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BIRMINGHAM, - - - MICHIGAN.

GENERAL NOTES.

THE editor of a colored men's journal just started in Augusta, Ga., very sensibly says: "We are living here among the people that once owned us. We must get on together. There is no place for us to go. We could not go if we wanted to. They could not send us if they tried. We should thank God for the measure of peace that exists among us. Let us try to educate our children, buy lands, make our homes pure, dignified and comfortable, and save money, and every other right will follow."

President Cleveland has created quite a flutter in the girlish hearts of the young ladies of the Synodical college at Fulton, Mo., by sending a beautiful bouquet of choice flowers, which was to be presented to the best lady reader of that institution. The prize was won by Miss Nesbit, whose selection was "Whistling in Heaven. The flowers arrived as the reading concluded, and the fortunate winner was facetiously advised to exchange photographs with the president and try for an exchange of hearts.

The princely gift that Randolph Rogers, the sculptor, is preparing for Michigan university, is one of those benefactions which rarely falls to the lot of any institution, and will prove a valuable acquisition to the art collections of the university. It is a fitting complement to the Lewis art collection, which it is believed, will be placed in the university museum in the near future. These two collections will prove an attraction to art students from all sections of the country, and place Michigan far in advance of any other institution.

By the death of Gen. Irvin McDowell, who commanded the Union forces during the first battle of Bull Run, and afterward served with credit during the war, the United States loses another historic character, and a brave, faithful and widely respected soldier, whose loss will be sincerely regretted all over the country. He was born in Ohio in 1818; received his early education in France; was graduated at West Point in 1838; served as aide-de-camp to Gen. Wool in the Mexican war; served through the war for the Union, and died full of years and honored by his country.

A CONVENTION is to be held in Marquette June 2. The purposes of this long talked of Upper Peninsular convention are not to try to force the division of the state, as some newspapers seem to have thought. The people of the Peninsula are sensible that such a movement would come to naught, and besides they do not want a division. The convention is held to try and better the condition of the 125,000 people north of the Straits of Mackinac, in our own state. If the legislature gives this section the branch penitentiary and mining school asked for, there will be harmony, but if not, the convention is likely to indulge in some buncombe talk. The purposes are set forth at length in the call, and such a meeting of representative men of the northern part of the state cannot but do good.

"Santo Fe de Bogata," that wonderful city nine thousand feet high in the air, so that it forms "a temperate zone on the very verge of the equator," the subject of an interesting paper, with a panorama of illustrations, in the coming (June) Harper's. The city is the bed of an old mountain lake, called the Sabana of Bogota, sixty by thirty miles, and around it tower what still seem mountains even from the altitude of the city. Humboldt said of this South American city that it stands upon its own grave, his thoughts looking to the probabilities of its ultimate destruction by an engulfing earthquake. Among the products of this strange place is the "alligator-pear," a fruit pronounced "the masterpiece of nature," "fit for demigods." The description of the place and its people will be a surprise to Anglo-Saxon Americans.

CAPT. HENRY STARK, who died in Allegan recently, was a veteran of three wars—the Black Hawk, Mexican, and the rebellion. He was a direct descendant of John and Mollie Stark of revolutionary fame, and leaves a fighting record which sustains the family name. He commanded Fort Dearborn in the Black Hawk war, on the present site of Chicago; at the outbreak of the rebellion he took command of Co. G, sixth Michigan infantry, afterwards heavy artillery, and remained with that body during the entire war. He was one of the first, at the head of his command, to enter the captive city of New Orleans. Promotion was several times offered and declined, and after his campaigns he lived as good a citizen as he had been a soldier. He was born in Vermont early in the present century, and died at his farm home in Otsego township.

THE Mormon address, issued to the people and government of the United States, contains a labored defense of polygamy, which it declares "is a vital part of" the Mormon religion, "the decisions of courts to the contrary notwithstanding." It also defends the practice with the usual Mormon arguments. But the address is a waste of time and effort. Polygamy is a crime. The Mormons are welcome to believe whatever they please; but they must not practice crime. Belief in murdering children and burning widows is a vital part of the religion of certain races but they could not be allowed to practice those crimes in the United States; and the British government, having conquered them, will not permit such practices within its jurisdiction. The decisions of the courts must be obeyed. The laws must be enforced. Polygamy must be suppressed. Setting up the plea of religion will not shield it, if the government is true to the will of the nation.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications for this paper should be accompanied by the name of the author, not necessary for publication, but as an evidence of good faith on the part of the writer. Write only on one side of the paper. Be particularly careful about giving names and dates, to have the letters and figures plain and distinct. Proper names are often difficult to decipher because of the careless manner in which they are written.

MICHIGAN NEWS.

April's Report.

During the month of April the amount of Michigan salt inspected in the counties named was as follows:

	Barrels.
Bay	85,230
Saginaw	52,065
Huron	20,906
Manistee	19,582
Midland	3,952
St. Clair	4,969
Iosco	330
Total	187,034

More Suggestions.

Gov. Alger sent the following message to both houses the other day:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, LANSING, Mich., May 5, 1885.

Should the legislature decide to create a pardoning board, in accordance with my message of the 30th ult., I would suggest that the law be so framed as not to permit the sittings of the board to exceed six months during the gubernatorial term, and that the compensation be regulated accordingly, leaving the portions of the six months which the board should sit discretionary with the executive. I do not think a secretary other than a stenographer would be essential.

(Signed) RUSSELL A. ALGER.

To those Who Expect Bounties.

Representative Holman, a member of the Legislative Grand Army Post, reported that the result of the investigation made by that organization as to the probable amount necessary to pay the equalized bounty as provided for in the House bill No. 14 was as follows, viz: From the records the committee found the amount of money required to be less than $2,000,000, which is some $5,000,000 less than was at first reported as necessary by the Adjutant General of the state. The bill as amended will provide that soldiers who enlisted in 1861 will receive their equalized bounty in 1886. Those who enlisted in 1862 will get their bounty in 1887 and so on. The equalization is placed at $100 to all. The following figures show the number of soldiers and also the amount of money which will be required to fulfill the purpose of the bill: The estimated number, 13,997 would receive $100 each, or $1,399,700.

Total enlistments previous to February 14, 1865	83,270	
Less enlistments credited twice	5,545	
Total enlistments	77,725	
Number of soldiers paid state bounty of $100	5,842	
		71,883
Killed and died in hospital	13,500	
Enlisted for three months	1,000	
State home guards	1,000	
Forty per cent. died since the war, one half of whom have no heirs	15,878	
Fifteen per cent. who will not call for bounty	10,783	
Ten per cent. of enlisted men who did not serve six months	7,189	
Number of men who received $50 (8,113, which is equivalent to one-half receiving $100)	4,056	57,896
Estimated total number to whom would have to be paid		13,997

A Year's Insurance Business.

