THE WEEKLY PANORAMA

HILL TO QUIT POLITICS.

New York Senator Gives Formal Notice of Withdrawal.

David Bennett Hill is fighting in the last political campaign in which he ever will engage. On the eve of his 61st birthday he announced his intention of retiring from politics Jan. 1, 1905, regardless of the result of the national or state election.

With the passing of Hill goes the leadership of the Democratic party in New York state, which has been held by him for a score of years. Not only will he relinquish the active leadership, but he declares that in the event of Democratic success this fall he will not accept any position under the national or state administration, nor will he again be a candidate for any office.

Mr. Hill has been one of the powerful factors in the national councils of the Democratic party for fifteen years. His personality has been felt in all the national conventions of recent years, never more than in the

David Bennett Hill.

most recent. He has made politics his life study, starting as city attorney of Elmira in young manhood, and being in turn alderman, mayor, member of the state legislature, lieutenant governor, governor for seven years, and United States senator for six years. He was the choice of the Tammany element of the New York delegation in the national convention of 1892 for the nomination for president.

ELECTRIC AIDS IN FARMING.

Agriculturists of the Future Will Depend Largely on the Current.

Scientific men who are calling attention to the great benefits of electroculture say the farmer of the future will be a highly skilled electrician, who from a central switchboard at his farm will direct the germination and growth of cabbages, carrots, potatoes and other crops. No longer an ignorant laborer or mere machine dependent upon the weather, but, like an engine driver, regulating the supply of energy in the form of electric current according to certain determined rules, the agriculturist will take his place with the other large users of electricity under modern conditions.

This is the prospect held out by a Belgian scientist, Prof. Guarini, who has recently been delivering a course of lectures under government auspices at the agricultural institute of Gembloux, on the relation of electricity to plant life, which he states is an electrical phenomenon that can be regulated at will.

According to Prof. Guarini the atmospheric electricity is essential to plant growth and it is not electricity that can be substituted for light in certain cases in the accomplishment of the function of chlorophyl, which is in the decomposition of carbonic acid and water, but the light of the sun or of electricity arc lamps, with the accompanying electric radiation, that may take the place of purely electrical action.

GETS FORECAST BY 'PHONE

Farmers to Receive Daily Hints on the Weather by Wire.

Farmers and business men in western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and eastern Ohio will receive the weather forecast by telephone hereafter. Forecaster Frank Ridgway of the Pittsburg office has, with the consent of the Washington bureau, arranged with the two local telephone companies to send out the forecast over their lines to anyone who desires it.

Bells will ring simultaneously in the morning in hundreds of little towns and villages and through the farming districts and the sweet voice of the telephone girl will be heard with the current forecast.

The experiment is being watched from Washington and if it proves popular and successful it will be introduced all over the country. The idea emanated from the brain of Forecaster Ridgway, who secured the consent of Prof. Willis L. Moore for the trial.

When Bret Harte Taught School.

Old-timers boast that Bret Harte once taught school at Tuttletown, Cal., and in that way acquired knowledge of the localities in the vicinity that he afterward worked into his writings. Mark Twain clerked in the only store in the town at the same time. The town itself is a small village nestling at the foot of Jackass hill, the latter being a veritable quarry of gold. Nearly all of this hill is owned by James Gillis, the original "Truthful James," and is covered by parties working small pocket mines "on shares."

Sculptor Has Won Honors.

James Wilson Alexander MacDonald, the venerable sculptor in whose honor a reception has just been held in New York city, can look back on sixty years spent in his chosen profession. Mr. MacDonald, now 80 years old, has lived to see sculpture flourish in this country as never before, no small portion of its progress being due to his efforts. He is a native of Ohio. It is just half a century since his bust of Thomas Benton brought him into the world's notice.

Swedish Explorer Honored.

Sven Hadin, the Swedish explorer, has been honored with the medal of the American Geographical society. Few men in the history of mankind more thoroughly deserved that distinction. He knows the great desert of central Asia more thoroughly than any other man who ever lived.

Sir George Clarke.

Sir George Lydenham Clarke, secretary of the British defense committee, has been governor of Victoria and filled many foreign missions.

EX-SULTAN OF TURKEY DEAD.

Unhappy Life of Murad V Comes to End at Constantinople.

Sultan Murad V, modern Turkey's man of mystery, died last week and was buried with scant ceremony.

