

A LONG TRAIN.—All the locomotives in the United States would, if coupled together, make a train 300 miles long, and if all the cars of every variety in the country were coupled behind the engines, the result would be a train just about 7,000 miles long.

BEFOREHAND.—Some of our most successful farmers have already begun to manure their fields with a view to the early planting of the spring crops. Several advantages may be mentioned in connection with this early work, which may commend the plan to others who have not tried it. To begin with the barn is kept free from bad odors, and the stock consequently enjoy better health. The manure is carted to the field at an off season, when there is comparatively little work to be done, and the ground being either frozen or snow-covered is not cut up by the passage of the heavy load. The work of manuring, which would otherwise have to be done in the busy days of spring, being already done an early crop may be planted, except where the fields are on very sloping ground so that the manure runs away with the snow water during a thaw. The plan is found to be an excellent one.

THE TROUBLE IN EGYPT.—There seems to be trouble in Egypt, where the young Khedive has become restive under British domination, and has shown himself to be an untrustworthy servant. Fortunately for Great Britain, Lord Cromer (formerly Sir Evelyn Baring), is quite equal to the situation, and is prepared to maintain his authority even if the present disaffection should develop into a small revolution. Emissaries from Paris and from Constantinople have succeeded in making the Khedive dissatisfied with his present condition, with the simple object of finally overturning the British administration, and establishing one more subservient to the interests of France and Turkey. The Khedive is but nineteen years of age, and is very inexperienced in worldly matters, so that it is not to be wondered at that he has allowed himself to become the dupe of the confederate powers. Lord Cromer is however a far-sighted man, he has metamorphosed Egypt into a civilized and prosperous country, and there is no need to doubt that he will rise to the present necessity.

EVERY MAN HIS OWN LANDLORD.—A scheme for building cheap houses has recently been unfolded in Boston, which promises to solve the home problem which beset young housekeepers, and which may do much to encourage home-making among the boarding or flat-residing portion of the population. Several eminent philanthropists have taken up the matter, and they consider that the scheme for providing a good class of houses at cheap rates is perfectly feasible. The idea is to build numbers of small houses in the suburban districts, and to sell them on the instalment plan. The houses are to cost from \$700 to \$1,500 each, and the weekly rent paid by each tenant of from \$2.25 upwards, is to cover rates, insurance, repairs, and within ten years is to purchase the home. The figures for building and rent seem almost ridiculously low, but the object of the builders is not purely a money-making one, and an organized building association would be able to buy materials in quantity at cheap rates. The scheme is an excellent one, and if successfully carried out may be copied in our own city, where cheap and convenient small houses are proverbially hard to find.

THE TRAMP ABROAD AND AT HOME.—Statesmen are noting with interest that the type of mankind known as the tramp is becoming extinct. In other words the generation of tramps is fast dying out. A short history of the genus may not be uninteresting. The great army of the tramps began their career during the hard times of 1873, when thousands of men were suddenly thrown out of employment by reason of the failures of the concerns in which they were employed. The number of tramps steadily increased until 1880, when as times began to mend large numbers were reclaimed to honest labor. Since then few men have deliberately chosen the rough and ready life, and the majority of the tramps of to-day are found to date back to the period of trade depression. More than this the tramps of that generation are aging fast, the average age of the vagrant class being between 37 and 40 years. The life of the tramp is not a long one, and the ranks of the army of 1873 are rapidly thinning. After all, these men who have been so troublesome to communities, so useless to themselves, seem to have been the creatures of circumstance, and not as we too often have deemed them, deliberate wrong-doers.

MORE FUN FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE.—One of the greatest objections which our young people have against life in farming communities of the Province is that the winters are both monotonous and lonely. The charges are grave ones, and should not be set aside as "young folks' whims," unworthy of attention from their seniors, who are, after all, responsible for the tone of the community in which they live. There are many amusements which even the most strait-laced among us will not condemn, which would greatly brighten the lives of the young people whom we wish to retain for the future welfare of the Province. A course of lectures that will interest the whole community can easily be arranged in any country town, and home talent which is too often neglected may be made to supply the platform. Singing schools and the old-fashioned spelling schools will be found as attractive to this generation as they were to the last; the societies specially adapted to the needs of young people, the Christian Endeavor, the Epworth League, or the Kings Daughters, will keep up the interest in religious matters, and give them a most educational interest in the philanthropic work of the world. It is certainly the best policy for us to offset city attractions by country pleasures which, though differing in kind, will be found even more satisfactory in their results.

