

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT—A novel and most appetising map of the United States is now under course of construction for the Chicago Fair. The map is the work of a vegetable and fruit preserving company, and the materials used in its construction are the products of the firm. The states contrast in colors, being laid down in tomatoes, corn, peas or beans, lakes and rivers are shown in vinegar, islands in pickles, and cities are indicated by cloves. The cost of this single exhibit, which, by the way, measures 24 ft. by 18 ft., will amount to \$15,000.

NOT A BAD IDEA—An American engineer was confronted recently with the problem of erecting a long low wooden store-house, for the storage of heavy machinery, on a swampy piece of ground. Owing to the nature of the soil, it was considered impossible to secure a steady foundation, but the bright-brained man was equal to the emergency. Ordinary post-holes were dug, in which were placed casks, filled to the depth of a foot with iron turnings. On top of this the posts were placed in an erect position, and the remaining space was wedged full of turnings. A solution of salt and water was poured over the contents of the casks, which, by chemical action, solidified the particles of iron into a solid mass. It is claimed that the novel foundation is superior to those of concrete, in use in similar circumstances.

STILL ALIVE!—The little Republic of Honduras has been caught in the meshes of the erstwhile Louisiana Lottery Co. The people expect that the prosperity of their country will be greatly increased by the revenues from the company, for beside the lump sum of \$1,000,000 in gold which the Government has already received, a graduated percentage of from one to three cents is to be paid on the face value of all tickets sold. On the other hand Honduras has granted the Lottery Company many valuable privileges. The island of Gusaia has been conceded to the company, as well as much valuable land throughout the state. The right of the company to lay cable lines or establish steamship lines is already granted, all goods belonging to the company or its employees are admitted free of duty, and the exemption of the employees from military service and from taxes is conceded. In the long run, we fear that little Honduras will find that she has made an extremely bad bargain.

IT MAY FREEZE TOO!—Many of our shivering citizens will envy the more fortunate inhabitants of Boise City, Idaho, who have decided that life, without a reasonable amount of heat, is scarcely worth living. They are now planning a system of hot water heating which is extremely novel in its arrangement. The hot springs outside the town are to be utilized for heating purposes, and well-protected conduit pipes will convey the boiling water to the city, where it will be distributed to the buildings whose owners wish for the change. It is claimed that the cost of heating public buildings and houses will be reduced to a very low rate, and the city authorities are wild with delight over the new scheme. Halifax has no possible system of hot water works, and our house owners have had so stern an experience with the cold water works during the last cold snap, that some of them would fain fly the country for a more promising region. Take courage friends—the back of old winter is already broken, and there is no especial guarantee that our friends at Boise City may not wake up some frosty morning to find their hot water service in the state of our own too often congealed pipes.

SOME DEATH RATE STATISTICS—An interesting paper on the death-rate statistics of various professional and working men has recently been compiled. The death rate is strikingly low among clergymen, but it is followed closely by the record of the gardeners and farmers. Grocers, carpenters, and fishermen are also registered at low figures, but the figures increase rapidly to denote the death percentage of brewers, liquor dealers, costermongers and earthenware makers. Special diseases seize on the makers of lucifer matches, the makers of artificial flowers, the chimney sweeps, and the workers in many kinds of metal. The three occupations with greatest liability to fatal accident—mining, stone and slate quarrying and fishing—do not show a high death rate, and aside from fatal accidents the coal miners can claim as low a record as the agricultural laborer, while the immunity of the coal dust-breathing miner from the ravages of consumption is most remarkable. Many occupations which entail dust-inhaling have a light death rate. The cutlers, file-makers, Cornish miners and cotton mill hands are especially liable to consumption, although the dust-breathing millers, bakers and carpenters suffer no ill-effect.

KEEP THEM ON THE FARM—An interesting discussion took place last month at a meeting of the Farmers' Association at Fredericton, N. B. Several of the practical farmers present attributed the lack of interest of the young generation in agricultural matters to the fact that agricultural pursuits were almost unrecognized in the public schools. Dr. Inch, Supt. of Education, argued that the fault did not lie with the teachers or their text-books, but with the farmers themselves, who took no pains to interest their sons and daughters in farm life, although they vigorously required that chores of all description should be performed by them. He claimed that life is made senseless and irksome to the farmer's lad, because there seems to be no future ahead of him but one of endless drudgery. If the lad could but earn a small wage for his services, in money, in a patch of ground or in cattle, his lively interest and co-operation would in most cases be secured. The Supt. claimed that the whole trend of the public school training to a boy whose interest in the farm was thus assured by his parents, was to

make him a better farm hand and a better citizen. The great need in New Brunswick seems to be for the establishment of a school of agriculture, where definite training can be given. At such a school the errors of both home and school training may be corrected, and unless we are greatly mistaken in our ideas there is much to be said on the matter, both by the farmers and the educationists.