In May, 1876, when there was smoldering revolution in Turkey proper and open rebellion in Servia, Bulgaria, and Montenegro, Abdul-Aziz, sultan of Turkey, was dethroned. The sultan was visited by his ministers and high dignitaries, and informed that it was the will of God that he be deposed. He was deposed, and a month later was found dead in the palace to which he had been assigned as a prisoner.

He was succeeded by Murad V, who, distracted by the quarrels of Midhat Pasha and other reformers with the conservatives in the council, was seized with melancholy and declined to assume the responsibilities of government.

Meantime rebellion was rampant in all the Turkish provinces. Constantinople itself was in a ferment. The European powers were clamoring that the porte should fulfill its obligations, and the governing council again resorted to deposition.

The ministers called in some of the most celebrated physicians in Europe, called in representatives of the Mohammedan hierarchy, and Murad was pronounced insane, and Abdul-Hamid, a younger brother of Murad, was declared regent, or sultan.

The reform party, it was reported at the time, consented to the change on the theory that Abdul-Hamid should be really regent, and that when Murad recovered his mental equilibrium he should be restored to the throne. Abdul-Hamid, however, informed all parties that he would be sultan in fact, and he soon became the real head of the government.

Midhat Pasha carried on his quarrel with his rivals in the cabinet, and succeeded for a time in banishing them from power. Later he was himself banished, and the two factions to this quarrel, which had led to the deposing of Abdul-Aziz, found that Abdul-Hamid was to be counted on in every step taken by the Turkish government.

Meantime sight was lost of Murad, and for nearly thirty years his fate has been a mystery. It was reported at one time that he was dead, and that for reasons of state the fact was concealed. It was reported again that he was very sick, that he was well cared for, but that he could not recover.

At last the mystery is solved. Murad, who, it is said, held the promise

Sultan Murad V.

of Abdul-Hamid to leave the throne when Murad should recover his health, is out of the way. While he languished in a sanitarium that was a prison, his younger brother has become one of the most powerful of the sultans who have ruled in Turkey in the last fifty years.

RICH MAN LITTLE KNOWN.

Wealthy Citizen of Philadelphia Has Just Passed Away.

There are some very rich men whose names never become familiar to the public, and one of them was William Weightman, who died at Philadelphia last week in his 91st year. He was a native of England and went to Philadelphia when 16 years old to enter the chemical manufacturing business started there by a relative. Eventually this establishment, under the name of Powers & Weightman, became the largest manufacturer of chemicals in the world. It is said that for fifteen years prior to the death of Mr. Powers each partner took $600,000 a year out of the business. Mr. Weightman invested most of his money in Philadelphia real estate and became the largest taxpayer in Pennsylvania.

Offended Chinese Empress.

The empress dowager of China, according to the Shanghai Times, is highly offended with the wife and daughters of Yu Keng, late Chinese minister at Paris, and has issued orders that they are not to enter the palace again. The cause of their sudden downfall is said to be that they instigated the young American lady artist who painted the empress dowager's portrait to demand a sum of 200,000 taels for her work. The empress dowager at the advice of some of the officials had previously presented the artist the sum of 12,000 taels and some presents.

Pen Picture of Great Heiress.

Of Miss Pauline Astor, American heiress of a naturalized Briton and fiancee of Captain Spender-Clay, an English paper says: "She is quiet, rather nice-looking, sensible, self-willed. Not pretty in the accepted sense, though her hair is beautiful in its wayward profusion and her deep eyes look into yours with a sympathetic intelligence. Playing hostess to the great world ever since she was 14 has given her an air of easy distinction, and with it perhaps a suggestion of being a little tired."

Royalties Breakfast on Fruit.

At the present moment there is quite a rage for friut diet among several European royalties. The German emperor breakfasts and lunches off fruit and only tastes meat at dinner time, when he partakes of it very sparingly. The king of Italy for the last couple of months has lived almost altogether on fruit, and in several of the leading restaurants at Rome fruit in various shapes and forms makes almost the sole article of diet supplied to customers.

Woman Keen in Business.

Dr. Frances C. Williams has obtained control of all the coal lands in the Coaldale district of Nevada. She has organized a trust capital of $5,000,000 and the railroad companies that are dependent upon the Coaldale section for fuel will have to make the best arrangements they can with Dr. Williams.

