

BIRMINGHAM, FRIDAY, AUG. 19, '98

Many a man starves today while feeding on tomorrow's hopes.

Warm weather has a tendency to increase the floating population at seaside resorts.

It's poor consolation to the girl who has been stung by a bee to know that she is not the only one.

What defense could Uncle Sam put up if Spain used for damages for giving her imprisoned troops indignities?

Spanish soldiers now refuse to go into any battle with their eyes.

Matanzas had great fun at the military funeral of the mule killed in the bombardment. This shows that even the Spaniards know when to salute an ass.

A Boston jury has awarded \$100,000 damages to a man whose eye was crushed by a cake of ice as it fell from a delivery wagon.

Spain has a new explosive called dynamite which it is hoped to accomplish wonders. It is projected in the form of a rocket and is guaranteed to do anything from a rowboat to an island.

It is a sad story that comes from Spearfish, S. D., to the effect that the late Mrs. De Ledesma died of a broken heart, produced by grief over the loss of her son. The boy was killed in the war. Mrs. De Ledesma was a devoted mother and her grief was not without reason. None but the mothers can ever know how their hearts status were pulled when their boys shouldered muskets and marched away under old glory to meet such fate as might be decreed to them.

In the opinion of Carlos S. Fox, former United States vice-consul at Santiago, the surrender of the Spanish stronghold means the termination of business, with good chances for wit-awake, active business men, who grasp the situation early to trap the greatest benefits. He says that, except a match factory in Santiago, there are no manufacturing plants in eastern Cuba. Everything the people want, eat and drink comes from other countries. This being the case, there will be a first-class opportunity for all manufacturing enterprises. The land, which is fertile, but so far has not been properly tilled, is well adapted to raising coffee, sugar, tobacco and cattle, which, according to Mr. Fox, could be sent to the United States without causing competition with home products. In the interior the land abounds with mahogany, cedar and other kinds of timber. Concluding, the vice-consul says that a railroad is needed from Santiago to Havana, a distance of about 400 miles. This would greatly develop the country.

The latest reports from the Arctic gold fields indicate a decided change of sentiment among the miners in favor of seeking their gold on the American continent. Such a change is believed to be expected and the idea is not to be commended. The Klondike is not the only gold region in the Yukon valley, and the marked movement that has been made toward Alaska streams promises soon to prove that Canada's gold will be our gain. Forty-five creeks, which was the original Yukon, are being worked and it is believed that it is just as reasonable to expect that new and richer strikes will be made on our side of the line as it is on the American prospectors will do well to future to keep this fact in mind and ignore their claims, which they can work them without exorbitant taxation.

It has been suggested that the designation "battle of July Third" be annexed to the great naval engagement that marked the destruction of the Cape Verde fleet. As the fighting on land about Santiago was chiefly confined to the battle of El Caney and the storming of San Juan, the latter will cover the army's part sufficiently. There is no reason, therefore, why the designation of Santiago should not be used in distinguishing the naval victory, or, if it is desired to be still more definite, "the naval battle of Santiago" would answer the purpose.

The crew of La Bourgoise has been "exonerated" by the report of the French minister of marine, which may as well go at that, perhaps, but the terrible statistics are not covered in this application of official white-wash.

# THE TITANS TO OUR NAVY

## Infanta Maria Teresa and Cristobal Colon. Excellent War Ships That Will Add Greatly to Our Effectiveness Afloat. The Albany Coming.

The command of the sea, the first lord of the British admiralty stated last year, is passing to rulers rather than to battleships. This is not so to a limited extent, for it depends rather on what the words battleship and cruiser signify.

As has been repeatedly told in the Herald, a battleship is a vessel which, for her size, carries the heaviest armament and the thickest armor possible, subordinating speed and coal-carrying capacity to secure these goals.

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The Teresa's Armament. We now come to the battery of the good ship. It consists of two 11-inch breech-loading guns, one forward and one aft, mounted in the barbettes of 10-inch armor, covered with a rounded hood; ten 5.5-inch rapid-fire guns, arranged in broadside, but so that the forward and after two can be fired ahead and astern; two 2.75-inch rapid fire guns, ten of the smaller caliber rapid fire and eight machine guns.

She is fitted with eight torpedo tubes, only two of which are submerged. The coal bunkers of the Teresa, so situated as to afford additional protection to the vitals of the ship, can carry 1,650 tons, sufficient to enable the vessel to steam 9,700 miles.

Enough has been said to indicate what a ship we are getting. Another really good, perhaps even better, since she is of later construction than the Teresa, is the Albany.

Her armament consists of six 10-inch guns, two 2.75-inch and about a dozen of the smaller rapid-fire caliber, and she has five torpedo tubes. Her displacement is about 3,100 tons.

The Cristobal Colon. The Cristobal Colon is a sister ship of the Teresa, one of the six vessels provided for in the Italian naval program of 1891. She was built and equipped completely by Messrs. Ansaldo & Co. of Sestri Ponente and Sampierdarena, near Genoa.

The Colon was the second ship of the class to be built, the first having been sold to the Argentine Republic. Her keel was laid on September 25, 1895, and her construction was rushed. It was at this juncture that Spain, seeing the urgent necessity of adding to her fleet some modern vessels fit for service, approached the Italian shipbuilders on the subject of selling this fine ship.

Another Spanish ship, nothing like so good a vessel in any respect as the above, which will soon swell the list of United States naval vessels, is the Reina Mercedes, sunk in the entrance of Santa Roca harbor.

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The Teresa's Protection. The Teresa is protected by an armor plate of certain thickness, situated within the extremities of the belt, of ten inches of armor, and the ammunition hoists are protected by eight inches of armor. In the conning tower, containing the compasses, steering wheel, telegraphs and voice tubes, is also protected by steel-faced armor twelve inches thick.