The following embodies the material portions of Part I, of the annual report of Henry S. Raymond, commissioner of insurance of Michigan, relating to fire and marine companies, covering the year ending December 31, 1884:

The whole number of fire, fire marine and marine insurance companies doing business in this state is 177, of which number 174 are joint stock companies, as follows: Three home companies, 146 companies of other states, and 25 foreign companies having branches in the United States. There is also one mutual fire insurance company of another state, and two mutual fire insurance companies in this state.

Since the date of the last report four stock companies have been admitted to and fourteen companies withdrawn from the state. The net decrease in the number of companies is ten, and the net decrease of capital represented is $2,962 0 0.

Of the three Michigan stock companies two transact both fire and marine business, and one confines its business to fire insurance alone. These companies have an invested capital of $600,000, with a surplus amounting to $328,773 65. In 1884 these companies wrote $14,282,5 07 in fire and $1,469,340 in inland risks: received $191,366 for fire and $34,067 for inland premiums; paid $172,631 in fire and $11,438 of inland losses, and incurred $116,838 fire and $18,836 inland losses.

In 1884 the risks written in Michigan by all the stock, fire and inland marine companies was $237,246,726; premiums received in Michigan, $3 3 87,946 20; losses paid in Michigan, $2,335,667 96; losses incurred, $2,435 973,75. In the fifteen years from 1870 to 1884, inclusive, the risks written in Michigan aggregated $2,581,683 345 60; premiums received, $34 656,928,72; losses paid, $19,249,472 10; losses incurred, $19,943 555 02. The inland risks written in 1884 amounted to $15,362,434; inland premiums received, $162,271 19; inland losses paid, $79,586 42; for the fifteen years, 1870 to 1884 inclusive, inland risks written, $184,118,684; premiums received, $2,026,062 04; losses paid, $1,074,955 74.

The risks written by Michigan stock companies in 1884 amounted to $15,751,847; premiums, $225,433 58; average rate charged, 1.43 per cent. In the fourteen years from 1871 to 1884 inclusive, the average rate has varied from .90 in 1879 to 1.77 in 1874. In only two years was it below one per cent. In five years it was higher than in 1884 and in eight lower.

Companies of other states wrote $169,191,640 of risks in 1884; premiums received, $2,357,809 43; average rate charged, 1.38. In the fourteen years, 1871 to 1884 inclusive, the rate varied from 1.00 in 1880 to 1.54 1874. In five years it was higher than in 1884 and in eight lower.

Foreign companies wrote $52,303,239 of risks in 1884; premiums received, $804,703 19; average rate charged, 1.53. Between 1871 and 1884 rates ranged from 1.24 in 1871 to 1.78 in 1875.

The amount of premiums received in Michigan by joint stock companies of other states and countries during 1884 was $3,162,512,62 against $3,065,588,67 the year previous, showing a gain of $96,923 95. The amount of premiums received by Michigan stock companies was $225,433 58 against $178,078 75, an increase over the previous year of $47,354 83.

In the Michigan business from 1870 to 1884, both inclusive, the premiums received were $34,645,834; losses incurred, $19,943,555; expenses for doing business estimated at thirty-three and one-third per cent., $11,548,445, making a total outlay of $31,492,000, and showing a net profit for fifteen years business of $3,153,834, being a net profit of nine and nine-tenths per cent. for fifteen years, or 0.066 for each year.

The commissioner says that learning that certain parties at Port Huron were acting for and receiving premiums on policies written by an unauthorized company, he went to Port Huron March 6, and lodged a complaint against two persons, who were arrested and bound over to the circuit court for trial. On April 2 he caused the arrest of two men at Flint on the charge of soliciting insurance for unauthorized companies, who were also held for trial in the circuit court.

Of the sixty-one mutual insurance companies organized under the laws of this state fifty-two reported their business and condition December 31, 1884. The membership reported by these companies was 88,738; risks in force, $149,168,262; assessments levied by forty-six companies, 276,095 51; losses paid by fifty-one companies, $242,061 78.

GENERAL STATE ITEMS.

Ypsilanti had a $6,000 blaze May 5.

Battle Creek is to have an art loan exhibition in June.

There are now 440 boys at the reform school in Lansing.

The Ropes gold mine, U. P., gives employment to 40 men.

A patent roller process flouring mill is to be erected in St. Johns.

Berrien Springs boys are not allowed on the streets after 9 o'clock p. m.

During April 1,175 emigrants entered the United States at Port Huron.

The colored people of Allegan are raising funds to build an M. E. church.

Muskegon parties are talking about establishing chemical works in that city.

Allegan will give 100 acres of land to have the soldiers' home located there.

Fruit growers in Allegan county pronounce the prospect good for a fair crop.

There is a good opening for a young physician at Mundy Center, Genesee county.

The whole number of children in the state between the ages of 5 and 20 years is 577,063.

A Rollin township farmer has killed a flock of sheep, as they were afflicted with hydrophobia.

John Petoskey, of St. Ignace, who by accident blew off half of his head with a shot gun, is dead.

A syndicate of Saginaw capitalists will build a large new saw mill at Grand Marais, Lake Superior.

George Morgan, a Michigan Central brakeman, had his foot crushed by the cars at East Saginaw.

Alex. Cook a boy living at Alleyville, near St. Ignace, was fatally kicked by a horse a few days since.

Mrs. Ance, a lady 80 years of age, was drowned in Carp Lake, seven miles from Traverse City.

Col. Geo. Aldrich of Cass county, has been appointed Deputy Warden of Jackson prison, vice Dr. Drake.

Hon. Allen Porter, ex-Mayor of Kalamazoo and ex-member of congress, died in Kalamazoo on the 8th inst.

A. P. Swineford, editor of the Marquette Mining Journal has received the appointment of governor of Alaska.

Smith & Woodard of Kalamazoo, have been awarded the first prize for windmills by the New Orleans exposition.

Miss Carrie Benedict of Ypsilanti, has gone to Terra Haute, Ind., to enter the convent of the Sisters of Providence.

George W. Temple of Lake county, has the revolver which was taken from Jefferson Davis at the time of his capture.

Albert Wittenberg, formerly of Ludington, recently drank 25 glasses of beer and 32 glasses of gin, on a wager.

Within the past three weeks P. F. Bounes of Mt. Pleasant, lost his entire family of children—six in all—of diphtheria.

The Grand Rapids cable road now lacks $3,000 for the necessary $15 0 0. Things look dubious for the new project.

Fred Surdam has been found guilty of larceny by the Clare county circuit court, and sentenced to 10 years at Ionia.

Lansing Palmer, an employe of the St. Louis postoffice, has been arrested, charged with purloining money from letters.

Alfred Bovee, sent to the Ionia house of correction from Kent county, for forgery, died in that institution a few days ago.

On the steamer Nordland, which arrived at New York recently, were 300 Hollanders, who are now en route for Michigan.

