

We have become so accustomed by daily use to the potato that we can scarcely realise how slow its progress was in winning public favour. The Spaniards first brought it to Spain, early in the sixteenth century, from Peru, where it had been cultivated by the inhabitants, together with the haricot bean and maize, for ages before the discovery of the New World by Columbus. In Elizabeth's reign Raleigh, Hawkins, and Drake are all credited with introducing it into this country, but it does not seem likely that our modern English potato is a direct lineal descendant of any of the tubers brought over by these heroes of romance. Ireland was alive to its great food value for man some time before England, where potatoes were first used for feeding cattle, though early in Charles II.'s reign potato cultivation was advocated in order to feed the starving poor. To Lancashire belongs the honour of being the first English county which valued the potato at its true worth; it became a regular crop here at the end of the seventeenth century. Fifty years later it had spread all over the country.

The number of separate pieces in a modern aeroplane, quite exclusive of the engine, is 2,234. Each piece has to be made with the utmost accuracy and of the best material, and then all must be fitted together with the highest skill. The materials include the finest timber, the highest qualities of alloy steel, textiles, mechanical instruments and guns.

At first the farmers said, "Don't send me a lady, an educated woman; we want women accustomed to the work and brought up in the country." But the farmers now find that educated women use their brains and learn more quickly, says Miss Baker, secretary of the Surrey Women's War Agricultural Committee.

"When I look round at our great Empire," said General Smuts in a Guildhall speech, "I feel that liberty is once more justified of her children." The Maharajah of Bikanir declared that British rule in India rested on a much firmer foundation than force. It rested on the principles of justice and equity, humanity and fairplay.

LLOYD GEORGE AND PREFERENCE.

We have given the gravest consideration to this problem, and have decided that in order to develop these important enormous territories in the future it is necessary that exceptional encouragement should be given to the products of each part of the Empire. We believe that a system of preference should be established, while not involving the imposition of burdens upon food. We believe it can be done without that, and, of course, when food is at its scarcest and its dearest that is not the time to talk about additional burdens upon it. But for the purpose of preference that will not be essential. We have confirmed that by every means, and more particularly by taking measures which other lands have taken for improving communication between one part of the Dominions and another. By this means the products of one country inside this great and imperial Commonwealth can be brought more freely, readily, and economically to the markets of the other.

This great Empire has infinite resources of wealth in minerals, food products, and timber, and in every commodity needful for the aid of man, and it is obvious that it is an advantage not merely to the particular countries where these products come from but to every other part in the Empire, including the United Kingdom, that these commodities should be developed to the utmost. It enriches, it strengthens, and it binds together the Empire as a whole.

An annual saving of 50,000,000 tons of coal a year is known to be possible, said Lord Sydenham in an address to the British Science Guild. It is estimated that in Scotland more than 1,000,000 electrical horsepower can be obtained from water.

Provincial Mining and Stationary Engineers Examinations.

EXAMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MINE MANAGERS, UNDERGROUND MANAGERS, AND OVERMEN'S CERTIFICATES, will be held at Sydney, Inverness, Stirlington, and Maclean, beginning JUNE 19th, 1917, at 9.30 o'clock a.m.

Examination of Candidates for Stationary Engineers' certificates will be held at North Sydney, Inverness, Stirlington and Maclean, beginning JUNE 19th, 1917, at 2.30 o'clock, a.m.

All applications from candidates should be received at the office of the Commissioner of Public Works and Mines, Halifax, not later than JUNE 15, 1917.

Blank application forms for certificates can be procured from the Inspectors in the Mining and Engineering Schools, or from the Mines Office, Halifax.

HIRAM DONKIN,
Deputy Commissioner Public Works and Mines.

A. & W. MacKINLAY. LIMITED.

Rule and Print Special Blank Forms for Mining and other Industrial Corporations. BLANK BOOKS ruled to pattern and made in any Style of BINDING.

Loose leaf supplies of all kinds made to order.

135 to 137 GRANVILLE STREET.

HALIFAX. N. S.