

Chippendale Brothers, of Lewiston, have invented a machine to dig potatoes. The contrivance is hauled by a horse, digs the potatoes, removes the dirt, from them and drops them into bags.

Prices at Brandon to farmers last week were, says the Commercial, wheat, 50c. per bushel for a few loads; oatmeal at 26c.; butter, 15c. with shipments going to B. C.; eggs scarce at 15; cattle, 24 to 25c., live weight; hogs, 4 to 4 1/2c. live weight.

Five acres of potatoes, or an estimated crop of one thousand bushels, were sold by a farmer in Bowdenham, Me., for the sum of \$2 for the entire lot. Such a loss of this crop has not been known for forty years when the potato rot was first felt.

The growing value of property in London is strikingly illustrated in the negotiations now going on in Lambeth on the subject of a park for Vauxhall. The promoters of this project speak cheerfully of £47,500 as the "reduced price" for a property of between eight and nine acres.

It is alleged that a firm of English seedsmen have originated a new variety of spring wheat with which even Canadian Red Fyfe, admitted to be one of the best imported into England, cannot compare in general quality, color and substance, thickness of straw and earliness.

Great distress from the drought is reported to exist in Frio county, Texas. The people in the rural districts have been reduced to a state of absolute poverty, bordering on starvation. So pressing is the need for help that the farmer's alliance of Frio has issued an appeal to the benevolent.

A farmer in Ottawa County, Mr. Thomas Daly, of Upper Wakefield, lately bought a farm in this locality for \$1,000, upon which a rich iron mine is claimed to have been discovered. A firm of New York capitalists, has already offered Mr. Daly \$25,000 for the property with the mining rights. So it is said.

Special cablegrams received at Ottawa say that the renewed outcry in England against the importation of Canadian cattle is really only veiled protectionism. The prices of butcher's meat, it is pointed out, that the fact that good prices are given at Smithfield is a complete answer to the assertion that the cattle are ill-treated on the voyage and landed in a bad condition.

Frozen Meats in Siberia.

No precautions are required for the preservation of beef, for it takes care of itself. Nearly all butchers kill at the beginning of cold weather a sufficient number of animals to furnish provisions for the entire winter and allow the meat to freeze. There is no fear of any food changing in such a temperature. The fish become so solid and stiff that they are set up on their tails against the walls of the markets, be the tail ever so long and the fish ever so heavy.

Often fruits preserved in ice are placed upon the table of the Siberian evening meal, the method of keeping them being similar to that employed with meats. As soon as the severe cold sets in they are exposed to the air, if possible toward the north, where there is no sun to reach them, they thus become completely frozen. When eaten they are found to have retained their flavor marvellously, notwithstanding their change from a frozen rigidity to the thawed state necessary for use. At the moment of being served they are usually as hard as wood, and, if they chance to fall, the rattle like stones upon the floor. The heat of the room gradually softens them and they assume their original form.—*Youth's Companion.*

Seed-Sowing Birds.

It is almost incredible the number of times a robin-red-breast will come and go after berries, always with a great rustling of leaves, and his slighting and departing usually followed by a liberal scattering of fruit on the ground, which he never seems to think of picking up—wasteful marauder! not only taking all he wants, but actually spoiling as much as he takes away.

Birds are probably responsible for the existence of many of the seed-bearing shrubs and herbs. They are seed-distributors, conveying seeds farther than the wind can, that is, of the kinds that form their favorite food. They sow garbage where it is not welcome; berries they have scattered broadcast about their neighborhood (that is to be set down in their favour), and I suspect them of the lovely service of increasing the number of bushes of wild briar rose, the sweet-brier, or ginseng.—*Wide Awake.*

Messrs. McKinnon & Son, who have been importing horses to Manitoba, intend, says the *Calder*, to try the experiment of shipping native horses and harnesses to Ontario. They made their first shipment on the 2nd inst. from Brandon.

The output of the Spring Hill collieries for August was \$44,000 gross tons. This is the largest ever attained. The demand for coal is very great and difficulty is experienced in filling orders.