John Petoskey of Moran, Upper Peninsula, while carelessly handling a gun blew off one side of his face. He will die.

Eugene Saulsbury, charged with the murder of Peter Miller of Union City, has been held for trial in the circuit court in Coldwater.

Wm. A. Ridgely, a lumberman, was murdered at Indian Lake, near Manistique, a few days ago, in a quarrel about a cup of coffee.

Speculators in the upper peninsula are agitating a scheme for the establishment of a company to prospect for gold in Alaska.

Michael Brenan, the East Saginaw lawyer, who was injured at Vassar on the 12 ult., died from the effects of the injuries on the 5th inst.

The "Geo. T. Smith Dust Collector company" has organized in Jackson for the manufacture of a machine to do the work implied by the name.

The cases of Alva Dibble, the charivari homicide, and Frank Abrams, larcenist, have been laid over at Howell till next term of the circuit court.

Emory G. Storrs of Chicago, will address the rapidly decimating ranks of the old pioneers" at the annual reunion in Cassapolis next month.

The Senate has made the consideration of Ford's capital punishment bill in the committee of the whole a special order for May 14, at 2 p. m.

A quarrel about a coffee pot at Indian River resulted in the murder of a lumberman named Wm. A. Ridgeley, his skull being crushed by a skidding bar.

Manistique needs more houses. Many of the houses there contain two families and the rapid growth in population is putting things into a crowded shape.

G. V. N. Lothrop of Detroit, has been appointed envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States to Russia. Mr. Lothrop will accept.

Some remains of a mastodon were found on the farm of C. N. Cook, near Corunna. The under jaw measured 3 ft. 6 in. in length and 3 ft. across.

Mrs. Margaret Dudgeon, who lives with her daughter, Mrs. Chas. Hanford of Oscoda, was 104 years old May 5. Mrs. Dudgeon was born in Ireland in 1781.

N. P. Loveridge of Coldwater, has resigned the position of Second Deputy Commissioner of Pensions. He will return and resume law practice in Coldwater.

John Ramsey a prominent citizen of Portland, and well known throughout the state as a live stock dealer, died recently at his farm residence near Portland.

The crop report for May indicates an aggregate product of 25,000,000 bushels of wheat in the state. All reports received state that wheat is in good condition.

Wm. Heart, the crook who was shot by a policeman in Grand Rapids, while resisting arrest, died of his wound the next day. The officer who shot him has been arrested.

Brooklyn, Hudson, Morenci and Wauseon have formed a trotting circuit, and each give $1,000 in premiums. The races will begin about the middle of June at Brooklyn.

Oliver Lemming, the escaped convict from the Michigan state prison, who has recently been making himself notorious both in Toronto, and London, Ont., is again in jail in Toronto.

Chas. Firmney of Lapeer, car repairer for the Michigan Central railroad company, committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart. Family troubles are assigned as the cause.

Prof. E. H. Strong of the Grand Rapids high school, has been tendered the chair of physical science in the state normal, made vacant by the removal of Prof. McLouth to the agricultural school.

During April the Calumet's output of ore was 2,393 tons, the Quincy's 221, the Franklin's 194, the Allouz's 142, the Huron's 102, the Copper Fall's 64, the Wolverine Tribute company's 30.

Mrs. Elmira Brainard of Pontiac, is dead. When the war of the rebellion broke out Mrs. Brainard went as nurse with the 7th Michigan volunteers. She was with them until the close of the war.

The St. Clair Republican is responsible for the statement that Alexander Fraser of China township, St. Clair county, has a cow that Saturday, the 3d inst, dropped a calf weighing 120 pounds.

An Otisville preacher recently announced: "Services next Sunday evening will begin promptly at 7 o'clock, God's time, for we adopt that as our time instead of standard or the world's time."

Edward Wood of Eau Claire, Berrien county, was killed by lightning, while eating his breakfast. His wife and child, who sat at the table with him, were uninjured, save a little spot on the child's face.

The annual commencement exercises of the military academy of Michigan takes place May 17 at Orchard Lake. The graduating class number 16 cadets. Gov. Alger has been invited to present the diplomas.

The apple tree plague has struck in several places in Gratiot county in full force. Whole orchards are becoming bothered by the pest known as the oyster shell bark louse, the most destructive of scale insects.

Lorenzo Payne, one of the men who recently escaped from jail in Grand Rapids and was recaptured, has been sentenced to Jackson for three years, having been convicted of obtaining money under false pretenses.

The board which met recently to determine the new county seat of Alger county, failed to agree, and have decided to hold another session the second Monday in October. In the meantime Munising will be the county seat.

The Scandinavians of Manistique will erect a neat church there this season, a good amount having already been secured. It will be in the form of a cross and surmounted by a fine spire. It will be neat and tasty, but not expensive.

Fred Pratt, an old citizen of Coldwater, dropped dead at 5:30 o'clock the other afternoon. He was in good health and usually active up to the moment of his death, which is supposed to have been caused by heart disease.

David A. Davis, the alleged adulterer, who was recently arrested in Flint, has been discharged, mainly on the petition of his wife. Mary Moore, Davis' paramour, refused to give evidence. Davis will return to his family in Detroit.

Eli Colburn of Bethany, Gratiot county, has a Siamese lamb, which has one head, two eyes, four ears and eight legs. The shoulders, neck and head parts are welded together, while the bodies back of the shoulders are separate and natural appearing.

W. J. Masters, a sailor, was drowned at Cedar River the other afternoon. He was out in a small boat and a cake of ice punctured a hole in it. He was a single man and lived at Sturgeon Bay. The body was not recovered, owing to the storm.

Charles Blanchard, aged 50, employed in Klady's novelty works, in Big Rapids, was caught in the shafting and revolved a great many times, being pounded to pieces. Both legs were broken and his ribs crushed. He is still alive but unconscious.

John Nelson, a resident of Farmington for twenty-six years, is dead. Mr. Nelson removed to this state in 18 6, settling at Lansing before even the town was laid out. From there he came to Farmington where he has continously resided. His age was 72 years.

A 17 year-old daughter of George Royston, of Eaton Rapids, has had a 15 pound ovarian tumor removed by Dr. Amos Knight, assisted by several other physicians, and seems in a fair way to recover. The youth of the patient has attracted much attention to the case.

While building a fence around the Mayville cemetery the other day a coffin was struck outside the platted grounds. The coffin was of small size, but contained a portion of a frame of a grown man. The authorities are suspicious that a crime has been committed.

Miss Mary Martin, about 20 years of age and daughter of Albert Martin, near Olivet, was found dead in her bed the other morning. She had been an epileptic subject, and it is supposed that in a fit during the night she turned on her face, and in that position was smothered.

Eugene Saulsbury and his brother-in-law Peter Miller of Union City, quarreled while under the influence of liquor. The next day Miller and Eugene's father approached the house, and Eugene pointed a revolver, and fired at Miller, the ball entering just below the heart. Miller lived 15 minutes.

