

The long and interesting discussion in the French Chamber on the subject of old-age pensions was ended by an agreement on a vote of 2,000,000 francs for workingman's superannuation pensions. This amount is small, and the conditions which limit are not in accordance with the idea underlying the measure as it was proposed. But the event is of importance as the first forward step, the first practical enactment on a subject which is undoubtedly destined to modify the course of legislation in all European countries and perhaps eventually in this country. The Socialist idea in France is that every workman shall be entitled to a pension in his old age. The present bill provides for pensions only for those who have contributed to the benefit societies. The limit of the benefits to be derived from both the societies and the state pension is fixed at 365 francs per annum. The details are interesting but too numerous to be given here. The main point is the acceptance of the idea.

The interest in this question is far from being confined to republican France. In Germany the difference of opinion about it is merely a difference on details. The principle has been accepted almost universally. But the most remarkable illustration of the strength of this movement is given by conservative England. The report of the royal commission on the question of old-age pensions almost justifies the prediction that provision for these pensions will soon be a recognized function of the British Government. At first sight this looks like a reversal of the laissez-faire idea which has traditionally controlled English political economy. But it is only fair to remark that the old-age pension in England is largely a substitute for the poorhouse. It would certainly be an improvement on it. The experiments now going on in Europe are of interest to all who pay any attention to the development of modern legislation.

Since the time of Hobbes the economic questions connected with rapid increase of population have been widely debated. The results of a great augment in the world's population have occasioned philosophic fear. But the question sometimes turns another face to us. Warming power means ability to waste human life freely without serious loss to national resources, in a word, plenty of food for gunpowder. This has lately been a theme of active discussion in the French journals. Of all the nations of Europe France has shown the slightest gain in population. Its census of 1891 showed thirty-eight odd millions, a gain of scarcely 700,000 in ten years. Another striking fact often discussed by M. Quatrefogues, the leading French anthropologist, is the general lack of men of powerful and virile physique. This the scientist has attributed to the wholesale slaughter-house of the Napoleonic wars. Germany and England, on the other hand, the two powers most feared by France, have shown a steady and notable increase in population.

With the great revolution in death-dealing weapons, wars to-day will be quickly decided. The terrific drain of long campaigns must cease. But while nations are kept to such an extent under arms each one must present as formidable a front as possible from the outset. This terrible demand diverts national energy greatly from the normal uses of peace. The larger the population the less this diversion is felt. Jules Simon, in the Figaro, quotes these words of a German statesman: "Why bother ourselves about France; she loses a battle every year." This scornful Gallic has touched the quick not only of Goliath but of the question itself. The whole tendency of France for many years has run to small families if not to purposely childless marriages. The French have wakened to the fact with not a little alarm, for it is a pregnant question, both in the issues of war and peace.

Corpses Had Turned to Stone.

The other afternoon the relatives of Mrs. Hannah Sebrill, who died nine years ago and was buried in Lexington, Ohio, cemetery, re-opened the grave for the purpose of removing the remains to the Alliance cemetery. On attempting to raise the casket it was found to be so heavy that the two men who were doing the work could not move it. The coffin was opened and a remarkable sight met their gaze. The entire body was in a perfect state of petrification, being as hard as granite and looked as if it had been chiselled out of marble. It required the entire strength of four men to lift the body to the top of the grave. A new coffin was procured and the remains taken to Alliance, Ohio, and re-interred.

Unutterable.

Do you not sometimes have soulful yearnings which you long to convey in words, but can not? asked the sentimental girl. Yes, indeed, replied the young man. I was once dreadfully anxious to send home for money and I didn't have the price of a telegram.

A Law Lyric.

Delay me not, I'm off to court,
The hustling lawyer said;
Then off he went to court the girl
That he was going to wed.

AGRICULTURAL.

Cooling Milk in the Well.

