilemma.

Democrats for Congress.

Since Gen. Wheeler has given his testimony before McKinley's investigating committee it is more evident than ever that a Congressional inquiry into the charges against the War Department is the only method of arriving at an official discovery and decoration of the truth.

Demonstration has been given that the McKinley committee is engaged in a wholesale whitewashing business and that only such testimony is acceptable to it as is friendly to the administration. Why is it that Gen. Wheeler's remarks are given out in full and exploited with the most extravagant display by administration papers, while the testimony submitted by the experts employed by the New York World is carefully and completely suppressed?

But a Congressional investigation will amount to nothing if the House continues to have a Republican majority. Its members are bound to the President by the ties of mutual guilt in the appointment of incompetent staff officers, given places in the army for political effect, and this being the case no effort should be spared by the people to change the political complexion of the House.

There is a demand on the part of the people to know who is responsible for the death and suffering in the army, and this demand also contemplates the punishment of the guilty men. For this reason a Democratic Congress must be elected. The people owe this to the soldiers, and should not fail to do their duty in the fall elections.

Imperial McKinley.

McKinley is showing signs of imperialism and developing some of the least attractive characteristics of the Napoleon whom he is alleged to resemble in personal appearance. It is known that the President wants a standing army of 100,000 men, intending to keep 25,000 in this country and send the remainder to Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines. There is no necessity for his sort of thing if the President proposes to keep faith with the Cubans and to refrain from a war of extermination against the inhabitants of the Philippine archipelago.

So far as Porto Rico is concerned, there is slight need of any garrison, for the people are almost unanimous in their loyalty to the United States. Cuba, if the pledge made by Congress is not broken, will have a home government, in which the United States will have no right to meddle. As for the Philippines, an attempt to hold them all may involve this country in a war with Germany, in which case McKinley will need considerably more than 100,000 soldiers.

Imperialism may have attractions for the man who looks like Napoleon; it may appeal to such robbers as Hanna, Elkins & Co., but the people of the United States are satisfied with a free republic and have no desire to maintain an emperor or to support a vast standing army.—Chicago Democrat.

Maine and Vermont.

Maine and Vermont figures indicate the election of a Democratic House of Representatives this fall by a very large majority. Indeed it would be very strange were it otherwise. The Congress of the middle of a Presidential term is always carried against the administration. For sixty years this rule has only had a few reverses, and only during the war and reconstruction times.

Edmund Burke's political career was immensely aided by his wife, who undertook the management of his private affairs, so as to leave him free for public duties. Their marriage was an ideal one, and Burke often declared that for him all the cares of life vanished directly he stepped over his own threshold.