The family of James Searles, Calvin township, Cass county, suffered from lead poisoning last week, and the report was circulated that an enemy had poisoned the well. Investigation showed that lead discs were used in the pump machinery and these had vitiated the water. Prompt medical assistance prevented fatal results from the poisoning.

The body of Joseph Herman, a resident of Sault Ste. Marie, was found near Palms Station, on the Detroit, Machinac & Marquette Railroad a few days since. He left the latter place for home in the fore part of January, and probably got lost and was frozen to death. His hand and face were badly eaten. The body was taken to the Sault for interment.

The son of a wealthy family at Elsie recently stole a large sum of money and was convicted. Then tender hearted citizens petitioned Judge Smith to suspend sentence, as the boy was of good family. Judge Smith indignantly refused the application, declaring that if the culprit had been poor and of bad family connections there would be some excuse for his crime. The youth was sent up.

At the annual convention of the state firemen's association held in Albion, the following officers were elected: President, S. D. Pond, Allegan; vice-presidents, Ed. Finn, Quincy; E. L. Helmer, Jackson, and S. S. Berry, Albion; secretary, W. H. Teller of Pentwater; treasurer, A. L. Holmes, Grand Haven; statistician, C. V. R. Pond, Quincy; representative to the national association, L. A. Bently, Eaton Rapids.

The Wexford county supervisors have decided to have a jail of their own, instead of continuing the expense of jailing Wexford criminals at the Mecosta county jail in Grand Rapids. A committee was appointed to arrange for a brick jail structure at Cadillac, to be built by private parties, with privilege of purchase by the county. The board also voted an additional $1,000 for completion of the county house.

The long list of information furnished the House committee on expenditures in the department of justice by the secretary of the treasury, regarding unadjusted accounts, etc., of bonded officials, appears the name of only one Michigan man—Robert L. Warren, formerly receiver of public moneys at East Saginaw. The $27,7 7 57 claim against him was compromised with his sureties on payment of $2000 and costs of suit.

The St. Louis board of trade have given a location and $5 0 0 to J. Beech & Son of Mason, to remove there and start a foundry. This board has also notified the village authorities to hold a special election for the purpose of bonding the town for $14,000 for public improvements under the special act passed some time since. Election to be held on the 20th, bonds to bear 4 per cent interest due in 20 years. A market for them has already been secured.

Commander Chas. D. Long and Col. Hill, the Committee on Transportation for the Grand Army of the Republic, have decided to go to Portland, Maine, via the Chicago & Grand Trunk and Grand Trunk route, either by Niagara Falls, Albany and Boston or by Niagara Falls, Toronto, Montreal and the White Mountains. The tickets will be good for thirty days from date, with stop over privileges on the return route. The excursion will leave Flint on the 19th or 20th of June. The details of the trip are yet to be arranged.

Henry Ray of Coldwater, owner of the Schilling patent for concrete pavement; covering this state, has commenced ten suits in the United States court in Grand Rapids, against residents of Three Rivers, White Pigeon and Constantine, for infringement. The patent claimed to be infringed upon is a pavement made to imitate stone and laid in blocks. The pavement is in general use throughout the state, and if the patent is declared good, suits will be commenced against all using them to collect royalty.

Arthur Brodie, son of P. P. Brodie, agent for the Michigan Central at Grosse Ile, a young man named Thompson of Detroit, and a young boy named Allen Baby, and Edith Jennings started on a hand car from Slocum's Junction to Grosse Isle. When a few rods from the Canada Southern bridge connecting Grosse Isle with the main land, the man in charge of the bridge, unaware of the approach of the hand car, swung open the draw. The car was going at a good rate of speed, and the first impulse of Thompson and Miss Jennings was to jump off. Brodie and Baby, however, were apparently dazed at the sight of the open draw and took stock still. The hand car, went rumbling into the draw, and with its two occupants tumbled headlong into the water. The forms of the young man and boy struggling in the river were seen by some of the company's employes, and every means were exerted to save them, but without success. Baby disappeared in less than a minute, and Brodie was out of slight before the men on the bridge reached the other end of the draw.

MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE.

MAY 6.

SENATE.—The governor noted his approval of the acts; for the relief of Peter Des Pelder; amending chap. 167, Howell, relative to industrial schools; amending Secs. 1810-11, relative to reports of supervisors, directors and overseers to county superintendents of the poor; amending act 27 of 1882, to provide for the incorporation of the grand council of the royal templars of temperance. The day was spent in considering the several election bills in committee of the whole. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—The following bills passed on third reading unless otherwise noted: Amending Sec. 5838 How. relative to appointment of administrators; amending Sec. 4565 How. relative to sale of real estate by executors; appropriating money to the Normal school for building sidewalks; to prevent non resident aliens from acquiring lands in this state; legalizing ditch tax in Windsor, Eaton county; making an appropriation for the Deaf and Dumb institute; making an appropriation of state swamp lands to improve the Looking-glass river in Clinton and Shiawassee counties; to hasten the civilization of Indians, lost; proposing an amendment to the constitution relating to auditors of Wayne county; appropriating $5,000 for the semi-centennial celebration of the admission of Michigan into the Union; amending section 2275, Howell, relative to police regulations of the liquor traffic, lost; reconsidered and referred to the committee of the whole; for publication of divorce statistics, lost; for the punishment of public officers; enacting clause struck out but bill reconsidered; amending section 6930, Howell, relative to subpœnas; for indexing names of soldiers; amending section 7612, Howell, relative to punishment for cutting and carrying away timber; amending section 7598, relative to taking depositions; to prohibit sale of butterine and oleomargarine. The committee on military bounties reported their inability to estimate the amount required under the terms of the Sellers bill. Adjourned.

MAY 7.

SENATE—The following bills passed unless otherwise noted: Empowering Leslie township to borrow $20,000; amending act 142 of 1883, relating to selecting jurors in the Upper Peninsula; amending section 5032, Howell, relative to payment of legacies; appropriating lands to improve the Maple river in Gratiot county; to prevent the spread of glanders and farcy; to regulate the practice of pharmacy; amending an act of 1883 for macadamizing roads in Bay county; for the challenging of talesmen in justices courts; to regulate freight tariffs; amending section 1756, Howell, relative to the support of the poor; amending laws relative to the protection of fish by prohibiting the depositing of sawdust, etc., in the streams; lost, considered and tabled; reorganizing the Township of Case, Presque Isle County; making an appropriation for the current expenses of the Normal School; making an appropriation for building walks at the Normal School. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—The governor noted his approval of the act amending the charter of Hillsdale. The bill appropriating $15,000 to build two infirmaries at the Eastern asylum for the Insane was passed. Senate joint resolution extending the time for completing the Marquette, Houghton & Ontonagon railroad, was defeated, 39 to 46, the vote reconsidered and the resolution tabled. Adjourned.

MAY 8.