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FOR POULTRY.—Many of our farm hen houses are most unsightly during the winter months. The droppings of the fowls are allowed to accumulate during the whole season, and no proper cleaning is made until the warmth of spring is felt. The idea of the poultry raiser seems to be that, as the droppings will rapidly harden if left alone, it is unnecessary to remove them, the result being that during each thaw the hens are compelled to wade through a mass of putrifying matter in a most uncomfortable and uncleanly manner. A properly kept hen-house is well strewn with coal-ashes, saw dust or chaff, and is swept and resprinkled at short intervals. A little salt sprinkled on the floor will be found to be possessed of great thawing virtues. By means of salt, chaff, ashes or sawdust used as cleansing agents, the poultry raiser will find the condition of his hens and the consequent profit greatly improved.

Bow-wow.—Many of our Canadian dog owners will be interested to know that their pets are to be as well represented at the World's Fair as they usually are at every large dog show held in the United States. The Dominion Kennel Club is making an attempt to obtain the highest types of the canine species for the coming fair, and, to that end, is arranging a dog exhibit to be held shortly in Toronto, where an experienced committee of judges will award the prizes. The Dominion Commission has agreed to help on this work by offering to pay the express charges to Chicago of the prize dogs of the Canadian Show, to pay the entry fees of \$1.50 per head, which will entitle the dogs to suitable and regular food during the week of the exhibit, and to further contribute the sum of \$300 to partially defray the expense of the Kennel Club in holding the preliminary fair. Considering all the trouble taken by the Kennel Club in the matter, and the financial aid of the Commission, we shall be much disappointed if our Canadian dogs do not rank evenly at least with the exhibits from other countries.

BLAINE OF MAINE.—The last few weeks have been sadly marked in the United States by the deaths of many prominent and able men. The famous "Ben" Butler, ex-President Hayes, Phillips Brooks, and the latest name to be enrolled on the list is that of the disappointed Statesman, the Hon. James G. Blaine. Mr. Blaine has been in public life since his election in 1857 to the Maine Legislature, and has served in Washington in the House of Representatives and in the Senate Chamber. For the past sixteen years he has been by all odds the ablest man in the Republican Party, and until Harrison succeeded in obtaining the nomination of the Republican National Convention, his power was greatly felt. Ben Butler wished to be a State Governor, and his aim not being too lofty was gratified, but Mr. Blaine could not be content out of the presidential chair, and even the sharp defeat which he experienced in the Presidential Election of 1884 did not alter his steadfast purpose. During the last few years of his life he has been saddened by many family sorrows. His fast failing health and his deathless ambition for worldly power have been ill-matched, and have aroused both the interest and sympathy of those who differed with him on political grounds.

BLACK AND WHITE.—In the home of the free, the Republic where all men are declared equal, and where class prejudices are reputed to be of no account, the Southern negro is by no means pleasantly situated. He is an outcast from society, he is restricted by a hundred invisible barriers from taking a prominent part in public life, his efforts to secure better education for his children than he was privileged to enjoy, are a matter of merriment to his white brethren. The condition of those who have even a slight admixture of negro blood in their veins is far from satisfactory. Mr. Miller of the House of Representatives is learning that the 1-64 of colored blood which flows in his veins, along with 63-64 of unmixed white blood, may cost him dearly. Not only have he and his family been tabooed from Washington society on that account, but the prejudice raised against him during the late election in South Carolina may yet cost him his seat in the House of Representatives. Even the friends of the successful contestant for the office admit that the race-question decided the issue of the election, although it is still possible that Mr. Miller may be declared elected. Canadians will agree in thinking that the method of Mr. Miller's opponents in securing votes was most contemptible.

CANADIAN VS. AMERICAN SCHOOLS.—A school teacher, who has taught most successfully both in Canada and in the United States, inclines to the belief that the American child is better educated than the Canadian child, or, as she says pithily "what the American child knows, he knows, what the Canadian child knows he often does not know whether he knows or not." The value of definite teaching has seldom been so well put forward. Our children are bright and well informed, but they are too much hampered by the dread of exceptions to rules. The information which they glean from their text-books is interlarded with small print notes indicated by both figures and letters, in which unimportant details are urged upon the scholar with the same force with which the more salient points are insisted on. The result is a lack of perspective values in the pupil, who is required to grasp one large and several less ideas at the same moment. The young American is familiar perhaps with but the large ideas—the details have not been imparted to him, although he may have acquired them from some other source, but the main idea is in his possession indelibly. The Canadian system has the advantage in quantity, but we agree with the school teacher that the system which advocates more definite text-books is signally better.

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