

The British occupation of Egypt, which has been so much to the advantage of that ancient and historic country, is now showing some excellent results in the way of grain and cotton crops. A thorough system of irrigation has been introduced, and many thousands of acres have been transformed from sandy wastes into fertile fields. The exports for this year of both grain and cotton will be larger than ever before.

Notwithstanding the greatly increased speed of the ocean steamers, it is interesting to note that there are many fish who can easily swim swiftly enough to break any ocean grey-hound's record. The shark, for instance, can outstrip the most rapid ship yet upon the water, the dolphin can boast a speed of over twenty miles an hour, while for short distances the salmon is the record-breaker, as it is often known to accomplish 25 miles an hour.

Prince Ferdinand is determined to assist the development of his little kingdom of Bulgaria in every way. His last achievement has been a successful exhibition of arts and industries at Philipopolis, at which the Bulgarians showed their beautiful work in leather, silver filagree, and embroidery, "quite like other people." Owing to the Prince's doubtful title to his throne, neither the French nor the Turkish Consuls were allowed to take any official cognizance of the affair, which nevertheless was highly creditable.

It has long been known to sailors that the great floating mats of seaweed are powerful wave-quellers. An ingenious Frenchman who has been studying this construction has devised in imitation a twine net, which is to be spread so that it will surround the vessel when the billows are dangerously high. A net of 1000 yards square has been found of quite as much value in subduing the waves as the well-known scattering of oil, and the French Salvage Society have expressed themselves as being greatly pleased at the invention.

The appointment of Professor Loudon to the presidency of Toronto University bids fair to be a most popular one. The position is one of the most responsible and important on the continent, and it seems eminently fitting that a former graduate of the University, a man who has won many laurels in the scientific world, should be called upon to fill it. Best of all Professor Loudon is a Canadian by birth—a man with a fervent belief in a great future for our country. The University authorities have done wisely in selecting a Canadian for the important office.

The Indians of the United States are to be again invited to move along. Their reserves have been greatly narrowed within the last twenty years, and not wholly, as some would have us believe, on account of the diminution of the Indian population. The latest request made to these aborigines is that they shall leave two of the best reserves in the State of Washington, and take up a tract of land less enticing to settlers. It is thought by the greedy settlers that there is mineral wealth as well as excellent farming and grazing land in the reserves of Colville and Puyallup which are now in question.

Now that so many Jews are wandering desolately on the face of the earth, a timely suggestion is made. Why should they not return to Palestine! The country is comparatively unoccupied, it is rich in arable land, it is the centre of the earth to every Jew, and a settled habitation in the historic country will fully satisfy the weary wanderers. There is little doubt that the ancient vineyards of Palestine might again be tilled, and that a market could speedily be found for Jewish vines and for esrogim. It will be a glad day for the Jewish people when in fulfilment of the Scriptural prophecy they shall be gathered into the sacred land of Palestine.

Young women are greatly in demand in Idaho, to the discomfiture of the school trustees, who now rise to remark that their efforts to secure competent lady teachers in the school have resulted chiefly in supplying wives to the young men of the State. It is estimated that fifty per cent of the teachers who are imported each year from the East marry within three to six months of their arrival. As a consequence many schools are left teacherless in the middle of terms, and all systematic work is upset. The Superintendent of Education very un gallantly states that he believes that 300 women, whose applications are now on file, are more desirous of obtaining husbands than schools, and he has decided to retain a large portion of the fair laborers' salaries as a pledge of non-matrimonial intentions until the close of the coming term.

We hardly dare to take seriously the statements of a goose-expert in the United States, who has recently been giving facts on goose-raising to the press. He states that there is more money in goose-ranching than in any other form of "stock"-raising. The first requirement is, he states, a capital of \$1,000, of which \$400 is to be expended in geese in some Western State where they are plentiful. If the geese are to be taken some distance, transportation may be saved by having them shod by a harness-maker with thin coverings of leather. Thus protected they can be safely driven through whole States. This novel expense of shoeing the fowls is estimated at \$100 the thousand. When the feathered colonists have arrived at their destination they are simply put out to graze on the grass and green herbs. He estimates that 6,000 goslings will be raised, and that each goose will yield down and coarse feathers to the value of \$1.00 in each year, so that the fortunate possessor of a goose ranche might quickly outrival Croesus. Yet still there is something about this roseate estimate that reminds us not a little of the maiden who counted her chickens before they were hatched.

