

# SPIRIT OF KANSAS

A Journal of Home and Husbandry.

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## THE SPIRIT OF KANSAS.

**Kansas News Co.,**  
 Subscriptions: One Dollar a Year. Three Copies  
 \$2.25. Five Copies \$3.50. Ten Copies \$5.00.  
 Three months trial subscriptions, new, 25c.  
 The Kansas News Co., also publish the Western  
 Farm News, of Lawrence, and nine other country  
 weeklies.  
 Advertising for the weeklies listed received at lowest  
 rates. Brokers and manufacturer's cards, of  
 four lines, or less, (25 words) with Spirit of Kansas  
 one year, \$5.00. No order taken for less than  
 three months.

Hon. C. A. Foster, judge of the  
 United States district court, is quite  
 ill with neuralgia at his home, No.  
 1029 Harrison. He hopes to recover  
 in time to hold the October session  
 of court at Leavenworth next week.

Judge David J. Brewer, of the  
 United States circuit court, has filed  
 an order in the clerk's office here  
 authorizing Receivers Eddy and  
 Cross of the Missouri, Kansas and  
 Texas railway, to construct at once  
 1,600 feet of side track at Waco,  
 Texas, to better the facilities to  
 handle cotton.

The Studebaker mansion at South  
 Bend, Indiana, one of the most magni-  
 ficent residences in the world, costing  
 \$300,000, was burned on Wednesday.

The murder of Werner cost the county  
 of Shawnee \$5,000, and may cost more.  
 The murderer of Rodgers was hung to  
 a pole, and the money was saved. But  
 it would be very unwise to follow this  
 example for pecuniary profit.

People who say that Lawrence has not  
 grown for ten years will be nonplussed  
 by the fact that the number of pupils en-  
 rolled in the public schools has increased  
 from 1,618 in 1879 to 2,371 in 1888. The  
 high school shows the most remarkable  
 condition of that of any in the state, con-  
 taining 237 pupils.

The seventeenth annual congress  
 of the society for the Advancement of  
 Women opened Tuesday afternoon  
 in Denver. Sophia F. Grubb, of  
 Lawrence, national superintendent  
 of work among foreigners, will dis-  
 cuss "Crime and its Punishment." Among  
 the subjects to be considered  
 during the three days' session of the  
 congress, are civic marriage, women  
 in general affairs, women in science,  
 education versus examinations, and  
 the influence of certain authors on  
 the minds of the youth of the  
 country.

The Odd Fellows' Grand Lodge  
 has been the event of the week in  
 Topeka, and has been one of the  
 most successful ever held. A. L.  
 Voorhis, of Minneapolis, was elected  
 grand master, and S. F. Burdette  
 was re-elected secretary. A grand  
 parade was had Wednesday after-  
 noon and a competition drill in Gar-  
 field Park, Wichita canton No. 5,  
 carried off the first prize of \$75.  
 S. F. Burdette has been grand secre-  
 tary for twenty-eight years.

The United States supreme court  
 has twelve thousand cases on hand  
 and is three years behind in its work.

The enrollment of the Topeka city  
 schools at the close of the first week  
 this year was 5,041, which is an in-  
 crease of 540.

Dr. Philip Krohn will superintend  
 the editorial and local departments  
 of the Atchison Champion until other  
 arrangements are made.

We suggest the name of J. Q. A.  
 Peyton, of Topeka, for Pension Com-  
 missioner. The President wants a  
 man who never says anything, and  
 here he is.

The venerable Bishop Vail died in  
 Philadelphia on Sunday last of  
 Bright's Disease. He was on his  
 way to New York to attend an im-  
 portant Episcopal meeting and was  
 stricken down on his way there.  
 He was 77 years old and had been  
 Bishop of the diocese of Kansas twenty-  
 five years. The remains will ar-  
 rive in Topeka on Sunday.

Memorial services were held on  
 Wednesday in Grace Cathedral and  
 at Bethany College, at the same hour  
 that services were held in Phila-  
 delphia, in honor of the late Bishop  
 Vail.

Silver Lake and Menoken town-  
 ships voted against the bonds for the  
 Topeka & Marysville railroad, on  
 Monday. Rossville voted for them.  
 Silver Lake defeated by only nine  
 votes. Probably another vote will  
 be had in this township.

Mrs. A. Elder has returned from  
 the east with an elegant line of  
 millinery, among which are many  
 beautiful patterns for Hats and Bon-  
 nets. All the latest and most fash-  
 ionable novelties in millinery may be  
 found at her store, 610 Kansas Ave-  
 nue, north of Crawford's Opera House.  
 Parties buying hats here can have  
 them trimmed free of charge.

Fresh eggs are more transparent in  
 the center—old eggs at the ends.

There are 200 more children in attend-  
 ance at the Emporia schools than there  
 were last year.

The Emporia school board announces  
 that it will prosecute parties who sell to-  
 bacco to minors under sixteen of age.

The State Normal School at Emporia  
 expects to enroll 1,000 pupils this year.  
 It started in 1864 with nineteen scholars.

The sale of stamps at the Topeka  
 postoffice for the quarter comprising  
 the months of July, August and Sep-  
 tember, aggregated \$22,082.70. The  
 sum was unusually small.

Nearly all the schools in the country  
 have opened. The average length of  
 term in the country is a little less than  
 seven months. A few districts have nine  
 months school, a few have from three to  
 five months, but a great majority have  
 seven or eight months. The highest  
 wages paid a district school teacher in  
 Shawnee county is \$85 per month; the  
 lowest \$30. The average runs from \$45  
 to \$60 for experienced teachers.

The United Brethren are having an un-  
 fortunate quarrel over the secret society  
 question. This is the basis of the trouble  
 at Leocompton. One party holds that no  
 one belonging to a secret society can be-  
 come a member of the church. A large  
 majority hold otherwise, the rules in this  
 respect having been modified. This di-  
 vision raises the question as to which  
 party is, in law, the church, and this will  
 be settled by the courts.