The sketch herewith shows a simple and successful creamery that any farmer can with a little expense construct, writes a practical farmer. The first thing required is a well of good size in diameter and of cool water. I made the experiment early last spring by hanging the cans in the well and was so well satisfied with the results I made the needed arrangement for hoisting and lowering the cans by use of a crank which can be attached to each roller. Three cans are all that are needed in my creamery, each one holding a milking, which allows

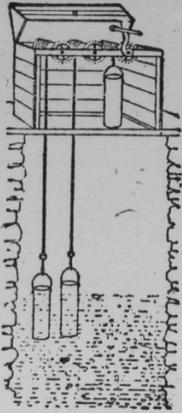


FIG. 1.

36 hours for each setting. The cans should have covers to keep out dirt and insects, but not be air-tight, and can be made to hold a larger quantity where more cows are kept, but should be about three times the height of the diameter, with the space between the curb floor and the case roller to allow the can to pass freely through. The sketch is so simple it seems unnecessary to explain its construction. One point to be kept in mind is to see that the cans are not set too deep in rainy weather as the water may rise and overturn the milk. Snaps are used on the ends of the rope to attach the can, as seen in Fig. 1. The cover of the case is so made that when closed it slants back to shed rain. The front piece (see Fig. 2) is detachable and sets in so that when closed it can be locked with a pallock. All who have seen it think highly of it as it is a creamery without the use of ice, which is expensive to have and a great deal of work to use. On one occasion in market I met a man who has used a creamery for many years and who thought it would pay him to dig a well purposely instead of using ice. Setting of milk in wells is so common that this device ought to be generally used by farmers.

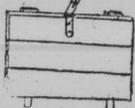


FIG. 2.

The Guernseys.

So far as breeding livestock is concerned, every farmer is a law to himself; but it is not so in any other line of his work, writes Silas Betts. For grain or vegetables or fruits, he studies to produce that which will be best suited for the purpose, realizing that in this lies his success or failure in the race for profit. The law of development may be slower in the animal than in other lines, but it is no less certain. Each breed inherits the essential qualities which distinguish it from other breeds, and each animal from every other. The breeding problem is to recognize the desirable of these qualities and intensify them, and to eliminate those that are undesirable. I have worked at this for twenty-four years, and not one-half of my hopes have been realized.

We should each form an ideal, and, since it is difficult, if not impossible, to realize our hopes, drop the non-essentials. The essentials are a good constitution. A cow with this will be found a good feeder, and it should be inherited from a long line of ancestors. In size, 900 pounds should be the lowest limit. Economical production should be, say, 6,000 to 8,000 pounds of milk per annum, with a percentage of not less than 5 per cent of butter fat. Such a cow, whether it have a short or a long tail; have horns incurved or turned out; a black nose or a white one, or has hair of red or orange, should be honored as a foundation cow, and no inducement should part her from her home as long as the breeding herd remained there. A bull, son of model cow of another herd, should be retained so long as the get appears to possess the essential qualities of the foundation cow, and I would use such even to inbreeding rather than risk a violent cross. Success lies in a degree of close breeding, while the commonplace is the result of continual outcrossing.

Occasional good may come from poor quality, but reversion is apt to follow because of prepotency. The habit of displacing bulls every year or two is due to prejudice. A reservoir cannot contain pure water if fed by a thousand rivulets, half of them foul. When ancestry is normal the offspring will be normal; with an imperfect knowledge of the material the result must remain uncertain. Those who have thought out their methods have worked out the best results.

The horse breeder who narrowed his purposes to speed achieved most wonderful results; he went for speed and got it. We are after milk and butter, and shall get it when we keep to rational lines. On the island there are many grades of merit in breeding. Some select the best, and have the best to show for it; others have sought cheaper methods, and, consequently, have inferior stock. Reversion is easier than the acquisition of good qualities; hence, the

breeding of poor quality is easiest. The greater the cross the wider the divergence. We found the Guernseys we first received from the island so superior we desired more; then the demand was so great we were tempted to part with many, and sometimes with our best. Moderate-sized herds of Guernseys are, therefore, numerous, but large herds rare. Many of the old roads of our breeding are full of deep places, and when we must rebuild let it be upon the macadam plan of good, solid foundation.