Bulgaria's Exhibit.

Bulgaria's exhibit in the Palace of Varied Industries at the world's fair covers 6,000 square feet.

AS THE WORLD REVOLVES

GIFT OF GERMAN EMPEROR.

Statue of Frederick the Great Now on Way to America.

The replica of the statue of Frederick the Great, the work of Prof. Unhue, which is now en route to this city, is a present from the German emperor tendered to the American people. It will be erected on the arsenal grounds on the river front, at the extreme southern limit of the city of Washington. This gift from the emperor has evoked unfriendly comment from certain German newspa-

pers, and at one time it was said that because of the remote site chosen for it here the statue might remain in Berlin.

NAVAL LESSONS OF THE WAR.

Little of Value Disclosed Through Combats on Sea.

The war in the far east has, luckily enough, been barren in results that might turn sea methods and material into vague and uncharted channelways. It has, for example, taught nothing new in naval policy, nor has it revealed any truths that experts have not insisted upon for many years. This, however, does not mean that the conflict is valueless either as an object lesson or as a guide to the higher development of fleets, for, indeed, in this sense it has been most fruitful.

Never, perhaps, has the necessity of initial preparedness and of command of the sea been so quickly and incontestably established. Furthermore, in the latest engagements the dominance of the battleship as the vehicle and the supremacy of the gun as the instrument have been equally reasserted, notably when the latter is associated in a just relation with armor protection and good speed. But these, let us remember, are old standards of naval thought, and the Japanese have earned their place among the sea powers, not because they have given us anything new, but because of the manner in which they have proved in stern practice the validity of these accepted theories.—New York Herald.

BABY PRINCE OF EGYPT.

Here Is the Future Ruler of the Land of the Pharaohs.

The hereditary prince, Mohammed Abdul Monnelin, is the eldest son of Abbas I, and was born Feb. 20, 1899. Father and son are both visiting Eng

land at present. He is a smart and most intelligent boy. His father, the khedive, was born on Aug. 12, 1874, so that he is thirty years of age. He ascended the throne Jan. 8, 1892, on the death of his father, Mohammed Tewfik, during whose reign occurred the now almost forgotten Arabi rebellion in 1882, when the then khedive's life was saved through the presence of British troops. This picture is by Dittrich, photographer by appointment to the khedivial family and court.

Test for Travelers.

A traveler just returned from a tour of the Rocky mountain and Pacific coast region says that he was surprised one evening to find a large picture of Dr. Edward Everett Hale hanging on the wall of a little inn in Oregon. The landlord exclaimed: "Ye see, mister, a good many strangers come along here and want me to take care of them. I don't know nothin' about them, of course, but if they know Dr. Hale's picture I know they're good for somethin' and I let 'em stay. I'm a Yankee myself."

No Room for Shakespeare.

London has never had a memorial to Shakespeare. Recently a resident of that city offered to donate $12,500 toward the purpose, provided the county council would accept a financial responsibility in the undertaking and secure other contributors. This the council declines to do and, as much as it appreciates the fitness of thus honoring the greatest of English poets, someone else must guarantee the full funds before it will entertain the provision of a site.

Family in Marriage Ceremony.

An unusual wedding ceremony took place in the Church of St. Eusebe at Montreal when Mrs. J. Charron, who has been a widow for several years, and her two daughters, Leunia and Alexina Charron, were married respectively to Denis Laudry, Leon Martel and Marcine Therrien.

To Popularize Science.

Sir Norman Lockyer has been elected president of a new society for the popularizing of science called the British Science Guild.

The Alligators of Canada

Among the most common sights in the streams and lakes of the Canadian lumber country are alligators. One cannot go up a river in the woods without seeing anywhere from two to half a dozen of them lying on the banks or floating in the water.

Nobody hunts these alligators, and there is no instance known of their attacking anybody. Indeed, the lumbermen swim around right alongside of them, and generally there are from one to three lumbermen sitting on the back of one alligator.

The fact is that the Canadian alligator is not a reptile, but a boat—and a boat as queer in the world of boats as the real alligator is queer in the world of reptiles.

The Canadian alligator boat is an oval, flat thing, with a small boiler and engine bolted to the deck, without any deck house or other structure over it. Two spidery iron paddle wheels on the sides do the propelling.

