

HARVEST TIME.

On the eve of the day that has been agreed upon for beginning the harvest the village becomes deserted as the shadows of the night fall upon it. Only very old people and very young remain at home, to look after the fowls and the cattle. The 60-years-old, bowed-down graybeard, or the equally old and bent grandmother, assisted by some girl or boy of 8 or 10—friends whom old age and childhood have united—alone remain in the village. All the others go to the fields on the eve of the solemn day, to stay there through the night and to begin reaping as soon as there shall be enough light faintly to discern things.

A cart, in which the main thing is a small cask with water, or, still better, with kvass (a fermented, slightly acidulated, but non-alcoholic drink, made of baked rye flour), is taken, if the fields are at a certain distance from the village. There the harvesters stay all day, returning home only when it grows quite dark, to take some cold supper, consisting of bread and cucumbers or onions. If the fields are far away, they stay there at night, as well.

The heat in the fields is terrible. On a cloudless day, when a hard, perceptible breeze moves over the soil, one feels, on bending to the lot, burning ground, as if plunged into a Turkish bath—especially if the breeze is intercepted by the surrounding wheat or rye. In this almost unbearable atmosphere the women work with the sickle.

This is slow and hard work—the woman reaping with her left hand a bunch of stalks, cutting them with a rapid oblique movement of the sickle, and gently depositing the cut branch on the ground. It is work which requires also a long apprenticeship, and which peasant girls begin to learn in their 11th or 12th year. The back soon begins to ache; perspiration covers the body, runs down the brow, and falls in heavy drops on the ground. Very often a heavy, hardly a week old, sometimes even less than that, lies close by in the grass or in the shadow of the cart, and when the exhausted reaper comes in response to its hungry cries, she often cannot satisfy its thirst.

One hour—seldom more—of sleep in the middle of the day, in the shadow of the cart, and the afternoon work is resumed, to last with but little interruption till after sunset. This means 12, 14 and 15 hours of work; and the better the soil the more of soil the peasants own, and the wealthier they are, the more weary energy they put into the work. I never saw people work so hard at harvest time as upon the fertile boundless steppes of Tambov.

It is already quite dark when the harvesters return home, and yet the young people—especially the girls—fill the calm air of the night with their songs. The harvest, every portion of it, has its special songs, mostly dating from the remotest pre-Christian antiquity.

These songs become especially lively and gay when the best part of the harvest begins—when the rye, or the wheat, after having been left for a few days to dry in the sheaves, heaped together in shocks, is carted home. Every one who has not yet given a lift to the weary horse as it slowly moves along the unpaved country road, and to encourage it with endearing words as it brings home the food of the family.

In many families bread may have been wanting, and the last flour parsimoniously used in expectation of the new crop. Now, at least, a few sheaves will be hurriedly thrashed with the flails, and the winnowed grain taken to the village windmill, in order to hasten the long expected day when the family may partake of bread baked with "new" flour obtained from this year's crop.

For millions of households in Russia that day is a much greater festival—except, perhaps, Easter—and that fresh baked rye, with salt, is the holiest meal of the year. No better reception indeed can be made to a welcome visitor than to offer him new bread and salt. The fresh-baked huge loaf, with the wooden salt box, stand on the table of the sba for every man, woman or child who may enter the house.

When the months of July and August are dry and hot, the spring sowings begin to ripen almost as soon as the rye and wheat harvests are over. The slow work of harvesting oats, barley, buckwheat, occasionally some rye, wheat, peas and lentils, as also flax and hemp, begins almost immediately after the winter crops are in, leaving no time to rest.

Every day brings some new work with it, work which in most cases must be done at once, because in August and in the first half of September the weather often becomes unsettled. Every bright day, sometimes even a few hours of sunshine, must be taken advantage of to save this or that crop.

To-day it is the oats or the barley that must be cut and brought under shelter, otherwise they will be over-taken by the rain and become rotten. To-morrow it will be buckwheat which has begun to "flow," and requires immediate cutting, while the men have perhaps engaged to work for the next few days on a neighboring landlord's estate, and so it is the women who have to accomplish this hard work. The following day it may be the flax which

is in the same critical condition; or the flax that has been rotting in the small ponds has to be spread out at once in the fields for drying. And then, amid all that work, there will be, in most cases, some rye or wheat to be thrashed for the sowings in the fall. This is mostly done with the flail, or by making horses tread over it in a circle.