How Much Butter Can be Made From Milk.

Time does not permit me to go into details to show the reason, but much investigation has demonstrated the fact that for each pound of fat in milk one should make about one and one-eighths pounds or one pound two ounces of butter. To find out how much butter should be made from 100 pounds of milk, multiply the per cent. of fat in milk by one and one-eighth. For example From 100 pounds of milk containing 3 per cent. of fat, we should make about three pounds six ounces of butter; from 100 pounds of milk containing 4 per cent. of fat, four and one-half pounds of butter; from 00 pounds 5 per cent. milk, five pounds ten ounces of butter, etc. Suppose, in making butter, we get more or less than the calculated yield. How shall we explain this? If less than the calculated amount of butter is made, the decrease must be due to one or both of two causes. First, excessive loss of fat in skim milk and buttermilk; and, second, the working or pressing out of too much water. If more butter is made than the rule calls for, then it is due to the fact that more than a fair amount of moisture has been left in the butter, caused by unfavorable conditions of churning, or by insufficient working. These factors enable the butter-maker to find out whether he is making mistakes in his work, and whether he is getting the best results in butter yield.



Fashionable Dresses for Children. This trio of children are tastefully dressed in spring costumes of light-weight wool in fashionable tints. The child's dress in Figure 1 shows the back of the same

A DOG IN CHURCH.

All the Congregation Interested in an Incident of a Summer Day.

"You might think," said a church usher, "that there was nothing to do in a church but seat people; but, dear me, strange things are happening all the time. One summer day, when the church doors were open, I saw a dog appear. I stood at the back of the pews just beyond the end of the middle aisle, and the dog stood right at the end of the aisle, looking at me and wagging his tail. He was a nice-looking dog, a sort of red dog, shaggy and gentle-looking, but of course church was no place for him. But he was nearer the aisle than I was, and he was bound to make the tour of the church and I was sure he would start down the middle aisle the moment I made any serious effort to put him out. Still I advanced toward him with a friendly bearing and outstretched hand, hoping that he would stand still until I could get between him and the aisle. He wagged his tail good-humoredly when he saw me approach, but before I could get near enough to cut him off he started down the aisle, so softly that nobody heard him, and nobody saw him until he had passed.

"In one of the pews, about half way down the aisle, sat a little girl with one hand resting on the arm of the pew. The dog halted here, and with his nose gently pushed the little girl's hand off the pew. She snatched it away and looked around wondering, and saw for the first time the dog wagging his tail and looking at her. She laughed outright; and then the dog wagged his tail more and started on again. By this time everybody in the church knew about the dog, and everybody was interested in him.

"He kept on down the middle aisle, past the pulpit, and around the end of one of the blocks of pews toward a side aisle and started along the side aisle toward the rear of the church again. Then the sexton started up the side aisle from the rear of the church, intending to drive the dog out, but when the dog saw him coming he wagged his tail and turned and started back the way he had come and around into the middle aisle again. He stopped there once and turned toward the pulpit and looked up at the minister, wagging his tail all the time, he seemed to be the best natured dog that ever lived.

"Then he turned once more and started back. He came down to where he had started and then trotted along the base of the pews and out of the church by a door opposite to the one by which he had entered. The instant he stepped through the door we heard the most tremendous uproar; he had met another dog outside. As a matter of fact, I suppose our dog had come into the church to escape the other dog; he didn't want to fight, and I suppose he thought if the other dog saw

him go into a church he'd feel kind of ashamed of himself and go away. But he didn't; he just hung around outside and waited. The peaceful dog was diplomatic, you see, too; he went out by a different door from the one he came in at, thinking, no doubt, that the dog that wanted to fight would wait for him where he came in, and that he would escape the other dog, and get away quietly by going out at the other door; but the other dog must have guessed his intentions, for he was waiting for him there.