Judge Searle imposed a fine of \$200  
 on F. E. Phillips in the police court  
 for selling a quart of sour mash  
 whiskey made in 1880, to a new  
 policeman who wore citizen's clothes  
 and a deep harbor delegate's badge  
 during the recent Topeka convention.  
 Phillips was head cook and chief  
 clerk at Brokrow's restaurant just be-  
 low the Troop hotel, and he laid in  
 a supply of good liquor to sell to  
 deep water delegates. He only made  
 a few sales before he was discovered.  
 He is on the rock pile, now.

The shipyards of the great lakes  
 will be busy the coming winter.  
 Thirty-five boats, to cost more than  
 \$4,500,000, are now under contract  
 to be built, and the list will probably  
 be increased by a half dozen other  
 crafts before snow flies. The great  
 change from sail to steam and from  
 wood to steel is especially marked  
 this season.

It is said that a plan is on foot to con-  
 solidate the leading western railroads in  
 one great combination. Henry Villard  
 will be restored as president of the  
 Northern Pacific, which will be extended  
 into Alaska.

North Dakota lacked less than 2000  
 votes of adopting prohibition. In  
 South Dakota it carried, and the  
 brave new state takes its place among  
 the great free states. Except Montana,  
 which elected a democratic governor,  
 and a republican member of congress,  
 the new states come in as republican.

## Farmers and Fruit Growers.

The farmers and fruit growers of  
 Douglas county met Saturday at  
 Bismarck Grove. The dining hall  
 was open for fruit and vegetables to  
 be exhibited. At 11 a. m. the meet-  
 ing was called to order.

The question of how late to sow  
 wheat on upland was raised and fol-  
 lowed by considerable discussion.

A lengthy discussion followed  
 about the proper time to break prairie  
 ground for the reception of a wheat  
 crop. All agreed the early part of  
 June. This would give time to rot  
 the greenward by the next spring,  
 after which the earth would be ready  
 for any crop.

H. S. Fillmore read a paper on  
 "Preparing for Winter." He believed  
 in the best kinds of stock, as it paid  
 best in the end. There was a big  
 percentage in favor of thorough-bred  
 cattle or hogs. Gov. Robinson was  
 slow to believe that thorough-bred  
 cattle brought a better price in the  
 Kansas City market than common  
 trash stock. At this juncture quite  
 an off-hand discussion arose upon the  
 beef combine, which seems to work  
 injury to the farmer as well as to the  
 consumer of beef. Dr. Evtak believed  
 this to be the great question soon to  
 be solved by the western farmers.  
 N. N. Brown believed trusts and com-  
 binations should be formed by farm-  
 ers and common laborers to keep  
 pace with the slaughter house pro-  
 prietors.

N. P. Deming read a paper on in-  
 sectivorous birds, which provoked a  
 lengthy discussion on hunting of  
 birds.

Prof. Sears, of the Business Col-  
 lege, read an interesting paper on  
 commerce and farming. He discar-  
 ded the commonly accepted notion and  
 supply and demand ruled in high and  
 low prices of farm products. His  
 paper was well received and endorsed  
 by all present.

## Progress of Inventions since 1845.

In the year 1845 the present owners of  
 the Scientific American newspaper com-  
 menced its publication, and soon after  
 established a bureau for the procuring of  
 patents for inventions at home and in  
 foreign countries. During the year 1845  
 there were only 502 patents issued from  
 the U. S. Patent Office, and the total issue  
 from the establishment of the Patent  
 Office, up to the end of that year, num-  
 bered only 4,347.

Up to the first of July this year there  
 have been granted 408,413. Showing  
 that since the commencement of the  
 publication of the Scientific American  
 there have been issued from the U. S.  
 Patent Office 402,166 patents, and about  
 one third more applications have been  
 made than have been granted, showing  
 the ingenuity of our people to be phe-  
 nomenal, and much greater than even  
 the enormous number of patents issued  
 indicates. Probably a good many of our  
 readers have had business transacted  
 through the offices of the Scientific  
 American, in New York or Washington,  
 and are familiar with Mun & Co's  
 mode of doing business, but those who  
 have not will be interested in knowing  
 something about this, the oldest patent  
 soliciting firm in this country, probably  
 in the world.

Persons visiting the offices of the  
 Scientific American, 361 Broadway, N. Y.,  
 for the first time, will be surprised, on  
 entering the main office, to find such an  
 extensive and elegantly equipped es-  
 tablishment, with its walnut counters,  
 desks, and chairs to correspond, and its  
 enormous safes, and such a large number  
 of draughtsmen, specification writers,  
 and clerks, all busy as bees, reminding  
 one of a large banking or insurance  
 office, with its hundred employees.

In conversation with one of the firm,  
 who had commenced the business of  
 soliciting patents in connection with  
 the publication of the Scientific American,  
 more than forty years ago, I learned that  
 his firm had made application for patents  
 for upward of one hundred thousand in-  
 ventors in the United States, and several  
 thousands in different foreign countries,  
 and has filed as many cases in the Patent  
 Office in a single month as there were  
 patents issued during the entire first year  
 of their business career. This gentleman  
 had seen the Patent Office grow from a  
 sapling to a sturdy oak, and he modestly  
 hinted that many thought the Scientific  
 American, with its large circulation, had  
 performed no mean share in stimulating

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 tion to the public to visit

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inventions and advancing the interests  
 of the Patent Office. But it is not alone  
 the patent soliciting that occupies the  
 attention of the one hundred persons em-  
 ployed by Mun & Co., but a large num-  
 ber are engaged on the four publications  
 issued weekly and monthly from their  
 office, 361 Broadway, N. Y., viz: The  
 Scientific American, the Scientific Ameri-  
 can Supplement, the Export Edition of  
 the Scientific American, and the Archi-  
 tects and Builders Edition of the Scien-  
 tific American. The first two publications  
 are issued every week, and the latter  
 two, the first of every month.

The Silver Lake school is starting out  
 well. S. H. Johnson is the principal,  
 Miss Katie Ellinger, assistant. The board  
 have made a number of improvements in  
 the school house. Mr. Johnson will  
 make a thorough grading and classifica-  
 tion of the school.