Moreover, the land will have to be harrowed, and sown, while quantities of additional work will have to be done for the neighboring landlords or farmers. These last may have rendered in the winter some service to the peasants when they were short of money and food, and now they require these services to be paid back by the peasants working in their fields. And with all that, the rains, which become more frequent, continually interrupt the work, which, from being now intermittent, becomes often for that very reason the more intense. In 1900, in many parts of Russia, the binding of the oats, as also the carting, was entirely done at night, after a full day's work.

Boundless steppes—the Russian name for prairies, exactly similar to the Canadian border, and covered with a thick layer of extremely fertile "black earth"—spread over southern and southeastern Russia. I have myself seen fields where, with the usual rest of the soil each third year under fallow, crop after crop had been gathered for 80 consecutive years, the crop continuing to remain richer than it was elsewhere on the best manured clayey soils.—Prince Kropotkin in Youth's Companion.

HE LET THE FURNACE FIRE OUT.

Now, there was a man with a red, red nose
And a weak and watery eye;
He stood in the street with a patient pose
While the cars went hurrying by.
And he read a paper and stamped his toes
And softly kerchieved his crimson nose.

A friend soon joined him in waiting there
And asked: "What is the latest row?"
And what has been taken, and when and where?"
And the man said: "Kooche-ah-chow!"
And the friend said: "Jimmy! You don't say!"
Now what do you think will be done to-day?

The man turned then and he sighed; "I think
That the next is Oo-chooly chooi!"
I mean—Ah-chooi!—and a quivering blink
Closed his eyes as the tears came through.

"Perhaps, but it seems quite a hefty plan."
I don't think they will," said the other man.
"It isn't—Ah-chooi!" cried the red-nosed man.
"But it's Ooo-choy-oakky-wow!"
"That's just what I said when the war began."

Said the friend, "They're doing it now!"
But the other answered, "Oh, can't you see
It is Wool! Ooo! Yoosh wishy-oof-ka-woe!"
"No, no, you're wrong," said the friend at that.
"Why, the place is too far away
From the seat of war, and I'll bet my hat
It will not be attacked to-day."

And the man with the nose that was ruby red
Just gurgled and groaned and shook his head.
"I don't mean the war," were the words he said,
"I thought you were asking for me
What I took for this cold that is in my head,
And I told you—Whoo! You! Chaw-see!"

And the friend then snickered and said,
"You sneeze like a class in geography!"
Little Things That Tell.

It is the little things of life that often do the most mischief, so that it behooves one to look out for trifles and deem nothing unimportant. A man who was greatly attracted by a girl, and would probably have fallen in love with her, if some little thing had not intervened, told one of his intimates of his love, who not only that his attentions were discontinued, that the little habit of laughing at the end of each remark was the wedge that first started the rift within the lovers' life which, "widening slowly," made the "music mute," so far as he was concerned. Almost everyone has one or more little personal habits more or less annoying to his associates, of which he himself is quite unconscious.

"I do wish Sylvia X would not begin to hum a tune in the middle of a conversation," said one of her friends. "It is very irritating and shows that she is not playing the last attention to anything that I am saying. It is certainly not complimentary, and I have heard a number of people speak about it. Some one really ought to tell her."

Unfortunately, however, that one never told. We all dislike to be told of our faults, and the task of correction is an ungrateful one. There are other little habits that are even worse than faults of manner—unpleasant little traits which, deep all unconsciously, but with an exceedingly detrimental effect, are necessary to specify the little tricks that fix one's sensibilities. Everyone has little such traits, trifles in others, although he himself feels perfectly sure that he has no such idiosyncrasies.—New York Tribune.

A Minister's Duty

A Glowing Tribute to the Sterling Worth of Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder.

"When I know anything worthy of recommendation I consider it my duty to tell it."—Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder has cured me of catarrh of five years' standing. It is certainly magical in its effect. The first application benefited me in five minutes."—Dr. Agnew's Pills cure the liver and stomach. 10c

Keep Your Eyes Open.
(Toronto Telegram.)
It is no happy-go-lucky business these present necessities for evading the perils that beset life of the streets of a busy city.

Haste to catch a car or to cross the streets in front of a car is the great source of danger and death. If people would make it a rule never to cross a dangerous street until they can see the track clear in front of them both ways; if people would remember to the care of their lives even while they are hurrying for a car, there would surely be some reduction in the number of tragedies that now bring the ache into so many hearts.