SENATE—The bill amending Sec. 4741, How., relative to burying grounds, was passed. The day was spent in considering in committee of the whole the value insurance policy bill. Adjourned.

HOUSE—The greater part of the day was devoted to work in committee of the whole. The following passed: for a grant of state swamp lands to drain the townships of Verona and Colfax, Huron county.

MAY 12.

SENATE.—A communication was received from Dr. H. F. Lyster of Detroit, expressing the opinion that oleomargarine, properly made, was healthful, and that it would be unwise to enact legislation to prevent its manufacture. Senator Hubbell offered a resolution instructing the soldiers' home committee to discontinue its visits to places offering sites. After debate the resolution was withdrawn. Bills passed: detaching territory from Portage township and attaching the same to Adams township, Houghton county; amending chap. 32, Howell, relative to recording town plats; making it a misdemeanor to unhitch or drive away horses; to provide for automatic couplers on freight cars. Adjourned.

HOUSE—The following passed unless otherwise noted: relating to the Albion cemetery; amending Sec. 2155, Howell, relating to fish chutes, lost; making an appropriation for Ionia house of correction; for the appointment of an inspector and warden of fisheries; for the appointment of a commissioner of toll roads, lost, reconsidered and laid on the table; imposing a tax on the business of selling liquors, etc., in Michigan, to be shipped from without the state; amending act 187 of 1875, relative to incorporation for manufacturing purposes, lost; for the collection of a ditch tax in Clyde and Ganges, Allegan county; to validate certain contracts with fire insurance companies; amending section 8362, How., relative to mechanics' liens; for assigning errors in charges to juries; appropriating state swamp land to clear Newton creek, Alpena county; authorizing the supervisors of Jackson to sell the Jackson fair grounds, tabled; incorporating schools of Ovid; for appointment of a state live stock sanitary commission; to equalize bounties, passed by requisite two-thirds vote. Adjourned.

RUSSIA VS. ENGLAND.

That Little Matter Between Them Still Unsettled.

Foreign News in Brief.

In a word, it is impossible to understand the situation of affairs between Russia and England. The possession of Penjdeh whets the appetite of the Russians, and her representative in England states in future negotiations no further reference will be made to Herat.

Just what the prospects for arbitration are it is hard to say. In this connection Earl Granville is stated to have signed an agreement on the scope of the proposed arbitration, which leaves matters between England and Russia open for settlement without reference to an arbitrator.

An Anglo-Turkish alliance has not been completed. This is attributed to Granville's withdrawal of his terms on the prospect of peace with Russia. The negotiations have led to a close *entente* with the porte on the Gladstone policy.

Earl Dufferin's report on the Afghan situation is exercising a potent influence on the action of the government. The rumor current that Earl Dufferin had resigned his post because of his inability to agree with the government's policy has absolutely no foundation. The Viceroy is in complete accord with the government, except that he recommends the construction of a railway to Chandahar and the erection there of strong fortifications which should serve as the first line of outworks in the defense of India. Public opinion in India among English and native communities regarding the prospects of peace is by no means uniform. The military and civil officials are disappointed at the turn affairs have taken and continue to clamor for war.

Spain has removed the fixed duty on wheat.

Joseph Smith "the informer," died in London May 7.

Queen Dowager Emma of the Sandwich Islands, died April 25.

Earl Dufferin is reported to have resigned as viceroy of India.

The two rebel leaders who instigated the burning of Colon have been hanged.

The reported resignation of Lord Dufferin viceroy of India, is emphatically denied.

Egyptian troops at Kassala have been compelled to eat donkeys to relieve their hunger.

The news of the peace arrangements proposed by England created profound dismay in India.

Sixty-eight persons were buried by an avalanche from a mountain near Lake Van, in Armenia.

The conference of Earl Granville and Baron de Staal on the Afghan boundary question has been postponed.

Advices from Honolulu say that Queen Dowager Emma of the Sandwich Islands died April 25. Her death was sudden.

James Russell Lowell delivered a panegyric on the poet Coleridge on the unveiling of a bust of the latter in Westminster abbey.

The opinion gains ground in London and Europe generally that the British government's arrangement is a complete surrender to Russia.

It is announced that the King of Denmark has definitely agreed to act as arbitrator on the question in dispute between England and Russia.

It is believed that a treaty has been signed between our government and the United States of Colombia in respect to the security of transit across the isthmus.

A commission of Russian savants have prepared the correspondence of Peter the Great for publication. They collated 8,000 letters and documents in their work.

El Mahdi's forces have been defeated again, and have retreated to Abu-Haraz. The Mahdi has but few troops at Omcerman, and is unable to send reinforcements against the insurgents.

It is reported that a secret treaty has been signed between England and Turkey by the terms of which England will be allowed to send men of war through the Dardanells in case of war.

The governor of Eastern Siberia reports that bands of armed Chinese have crossed the Russian frontier and supprised many Cossack villages. The extent of the depredations is not stated.

A large force of British and Indian troops and friendly natives, under Gen. Graham, marched out to Tackhal, where they surprised and defeated 100 rebels, killing sixty of them and capturing twelve prisoners and 150 head of cattle. After burning the village they retired to Suakim, fighting until they had passed Hasheen. The British loss is five wounded.

The steamer Rio Janerio, from Hong-Kong, reports a collision March 28 on the Huantpre river, between the Chinese ferry steamer Linyun, sailing between Woo Sung and Shanghai, and the Ocean steamship company's steamer Orestes. The Chinese steamer, which carried about 100 passengers and a crew numbering 12, was cut in two. All but 32 passengers and seven of the crew are believed to have perished.

In the house of commons on the 11th inst., Lord Harrington, minister for war, stated that the government had definitely decided to abandon the plan of advance on Khartoum. The British troops would be concentrated at Wady Halfa and Assouan. Suakim could not be evacuated until an arrangement could be made to garrison the place by the troops of some civilized power. These changes in the original plan of operations in the Soudan would make it unnecessary to push forward the railway from Suakim toward Berber.

CONDENSED NEWS.

Register of the Treasury Bruce has resigned.

The president will not take a summer vacation.

Gen McDowell, U. S. A., died in San Francisco on the 5th inst.

Minor, chief of the bureau of statistics, will resign. He has been requested to do so.

Silk worm eggs are to be bought and distributed by the agricultural department.

Reported that Capt. Crouch and colonists are preparing for another raid upon Oklahoma.

Secretary Manning has ordered the issuance of $1 and $2 notes discontinued for the present.

An appeal has been issued in Toronto for aid in behalf of Canadian troops in the northwest.

Richard Short, the assailant of Capt. Phelan in New York, a few months ago, has been acquitted.

Gen. Grant was re-elected President of the Army of the Potomac, at its recent reunion in Baltimore.

Judge Wylie of the supreme court of the District of Columbia has resigned and Judge William M. Merrick is expected to succeed him.