The board of county commissioners  
 have passed an order vacating the town-  
 site of Valencia on the Rock Island rail-  
 way west of this city. The town was  
 laid off during the boom three years ago,  
 by B. M. Curtis and H. K. Rowley.

Prof. Blake writes to the Capital as  
 follows: "All will remember the terrible  
 blizzard which swept over the country on  
 the 6th of January, 1886, and which last-  
 ed for several days, with the mercury at  
 Topeka about 25 degrees below zero. That  
 cold wave extended to Florida and killed  
 many orange trees. When I wrote that  
 article, December 23, 1885, the weather  
 was about the same as it is in Topeka  
 today, October 10. Many people are de-  
 ceived by the present warm weather, and  
 suppose it will continue through the fall  
 as it did last year. But it is only a  
 "weather breeder," and will soon end in  
 storms, to be followed by cold weather a  
 little later on, being similar to the case  
 in January, 1886. While it will not be  
 as cold in November of this year as it  
 was in January, 1886, yet November will  
 produce more raw and cold weather than  
 is usual for this latitude for that month.  
 People can not be too diligent in getting  
 ready for it."  
 C. C. BLAKE.

A fine vein of coal has been found at  
 Alma, 1900 feet down. Topeka has  
 famous coal hole 1500 feet deep and is  
 found nothing but expense. The hole  
 about three years old.

In 1860, Henry Goethe, of Beaufort, S. C.  
 wrote Dr. Shallenberger:  
 "I regard your Antidote a specific for  
 chills and fever. It was used on the  
 Charleston & Savannah R. Road last sum-  
 mer and autumn in the most sickly re-  
 gion, and under the most trying circum-  
 stances. Out of one gang of negro opera-  
 tives, fifty were stricken down with chills  
 and fever, and every one recovered by the  
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## Western Farm News.

Prof. Liebig says: "In as much flour as will lay upon the point of a knife, there is more nourishment than in nine quarts of the best Bavarian beer."

Road dust in the hen house is a little better than plaster, for it is a most excellent absorbent that goes to the earth again ready to deliver all it has gained.

Let the hogs clean up the waste apples and peaches under the trees, and there will be fewer waste fruits next year. There will also be better hogs this year.

The "Financier," a paper published in the interest of bankers and capitalists, says, "an abundance of mortgages is an evidence of prosperity; what ineffable rot."

Thanks to the vigorous onslaughts, made by our Alliance friends of the cotton growing regions, it seems that there are now good hopes of knocking out the jute bagging trust.

Nearly 100 years ago the raising of merinos began among the green mountains of Vermont, and no where else in the world is it found to-day in such perfection and purity of breeding.

Too little attention has been paid to the fact that agriculture is a profession requiring as much skill and preparation to secure the best results as civil engineering, or the professions of law or medicine.

You must please the cow if you want her to do her best. More or less milk is secreted during milking—as saliva is secreted during eating. If the cow is annoyed, it checks the secretion of milk; if pleased, it stimulates it.

Potatoes should always be sorted when digging. With the diggers that we now use in harvesting a crop of potatoes, this is not so much of a task as when the hoe or fork was depended upon. When it can be avoided, potatoes should not be dug when the soil is wet.

Now and then a wise man in his own conceit, says The Husbandman, tells us that Grange trade is opposed to honorable methods in business, and when asked how the methods of Grange trade differ from those he himself employs, he is obliged to answer, "I don't know."

No other calling can afford more advantages or comforts than farming. Yet, as a class, farmers are overworked, poorly-fed (or more correctly, improperly fed, since their tables contain an abundance, but too commonly of food that does not nourish), poorly paid, and frequently isolated from the world.

Ground barley is a good feed for growing pigs. With oats and bran it makes one of the best that can be secured for the development of bone and muscle and with breeding and growing stock this is a very important item, and in localities where barley is raised it is a cheap wholesome ration.

Generally speaking, a flock of geese, properly managed, will pay the farmer a good profit, and it is a source of wonder to me that so few of the farmers who have or can have the water privileges, keep geese. Geese are hardy, require but cheap shelter, and for a good part of the year will obtain nearly all their living.

We are well aware that there are many successful and prosperous farmers to be found throughout the land who have never entered the gates of a college of any kind, yet, with every succeeding year, it becomes more evident that the broader the educational foundation the better chance there is for signal success in any vocation where mind is powerful over matter.

"Brother Farmer, wouldn't it be better to bring that power in out of the weather? And what reaper? Al—so that horse-rake? Likewise that lumber-wagon? We know the manufacturers are anxious to sell you more implements, but you should look out for your own interest as well as theirs, and no farmer can afford to nouse his tools under a tree."

At a recent Wisconsin institute, Professor Short described the proper methods of handling milk and cream in order to make the best quality of butter. Cream not sufficiently ripened does not produce a good keeping or good flavored butter, cream too much ripened yields a bad flavored butter. He cautioned the farmers not to put sweet cream in with ripened cream just before churning. No cream should be churned until it has ripened at least twelve hours. The chief reason for butter not keeping well is the caseine which is permitted to remain in it and which should be thoroughly washed out before removing the butter from the churn.

Feed the fattening hogs lightly at first, gradually increasing until they are on full feed.

A barrel with both heads out, set over rose bushes or tender shrubs and filled with straw makes a good winter protection.

Save up a good supply of clover for the hens in winter. Cut it up fine and scald it and mix it with soft feed; it means eggs every time.

Any one of our farmer readers who wants a fanning mill advertised in another column, at a bargain, will do well to call at this office at once.

The swine marketed this year are averaging much heavier than in any one of the last three years, without carrying the comparison back beyond that time.

Keep the doors and windows of your poultry house wide open until late in the fall, as your poultry will be more hardy and stand the winter better.

Is the farmer then going to let a squeamish consideration for somebody else's profit to stand in the way of making some for himself? Not if he has any sense.