Itching Piles.—Dr. Agnew's Ointment is proof against the tortments of Itching Piles. Thousands of testimonials of cures effected by its use. No case too aggravating or too long standing for it to soothe, comfort and cure. It cures in from 3 to 6 nights. 35 cents.—OS

STEEL CONCRETE STANDPIPE AT MILFORD, OHIO.

A steel-concrete standpipe was recently constructed for Milford, Ohio, from the designs and under the superintendence of Mr. J. L. Barr, of Batavia, Ohio. The system of reinforcing the concrete is known as the Weber system, and makes use of small steel tees for the reinforcement. The standpipe is eighty-one feet high from the base to the roof, and the dome-shaped roof has a rise of 8 feet, making the total height above the foundation of 89 feet. The minimum inside diameter is 14 feet. For the lower 30 feet the wall is 9 inches thick; for the next 25 feet the thickness is 7 inches, and the upper section the wall is 5 inches thick, the reduction in thickness being made on the outside. The outside surface of the wall is perpendicular. The foundation is octagonal, with an inscribed diameter of 20 feet, and it is 6 feet deep. The concrete for the foundation was mixed in the proportion of 1 part cement to 7 parts gravel, while the concrete for the wall was made of 1 part cement and 3 parts gravel, sharp sand. The standpipe proper was washed with neat cement grout and the top was trowelled smooth.

The wall is reinforced with 1x1 1-8 inch steel tees bent into rings with the ends lapped about 6 inches. These rings are set about 3 inches from the outer surface of the wall and are held in place by perpendicular tees spaced about 18 inches apart, to which the rings are fastened by wire bands.—Engineering and Building Record.

Neglect a cough and contract consumption.

Shiloh's Consumption Cure

The Lung Tonic
cures consumption, but don't leave it too long. Try it now. Your money back if it doesn't benefit you.

Price: 50c. S. C. WELLS & CO., 301 2d St. N. Y., Toronto, Can.

Small Coins Brighter and Newer.

(Philadelphia Record.)
"Have you noticed the improved quality of the coins now in circulation?" asked the trolley car conductor, as he pulled a handful of bright pennies, nickels and dimes from his pocket for inspection.

"It's due to an effort on the part of the Government to put better money into circulation by recalling the worn and shiny pieces from which the impression of the die has become effaced. I've noticed for the past two years a steady improvement in this respect. All the banking institutions now throw aside the coins that show decided traces of wear, and the Treasury Department redeems these with new ones. In England a soiled bank note is unknown. The paper money is always new and crisp, being recalled before it becomes worn. It's getting to be that way in this country with our small coins."

I was cured of a bad case of Grip by MINARD'S LINIMENT.

Sydney, C. B. C. I. LAGUE.

I was cured of loss of voice by MINARD'S LINIMENT.

Yarmouth, CHAS. PLUMMER.

I was Cured of Sciatica Rheumatism by MINARD'S LINIMENT.

Durin, Nfld. LEWIS S. BUTLER.

(Exchange.)
"Thirty days hath September," Every person can remember; But to know when Easter comes Puzzles even scholars some.

When March the twenty-first is past, Just watch the silvery moon, And when you see it full and round Know Easter'll be here soon.

After the moon has reached its full, Then Easter will be here, The very Sunday after In each and every year.

And if it hap on Sunday, The moon should reach its height, The Sunday following this event Will be the Easter bright.

KING EDWARD'S TRAVELS.

The Royal Yacht Being Got Ready in Time.

The Royal yacht Victoria and Albert has just been docked at Portsmouth for an overhaul and refit, and she is to be ready for sea by March 1. It is understood that the Victoria and Albert will be required about the middle of next month by the King for a cruise in the Mediterranean, and that His Majesty intends to pay a visit to the King and Queen of the Hellenes, who she is rumored that the King's cruise will terminate at Venice, and that he will proceed thence direct to Copenhagen for the family celebration of King Christian's eighty-sixth birthday on April 8. If the state of public affairs should render it inexpedient for the King to go to the Mediterranean, he will probably go instead for a cruise in home waters, and the royal yacht will carry His Majesty to Copenhagen to convey their Majesties from Holmhead to the Kingdom of Denmark, and a story until the conclusion of the royal visit to Ireland on April 30 or May 2.

Minard's Liniment Relieves Neuralgia.