They look funny enough plunging along, with the skeleton wheels paddling like mad, and a great raft behind them; but the funniest part of the alligator is not seen till the craft happens to get to a shallow place, or till it becomes desirable for some reason to warp a great crib of logs into shore or fasten it to the bank.

Then the alligator proceeds to demonstrate why it is so named. It chugchugs calmly to the bank, goes straight at it, up goes its nose on the shore, and the next moment the paddle wheels cease to revolve and the queer boat trundles up on land.

Then the amphibian character of the thing becomes visible. Under the keel of the alligator are wooden rollers. When the queer craft has been forced as far up the bank as the paddle wheels can drive it, chains are run to the nearest tree and brought back to the rollers. The engine gearing is shifted from the paddle wheels to the rollers and the alligator proceeds to pull itself along over the land.

Thus the lumbermen have a boat, a locomotive and a stationary engine combined in their alligators, and the value of such a combination can be realized when it is understood that sometimes they bring down rafts so huge that they will cover a square mile; while the distances over which they are floated are so great that rafts have been known to be three years on the way from the far north to the settled country.

Cruelty of Ancient Law

By the statutes of Illinois it is provided that when a person is arraigned in court to answer to an indictment, if he refuses to plead the court shall order that a plea of not guilty be entered for him. If the court proceeds to try the case without a plea, such omission is good ground for setting aside a verdict of guilty for the reason that without a plea of not guilty there is no issue presented to the jury to try. John F. Getting, in the eleventh American criminal reports, points out that under the old English law if a prisoner stood mute and failed to plead to the indictment a jury was impaneled to determine whether his conduct came from obstinacy or from a natural impediment. According to Blackstone if the prisoner was found to be obstinately mute and the indictment was for high treason it was settled that his silence was equivalent to a conviction and that judgment and execution should follow. This same rule applied to petit larceny and misdemeanors, but upon appeals or indictments for other felonies, or petit treason, according to the ancient law the prisoner was not deemed convicted, but, because of his obstinacy, he received "the terrible sentence of penance or peine," and was pressed to death.

Blackstone thus describes this punishment: "That the prisoner be remanded to the prison from whence he came and put in a low, dark chamber, and there be laid on his back on the bare floor, naked, unless decency forbids; that there be placed upon his body as great a weight of iron as he could bear and more; that he should have no sustenance, save only on the first day three morsels of the worst bread, and on the second day three drafts of standing water that should be nearest the prison door, and in this situation this should be alternately his daily diet till he died, or (as anciently the judgment ran) till he answered."

During the trials for witchcraft in New England a respectable citizen being so accused, knowing that by reason of the excitement of the times a plea of not guilty and trial would result in a conviction with confiscation of property, and the same judgment would follow a plea of guilty, refused to plead, thereby preventing a conviction and enabling his family to retain his property. The court ordered that he be pressed because of his obstinacy. The order was carried out and the victim died.

At Jackson's Old Home

The mention of "The Hermitage" calls up a peaceful scene that should appear most attractive to American tourists on American soil.

There is in the first place a drive of twelve miles from Nashville through a beautifully undulating country and by prosperous-looking farms and country homes that would be an ornament to the richest sections of the long-settled East. It is, perhaps, difficult to associate President Jackson with such homes when one recalls his life in the backwoods, but, as a matter of fact, the house in which he passed his last years is a notably fine old mansion. It stands far back from the street behind a curtain of trees that are scattered about the great yard, and is impressive at first sight, and more impressive still after a close examination. A hall some fifteen feet wide passes through the center, the rooms are all large, and they are seen today with furniture and all appurtenances much as they were in Jackson's time. This is due to the patriotic work of the Ladies' Hermitage association, whose services in the cause of restoration are of inestimable value. It would require a long catalogue, however, to enumerate the things of interest within the house, and there are mony others outside. There is the carriage in which the general traveled to Washington, there is the family monument, and a little farther off is the poor cabin of pioneer days, which affords a striking contrast to its grand successor. It harmonizes with the character of the owner better in some respects, for, in spite of his later experiences and a certain native courtesy and chivalry, he remained to the end of the aggressive, fighting, pioneer type, but apparently he knew how to make the new home inviting, and certainly there were grouped about him numerous objects which testify to the esteem and affection in which he was held as a hero of the nation. The hospitable building, with its spacious rooms and many mementos of Jackson's life and services to his country, is, in fact, an intensely interesting historical museum, a shrine that will always richly repay the visitor for his journey.