The organization of farmers' alliances has been conducted on a big scale in Minnesota during the hot weather. Alliances have been put on their feet in forty counties.

There is but one navy yard on the Pacific coast, that of Mare Island, California, and another in the Puget Sound region will be imperatively required by the time it can be made ready.

The age of a cow has much to do with her value as a milker. A cow with her first calf never milks as well as with her third or fourth one, and for a dairy animal, as a rule, is unprofitable.

A correspondent in St. Louis Journal of Agriculture complains that white clover is becoming more of a pest than the Canada thistle and if farmers don't be careful and get pure seeds of timothy and red clover, it will be scattered all over the farm. It makes horses, cattle and hogs slobber and fall away.

Farmers are coming to understand that all the evils of unjust laws, unequal taxation, the growing power of corporation, "trusts" and the forms of monopoly under which they are laboring are the results of legislation and that the same means used to bring about these evils must be used to correct them, viz: legislation.

Oil of peppermint in vapor diluted even to one part in 100,000,000 will kill cockroaches in an hour, they dying in convulsions. One drop of the oil placed under a bell jar covering a cultivation of cholera bacilli will kill bacilli and spores in forty-eight hours. It is also regarded as among the best surgical antiseptics, and of great value in phthisis and diphtheria.

The Farmers' Alliance in this state is casting about for an organ, a very risky kind of business. In getting an organ it may get a tartar. Very often such organs are of no benefit, but more harmful otherwise. The very papers that might help them the most would be backward in seeking to be an organ. They would do quite as much in an independent way and would have an influence less warped, and command more respect outside of the alliance. Much discretion should be shown in establishing an organ.

One drop of nicotine-extract of tobacco—placed on the tongue of a dog, will kill him in a minute; the hundredth part of a grain pricked under the skin of a man's arm will produce nausea and fainting. That which blackens old tobacco pipes is empyreumatic oil, a grain of which would kill a man in a few seconds. The half-dozen cigars which most smokers use a day contains six or seven grains—enough if concentrated and absorbed to kill three men, and a pound of tobacco, according to its quality, contains from one-half to an ounce and a half of pure nicotine.

Now that horses will be stabled at night, says The American Agriculturist, or should be, the most perfect cleanliness should be observed. The floors, if of wood, should be frequently drenched with water, and then sprinkled with finely-ground gypsum (plaster), by which the strong, pungent odor common to stables will be neutralized and absorbed. This strong odor of ammonia, which often pains the eyes and nostrils of a man, is exceedingly injurious to horses. It rots leather and corrodes varnish, and what must be its effect on the eyes and lungs of the horses confined in it during whole nights? Foul air promotes glanders, farcy, blindness, influenza (epizootic), pneumonia, heaves, all common diseases of horses; and the acrid manure in which horses are compelled to stand causes not only this injurious vapor, but rots the hoofs and irritates the skin.

## Our Church Swallows.

As vividly as if it were but yesterday, though it is an event of many years ago, comes up the memory of the experience of a pair of barn swallows, *Hirundo horreorum*. The two had determined to build a nest in the porch of our church. My little daughter was the first to detect the fact, and every day she went to see how the birdies were getting along. How the child's mind watched and wondered! To her their ways were marvelous. How they brought the mud, or, more properly, the bird-mortar! How rapidly they worked! Now came the male, who emptied and spread his little hodful of cement. Then came the female, who added hers. And so fast did one succeed the other that it seemed like the boys in winter on the pond, who would slide by in rapid succession, filling in each his place, and crying out, "Keep the pot a-boiling!"

Thus it went on for three days, when the mud-walls were well up. Then began the work on the interior, the lining with hair and fine downy feathers. Now came the full gushing of the child's delight. The wind had caught up a little feather from the barnyard and whirled it into the air. The male swallow saw it. There was a little twitter. Doubtless in the bird language it signified, "Quite the thing!" And the bird caught it just as easy as her brother caught his ball. The child took a hint. Having collected some feathers, she let them go one by one out of the window, and, to her intense delight occasionally one would be caught by the bird.

The nest was probably completed when Saturday evening closed in. It was followed by a beautiful Sabbath morning, but one which almost broke the little damsel's heart. Pray how can people who work in mortar avoid making dirt? These bird-builders had badly spotted the floor of the porch. To his intense disgust, the old sexton beheld it all, and was not slow to guess the cause. With a long pole he knocked the nest down, then swept the porch. How that child did weep for his calamities to the birdies! She even gave vent to some temper, and called the sexton a naughty man.

At breakfast the next morning the child told us with evident joy that the birdies had begun again to build their nest, and in the same spot, too. What a busy week it was for those swallows! On Saturday evening the nest again seemed finished. But Sabbath morning brought the same disaster. Somewhat petulant, the sexton brought the long pole into requisition once more. The child was now painfully exercised, and it cost us considerable effort to quiet her agitation.

The next day she astonished us by saying that the birdies had begun to build again. It was true. What splendid courage! What genuine pluck! How the dear little fellows did work to repair the disaster? It was a real strain, for the inducement had become extraordinary. There were five pretty white eggs about which they were getting anxious. By Saturday evening all was finished. The nest was ready for occupancy. The sun went down beautifully as those tired little workers went to rest.

In the dusk of evening a new worker came. Keeping her own counsel, the little maiden appeared as noiselessly as possible with water, broom, and scrubbing brush. No one knew what had become of the child. When she came home, she said that she guessed she had the church steps so clean that the sexton could not see any dirt this time. So it was. And the sexton quite forgot all about it; and the swallows raised their callow brood in peace. I took the child up to a small opening over the porch, through which she was able to see the pretty eggs, and afterwards the little birds. Next year daughter's birdie's, as we called them, came back, and again built in the same spot, and they again received the attention of their child protector.—*Dr. Lockwood's Readings, in Natural History.*

## Morphine on the Race Track.

The latest diabolism on the race tracks is the use of the hypodermic needle. It seems that some men who have had the entree of the best tracks lately have managed to inject morphine into horses that they wanted to disable temporarily. They have done it without exciting suspicion by hiding the injection needle in one hand and seeming to slap the horses on the buttocks with some such remark as "Here's the horse for my money." The drug takes effect in half an hour, and the horse goes around the track with his head down, the wreck of his former self. If not too frequently done it does not harm the animals.—*New York Sun.*

The left-bower—the man who isn't recognized by the lady to whom he lifts his hat—*Burlington Free Press.*



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## Horticultural Department.