NOT UNDER THE STARS AND STRIPES—The neat little Revolution at Hawaii has had both an enlivening and a sobering effect on the American Press. There is no longer a keen desire to annex the island kingdom, and to pension off the dusky royal family who are said to have retrograded into idol worshippers. The revolutionists are now known to be composed of a class of American sugar planters, who, being anxious to secure the bounties on home-grown sugar, thought to bring about annexation. The American Consul at Hawaii hoisted the Stars and Stripes and declared a Cromwellian protectorate, and yet there was no remonstrance from the British press, although the *Daily News*, the organ of the Imperial Government, casually remarked that "British interests were not compatible with American ownership of the only coaling station in the middle of the Pacific Ocean." The excitement of the United States papers gradually cooled off—rumors were afloat that the British Government would act when convenient. There was no undignified haste or rash assertion on the part of Her Majesty's representative, but the quiet force and authority of their policy has been a serious discouragement to the would-be land-grabbers.

PROTECTION TO THE FEMALE WORKER—For many years a vigorous protest has been made in portions of the British press against the abuses which work-women were subjected to in the matters of long hours of labor, wages kept almost at the starvation limit, and the horrors of the sweating system. Deputations from the various Women's Trade Unions, and from the social and friendly leagues which have been established for the benefit of the woman-worker, recently waited upon the Home Secretary and urged upon him the need of proper legislation to protect the rights of the laboring class which they represented. They asked in particular that female inspectors might be appointed for all factories and workshops in which women and children were employed. Mr. Asquith has pledged himself to give the female inspectors a trial, and their appointments will at once follow, but whether the inspectors will be of the class which the deputation demand—the practical working class—remains to be seen. Mr. Asquith, though opposed to Women's Suffrage, has done good service to the cause of women's rights by acknowledging the excellent service which women have rendered on School Boards and as Poor Guardians, and his last experiment, we have no doubt, will be quite as satisfactory in its results.

THE ITALIAN BANK SCANDAL—A long-threatening storm cloud has burst about the heads of the Italian Government. In 1885 there was a period of depression in Roman financial matters, caused by the fact that but fifty-six per cent of the paper money in circulation could be redeemed either by the banks or the Treasury. In order to tide over the crisis, the Government made a bad matter worse by authorizing six banks to issue still more paper money. In a short time paper money to the extent of four times the value of the capital was in circulation. The credit of the banks and of the Government was inextricably involved. The failure of the Banco Romana and the consequent investigation of its affairs at once implicated the Government in some shady transactions. The past four years have been marked by many unprosperous speculations, which have tied up both the real and the fictitious capital, and by a steadily increasing national expenditure, the deficit for the past few years running from \$5,000,000 to \$20,000,000 per year. A host of prominent men, the King, the past Premiers, Crispi and Rudini, and the present Primo Minister, Geolletti, are all connected with the financial trouble, and the Republican element of the nation proclaim themselves quite willing to assist in any way the Revolution against authority which they hope the present crisis to result in.

A CANADIAN HISTORY—The need of a good history of our Dominion for use in our public schools has long been felt. Our young people are growing up with but a few random ideas concerning the early days of the settlement of the Dominion, and the histories so far prepared have been either so concise as to lack in general interest, or too elaborate for the requirements of a school text-book. The Dominion History Committee have made a wise move in the direction of securing a better compilation, and they only await the action of the Province of Quebec to make a definite public announcement. Representatives have been appointed from each Province to consider the matter, and with the exception of the representatives from Quebec, they have arranged to obtain the sum of \$2,000 in all from their respective Governments for the furtherance of their work. The idea is to advertise widely for a proper school history, and in order to insure the work of many competent writers to offer prizes, not only to the successful competitor, but to the four best writers whose work is rejected by the committee. The sum of \$200 will be awarded to each of the four unsuccessful authors, \$900 will be given the committee for travelling and other expenses, and a margin of \$500 will be reserved for unforeseen calls. The successful contestant will be amply recompensed for his labors by the purchase of his book by the educational authorities. We trust that this rather novel scheme for securing a suitable text-book may be carried out, and that Quebec will agree to co-operate with the other Provinces in the good work. We trust also that some of our Nova Scotian writers may be heard from when the results of the competition are made known.

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