"Our dog didn't want to fight, but he didn't run away; good-natured, shaggy, and gentle as he was, he pitched in and fought like a demon. Between them they made more noise than an earthquake. It pretty nearly broke up the gravity of the entire congregation, and the sexton had to go out and drive them away; so we never knew how the fight came out."

EFFECT OF THE NEW RIFLES.

A Surgeon in China Says They Wound More Men, But Not so Severely.

The evolution of the modern military small bore rifle has been of so recent date that, until the war in the East, no opportunity has occurred to enable comparisons to be made of the destructiveness in actual warfare of the long, thin bullet of the new weapon with the larger and heavier ball of the older style gun. Up to the present time the knowledge of the surgical results of the marked reduction in caliber has been based upon the experiments made upon bodies of men and animals by numerous investigators in this country and abroad. The deductions made from these tests have naturally been largely of a theoretical nature, and as such have not been entirely satisfactory to military surgeons and others interested in the development of the small-bore rifle.

During the progress of the Eastern war a portion of the Japanese army was armed

with the Murata rifle, a small bore weapon carrying a copper and nickel-plated bullet of a diameter of .315 inches, weighing 233 grains, and projected with a muzzle velocity of 1850 feet per second. This weapon approximates the Lee-Metford magazine rifle of the English army. The character of the wounds made by the Murata rifle, as shown by the Chinese injured in the military operations in Manchuria, is given in detail by Dr. Dugald Christie, or the Moukden Medical Mission, in a letter to the British Medical Journal.

Since part of the Japanese forces were provided with a modification of the old Martini-Henry rifle, with its comparatively large soft bullets, moving at a relatively moderate velocity, the effects of the two forms of bullets were the more marked and striking. The contused, lacerated wounds of the softer large-bore bullets, with their characteristic ragged point of entrance, the extensively splintered bone, and the gaping exit so well known to the older army surgeons, contrasted forcibly with the small, clean-cut wounds made by the small-caliber bullet, the absence of bruising of the surrounding tissues, the slight tendency to comminution of the bones and the rapidity with which the wound healed. While the increased explosive action which is given to the small-caliber bullet by the high muzzle velocity would apparently point to greater destruction of the tissues, it was shown that the harder shell of the ball, and its lesser liability to become deformed, resulted on the whole in an explosive effect not so marked.

From an experience with a large number of the wounded from the battles of Ping-Yang, Chin-Chow and other engagements in the region of Manchuria, Dr. Christie is led to conclude that, while the new bullet of small caliber and great velocity may wound a larger number of men, it is less destructive in its effects on the tissues of the body, and therefore less fatal than the older missile.

Chinese Courtesy.

A man who has just returned from China tells a cheerful story of his entertainment there. He was taking tea one day with a mandarin of some sort or another, and the question of Chinese execution coming up he expressed an idle curiosity to see one. Two days afterward a lackey waited on him with the mandarin's compliments, to invite him to witness the beheading of two criminals on the following day. The following day it rained, and he was unable to attend the execution. Four days later the same lackey waited on him again, with the same compliments, and informed him that the execution had been postponed to await his pleasure, and would take place on the morrow at any hour he chose to select as most convenient to him. It would not take place until his arrival. There is nothing like Chinese politeness, anyway.

PURELY CANADIAN NEWS.

INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT OUR OWN COUNTRY.

Gathered from Various Points from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Wyoming has a gun club. The Ottawa river is rising rapidly. Wild geese are numerous this season. Maple village is troubled with burglars. Kingston's rate of taxation is 17 1/2 mills. Watford is tired of its early closing by law.

Bradford dogs must hereafter be registered. Cookstown is looking towards incorporation. The Masonic Hall at Clinton has been renovated. Blenheim will have vertical writing in its schools.