Tale of a Mystery

Gov. Pennypacker of Pennsylvania was reviewing the State militia at Gettysburg. A young staff officer described to him in a low voice some unimportant error that had been made. "But as to the cause of the error, sir," he said, "that is a mystery."

Gov. Pennypacker smiled.

"If it is a mystery," he said, "it is like the pickled pork disaster that befell two Pennsylvania Dutchmen, Hans and Fritz.

"These two men bought a lot of pickled pork in partnership. They put it in a barrel, and stored it away in the cellar of Hans' home. Now, Hans, though a Pennsylvania Dutchman, was dishonest. The combination is rare.

"Well, the morning after the deal in pickled pork, Fritz met Hans on the road.

"'Good morning, Hans,' he said. 'Is there any news about our pickled pork?'

"'Fritz,' Hans answered gravely 'there is news, and bad news. A strange thing has happened. It is a mystery to me.'

"'Well, Hans, tell me all about it,' said Fritz.

"'Fritz, my friend, it was like this,' said Hans. 'This morning I went down cellar to get a piece of pork for my breakfast, and I put my hand down in the barrel, and I felt around in the brine, and there was no pork there. It was all gone—all gone completely. So then I turned up the barrel, and, as true as you are alive, the rats had eaten a hole clean through the bottom and dragged the pork all out.'

"Fritz was amazed and stunned.

"'Why didn't the brine run out of the hole?' he asked.

"'Ah, Fritz,' said the other, 'that's the mystery. That's the mystery.'"

"For to Admire"

The Injian Ocean sets an' smiles
So sof', so bright, so bloomin' blue:
There ain't a wave for miles an' miles
Excep' the jiggle from the screw.
The ship is swep', the day is done,
The bugle's gone for smoke an' play;
An' back again the settin' sun
The Lascar sings, "Hum deckty hai!"

For to admire an' for to see,
For to be'old this world so wide—
It never done no good to me,
But I can't drop it if I tried!

I see the Sergeants pickin' quoits,
I'ear the women laugh an' talk,
I spy upon the quarter deck,
The officers an' ladies walk
I thinks about the things that was,
An' leans an' looks across the sea,
Till, spite of all the crowded ship,
There's no one left alive but me.

The things that was which I 'ave seen,
In barrick, camp, an' action, too,
I tells them over by myself,
An' sometimes wonders if they're true;
For they was odd—most awful odd—
But all the same now they are o'er,
There must be 'eaps o' plenty such,
An' if I wait I'll see some more.

Oh, I 'ave come upon the books,
An' often broke a barrick rule,
An' stood beside an' watched myself
Be'avin' like a bloomin' fool.
I paid my price for findin' out,
Nor never grutched the price I paid,
But sa', in Clink without my boots,
Admirin' 'ow the world was made.

Be'old a cloud upon the beam,
An' 'umped above the sea appears
Old Aden, like a barrick-stove
That no one's lit for years an' years!
I passed by that when I began,
An', go 'ome the road I came,
A time-expired soldier-man,
With six years' service to 'is name.

My girl she said, "Oh, stay with me!"
My mother 'eld me to 'er breast,
They've never written none, an' so
They must 'ave gone with all the rest.
With all the rest which I 'ave seen
An' found an' known an' met along,
I cannot say the things I feel,
But still I sing my evenin' song:

For to admire an' for to see,
For to be'old this world so wide—
It never done no good to me,
But I can't drop it if I tried!

—Rudyard Kipling.

Only New Mistakes Condoned.

The following is a rule in an Atchison wholesale house: "Employes are welcome to one mistake, but we sock it to 'em for making the same mistake twice."—Atchison Globe.

"Hymn to Apollo."

A song called the "Hymn to Apollo," written 280 years B. C., has just been sung for the first time in England.

Gold Quartz in Ceylon.

Gold bearing quartz has been found in Ceylon, but it remains to be seen whether it is present in sufficient quantity to be commercially successful.

Women Taxpayers May Vote.

The Evangelical church council of Hungary has given taxpaying women the right to vote.

[Mr. Wragg invites contributions of any new ideas that readers of this department may wish to present, and would be pleased to answer correspondents desiring information on subjects discussed. Address M. J. Wragg, Waukee, Iowa.]

