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THE BUTTON CRAZE.
Buttons are quite an important feature of both day and evening gowns, the stone cameo having the preference, though numerous shell cameos are seen as well as large tortoise-shell buttons. Seed pearls are also well favored.
Hicks—She threatened all sorts of things, and finally he got desperate and exclaimed, "By your worst, Wick!—And what did she do? Hicks—Very coolly, she began to play the piano. Wick—I see, she took him by his word.
FOSTER—Do all your employees drop their tools the instant that the whistle blows? Pigeon—Oh, no, not all of them. The more orderly ones have their tools put away before that time.

On the Farm.
TILLAGE.
There is an ancient and erroneous saying, which has been attributed to many different writers, to the effect that tillage is manure. Yet, while tillage may not be manure, it is a fact that careful preparation of the soil rarely gives good results and that thorough tillage is the best substitute for manure. We shall in this paper discuss the matter of tillage (then by heavy manuring; but, as in animal husbandry the best results can only be obtained by the combination of good breed and good feed, so in agriculture our best dependence is in a combination of fertility and thorough cultivation. From comparative poor soil well cultivated we can get better crops than from rich land carelessly or unintelligently tilled. Even if we have applied a heavy dressing of manure, thorough tillage is indispensable, as it may be well distributed in the surface soil and thereby put to the best advantage. In our comparatively light soils, plowing or cultivation in sections, if ever, to be recommended, it is only to be recommended for land long unused or scandalously neglected—of which there is very little in this progressive province. Even then if the land had much vegetation on it, or a fair soil, deep plowing would not be advisable. In the fall it is different. Deep plowing or subsoiling may then be followed with very beneficial results and such treatment should be meted out to all arable lands every few years.
The objects of cultivation are to loosen and pulverize the soil so that moisture is retained near the surface, whether falling from above or rising by capillary attraction from below; to make the soil so porous that the plants can spread their roots and draw up the water and the soil sufficiently firm that plants can take up the largest amount of water and fertilizer; to have the land in the best possible condition to allow a free passage of air to the roots. There are, of course, other things to be considered, but they do not come to us at this moment. It is a common and an improvident farmer whose implements are not adapted to the soil, and that he will do better work and more of it with the same labor to man than he will with the same implements; but to commence cultivating the land in a careless and unimprovident way, and to neglect the fact that the art of plowing does not lie entirely in turning over the soil. Good plowing can only be done by an implement in perfect condition and in the soil in perfect condition. It is not so that the shoddy farmer's "out and cover" may be avoided. It takes no small amount of skill and judgment in fact the greatest importance is attached to this fundamental operation. The limit of tillage is hard to define, but it is certain that the land in good heart cannot receive too much intelligent cultivation, though crops may suffer from over-cultivation—under which head we would include the land which is too wet, needing too deep cultivating too deep. Far more injury, however, is done by farmers not fully realizing the advantages of proper preparation of the soil, or by the neglect to cultivate at the right time. An important factor in the preparation of the soil, which is essential to promote the perfect germination of the seed, especially in the case of the corn, is the compacting of the soil, which is important in this latitude. The careless preparation of the ground means, in nine cases out of ten, tardy germination, slow growth, and a crop which is liable to be lost on the crop and meagre returns. In our best crops the farmer should neglect to cultivate if possible after each rain, no matter how often, as the soil is then sufficiently dry. This will keep the land from caking and will result in a more uniform surface. Such cultivation, which should be shallow, will also be the most beneficial, as it will not mistake to let the enemy appear well in evidence and become thoroughly established before commencing the inevitable battle.

ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS.
Report of the Beekeepers Association—Henry Protection and the Export Trade in Honey.
The Ontario Department of Agriculture has issued the report of the Beekeepers' Association for 1899. The report is a most interesting and profitable one to all honey-producers, as it conveys much practical information with regard to the management of swarms and the placing of honey upon the market. The Association met in Toronto in December, and the report includes the papers read and discussions held on that occasion, embodying much valuable experience. Among those who contributed papers or addresses, were Prof. J. W. Robertson, Ottawa; H. G. Sibbald, Cooksville; D. W. Askin, Beltsville; W. Z. Hutchinson, Flint; Mich. W. J. Hall, Woodstock; B. Holmes, Athens; and John Newton, Thamesford.
EXPORT TRADE IN HONEY.
Among the more important topics discussed by the Association was the export trade in honey, respecting which Professor Robertson, who has devoted much time and attention to the export of Canadian farm produce into England, presented some helpful suggestions. It is pointed out that in order to obtain a remunerative market in the Old Country, it was necessary to have the honey in the best possible condition, and that all shipments were not only first-class in quality but also in attractive packaging, and that if due care was taken in these respects the honey would find a ready and extensive market for honey. The Association has also arranged to have a full and creditable display of Ontario honey at the Paris Exposition, as a means of promoting the export trade, and despite the fact that 1899 was a poor honey year, there will be an elaborate and attractive showing.

FRUIT IN BLOOM.
A good deal of attention is also devoted to the question of spraying fruit trees in bloom, a practice which has caused great destruction among fruit trees in the past. The law distinctly prohibits it, notwithstanding the fact that many owners of fruit trees persist in employing the fruit sprayer, and the result is a loss of fruit and a waste of money. The law is in force, and it is the duty of the owner to see that it is strictly observed. The law is in force, and it is the duty of the owner to see that it is strictly observed. The law is in force, and it is the duty of the owner to see that it is strictly observed.

FASHION'S PUNCTUATION.
The latest fad of fashion, it is said, is that of punctuation. It strikes us as a little odd, but it is not so odd as it may seem. The fashion has never been indulged in to any large extent by woman. A dash or two and plenty of italics are the only concessions her spirit has made toward that phase of rhetoric. That she should be enjoined, upon pain of appearing unbecomingly, to forego all commas and semicolons and interjection points that she has never used seems hardly fair. It is a case of being found guilty without having any opportunity to defend herself. It shows a remarkable ignorance upon the part of fashion. What has been thinking about all these years that the smart epistolary communication has been so religiously abstaining from punctuation? Perhaps Fashion has been wrongfully reported, such things have happened—perhaps the flat actually concerns the beloved dashes and italics, so dear to her who takes her pen in hand for the fashionable note. 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