Brockville's Athletic Club house will cost \$1,600. St. Thomas' church, Senforth, has a new pipe organ. The Lady Thompson memorial fund is now \$35,000.

The McClary buildings at London are to be enlarged. Last month 370 settlers entered the Alberta district.

The G. T. R. will erect a new passenger station at Glencoe. A new Conservatory of Music has been built in St. Thomas.

American buyers have exhausted the Manitoba beef market. There are two more desertions from "A" battery, Kingston.

A white rat with pink eyes is the latest curiosity in Sarnia. Ingersoll is looking towards the formation of a Humane Society.

Berlin's street railway system is being changed to an electric line. Miss Maggie Keefer, of Stathroy, has gone to Japan as a missionary.

The Buctouche and Moncton railway has again been opened for traffic. The united choirs of Western Ontario will meet at London this summer.

Hamilton livery men want the bicycles taxed, as they injure the livery trade. Chatham will do herself proud July 1 in honour of her incorporation as a city.

Every township in Muskoka and Parry Sound will have a cheese factory this spring. The library of the late Rev. J. W. Annis, M. A., of London, has been sold at auction.

The Woodstock Council protests against the reduction of tolls unless those who have invested are reimbursed. During 1894 102 prisoners were committed to the Walkerton jail. The total cost of maintenance of the institution was \$2,034.

Miss Landau, who passed recently at Bishop's College, Lennoxville, is the first Jewess who has received a medical degree in Canada.

Watford and Zion Congregational churches have extended a unanimous call to Rev. A. Margett, of Fergus, which has been accepted. Miss Cora Coleman, a 17-year-old orphan girl, claiming to belong to Houlton, Me., and boarding in St. John, N.B., attempted suicide.

Of the 5,322 schoolhouses in Ontario 2,448 are of brick or stone, 2,386 frame, and 488 of logs. The expenditure on Public schools in 1893 was \$3,780,000.

Nine thousand pounds of gold quartz from the mammoth mine in Sudbury district have been shipped to the mining school at Kingston for examination. A man in Lindsay received damages against the Bell Telephone Company for \$600 for injuries received by coming in contact with a live wire carelessly strung on the street.

The other day a son of Mr. H. Pethick of Orillia, was playing with a dog when the animal turned on him and bit the lad on the eye, bursting it and totally destroying the sight.

A sample of ginger wine bought in a London store where only temperance beverages were supposed to be sold, was found to contain ten per cent. of proof spirits.

The following new post offices were established in Ontario this month: Audley, Ontario County; Carleton, Simcoe; Hardwood Lake, Renfrew; Longbank, Bothwell; Mandeville, Muskoka and Parry Sound; Whitney, Nipissing.

Mr. Amos Green, Oxford Centre, has a mulberry scion set last spring which measures 4 feet 9 1/4 inches in length also a plum graft which sent out two branches. The smallest of these was removed last week and measured 4 feet 3 3/4 inches.

A correspondent in the Orillia Times protests against the proposal to grant a "club license" in that town. He says: "The average weekly takings over Orillia bars is over \$1,500, and the larger part of this sum is handed out by men who complain bitterly of the hard times and the scarcity of money."

Arnold Munday, a Carrick, Bruce county, farmer, has just had two fingers cut off in a straw cutter. Within twelve months his daughter has broken her arm, his son has died, he has lost \$4,000 in a law suit, his wife met with a serious accident, and Monday himself, on a previous occasion, was struck by a piece of timber and never fully recovered.

Stub Ends of Thought. Most people who cast their bread upon the waters expect it to return to them as pie.

Duty is disagreeable. Women ought to learn that matrimony was never intended as salvation for men. Dishes are constant in its appeal that Justice be tempered with Mercy.

When a woman knows she is well dressed, it is difficult to ruffle her temper. Prosperity makes more fools than adversity does.

We need sorrow as the flowers need night. The poorer the man, the richer his imagination.