The revised version of the old testament will be given to the public in London on the 19th and will be published in New York on the 21st.

Fire broke out in the pine lumber yard district in Chicago, and before it was subdued over $700,000 worth of property had been destroyed.

Rev. David Winters died in Dayton, Ohio recently. No man living had preached so many funeral sermons or married so many couples. He had married 5,09 couples.

A number of Cubans have been in Washington and it is stated that they have interested a number of senators and representatives in a scheme for congress to purchase Cuba.

Maxwell, the man charged with the murder of Preller, whose mutilated remains were found in a trunk in a hotel in St. Louis, has been arrested in Auckland, New Zealand.

Statistician Tallmage of Milwaukee, estimates this year's yield of spring wheat as much below that of last year. The crop is in very bad condition all over, and the warm weather and recent rains have give it an unpromising look.

DETROIT MARKETS.

Wheat—No. 1 white	$ 98	@ 1 04
Wheat—No. 2 red	98	@ 1 04
Four	4 75	@ 5 00
Corn	45	@ 50
Oats	35	@ 40
Barley	1 35	@ 1 50
Rye per 100	4 00	@ 4 25
Corn meal per 100	18 00	@19 00
Clover Seed ℔ bu	4 80	@ 4 80
Timothy Seed	1 75	@ 1 80
Apples per bbl	2 75	@ 3 00
Apples per bu	75	@ 1 00
Butter ℔ lb	13	@ 16
Cheese	12	@ 13
Eggs	11	@ 12
Potatoes	40	@ 45
Turnips	35	@ 40
Onions ℔ bu	90	@ 1 00
Honey	12	@ 15
Beans, picked	1 15	@ 1 25
Beans, unpicked	90	@ 1 00
Hay	15 00	@18 00
Straw	6 00	@ 7 00
Pork, dressed ℔ 100	5 50	@ 6 00
Pork, mess new	12 25	@12 50
Pork, family	12 50	@12 75
Hams	9	@ 10
Shoulders	8	@ 7
Lard	7	@ 7½
Dried Beef	12	@ 13
Tallow	5	@ 5½
Beeswax	30	@ 35
Beef extra mess	10 25	@15 50
Wood, Beech and Maple	5 75	@ 6 00
Wood Maple	6 25	@ 6 50
Wood Hickory	6 75	@ 7 00

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE—Trading slow and prices 10c lower; shipping steers $4 70@5 80; Texas grass $4 25; stockers and feeders, $3 75 @5.

HOGS—Trading brisk and values firm: rough and mixed $4 10@4 35; packing and shipping $4 35@4 55; light, $4 25@4 75; skips, $3 50 @4 20.

SHEEP—Market active; values weak and a shade lower; shorn, $2 55@3 90; wooled, 3 75 @4 87½; Texans, $2 25@3 50.

The Drovers' Journal special cable from Liverpool quotes best American cattle higher, selling as high as 15c dressed per lb.

ARMY LIFE ON THE FRONTIER

As Described by Mrs. Custer in "Boots and Saddles."

Barely glancing at the life of Gen. Custer from the day he "graduated at West Point in time to take part in the battle of Bull Run," and just touching his part in the civil war, his visit to his home in Mrs. Custer's "native town, Monroe, Mich., during the winter of 1863," when the writer first met him, their marriage in February, 1864, and her own first experience "on the extreme wing of the army of the Potomac, in an isolated Virginia farm-house, finishing my honeymoon alone," where the general's old colored servant Eliza comforted her, Mrs. Custer begins the detail of her book with the order that sent Custer to Dakota in 1873, and closes it with the reception of the news of the battle of Little Big Horn in the summer of 1876. So the story told in this book covers only about three years of Custer's life. And in her account of these years Mrs. Custer writes as an earnest, buoyant, all-victorious woman would modestly talk—not in stilted detail or in mouthing formality attempting to magnify the facts, but giving quick, vivacious glances, as things naturally recur to the memory in talking, leaving all the while far more unsaid than told at all. The east will read the book with the strangest sort of admiration and surprise, and the west, especially the people of Dakota—notably the old residenters—will give it a most enthusiastic welcome. It is a breath from the prairies, frank and beautiful, with the chaste dignity of a woman's pure and exalted affection.

Mrs. Custer says that "when orders came in the spring of 1873 for the 7th cavalry to go into the field again Gen. Custer was delighted." The regiment was stationed in various parts of the south on the very disagreeable duty of breaking up illicit distilleries and suppressing the Klu-Klux, and not an hour elapsed after the official document announcing our change of station had arrived before our house was torn up. In the confusion I managed to retire to a corner with an atlas and surreptitiously look up the territory to which we were going. . . . From the first day of our marriage Gen. Custer celebrated every order to move with wild demonstrations of joy. His exuberance of spirits always found expression in some boyish pranks before he could set to work seriously to prepare for duty. As soon as the officer announcing the order to move had disappeared all sorts of wild hilarity began. I had learned to take up a safe position on the top of the table, that is, if I had not already been forcibly placed there as a spectator." Occasionally at such times the general would accidentally break a weak chair or two, when Eliza's "woolly head" would thrust itself through the door to reprimand her master and say: "Chairs don't grow on trees in these yere parts gen'l." But the hilarity went on all the same, till the household goods and gods were gotten into a few gunny sacks and barrels. So began the move for the summer campaigns against the Indians. In all the confusion nobody was cross. To the general it meant a reunion with his regiment and a new activity, and also a good deal more than that. To Mrs. Custer it meant a new and vigorous life, alternating with "months of loneliness, anxiety, and terror." "Fortunately, there was too much to do to leave leisure for thoughts."

After some days in the cars, Mrs. Custer says, they "were glad to stop on an open plain about a mile from Yankton, where the railroad ended." It was on the Missouri bottom land east of Yankton. "The long trains were unloaded of their freight, and the plains about them seemed to swarm with men and horses." Mrs. Custer was "helped down from the Pullman car, where inlaid woods, mirrors, and plush surrounded them, to the ground, perfectly bare of every earthly comfort. The other ladies of the regiment went on to the hotel in the town." The general and Mrs. Custer undertook to hire and fit up a little frame shanty found near the halting ground. As night came on there came also one of Dakota's worst spring blizzards. The household belongings were gathered together, the general's dogs, feeling the storm in advance, crowded into the shanty. There was a family of little new puppies, a cage of mocking-birds, and another of canaries. The general himself grew sick. The blizzard came; the shanty rocked in the roaring winds. Mrs. Custer was frightened at the change from the mild southern weather to this inhuman cold, and for once in her life gave up to tears. While the storm raged the adjutant came for orders, and the general ordered the breaking of camp, and directed that the regimennt should go into town, and seek quarters among the citizens. As the night came on a stray herd of hogs came grunting about the shanty, crowding against the door, and it was altogether a fearful night, which, with its bitter experiences, are well described. Of course it wore away. Some soldiers had their feet frozen. But the Yankton people, always noted for their generous hospitality to strangers, made up for this bleak introduction by giving the regiment a ball, and the Custers had a delightful time before starting on their way. When the day came for them to begin their march the sun shone and the towns people wished them good luck and good-bye. The march was taken up the Missouri river valley, and the book is full of charming descriptions of incidents that occurred on the way.