A novel thief-detector has been invented by a leading electrician, which although simple in construction, will probably be a great stumbling block to the light-footed and light-fingered gentry. A small camera, an electro-magnet and a match, are so placed in the drawer or safe in which valuables are deposited that when an attempt is made to open the case, an instantaneous photograph of the tamperer is taken. A camera of this kind placed in a cigar case recently led to the conviction of two lads, who, when confronted by the photograph which showed them in the act, at once admitted their guilt. It is a pity that some of our friends in St. John who have been favored of late with unwelcome midnight visitors had not taken advantage of the new invention.

We are extremely sorry to note that a Sunday newspaper of a most inferior type is to be published in Montreal. There is no desire on the part of the editor to supply a high-class of reading for the sacred day, rather he would pander to the taste of those to whom the column headings of "Society Gossip," "Fables, Frills and Fancies," and "How the World Wags in Upper Tendom," are tempting enough to lure them from church-going. Reading matter of this kind is of doubtful value at any time, and for a distinctively Sunday paper it is most harmful. Apart from the objections which many Canadians have with respect to Sunday publications, we trust that the social garbage which the new enterprise is about to collect will receive little attention from our people.

It is said that duelling has never been more popular in France than it is in the present day. This barbarous method of death-dealing has, however, been recently made so ridiculous in the Morès-Mayer case, that it is quite possible that the spirit which approves of duelling may in time die out, for above all a Frenchman is never willing to be made a jest of for foreign nations. It seems that Captain Morès openly stated his convictions that Jews should be exterminated from the whole world. Captain Mayer, of Jewish birth, demanded an apology on behalf of his insulted countrymen, and as none was forthcoming, a duel ensued, which resulted in the death of the Jewish champion. Captain Morès, whose views were theoretical and not practical on the subject of Jewish extermination, is, like many other murderers, loud in his expressions of sorrow. It is to be hoped that the friends of the latest victim to the practice of duelling will bring a strong case against his slayer.

The Children's Home, which is to be one of the most novel features of the World's Fair, is already fast nearing completion. The building has been devised to meet the needs of those whose children are too small to be taken with comfort through the building, or for the use of children whose little legs and minds are wearied with much trudging and sight-seeing. The Home is to be well-fitted with sleeping and play nurseries, with reading rooms, a hall in which concerts will be held, and stereopticon views given for their amusement. Probably the most popular room will be the open air flat—the flat roof of the Home, which is to be transformed into a garden. A wire netting fifteen feet in height protects the sides of the roof, while a ceiling of netting will prevent either kites or balloons from being irrecoverably lost. A large number of trained nurse-maids will receive and entertain the little people, who, by-the-bye, are numbered and tagged so as to prevent any Gilbert & Sullivan comedies from arising.

The members of the dramatic profession have an unenviable life at best. The irregular hours, the constant travelling, the frequent appearance at matinee or evening play, the work of committing lines at short notice, all go to prove that the successful actor must have both iron nerves and an iron constitution. Another side of the actor's life which the public seldom considers is the effect of the constantly assumed characters upon the actor himself. Naturally, the actor who most loses his identity in the spirit of the play wins the applause of the public. We do not stop to think that he may on some occasion so enter into the spirit of the assumed character that he may be unable to return to his true character—yet the truth of this has been proved more than once. John McCullough, the famous actor, became suddenly insane; Bartley Campbell was transformed in an instant from a tragic performer into a raging maniac; McDowell, who was so well known in our city, was another victim to insanity; and there are few lovers of comedy who will not hear with regret that the famous comedian, Scanlan, is now confined in an asylum. Verily, there is a seamy side to stage life.

The case of the passengers on many of the ocean steamers now in quarantine near New York is sad beyond description. On the *Normannia* the greatest anxiety prevails, and the travellers who secured their staterooms on board the steamer, with the express understanding that no steerage passengers had sailed from Hamburg, are in a most pitiable situation. The immigrants have been removed to quarantine hospital—the crew, who remain on board with the passengers, are gradually sickening, and although no cases of cholera have occurred among the occupants of the staterooms, yet they are obliged to remain in the midst of the infection, so that their liability to catch the disease is greatly increased. A vigorous protest against the method of protecting America from the invasion of cholera is being made by the passengers of the *Normannia*. They are perfectly willing to be quarantined on shipboard or on some isolated island, but they condemn the present method of obliging men, women and little children to remain where, in course of time, the disease in all human probability must seize them. In the name of God, in the name of that personal liberty which is claimed to be the watchword of the United States, they demand the treatment due to them as human beings.

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