F. SMITH Editor.

If you would raise the best and sweetest beets use wood ashes liberally. Beets need alkali.

Does it not stand to reason that the potash which we find everywhere in the woody fibres of our plants and trees would be a natural fertilizer for their growth again?

Currants we raise from cuttings. As to varieties, we grow the cherry for market as it is wonderfully productive. Black Naples for jellies, the Versailles for table, and a goodly number like the White Grape variety.

When freezing weather approaches, mulch your vines heavily with well rotted stable manure. Let this lie around their roots all winter, and in the spring dig the remainder in with a spade fork. A liberal dressing of wood ashes is splendid for all vines, trees and flowers, also carrots, cabbages and parsnips, just before a rain.

We prune grapevines whenever our knife is sharp. During the summer and early fall the suckers should be kept off. These can be easily pinched out early in their growth. When your vine has made a good growth of from six to ten feet pinch off the end so as to check the growth and harden the wood, so it will not winter kill, and also to develop the fruit buds for next year's fruitage.

If you want nice peaches and pears—you who have plenty of good wood ashes, leached or unleached—take a hoe and mark a small trench around the base of your tree stem and put therein a shovelful of ashes. The snow and rains of winter will carry the acids and salts down to the roots. Then take some soft soap and thin with water; now wash your young trees and grapevines with the solution and mark the result. Examine the soil around the base of the peach trees and see if green oozes out. If it does there is a borer at work. Take a small wire and insert in his road and thus finish his career.

The most senseless part of the newspapers of to-day, are the columns devoted to politics.

The agricultural class will never accomplish much for itself until it does meddle with politics, and that too, independent of all professed politicians and parties.

It is not very encouraging when farmers elect one of their number to congress, to see him go off in cahoots with monopoly and trust members and get the idea that the fences he must look after are mostly connected with post-offices and the distribution of the spoils.

There are many public offices that when once well filled should remain in the hands of the incumbents during good behavior. Public office must not be bartered away as a reward for pot-house party work if we would have the best results. The spoils system must be overthrown, and the people must do it. The politicians will not.

An exchange says the deep water convention went home filled with enthusiasm. That is much better than the old way, of going home filled with bad liquor. One Texas delegate in acknowledging the hospitalities of the citizens of Topeka, declared in the convention that he had become convinced by what he had seen, that prohibition does prohibit in Kansas.

In one hundred years from now this will be the greatest nation on earth, with over two hundred million population. If continued, the present spoils system in our politics will long before that time become such a power that its evils will be disastrous beyond conception. Every principle of the republican idea will be overthrown. Our politics will be a machine indeed, compared with what it now is. It is time for every man to demand a reform on this line. Members of Congress must not be allowed to give out offices with such freedom. Men in office must cease to be political demagogues even if temporarily deprived of the right to vote.

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Alden's Manifold Cyclopedia.

Volume fourteen of Alden's manifold Cyclopedia takes the work from Excluse to Floyd. It, of course, resembles the preceding numbers of the series. We also notice the same skill in the selection and treatment of topics and the same careful editing which has characterized the work from the beginning. In fact, as it progresses its great merits become still more conspicuous. The combination of a dictionary and a cyclopedia is an excellent idea and is being well carried out. The judicious use of illustrations is a helpful feature, and the treatment of subjects is clear, direct, and practical. Thus, while it is of great value to professional men, it is also a thoroughly serviceable and helpful work for the masses of the people. Among the subjects treated in this volume are Excommunicate, 3 pages; Exodus, 2 pages; Extreme Unction, 1 page; Eye, 20 pages; Faith and Faith Cure, each over 1 page; Faraday, 2 pages; Fashion, over 9 pages; Fertilizers, 1 page; Feudal System, 4 pages; Firearms, 6 pages; Fishery, 7 pages; Fishery Treaties, 2 pages; Florence, 5 pages; Florida, 6 pages; Flowers, over 4 pages. Covering the various fields of agriculture, manufacture, commerce, science, art, invention, history, religion, law, biography, and politics, the work is truly manifold in character as well as name. It costs only 60 cents a volume in excellent cloth binding, and 85 cents in half morocco, sent post-paid, or, if ordered immediately, the 14 vols. may be had for \$8.50 for the cloth binding, \$9.20 for half morocco. This reduced rate is gradually advanced as each new volume appears. John B. Alden, publisher, New York, Chicago or Atlanta.

## Bald-Headed Notabilities.

One of the most interesting things we have ever read is Blakely Hall's contribution to FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER this week on "Notable Bald-Headed Men." Everybody will want to read it. It is a double number containing twenty-four pages and over forty pictures, including a view of the World's Fair site in New York, the Quebec landslide, the great bicycle tournament, and the army rifle competition. It is a splendid number.

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## FREAKS OF LIGHTNING.

Some of the Peculiar Forms It Assumes During Thunder Storms.

Conformations Caught by the Detective Camera—The Deadly Zig-zag and Dazzling Bolt.

Some of the most tremendous electrical storms ever known in this country have occurred during the last two summers. Many people have been instantly killed by the mysterious agent, which science now proposes to harness for the execution of condemned murderers, and the destruction of property has been something unprecedented. At the same time the display in the heavens has been of such a character as to awaken feelings of awe and terror in the superstitious, and to amaze even the scientific investigator. During some of the electrical storms there were times when the whole sky, from zenith to nadir, seemed a glittering mass of fire about to wreak destruction upon every animate thing below.