The well-known figure of Gen. Custer was famous enough during and after the war. But no hand has ever sketched him as clearly as he is pictured in these pages. During their Dakota marches the general used often to break away from and ahead of his regiment, empted by the fine game that abounded in the northern Missouri river country in those days. At such times he was at his brightest and best; cares all laid aside; a hearty, delightful, companionable man. And at such times, Mrs. Custer says, with the prettiest unaffected admiration:

I never tired of watching the start for the hunt. The general was a figure that would have fixed attention anywhere. He had marked individuality of appearance and a certain unstudied carelessness in the wearing of his costume that gave a picturesque effect, not the least out of place on the frontier. He wore troop-boots reaching to his knees, buckskin breeches fringed on the sides, a dark navy-blue shirt with a broad collar, a red necktie, whose ends floated over his shoulders exactly as they did when he and his entire division of cavalry had worn them during the war. On the broad felt hat, that was almost a sombrero, was fastened a slight mark of his rank.

He was at this time 35 years of age, weighed 170 pounds, and was nearly six feet in height. His eyes were clear blue and deeply set, his hair short, wavy, and golden in tint. His moustache was long and tawny in color; his complexion was florid, except where his forehead was shaded by his hat, for the sun always burned his skin ruthlessly.

He was the most agile, active man I ever knew, and so very strong and in such perfect physical condition that he rarely knew even an hour's indisposition.

Horse and man seemed one when the general vaulted into the saddle. His body was so lightly poised and so full of swinging, undulating motion it almost seemed that the wind moved him as it blew over the plain. Yet every nerve was alert and like finely tempered steel, for the muscles and sinews that seemed so pliable were equal to the curbing of the most fiery animal. I do not think that he sat on his horse with more grace than the other officers, for they rode superbly, but it was accounted by others almost an impossibility to dislodge the general from the saddle, no matter how vicious the horse might prove. He threw his feet out of the stirrups the moment the animal began to show his inclination for war, and with his knees dug into the sides of the plunging brute he fought and always conquered. With his own horses he needed neither spur nor whip. They were such friends of his, and his voice seemed so attuned to their natures they knew as well by its inflections as by the slight pressure of the bridle on their necks what he wanted. By the merest inclination on the general's part they either sped on the wings of the wind or adapted their spirited steps to the slow movement of the march. It was a delight to see them together, they were so in unison, and when he talked to them as though they had been human beings their intelligent eyes seemed to reply.

As an example of his horsemanship, he had a way of escaping from the stagnation of the dull march, when it was not dangerous to do so, by riding a short distance in advance of the column over a divide, throwing himself on one side of his horse, so as to be entirely out of sight from the other direction, giving a signal that the animal understood, and tearing off at the best speed that could be made. The horse entered into the frolic with all the zest of his master, and, after the race, the animal's beautiful, distended nostrils glowed blood-red as he tossed his head and danced with delight.

In hunting the general rode either Victor or Dandy. The dogs were so fond of the later they seemed to have little talks with him. The general's favorie dog, Blucher, would leap up to him in the saddle and jump fairly over the horse in starting. The spirited horses, mounted by officers who sat on them so well; the sound of the horn used for the purpose of calling the dogs; their answering bay, the glad voices and "whoo-la!" to the hounds as the party galloped down the valley, are impressions ineffaceable from my memory. They often started a deer within sound of the bugle at the post. In a few hours their shouts outside would call me to the window, and their drooping across the back of one of the orderlies' horses would be a magnificent blacktailed deer. We had a saddle of venison hanging on the wood-house almost constantly during the winter. The officers and even the soldiers' tables had this rarity to vary the monotony of the inevitable beef.

The life of the enlisted men was very dull during the cold weather. In the summer they had mounted drill and parades, and an occasional scout to vary the life. At Fort Lincoln we read:

"The companies each gave a ball in turn during the winter, and the preparations were begun long in advance. There was no place to buy anything save the sutler's store and the shops in the little town of Bismarck, but they were well ransacked for materials for the supper. The bunks where the soldiers slept were removed from the barracks and flags festooned around the room. Arms were stacked and guidons arranged in groups. A few pictures of distinguished men were wreathed in imitation laurel leaves cut out of green paper. Chandeliers and side brackets carved out of cracker-box boards into fantastic shapes were filled with candles, while at either end of the long room great logs in the wide fire-places threw out a cheerful light. The ball opened, headed by the first sergeant. After this the officers and their wives were invited to form a set in one end of the room and we danced several times. One of the men whose voice was clear and loud sang the calls. He was a comical genius and improvised new ways of calling off. When the places came in the quadrille to 'Turn your partners,' his voice arose above the music in the notes of the old song, 'Oh, swing those girls, those pretty little girls, those girls you left behind you!' This was such an inspiration to the fun-lovers that the swinging usually ended in our being whirled in the air by the privileged members of our family."—[*Philadelphia Times.*

A battle occurred near Batouches Crossing on the 9th inst., between Middleton's forces and the rebels. The rebels were cannonaded and driven into the rifle pit, from which it was impossible to dislodge them. A number were killed on both sides.

The treasury department favors the putting of more small silver coin in circulation. Employes have heretofore been paid half their salaries in ... after they will receive only ... The treasurer believes we have $1 and $2 notes enough for the purposes of trade.

A railway to Mt. Vernon, the home of Washington, is projected. From Alexandria a narrow-guage road of eight miles will be built. It is expected next June to abolish the fee of 3 cents to visitors to the tomb, as the endowment fund will then be sufficient to maintain the estate.

Poor Fellows.

Prostrated, debilitated, enfeebled, they feel as if they were hardly worth picking up. They would hardly give the toss of a bright penny for a chance of a choice between life and death. But even such forlorn people can be renewed by the use of Brown's Iron Bitters. It vitalizes the blood, tones the nerves, and renovates the system. Mr. Isaac C. Weed, Burr's Mills, O., says: "I used Brown's Iron Bitters for general weakness, and it helped me greatly."

Roller skating is defined by an Illinois clergyman as "going to hell on wheels."