THE FARMER AND THE AUTOMOBILE.

August is a very good month to consider some of the problems which the farmer is facing, and will have to settle, and we know of no question that is interesting them more at the present than the automobile. We are having evidence, both ocular and from letters received from writers to this department, which leads us to believe that the automobile, as it is operated on the highways at the present time, is a menace to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

One of our correspondents not long ago in writing says: "The automobile is a nuisance on the public roads. We are not building roads for machines of this kind, and we will never have roads here in northern Iowa if they continue to use our roads as they do at present. We have had several runaways and severe accidents and I would sooner meet the —— than an automobilist. When the roads are muddy these machines cannot use the roads, which gives us farmers an opportunity of doing a little hauling with a feeling of security."

We have lately had occasion to talk to a doctor, who said that the "automobile was all right" and that in the use of one for over nine months he had not had an accident, nor had he caused anyone any inconvenience. Our observation is that when automobiles are owned in our small towns that they are dangerous to the public. No woman or child dare drive even the gentlest horse, for fear of meeting the strange thing. Hence it makes a prisoner of every woman in the neighborhood, and when a spirit horse is driven there is great risk of meeting one of these machines on the road at any time, and the result, with few exceptions, is a runaway.

The whole fault lies with the operators of these autos. They do not consider that the farmer or anyone else but the automobilist has any rights on the highway. We have seen them urging their machines, and running their gasoline engines at a terrific rate over good roads, regardless of the fact that the rural public is taxed to maintain them.

This is a question that every farmer wants to give more than passing thought, and should see that there is proper legislation along these lines. See that the man asking your vote at the coming election is in sympathy with the rural population, and is in favor of a law regulating the speed and setting forth the rights of the automobile on the public highways.

If all the apple trees and all the pear and plum and peach trees in the United States, or at least the bulk of them, should once bear full crops, or anything approaching full crops, we would have fruits to burn, and apples and pears would be worth little more than hog-feed. Such a thing, however, is not likely to happen. We have our seasons of superabundance, and corresponding cheapness, of fruits; but apples, pears, plums and peaches of good quality and properly marketed have seldom failed to give good returns to the grower in the right location, and we need not fear that they will often do so in the near future.

PASTURAGE FOR GEESE.

Geese are grazing birds. In fact, they live and thrive on good pasturage and water, although, of course, they do not make the rapid growth that may be secured when some grain is fed; on the other hand, it is probably not possible to raise goslings on an exclusive grain diet, without a liberal supply of some succulent vegetable food. Young goslings make the most rapid growth upon short, nutritious grass, or brook grass and grain. In a wild state geese devour large quantities of roots of grasses and aquatic plants which they dig from the banks and borders of streams, and wash free from earth in shallow water. Domestic geese confine themselves to less water and aquatic plants, and generally feed upon pastures, preferring moist, rich localities where the grass is kept short and sweet by constant feeding and rapid growth. Tall, woody grasses which have become tough are not relished by them. This natural habit of geese makes considerable space necessary for their successful keeping, or requires that they be provided with succulent green growth.

There are lots of fools who drive horses, but one of the biggest is the one who trots his horses down hill. It jars the shoulders and may bring on paralysis of the nerves and muscles. It weakens the tendons and springs the knees. Let a horse have his own way and you will notice that he will slacken his pace and go carefully down hill. Only those go downhill pell mell that are first made to do it under the voice or whip.

THE HARVEST MOON.

It so happens that the position of the moon is such that the full moon proceeding the autumnal equinox for several successive nights in the latitude of London rises only nine or ten minutes later each succeeding evening. This phenomenon is called the "harvest moon" from a notion that it is a provision of all-wise Providence calculated to enable the husbandman to take care of his grain at night if there is so much of it that it cannot be handled during daylight.

In farming, as a rule, it is better to raise a thing, or an animal, than to buy it. Something should be growing and going all the time, and this can be done only by keeping a variety of stock and crops. Different plans of management will be necessary on different farms, but is should be remembered that the farmer is farthest from market who has nothing to sell.

The cow's memory is long. Often it reaches clear down into the milk pail. It always will do this if she is treated badly.

DANGER IN DRAINAGE.

