

ODDS AND ENDS OF THE WEEK FROM THE AND NEAR

RECORD BREAKING LOAD OF WOOL.

A RECORD load of wool, as regards both weight and bulk, is shown in the accompanying illustration. The wagon truck in this case carries 121 bales of wool. Under ordinary conditions a single bale of wool is a difficult bundle to handle.

The wool is from the Boorooma Station, in the State of Victoria, Australia. England possesses twenty-eight cows for every hundred of the population. Australia has 28.

Fish Destroyers.

THE most important of the fish destroyers is the common porcupine, or razor-back, so well known to herring fishermen, and whose presence is rather ominous on the fishing grounds, since it betokens an abundant capture of herring. It reaches the length of sixty or seventy feet. The number of herring devourers in all the waters of the Atlantic is estimated as many have occasionally been seen on the fishing grounds—would nearly equal the catch of the fishermen. One specimen taken from the stomach of one of the porcupines was apparently by its intelligence and familiarity with the fishermen's ways, is sometimes quite bold, coming close to the boats and brushing the netting. Their combined tax on the fishes must be enormous as well as constant.

How to Judge Dogs.

THE average man is greatly puzzled to find one dog awarded a first prize, and another dog awarded a second prize, and quite as fine a specimen, awarded no prize at all. A man who knows the relative values of the different points in all breeds of dogs is a veritable walking encyclopedia.

Disappearing Plants.

IN the Southern mountains certain flowers have been lost for nearly a century and rediscovered by chance in a different locality, thriving and abundant. In some cases the plants have been found in the same spot, but on the other hand all of them have not been found yet. No one knows the cause of their disappearance, nor by what means they were removed, nor why they prefer their new habitat.

OUTDOOR MIDWINTER ATHLETICS.

A SMALL club which has been much benefited by the public in the last few years is the Brookline Swimming Club, of Brookline, Mass. Its membership is limited and its facilities small, but enthusiasm makes up for this. Captain Boyce, who coaches the team, is a firm believer in strenuous sports and outdoor exercise, and before each practice

he makes all his candidates take a run through the surrounding park in their bathing suits. Weather conditions are never considered, as our illustration shows. It was taken recently while the hardy swimmers had paused for a few minutes on their run through the deep snow to indulge in a good old fashioned snow frolic.

Safeguarding King Edward.

WHEN it is decided that King Edward shall travel from one point to another over a line of railway, instructions to that effect are sent to the general manager of the company whose system is to be used.

Medicine in the Kitchen.

EXPERIMENTS have shown that drugs which are now used only in formally prescribed mixtures or pills are capable of introduction into the more welcome output of the domestic kitchen.

A Freak Chicken.

In the national Italian lottery a German trader living at Naples recently drew a prize of \$30,000.

Machine Gun of 1830.

THE machine gun is of very recent manufacture, yet the idea of such a weapon dates back to a surprisingly remote period.

English Elections.

ALTHOUGH there are strict laws against bribery in the English elections, standing for a seat in Parliament is by no means an inexpensive matter.

Alonso Cano's Brilliant Bon Mot.

THE following amusing anecdote is related of Alonso Cano—in 1658 he received a commission to carve a statue of St. Anthony of Padua for the Judge of Granada.

Highest Priced Picture.

IT may not be generally known, perhaps, that the highest price paid for a picture has not been in modern times, but was at so remote a period as that of Alexander the Great, who gave Apelles a sum equal to \$21,000 for painting his portrait.

Original Fakir at Work.

THE streets of the larger cities of India are full of fakirs of all classes, and of every description. Originally the word "fakir" had a religious meaning, but to-day it is mostly applied to the beggars, nondescripts, and mountebanks of India.

What Forest Fires Cost.

OUR forest fires cost us about \$5,000,000 a year. In New York State, in the spring of 1902, the damage done in the Adirondacks was estimated at \$3,500,000, without counting \$1,000,000 spent in fighting the fires.

Relic of Benjamin Franklin.

THE quaint old keg illustrated herewith was once the property of Benjamin Franklin, and it is believed was for many years used by the great philosopher. The keg was made of china and

Under Box.

ONE of the earliest forms of tinder box is shown in the accompanying illustration. The tinder was packed in a rough wheel against which the flint was pressed so that the twirling of the wheel would send a shower of sparks into the tinder laid in the trough of the box.

Remarkable Japanese Workmanship.

THE fan in its most artistic development is found in Japan, where for centuries the best artistic skill has been applied to their manufacture. Here is a fan, for example, which was made about the year 1900 in Japan, which has scarcely an equal in any other country. The fan measures nearly two feet across when

Accompanying the train is a party of telegraphists, under the charge of the telegraph superintendent. They have with them all the instruments and appliances by which communication can be established between the train and the telegraph wires which run alongside the railway.

There are two chief guards on the train, who are accompanied by representatives from the locomotive and traffic departments. A third guard, with lamp and fog signals, accompanies the rear guard of the train. Should the royal train be stopped for any reason this guard's duty is to go back up the line for a certain distance and place the fog signals on the metals to warn any trains which may be following. A fourth guard, riding with front guard of the train, is supplied with the same implements, and, if necessary, he goes ahead.

Some of the most valuable eggs in the world to-day is that of the great auk. The record price paid for one of these eggs was \$1,500. It was sold in London for an egg which was sold the other day in London for a trifle less than this figure. The egg in question is very finely marked. There are at present but eighty of these eggs in existence.

It is not very often that the quaint sayings and anecdotes of artists get into print. This worthy is generally very retiring, and their puns and sayings are generally among themselves. There is a good story told of the foremost American artist, J. S. Sargent.

The late Herr Theodor Kutner, a Berlin millionaire, has left to that city the sum of 2,000,000 marks to create a fund to be known as the "Theodor and Karl Kutner Foundation." The revenues of the capital left to the city are to be used for providing pensions of 20 marks each, to be given to servant girls, seamstresses and embroiderers. They must be at least thirty-six years old.

Five million dollars would not cover the cost of the January election, and yet there are 670 seats to be filled.

There were 1,328 fewer deaths in London in 1901, during the year with the Saturday after the New Year's Christmas, than for the average of the last ten years.

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