

THE CORK-TREE.

This is a native of southern Europe and northern Africa. It grows to a height of 40 or 50 feet. It is the great source of the cork of commerce. This substance is the outer bark of the tree, which is of great thickness and elasticity, owing to the extraordinary development of the cellular tissues. The corky bark ultimately cracks and separates from the inner bark, which remains attached to the tree. Both the outer and the inner bark abound in tannin, and the former contains a peculiar principle called *suberine*, and an acid called *suberic acid*. The cork-tree flourishes well south of Virginia; it will stand ordinary winters north of this state, but severe winters injure it considerably, especially when the plants are young. A plant in the grounds of the department was killed during the severe winter of 1880-81, when the thermometer indicated eighteen degrees below zero. It is readily raised from the seeds, which, however, have to receive a special care in packing, so that they may retain their vitality during the time necessary for the transportation from Europe. The trees are usually allowed to grow for sixteen years before the first removal of the bark takes place. The first crop of bark is considered of but little value, except for tanning purposes, being full of cracks and cells. After a period of eight or ten years the bark is again removed, but this is also considered of an inferior quality, and is employed for floats for nets and such purposes. At the end of ten years or more a third cutting takes place, when the cork is esteemed of thickness and quality. The bark is removed by making longitudinal and transverse incisions, so as to allow it to be taken off in flakes. When first removed from the tree the bark is curved; the pieces are straightened by placing them in water and laying heavy weights on them; they are afterwards held over a blazing fire until the surfaces become scorched or blackened, which has the effect of closing the pores and giving a closer texture to the cork.

The best cork is not less than one-and-a-half inches in thickness; it is supple, elastic, neither woody nor porous, and of a reddish color. Yellow cork is considered of inferior quality, and white cork, which has not been charred on the surface, the worst. Although the charred surface is considered evidence of good quality, yet it is said the charring process has a detrimental effect, as it secretes an empyreumatic oil, which is given off and is frequently taken up by the liquid which the cork confines when in use. The firing is sometimes partially superseded by the process of boiling the cork and afterwards scraping its surface, which is said to be more effectual in closing the pores.—*Southern Lumberman.*

Failure in Casting a Cannon.

Disastrous failure attended the attempt to cast a 120-ton steel cannon at the South Boston Foundry recently. The metal was conducted to the mould successfully and the process of cooling begun, when the entire mass suddenly exploded, setting the building on fire, but fortunately not injuring the workmen. The cause of the explosion is supposed to be an insufficient supply of cold water in the core. Krupp still retains the ribbon for successfully casting heavy ordnance.

Advice to Mothers.

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain and cutting teeth? If so, send at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures dysentery and diarrhoea, regulates the stomach and bowels, cures wind colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation and gives tone and energy to the whole system. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for children teething is pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female nurses and physicians in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price 25 cents a bottle.

NO RIVAL IN THE FIELD.—There is no rival for Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry. It is the acknowledged champion for the cure of all summer complaints.

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**MILITIA**

SEALED TENDERS, marked on the left hand corner of envelope "Tenders for Militia Clothing and General Store Supplies," and addressed to the Honorable the Minister of Militia and Defence, will be received up till noon of Monday, 11th August, 1884.

Printed forms of tenders, containing full particulars, may be obtained from the Department at Ottawa and at the following Militia Stores, where also sealed patterns of all articles may be seen, viz:—The offices of the Superintendent of Stores at London, Toronto, Kingston, Montreal, Quebec, and St. John, N. B.

Tenders not in relation with sealed patterns of the Department or accompanied by special patterns will not be received.

No tender will be received unless made on printed forms furnished by the Department.

The material of all articles will require to be of Canadian manufacture and Canadian workmanship.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted Canadian bank cheque, for an amount equal to ten per cent. of the total value of the articles tendered for, which will be forfeited if the party making the tender declines to sign the contract when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the service contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

C. EUG. PANET,
Deputy of the Minister of Militia and Defence
Ottawa 4th July, 1884.



WHEREAS, on the night of the 18th instant, the Post Office at Peterborough, Ontario, was entered by burglars, and money and postage stamps stolen therefrom, and moreover a number of valuable letters opened and robbed of the contents; notice is hereby given that a reward of TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS will be paid for such evidence as may lead to the arrest and conviction of the thief or thieves.

JOHN CARLING,
Postmaster General.
Post Office Department,
Ottawa, 31st July, 1884. } 3433004343

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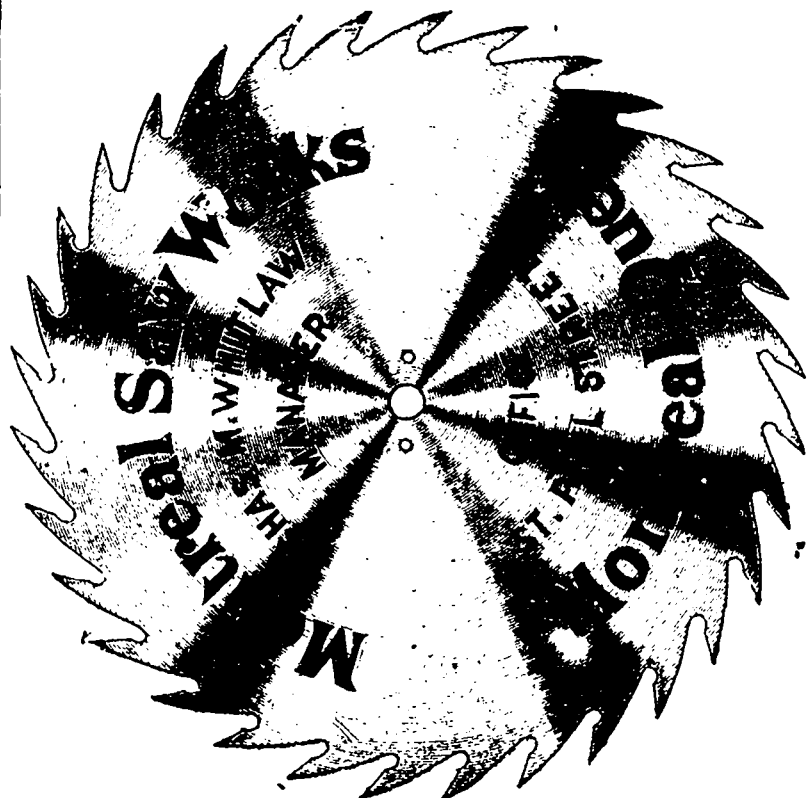
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