Two wet seasons in the West have turned attention to the drainage of large sections of the country, particularly in Minnesota and Iowa, the crops on hundreds of thousands of acres of the low and undrained lands having been practically destroyed for two years by reason of the excessive rainfall. Some very extensive and expensive drainage propositions are now under way. A serious question arises in connection with this work. All drained lands rid themselves quickly of surface water. The rivers and main natural waterways of those states are of a capacity to care for a normal flow of water without serious damage by overflow. When these drainage schemes are all completed and the floods of an ordinary wet time released in a hurry from these lands it cannot be otherwise than that very destructive freshets will result for all the bottom lands of the stream which have to carry the water, and the disasters which befell Kansas City, Topeka and Des Moines last summer will become a common occurrence. These wet lands with their numerous ponds and slough have, undrained, served as reservoirs or feeders, the surplus water escaping slowly but when they are drained out will go the water with a rush. Cities and towns built adjacent to such rivers will have to meet the problem of how best to guard against these aggravated flood conditions, for it will not be possible to prevent the drainage of the lands referred to.

Why should not farmers and their wives take a vacation the same as city business men? A week or two of change and rest will prove beneficial as well as instructive. The best way to take an outing is a carriage drive of 100 or 200 miles through surrounding counties. Twenty to twenty-five miles a day can be easily made with a good horse and carriage. One can see much more in this way than when riding at express train speed.

EVERGREEN TREES.

Evergreens are a class of indispensable trees which fill a very important place in landscape work. What tree can take the place of an evergreen in the winter, when all other trees are leafless and stand out naked and cheerless against the cold elements? In reply to a question sometimes asked, "Are evergreens going out of fashion?" I say most assuredly, no, and I do not think they ever will, as long as mankind is capable of appreciating the useful and beautiful in nature. From the time these trees are several inches high in the nursery row they are attractive and beautiful, and when they reach their full growth they are magnificent. Nothing gives a home a more cheerful and trim appearance than well planted hedges and groups of evergreens, and the value of a farm is greatly enhanced by the location of belts, groves and hedges. The steady demand for these trees proves conclusively that their popularity is not decreasing and that they are wanted not only on farms, but on public grounds and large private estates where the best things are used and needed. Evergreens were created ever green for a purpose, and no other tree or invention can supplement them. They are a beautiful tree, and animals and fowls will seek their shelter in winter or summer.

There is something about the mere mention of lightning rods that sends a cold chill over a good many of us. I presume this is because we have such distinct recollections of unpleasant experiences with agents and the outrageous bills they have saddled upon us for that kind of farm fixtures. And so we do not like to think of the matter any more than we can help.

HE KNEW A HEN.

A boy who was required to write an essay on hens produced the following: "Hens is curious anumals; they don't have no nose nor no teeth nor no ears. They swallow their wittles whole and chew it up in their crops inside of 'em. The outside of hens is generally put into pillers and into feather dusters. The inside of a hen is sometimes filled with marbles and sich. A hen is very much smaller than a good many other anumals, but they'll dig up more tomato plants than anything that ain't a hen. Hens is very useful to lay eggs for plum puddings. Hens have got wings and can fly when they get frightened. I cut off a hen's head and it frightened her to death."

Composting manure does not add any to the benefit that is ultimately derived from it, but does make the plant food in it more readily available. Whether composted or not, the amount of plant food actually contributed to the soil will be the same, but when composted it is more under control and we can compute with more certainty its effect on a given crop or during the season.

HUMUS IN SOILS.

Humus is simply vegetable matter in the soil and unless when first put in, is undergoing change through gradual decay. Some soils are largely made up of humus, as, for instance, the soils of the prairie, open and spongy in character, black in color and so light that they lift more or less with the winds. Other soils are deficient in humus, more especially stiff clays. The effect of tillage on soils is to lessen the supply of humus in the same. Soils that have been long tilled without enrichment are generally very low in the supply of humus which they possess.

It never speaks well of any farmer who lets weeds grow in the fence rows and along the highways. It is just as detrimental to have barn doors hanging on one hing or the doors fastened shut with rails. Neglect sometimes goes to seed when it becomes a menace to the farm. Imagine yourself to be your neighbor and then go past your own place and note criticisms you would make. This is one way to see the defects.

