

The government of the United States is now the best customer of the Beacon Dam Company. The call for the Navy and Army buttons is immense; the article is elegant; the naval button has on it the motto, "don't give up the ship." And so tough are these rubber buttons, that if one is placed on an oak plank and pressure applied, it can be sunk clear into the plank, and will come out unharmed; and the government shaving boxes, which are about three inches in diameter, are so strong that a man weighing 200 pounds can press his whole weight on one of them and not break them. Gun handles, sword handles, and other military implements are constructed from this material. They are cheap, elegant, enduring.—*Boston Journal*.

CURING PROVISIONS IN CORR.—A system of curing provisions has for some years been in operation by several of the most eminent continental firms, particularly in Hamburg, which permits of meat being cured at all seasons of the year, and not during the winter months only, as has hitherto been the case in this country. As frequently happens when a superior mode of operation prevails in any particular place, the utmost secrecy is employed to prevent the peculiar nature of the processes from getting publicity, and strangers are in most instances excluded from the concerns where this new mode of curing is carried on. Urged by a desire to discover in what this new system differed from the ordinary mode, Mr. Murphy, of the firm of P. Murphy and Son, of this city, (Cork) determined on visiting Hamburg, and examining the matter for himself. It was not without difficulty that he succeeded in his object; but succeed he did, and the result is the introduction of the continental mode of curing in this city, the only locality in the kingdom in which it has ever been in operation.

The materials used in curing beef, pork and bacon, according to the most approved continental plans, are ice and salt, mixed together in certain proportions, varying according to the temperature of the weather, the quality of the provision to be preserved, and the market for which it is intended. Mr. Murphy has, for the purpose of carrying on the provision trade, and the subsidiary branches with which it is connected, the interest in a suite of extensive stores at the Watercourse, covering, in the aggregate nearly two acres. Here, with some alterations, new buildings, &c., which are in course of completion, there will be ample accommodation for every branch of the business, the extent of which may be estimated when it is stated that for provisions alone 60 or 70 coopers are generally employed in the formation of casks. The newest and most approved methods of killing the animals are adopted, so as to combine the greatest possible despatch with the *minimum* amount of injury to the meat. The carcasses having been scalded or singed, then cut into the proper sizes, they are ready to undergo the operation of curing. For this purpose ice and pickle are put in requisition, the former being kept in chambers specially assigned for its reception. In a row of large and deep tanks, nine in number, the pieces of provision are laid in ice and salt, and then undergo the process of curing, which, unless to the initiated, is mysterious. The duration of the process depends on circumstances; but nothing can be more perfect than the mode in which the ice succeeds in effecting that great desideratum—the production of sound, firm and perfectly sweet beef, pork, or bacon, warranted to stand any climate. In these tanks, 7,200 carcasses can be cured at one and the same moment. After the pickling has been concluded, there are distinct portions of the concern appropriated to the preparing and drying of hams, flitches, &c, either by artificial heat, or the spontaneous action of the atmosphere.—*Irish Paper*.

THE GRASS.—Consider what we owe merely to the meadow grass, to the covering of the dark ground by that glorious enamel, by the companies of those soft and countless, and peaceful spears. The fields! Follow forth but for a little time the thoughts that we ought to recognize in those words. All spring and summer is in them—the walks by silent, scented paths—the rest in noonday heat—the joy of herds and flocks—the power of all shepherd life and meditation—the life of sunlight upon the world, falling in emerald streaks, and falling in soft, blue shadows, where else it would have struck upon the dark mold of scorching dust—pastures beside the pacing brooks—soft banks and knolls of lowly hills—thymy slopes of down overlooked by the blue line of lifted sea—crisp lawns all dim with early dew, or smooth in evening warmth of barred sun-shine, dented by happy feet, and softening in their fall the sound of loving voices, all these are summed up in these simple words; and these are not all. We may not measure to the full depth of this heavenly gift, in our own land; though still, as we think of it no longer, the infinite of that meadow sweetness, Shakspeare's peculiar joy would open upon us more and more, yet we have it but in part. Go out in the spring time, among the mea-