In the early days the strictest kind of marriage conferred on the Roman wife privileges which were considerable in extent and honorable in degree. When married by the law of "conventio" and with the form of "conferre" the two

to share with her husband water and fire—she was set in a place of personal dignity and moral power; and though she belonged to the family more than to the community the State took care of her interests and provided for her welfare. Her legal personality was certainly merged in that of her husband, who was emphatically the master of the household; she was counted as one of the family, and the largest number of her interests and property were under the protection of her own; but she was secure from his caprice and could not be divorced at his pleasure. Nor might she be ill-used; and she was as much mistress in the house as he was master.

On the other hand, she was not a slave, as the Greek heiress, who, as the Eastern women, was something rather than the free holder of property—taken over as an obligation integral to the inheritance, like the fixtures in the house of the stock on the farm—the Roman widow inherited on her own account, and the "Roman girl" engaged the man she married. This legal consideration was the reward of personal merit, and dated back to the foundation of the empire. By their refusal to leave their Roman husbands when the Sabine Army came down to avenge the deed which had made their virgin wives and mothers, the women saved Rome. Roman reverses, then, with honors for themselves and the whole class of matrons. The curies were called by the name of the Sabine wives.—*Fortnightly Review.*

A Pennsylvania woman who recently visited Alabama to ascertain how iron was produced there to compete with the Pennsylvania product, found that the coal is dug by convicts, nine-tenths of whom are colored, who are driven like slaves. The State receives thirty cents a day for the labor of these convicts and they are as efficient as Pennsylvania miners.

Ives, the Napoleon of Wall Street, died \$1,500 for property, \$1,700 for jewelry, \$57 for boots and shoes, \$284 for hosiery. His total liabilities were over \$20,000. Pretty good for a man only 28 years old who started in Wall Street a few years ago with only five dollars but an immense quantity of nerve.

The anthracite coal mines at Anthracite, N. W. T., are at present employing 150 hands, and the output is from 150 to 175 tons daily. The company will soon be in a position to raise 500 tons per day, and the supply is said to be practically unlimited.

An address and petition from electors of the county of Huron, praying that an election may be held in that county to revoke the order of the court bringing the Scott into force, has been filed with the Secretary of State at Ottawa.

The miners in five Pennsylvania collieries struck on Monday for a general advance. It is estimated that 4,000 men are out at Shamokin where the mines are situated. The mines are thoroughly organized and prepared for a long lock out.

The Nova Scotia cod-fishing fleet report very large catches on Quere, Middle, Western and Canso Banks. American market men are disgusted with the experience of the three mile limit this summer.

The total catch of mackerel by the New England fleet up to September 1st, was 37,715 barrels against 37,473 barrels for the same time in 1886, 235,435 barrels in 1885.

A St. John's, Nfld., cablegram confirms the failure of the Labrador fishery and reports a great storm at Labrador, during which eight fishing vessels were wrecked.

The Scott Act prosecutor for Prince County, P. E. Island, has since the 1st June last, obtained 12 convictions.

The Austrian consular at Bombay reports \$1,828 deaths from cholera in Oude during last May.

There are over 100,000 horses on the street car lines in the United States.

Household Hints.

—Cut fingers and bruises of all kinds if wrapped in cloth wet in alum water will heal very rapidly.

—Kid shoes may be kept soft and free from cracks by rubbing them occasionally with pure glycerine.

—To remove paint spots from clothing saturate the fabric with equal parts of turpentine and water of ammonia.

—Paper will stick to walls that are washed in a solution of one-fourth pound of glue to a gallon of water.

—To purify greasy sinks and pipes, pour down a pint of boiling water in which three or four pounds of washing soda have been dissolved.

—Hot water is better than cold for bruises. It relieves pain quickly, and by preventing congestion keeps off the ugly black and blue mark.

—By rubbing with a damp flannel dipped in the best whitening, the brown discoloration may be taken off cups in which custards have been baked.

—To keep iron kettles from rusting, when new boil a piece of pork in them and let the solution boil before emptying; or simply grease them with the pork and heat it thoroughly.

—Ink stains may be removed from white goods by saturating the spot with water and then covering with powdered alum. Put in the sun for five minutes, wash with soap and rinse.

—Paper bags, in which many articles are sent from the grocery store, should be saved for use when blacking a stove. You can slip the bag into one of these and handle the brush just as well, and the hand will not be soiled, and when through with them they can be dropped into the stove.

Literary Notes.

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