A FARMER'S OUTING

Is found on his farm, an exchange says, and adds: "The city man who works in factory, shop, store or office, generally has a vacation some time during the harvest season. And when he goes out and sees the farmers all busy in the harvest field, he is apt to sympathize with the poor, overworked tiller of the soil, because he has no vacation. But all his sympathy is misplaced. Sympathy is rather due the man who toils within four walls, among machines that are hot and greasy, or at a desk in a constricted office where he can hardly straighten his legs, for eleven months in a year. He must have a vacation, for human nature cannot stand the strain of perpetual imprisonment without a breakdown mentally and physically. The farmer has much hard out-door work, but there is but little monotony about it, and his physical energy is increased and his wits quickened by the ever-changing variety of his work. He has pure air and abundant physical and mental exercise; he must mingle with his stock, provide for their wants and profit by their development. He has something interesting to think of every hour of the day. He has a variety of work to do, and 'variety is the spice of life.' It makes life taste good. He learns that recreation is better than rest. Then if he would hunt and fish to vary the scene, he can enter upon the sport with a vim and vigor the vacation fiend knows not of."

The above is at least partly true, but where the whole thing falls through is that the wife, and frequently the children, do not get this variety which their souls crave. The farmer himself gets more variety from the nature of his work. He goes frequently to town, attends town meetings, auction sales, lawsuits and almost everything else. He is all too apt to forget that the wife and children do not get this same change of scenes, and before he is aware he is often warping and narrowing their monotonous lives most cruelly.

Forty years ago settlement preceded the railroads, the pioneer settler often having to wait from ten to twenty years before he was afforded any benefits of railroad transportation. In these days the railway goes ahead of the settler and thus removes many of the hardships which fell to the lot of the pioneers of the west. The roads should have credit for much enterprise in this regard, especially in the matter of making low excursion rates to all parts of the country, so that it is possible for even a poor man to seek a new location and a home.

DUST SPRAYING.

Dust spraying, which now seems to come to the front, has proved just as sure death to leaf-eaters on trees as it always has on potato-vines to the potato bug. Whether it does as well for fungous diseases as spraying with the Bordeaux mixture is as yet an unsolved problem, although in some trials seven dust sprayings appeared to give about the same results as liquid sprayings, which cost fully as much in labor and material. For leaf-eaters, such as cankerworm, the proportions applied were one pound of Paris green to fifteen pounds of flour. The one objection which I always have had against using dust sprays on potatoes—namely, that we are liable to inhale a portion of the poisonous dust, seems to apply with even greater force to dust-spraying trees. In the operation we fill the atmosphere around the tree with the poisoned dust, and as we have to work in close proximity, we can't help getting some of it into our systems. I prefer liquid spraying, and would even if it was more expensive or laborious.

So far from each cow giving milk of a fixed richness that cannot be varied by feeding, experience shows there are rarely two milkings when the milk is of identical richness. While some breeds of cows are better adapted to the production of butter than others, yet prize butter has been made from the milk of every known breed.

HONEY AS A DAILY FOOD.

Honey is one of Nature's pure, healthful sweets. The nectar from which it is made is distilled in the chalices of the peerless clover and fragrant linden through the alchemy of sun and shower by the Divine Chemist. It can never be successfully imitated by man nor excelled as an article of diet. The bee with its husbanding instincts collects the watery sweet before the wind drinks it from the flower cup and transforms it into one of the most useful and appetizing of natural foods. In the laboratory of the hive it has undergone such a change as to fit it for human digestion without the laborious stomach process necessary with most manufactured sweets. It is assimilated more easily than cane sugar, and therefore not so likely to produce distress in the stomach.

WHEN TO WEAN PIGLETS.

A series of eight experiments recently demonstrated the advisability of keeping the pigs on the sow as long as possible, consistent with the healthy and strong condition of the mother. The chief reason for this is that a sow and her pigs together will extract more nourishment from a given quantity of food than will the weaned pigs alone. The sow and pigs were weighed separately each week, and any loss or gain of the sow was deducted from or added to the increased weight of the pigs. The pigs were allowed to remain on the sow for ten weeks, then a similar course of feeding was carried on with the pigs for seven weeks. The sow pigs consumed on an average 231 pounds of meal and 534 pounds of skim milk in making a similar increase.

Unless the stable is comfortable and dry the horses will not lie down as much as they should for perfect rest. A good supply of bedding will not only add to the comfort of the horses, but will materially aid in increasing the amount of manure.