PASSING FROM ONE CLOUD TO ANOTHER

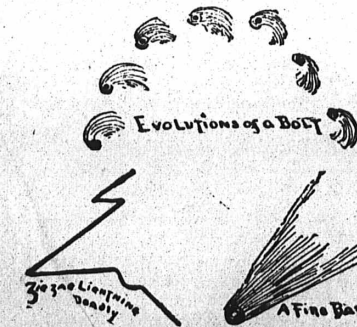
Scientists have spent half their lives and Uncle Sam has expended a goodly bit of treasury surplus in the attempt to ascertain the atmospheric conditions which produce the changes in the weather; but the path of the lightning and the nature of the most subtle agent in the universe still remain to a very large extent a sealed book to the savants. Clouds, wind, air currents and centers of radiation are all more or less familiar topics to the weather sharps, but the freaks of the potent illuminator of the sky are beyond their ken.

Recent experiments with the instantaneous camera have done much toward bringing some of the eccentricities of lightning within our comprehension; but the little they have disclosed only serves to augment curiosity. It is a strange commentary upon the limits set to man's knowledge that he should know less about the flambeau of the clouds, which flash about and over him, than he does about the remote planet Mars.

One of the most interesting and novel experiments in this direction was made a few with the instantaneous camera, while a severe thunderstorm was raging east of Sandy Hook. Intermittent flashes lit up the sky, followed at longer intervals by a blinding blaze of light, so dazzling that when it expired the whole atmosphere seemed filled with a sulphurous blackness. It was night.

Focusing the camera on the group of nimbus clouds that marked the storm center, the operator waited his opportunity. It came in a moment. Banners of bluish-white streamed out from a common branch or center, extending all over the horizon and glittering there, for probably two seconds, when they expired. The exposure showed a perfect picture of "trunculated" lightning, every branch of the tree being connected with the parent stem, although the connection had not been visible to the naked eye. In this case the streamers ran from the zenith downward. Later another exposure brought the reverse picture, the lines of glittering flame traversing the sky from the horizon upward. The swiftness of the passage of the fluid in the heavens may be imagined from the fact that the exposure, only occupying a little over a second, took in the whole tree as a unit, on both occasions.

If it ever becomes possible to measure the velocity of a lightning bolt it will have to be done with some instrument not yet invented. A flash is to it as a trotter is to a racehorse. If a dozen lenses were focused on space and could by some lucky accident happen to be put in operation at the instant an able-bodied fire-bolt began its gyrations it would catch something like this:



These five positions are curves described by a single bolt, all five being visible and vanished in the fraction of a second—just long enough to leave an impression less on the eye than on the mind of the observer. The curve and dip alternately were not unlike those of a shuttlecock, but were so swift and dazzling that the impression received was but a weak approximation of the reality.

Another strange picture was that of the deadly "articulated" lightning which, beginning at a point in the southeast, traveled swiftly downward,

branching off at intervals and then disappearing with a sharp westward curve, in the direction of the earth. This and the "zig-zag" flash, are the only forms of lightning regarded as fatal to life or dangerous to property, as they invariably seek the earth. In their descent the stream broadens till it attains the dimensions of a wide belt of fire, traveling at inconceivable speed and leaving in its trail a distinct sulphurous odor. At a distance in the sky it seems like a slender bar of bluish or yellowish white.

Another and more familiar form of the same phenomenon is the straight-line thunderbolt, which is not an infrequent accompaniment of severe electrical storms by land and sea. Its velocity is equal to that of the curving bolt or fire ball, but progressing in a direct path apparently travels much more swiftly, and either explodes in mid-air, vanishing in palpable fragments, or strikes the earth or water, making a deep furrow, but leaving no other tangible trace of its existence.

"We know very little about lightning and its forms," said Capt. Dunn, the chief signal observer of New York. "What is a lightning-bolt?" he was asked.

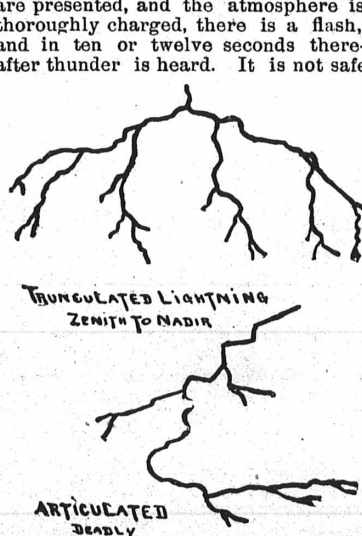
Capt. Dunn grinned. "Well, to tell the truth," said he, "you have asked something which neither I nor any other man I know of can answer. There's Prof. Loomis who says a fire-bolt or lightning-bolt is a conglomeration of ponderable substances in great tenuity, and the whole charged with electricity." That's as clear as mud, isn't it? Technicities aside, it is said to be a mass of fine particles of matter, which the electricity has attracted and fused, and which is driven along at incredible speed by the currents generated by the electrical conditions that surround it. I cannot say whether any of them are composed of gas alone in a state of combustion; nobody can say so.

I have no doubt, however, that the majority, if not all, are composed of matter which, when it falls on the earth is probably very much of the same sort as the fragments of aerolites we sometimes find after we have traced their descent from the sky. Whether they are originally gaseous, or are simply matter collected from the atmosphere and chemically changed in descent by electricity or other forces, is impossible to determine.

"You have been a very close observer of storms, Captain; what are the conditions most favorable to electrical disturbances?"

"They are according to the location and topographic surroundings. Here, in New York city, I have noticed that whenever we have a south or south-east wind, of a hot summer afternoon, and when there were clouds in the air well charged with electricity, the wind blows them over in the direction of the Orange mountains. There they meet the dry, cool air of the hills and they back right up and float over the city. A thunderstorm is the result of this encounter.

"The nimbus is always the storm cloud—never the cumulus. It is a heavy cloud and lies low in the air, usually a quarter of a mile or so from the ground, but I have seen them much higher. When all the conditions are presented, and the atmosphere is thoroughly charged, there is a flash, and in ten or twelve seconds thereafter thunder is heard. It is not safe



to calculate the distance of a storm center by counting between the flash and the report, although I know that it is a very old and generally accepted way. It is certainly very unscientific, for there are many considerations that might make this method useless, such as the direction of the wind, the imperfect conductivity of the cloud, etc.