Don't Skip This

So many schemes are put before the public for the increase of newspaper circulation, which seem to be plausible and yet are fradulent, that when a legitimate, honest effort is made to build up the circulation of a legitimate, honest paper, by legitimate, honest means, people who have been so many times duped, are very slow to respond to the genuine scheme. We are led to this train of thought by a perusal of the advertisement of THE AMERICAN RURAL HOME of Rochester N. Y., published in this issue of our paper, to which we call the attention of our readers. We are acquainted with both paper and publishers and take pleasure in recommending it as one of the very best farm and family journals in this country. Every person who sends one dollar for a year's subscription to the paper receives a handsome present which is donated by the advertising patrons of the paper. These premiums consist of Cattle, Land Reapers and Mowers, Plows, Books, Pictures, Organs and thousands of other valuable articles. The Rural Home Co. is endorsed by Hon. Cornelius R Parsons, Mayor of Rochester, to whom you can write if you have any doubts as to its reliability. It will pay you to send for sample copy if nothing more than to get a look at this great twelve-page, sixty column illustrated paper. Address Rural Home Co. Limited, Rochester, N Y

When a man named Johnson, a veteran of the late war, tried to collect some pension arrears recently, he was paralyzed with the information that his "widow" had drawn his pension in 1863 and again in 1867.

Virginia oysters to the amount of 30,000 bushels were recently planted near East Providence, R. I.

A 14-year-old boy weighing 232 pounds and still growing is the boast of Laceyville, Bradford county, Pa. His mother weighs 400 pounds

Industrial Brevities.

The Michigan horticultural report gives the following condensed and useful directions for the management of apple orchards, furnished by J. D. Husted, for Lowell in that state. The young orchards should be annually cultivated until 10 years old. Barnyard manure and leached ashes are among the best and cheapest fertilizers, and liberally applied they pay well. When well in bearing the orchard may be seeded to grass provided it is kept fed short by sheep and pigs. If the hogs are rung when weighing sixty pounds or more they will not bark the trees. Pigs and sheep kept early in the orchard during all summer, year after year, will destroy the codling worm, keep the grass short, and enrich the land with their droppings.

An Indiana farmer writes about the proper time to sow cloverseed. He says: "For four successive years I sowed in March, when the ground was freezing and thawing, and I failed each year to get a stand worth leaving. For three sucessive years I have waited until my wheat had grown to about eight to twelve inches high. By that time it is firmly rooted in the ground, then I dragged it with a light sharptooth harrow or drag; then I sowed my seed while the ground was fresh. Then I sowed about thirty pounds of plaster per. acre, and for these three successive years I have had a good stand of clover and good crops of wheat."

A bird which attracts much attention in Arizona is named the road-runner. It has a body about twelve inches long, with a tale of the same length, and runs like a race-horse. It is the determined enemy of the rattlesnake. Upon finding this reptile, it gathers in its beak a cactus leaf loaded with thorns, which weighs about a pound, and hovering over the snake, drops it upon him. This makes the snake coil for fight, when the bird returns with another and another, until the mad serpent is either killed by his bed of thorns or dies by his own poison. The bird then proceeds to feed on his victim.

Orchard grass is a robust grower and very tenacious of life. It masses its roots so as to resist the encroachment of other grasses, covering much of the ground with its large pendant leaves that spring out near the base of the plant to shade, nourish, and enrich the soil not occupied by the plant itself. This, perhaps accounts largely for its ability to endure excessive drought. It will produce two large crops of good hay on rich soil, and submit to more abuse than any other forage plant, except blue grass which is of little value in a very dry season.

Improvements in gunpowder manufacturing are attracting attention. Several new methods have recently been proposed, but the latest thing in this line comes to us from the other side of the water. A Mr. Nordenfelt is elaborating a plan for mixing the ingredients in a liquid state. The sulphur is disolved in bi-sulphide of carbon, the carbonaceous matter is cellulose or cotton fibre, reduced to an impalpable powder and mixed with it, and lastly the saltpetre is added in the form of a saturated solution.

On April 15, an industrial convention will be held at Richmond, under the auspices of the Virginia State Agricultural society, to discuss the best and most practical means of furthering the general prosperity of the state. The executive committte of the society, Messrs. R. V. Gaines, W. C. Wickham, and A. S. Buford, in their address to the people of Virginia, call attention to the losses of the state by large emigration from it to other states. Good results are likely to arise from the proposed convention.

An Englishman is traveling through Kansas with two pairs of ferrets, with which he is making money by killing prairie dogs. He visits ranches where there are indications of prairie dogs, and offers to clean out the dog town for 1 cent per dog. The cost is so low that the ranchman does'nt hesitate to accept the offer. One ferret will clean out from one to fifty dogs before he tires out, and when one is tired out a fresh one is put into service, and so on until the place is rid of dogs.

A patron of the Edwards county, Kansas, cremery says he received in cash from the creamery for cream from twelve cows for eleven months ending Nov. 31, 1884, $288.93, and $75 cash for hogs made from the creamed milk, and also raised twenty calves which are worth, to him, as much as the cream brought, making in all $54 per cow for eleven months. He says he don't know how he could have made the same amount so easily.

The total values of the exports of domestic cattle and hogs, and of beef, pork, and dairy products during February wery $7,421,588; February, 1884, $6,954,800; two months ended February, 1885, $19,387,136; 1884, $16,046,677. The beef and pork products for the four months ended Feb. 28, 1885, were $35,187,852; 1884, $33,199,422; dairy products for ten months ended Feb. 28, 1885, $13,643,420; 1884, $14,814,716.

Wire covered with good paint has been found to be much more lasting than galvanized wire, although farmers ordinarily pay a cent per pound more for the latter. The zinc coating on the galvanized wire becomes removed from places when the iron rusts very quickly in consequence of the electric currents that are developed by the two metals.

A prominent English agricultural society at a recent meeting decided in future to abandon the public dinner hitherto held in connection with the show, and to substitute an ordinary refreshment tent. The reasons assigned were that the dinner occupied too much valuable time, and that the speeches were either formal or political.

At the Farmers' institute, held at Pomona, Kan., Prof. Fairchild remarked that "What we do not know about the every day facts of crop-raising is more than what we do know; and every discussion between farmers reveals the absence of settled principles, while failures from poor judgment are numberless."

A Palmetto Tree for Cleveland.

Miss Helen R. Black, of Charleston, sent to President Cleveland, a day or two before his inauguration, a neat and appropriate testimonial in the shape of a palmetto tree, wrought by her own hands out of palmetto leaves. The testimonial was entrusted to a gentleman of that city, who went to the inauguration and was duly presented to the President. The gift was received by Mr. Cleveland, who, in return, sent to the fair donor an appropriate acknowledgment, with his card, his autograph and his photograph.—*Philadelphia Times.*

A Generous Legatee.

The will of Cornelius B. Erwin, of New Britain, Conn., gives about $400,000 for public and charitable purposes, chiefly in New Britain, including $80,000 for a woman's home, $50,000 for the public park, $30,000 for the cemetery, including a chapel; $30,000 to the New Britain Institute, which, as his residuary legatee, will receive $100,000 more; his residence to the South Congregational Church, for a parsonage, together with $25,000 to maintain it, and $12,000 for a new chapel for the church.—*Hartford Times.*

Love your enemy, but don't buy his boy a drum.