The Colon's Machinery. The leading dimensions of the Cristobal Colon are as follows: Length, 328 feet; beam, 59 feet 3 inches; draught of water, 23 feet 3 inches, and displacement, 3,100 tons.

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# PECAN NUT INDUSTRY.

The Largest and Finest Specimens Come from Louisiana.

Perhaps the best of all nuts is that species of hickory known as the pecan, says the Boston Transcript. It is native to the United States, growing wild in the Mississippi valley and in Texas. The largest and finest nuts come from Louisiana, some specimens attaining a length of two inches and a diameter of three-quarters of an inch.

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# FARM AND GARDEN.

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO AGRICULTURISTS.

Some Up-to-Date Hints About Cultivation of the Soil and Yields Thereof—Horticulture, Viticulture and Floriculture.

William Toole of Wisconsin is one of the greatest pany cultivators in the world. At a recent meeting in Wisconsin he was asked some questions that will be found to be of interest to our readers. In the first place, he said that he was a native of Wisconsin, where the trees have been set out and are already in bearing. So long ago as 1859, 1,500,000 pounds of the nuts were marketed in San Antonio. Of all the hickory family the pecan seems more susceptible of improvement in the size and quality of the fruit, and much has been accomplished in this direction by planters exercising judgment in the selection of varieties. One planter of Greenwood, Tex., has 40 acres of pecans, comprising 11,000 trees.

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tion should be given to the pro-... the have and stalks... contain a large amount of... the foliage ingredients. In 1897 it was found that when the crop was less than half of an acre, the matter was in the stalks, the other half being equally divided between the stalks and the leaves. One way of preserving the foliage in good shape for feeding is to put both ears and stalks in a silage. As to the single ears, which the experimenter he cut, the results of the experiments carried on in 1896 and 1897 go to show that there may be a danger of allowing the corn to stand too long, especially in hot and dry weather, making the silage dry to secure the proper fermentation.

For early blooming he advised planting the pany seeds in the house early in the first part of March, and even earlier than that. Mr. L. H. Head said that it had been his experience that the soil in which the pany seeds were sown could get so hot that the children can cultivate the acquaintance of and learn gentleness. The winter, where it freezes out. In the spring and in May with this method the muck makes the compost very rich, but if it proves to be too rich muck it will be better.

Mr. Toole said that it was a mistake to suppose that pany seeds should be planted under trees where they would get a good protection from the sun and rain, and that they were not protected by any shade.

The finest pany that the editor of The Farmers' Review has ever seen were in Helena, Montana. They were growing in the open gardens of the inhabitants of that city. The excellence did not seem to be confined to a few persons' gardens, but were largely common. The dirt in which they were growing was rich dirt, and had been dug from the bottoms of the deep cuts in the mountains. In some instances the dirt had been hauled several miles. It is presumed that it contained not only decayed vegetable matter, but also animal manure. It must have been largely formed of the detritus of the lodges and cliffs above. This fact is related as it may suggest the advantage of sowing a soil so constructed that it will give not only an abundance of humus but also of mineral food.

Cultivate the Birds. There seems to be a decided tendency among some of our countrymen to seek the protection of man. Birds like the robin, that used to build far from the house, now build as closely to the doors of the houses as possible, feeling apparently that they are thus protected. Horticulturists especially should make an effort to cultivate this tendency, which has been widely noticed. To illustrate: This year the writer noticed that a pair of robins were building a nest on the lowest branch of an oak tree that stood within three feet of the back step. There were numerous other trees, hundreds of them, in the vicinity, and they did not seem to choose any of them. The nest was not more than six feet above the ground, and the birds could sit on the nest and look directly into the back door. The children watched them build their nest, and the birds were not disturbed by their presence. But when a Blue Jay came within a few feet of the nest one of the birds dived for him like a rod and drove him away. So it was evident that the birds knew they were protected, and that they had an object in view in building the nest so close to the house. The birds and were around the premises for many days. Fortunately for them, the writer did not see them until they had all been captured and eaten. It is probable that the family cat does the same thing, but that the small bird and the gun. If it were banished we believe the birds would gradually come back. Their presence would assist in getting rid of the hosts of insects that prey on our fruit and garden crops.

Facts on Corn Culture. Following are conclusions from tests at Michigan station on experiments in corn culture as set forth in bulletin No. 154.

The yield of corn is dependent in no small degree on the quality of the soil, which should be selected before the corn is harvested, having regard to the size and character of the stalks and the position of the ears and type of the ear. When the season is especially favorable for thoroughly maturing the corn, the ears should be gathered completely dried out before frost and stored in a warm, dry place. A difference of 10 per cent in the yield of dry matter on two adjacent acres was noted in favor of the crop grown from fertilizer seed over the yield from the soil, the corn may well be planted in drills about three and one-half feet apart in a wet, cold season. For the soil, the corn may well be planted in drills about three and one-half feet apart in a wet, cold season. For the soil, the corn may well be planted in drills about three and one-half feet apart in a wet, cold season.

Agri-culture. Along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea there grows a wild grass, bearing small seeds resembling wheat. It is called the wild grass, and is cultivated in the gardens of the Greeks. The seeds of this grass have, by cultivation, been developed into wheat. Mr. Sprunt has been studying the wild grass, and has found that it is a very hardy plant, and that the corn plant grows and ripens more readily than wheat. The corn plant grows and ripens more readily than wheat. The corn plant grows and ripens more readily than wheat.

Rose Culture. Rose bushes require a rich, rather heavy soil in order to get the best results. A large quantity of manure and other fertilizers should be used, and the soil should be well worked up. The roses should be planted in a sunny position, and the soil should be well worked up. The roses should be planted in a sunny position, and the soil should be well worked up.

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