"In a thunderstorm, where is the safest place for a person who is outdoors?"

"He should stand up and get wet," said the captain. "Then he will be in much less danger of getting struck than if he were dry. This is on the theory that water is a good conductor, and will carry the electricity off to the ground without danger. There is a variety of conductors. Hot air is one—that is why so many tall chimneys are struck; dry wood is another.

"A great many ladies are excessively nervous during a thunderstorm," observed another gentleman, "and some of them would give anything to know what to do to be perfectly safe. They are mortally afraid of lightning rods, too, probably remembering how Mark Twain's thickly rodded house drew all the lightning in the neighborhood and kept it long after it had cleared up elsewhere. Now, assuming that any one can be perfectly safe, it can be best done by insulating one's self in a room, or if one has no hammock, one should lie down on a feather bed. Then the chances of being struck are certainly much less than even the proverbial one in a million."

## CAREER OF A DOLLAR BILL.

How It is Ground Out by Wonderful Machines.

The National Debts It Can Pay—Silver, Gold and Paper, Millions of Dollars a Day.

Nothing is more interesting than the birth, life and death of a dollar greenback—its procreation, occupation and maceration, so to speak.

I have just inspected the big government factory where 1,000 men are employed, writes W. A. Croffutt of Washington, every one of whom handles enough money every hour to make him rich (half of the men are women, but I use the term advisedly, for Susan Anthony has repeatedly alleged, relying on information and observation for her knowledge, that "men" embrace "women").

The bureau of engraving and printing, of which Capt. W. M. Meredith is chief, turns out—but to make the matter plain, let me begin at the beginning, a good way further back. Let me go back to the first "on demand" notes issued by the government.

And to make it very plain, let me take the stand as a witness, at the risk of talking about myself and being egotistical.



BUREAU OF ENGRAVING AND PRINTING.

About the time of the first bull run I became a correspondent of the New York Tribune with the army of the Potomac; and, incidentally (after the fashion of that time), a clerk in the treasury department. I was put into a long room where, during the months of autumn, thirty of us were engaged from morning till night in signing treasury notes—the first issue by Secretary Chase. Each clerk signed his own name under the words "for the treasurer." I signed two million dollars worth or so, and for ten years thereafter I often came across bills bearing my name. The notes were payable "on demand" and soon became as good as gold when all other credit went to wreck.

After a few months this expensive method of attesting the currency was superseded by machinery. One day S. M. Clark, chief of the construction bureau, went to Mr. Chase and said:

"Mr. Chase, I can release those fellows from that jail and save you a lot of money."

"How?" asked the great secretary.

"I will make a machine to sign Spinner's autograph a hundred times as fast."

"Can that be done?"

"Certainly. Give me three weeks' leave of absence."

The request was granted. Clark came back with the machines and we were released for other work.

The first notes were made by the American bank note company but when the issues multiplied Mr. Chase found that he must do his own work.

"You cannot do it," said the favored company.

"Why not?" asked the secretary.

"You cannot make a number of dies exactly similar without a transfer press on which steel in a soft state can take the impression. There are only two makers in the United States and we have hired them for ten years."

The troubled secretary sought his chief of construction and told the dilemma.

Mr. Clark said: "It is true. They have hired those men to keep you from getting the presses. But they can be made piecemeal. Give me two months and I will put twenty of them at work."

He scoured the country for skill, made contracts for a bit of the press here and another bit there, and within the time specified the presses were at work and the government was printing its own notes. This was the egg from which Capt. Meredith's spured game chicken was hatched.

list in scrollwork border and so on. It often takes six months to engrave one plate.

The paper of all our current bonds and bank notes is made at Dalton, Mass., by a process that is kept secret. In co-operation with the manufacturers in keeping the secret, Capt. Meredith has prohibited the carrying away of any paper by anybody—even the waste sheets clipped from the sides of the bills. The penalty for having any of this unprinted paper in one's possession is a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment.

The two single threads of colored silk running lengthwise of every government bill are woven by a process that has never been successfully repeated by counterfeiter.

There are 200 plate printers and each one can print from \$3,000 to \$100,000 a day, assisted by a woman who lays the paper on the plate and takes it off. The printer's business is to ink the plate with a roller, wipe off all the surface ink, polish the surface with the hand rubbed on chalk, and then pull the impression with a lever. It is a very primitive method of printing, and it cannot be long before congress recovers from the insanity which seized it last winter and returns to the superb steam presses which now stand huddled at the end of the building, powerful but powerless, like elephants blanketed and in chains.

Very few sheets are spoiled—not more than one or two in a hundred. From the time the paper is received till it is sent to the treasury department printed and signed it is counted thirty-eight times to make certain that none have "got away" at any stage. If one sheet is missing all are prisoners in the office until the matter is rectified. Sometimes the office runs for months without a single sheet being even temporarily missed.

I have spoken of greenbacks only, but in fact all the government evidence of indebtedness are printed here: the national bank issues, the bonds and the internal revenue stamps. In one recent year the bureau printed and delivered \$268,000,000 worth of bank notes and bonds, besides 500,000,000 revenue stamps. It once printed \$140,000,000 of 4 per cent bonds in thirty days. All the postage stamps are made in New York.

When the sheets, whether of notes or bonds, are finished by the bureau they are still ineligible to pass as currency. They are carted to the treasury department to get the finished touch—the real seal which is the government's attestation of genuineness. This distinguishing mark is printed on by a steam press, under the eye of Secretary Windom, the final accounting officer, and bears the legend "Thesaur. Amur. Septent. Sigil."

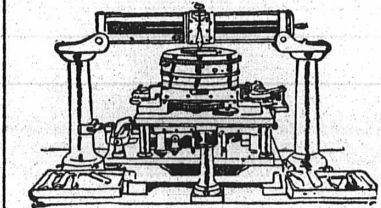
Some years since, in Bellagio, Italy, I offered some greenbacks in payment for a piece of satin. To my surprise the merchant took it unhesitatingly, but he carefully took up each bill and scrutinized it.

"What for?" I asked him.

"To see if ze vossa—vot you say?—red—red marks eez printed here," he answered.

The government never reissues its registered bonds. Whenever a bond is sold, the old one is taken up and chewed to pulp by the mill whose jaws are all the while busy macerating worn out currency, and a new bond is issued in its place.

When the bureau is closed for the night all the steel plates and rolls and all the sheets of notes, stamps and bonds are carefully counted and verified and deposited in the vaults, and receipts for them are passed before any employ is permitted to leave the building.



THE WONDERFUL GEOMETRIC LATHE.

The most attractive room in the building to me is the little corner where silently works the wonderful geometric lathe. This is the machine which engraves on the plate those involved curvilinear figures which appear upon the backs of all bank notes, and as a base for figures on their faces. It is a marvel of human ingenuity. Description of it is very difficult. The standards which support the mandrel are not fixed at right angle to the bed, but are capable of oscillating backwards and forwards in plane parallel to the plane of rotation. The graver is held in a slide rest above, and the plate resting on the top of the standard, receives on its face definite and symmetrical deviations from a circle producing beautiful effects. In the devices exhibited were rosettes and roses and many floral symbols, snowflakes seen on a glass and a thousand figures of the most lovely lace. The base of the standard swings irregularly north and south, the second section resting on it and partaking of its motion vibrates also east and west and the upper section sharing the eccentric motions of the other two turns also on a pivot at its center. The resultant is the geometric figures on the bank notes.

The curious thing about it is that no lathe can be set twice exactly alike, so that every plate is necessarily unique.

A High Compliment.

As the present czar of Russia is left-handed all the road signs in his territory have been changed to read: "Keep to the left," and every gimlet and corkscrew has been made to turn the same way. The only thing lacking is to bring out left-handed juggs.

## LONDON EXPERIENCES.

An American Woman Tells of her Life in London Apartments.

On her return from a season's sojourn in London an observing American woman writes: "I often recall with some amusement the first extortion I was subjected to during my first week of apartment living. My bill was rather more than double what I had calculated to pay. With the assistance of an English friend I went over each item only to discover that my carterer had made a clear profit on each article ranging from 'tuppence ha'penny' to 'alf a crown.' This was not encouraging, but I had expected 'doing' and consequently was not surprised.

"A very forcible note to my landlady brought my bill the following week £4 less. I subsequently learned that six people had lived at my expense during that time. I afterwards sought the subterfuge of doing my own marketing and deluded myself with the idea that my living would cost me almost nothing, poultry, meats and vegetables being sold at such moderate prices. It was not so, however. You may plan and devise, watch and suspect, but that is all the good it will do you, if you are at the mercy of English lodging-house keepers. It is their nature to defraud. They can't help it and you must expect them to.

I have often thought that the housemaids were in league with their employers, in this respect only that their purloinings are more glaring and assume the shape of out-and-out thefts. "I had occasion to be absent from London for a few days, and upon returning found that numerous articles, among which were several valuable pieces of jewelry, had been stolen. At the time of my departure there were three women servants employed in the house. The day before my return, one of them, upon whom suspicion fell, had suddenly and without notice left her situation. Upon complaining to my landlady, I was informed that not the slightest redress was open to me. Notwithstanding that the servant had been mistrusted, notwithstanding that she had the sole care of my rooms and her keys, not even an investigation of her boxes, which had been left for the expressman's call, was allowed me. I was told that without 'positive proof' no police magistrate would issue a search warrant. This quite convinced me that there was collusion, as I had personal knowledge that, in other houses, maid-servants when discharged were not permitted to leave the premises until their boxes had been open to the inspection of the landlady. English housemaids, as a class, are more thorough in their work and more respectful than American servant-girls; but the latter are undeniably more honest and trustworthy.

"Now, as to the matter of expenditure in dress. Never in my life did I see such specimens of fine underwear, both in texture and design, as in London. Not only was I particularly pleased with these two essentials, but also with the prices and the courtesy extended by the clerks and firms. I was to leave London in twenty-four hours, and in eight hours a dealer made from my own design some very elaborate articles in this line dear to the feminine heart. I wonder if many American shopkeepers know matter what your past custom or how great the anticipation of future patronage, would have made you the same outfit in the same time. Not many, I'll wager.

"Don't go to the linen-drapers for underclothes. Their prices are exorbitant and their goods in most cases yellow and shop-worn from close and long packing on the shelves. Women in England ought to dress better than women in America, but they don't. They have many advantages over us, but they don't seem to know how to use them. While there I employed a woman to 'do over' some plain house gowns for two shillings (50 cents) per day. Fancy that in America! A great saving in the cost of dress can be effected by sending to the mills at Darlington, Bradford or Halifax and selecting your goods from samples that are sent you by post on approval.

"Imagine a heavy ladies' cloth for one and six (36 cents) per yard, double fold; grenadines, flannels, plaids and innumerable fancy woollens and cottons at what would be considered starvation prices on this side of the Atlantic. Gloves, too, are an item worth investments for every spare dollar. At one place on Regent street I have bought gloves, twenty-button length, best Suede, for \$2. Just the same number of buttons, and as much kid, only of an inferior quality, sell as low as 75 cents."

An Erratic Corpse.

A man fell from a train down at Baltimore, and when the police picked him up he was apparently a fit subject for the coroner, so they took him to the station and notified the coroner to come around and sit on him. While they were waiting for the coroner the corpse got up from the bench where it had been laid out and walked off. The police stopped it, but after a vigorous protest on the part of the corpse it was allowed to go. It was a mighty mean trick to play on the police and coroner, though.

It Looks Reasonable.

In the case of a passenger killed on a Tennessee railroad the counsel for the road has set up the plea that the deceased was making a journey in direct opposition to the wishes of his wife, and that her last words to him were that something would surely happen if he went.