Endurance of the Yak.
Yaks, which are the beast of burden in Tibet, are very sure-footed and will carry a load of more than 200 pounds safely along the steepest hillside. They can exist on the scantiest grass, but grain food suits them for a few days only. Eight miles a day is good average work. A recent traveler tried leather boots for his yaks, without success. Tame yaks are white, black, grey and brown, and all intermediate gradations of these colors. The wild yak is invariably black and in early spring his winter coat almost sweeps the ground. At such times he is almost invisible. He is almost indistinguishable from a story told of a big game hunter in Tibet who shot his own baggage animals by mistake.

Minard's Liniment for sale everywhere.

Trouble That Rats Cause in Patagonia.
(Boston Transcript.)

A scientist exploring Patagonia says: "The impassability of Patagonia mud is proverbial. You cannot walk through it and it takes a sturdy mule to carry you through. More often than not it is caused by the burrowing of a tailless rat known as the *Arvicola*. Acres upon acres, amounting to square miles even, of otherwise sound and wholesome ground are undermined by this indefatigable little pest. He holds the country as nothing else holds it, until the advent of sheep or cattle (which he hates) induces him to shift the scene of his nightly labors."

Cost 10 Cents—But worth a dollar a year.
This is the testimony of hundreds who use Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills. They are so sure, so pure, so pleasant and easy acting. The demand for this popular Liver Regulator is so great it is taxing the makers to keep up with it.—OS

A Curious Dog Tax.

"The rains absorb alcohol, and so, no matter how much one drinks, if he will eat raisins continually, not less than three or four to each glass of beer, for example, they will prevent the alcohol from being taken up in the blood, and thus preserve a state of sobriety."

In Brussels the dog tax is managed on a very odd system, dogs being taxed according to their value instead of at a fixed rate. The various suburbs have different rates, so that the same dog, at different times, pays perhaps a trifle less for his dog than he would if he had a house in Brussels. A rich Belgian, who was noted among his friends as being a "trifle 'near,'" as the Scotch say, owned a very valuable dog. When looking about for a house in the capital he selected one in the district where he would have to pay the least for his dog. Unfortunately his cleverness was misplaced on this occasion, for his work lay at some distance from his house, and the sums expended for cab hire more than made up for the extra dog tax.

Minard's Liniment Cures Dandruff.

DON'T MARRY THIS GIRL.

Who is lazy.
Who is a flirt.
Who cannot control her temper.
Who dislikes children and animals.
Who is not neat and tidy in her dress.
Who is deceitful and is not true to her friends.
Who fusses, fumes and fidgets about everything.
Whose highest aspiration has never soared above self.
Who is unable to suitors and "horrid" to her family.
Whose chief interests in life are dress and amusement.
Who lacks thrift, and has no idea of the value of money.
Who cannot bear to hear any one but herself praised or admired.
Who thinks more of making a fine appearance than a fine character.
Who is coarse, imperious and dominating in manner and conversation.
Who never thinks that her mother needs an outing, amusement or a change.
Who humiliates servants by snapping at them or criticizing them before guests.
Who appropriates the best of everything for herself, and is thoughtless of others.

Who dresses in the height of fashion when going out, but does not care how she looks at home.—O. S. Marden, in Success.

Minard's Liniment Cures Burns, etc.

KIOSKS AT SUBWAYS.

Attractive metal kiosks are being erected at the entrances of the New York subway.

Throughout Corea a number of monuments are still standing which date from the war of 1592, when Japan invaded Corea with 300,000 men. These "Monuments of Ears," as they are called, mark the burial places of the 10,000 ears which were cut from the heads of the Coreans as trophies of victory. There are many of these monuments in Japan also, for some of these gruesome relics were taken home by the conquering army.

Canary Bird and Bullfinch Millinery.

There has been a run on rare birds skins and plumage for ladies' hats this winter. One young lady wore what, I suppose, is called a garden hat, judging by the greenery which bedecked its ample brim. Among this brilliant foliage I counted eight bullfinches. However, a young and pretty girl could thus bedeck herself like an original savage without the imagination. There was a woman who recently spent £200 on a ball dress made from canary breasts—but she was French.



There are very few cleaning operations in which Sunlight Soap cannot be used to advantage. It makes the home bright and clean.

The Manufacturer's Advertising.

The experience of a manufacturer is interesting: "If I could get my monthly mailing card into the right hands, I could afford to rely on it mainly for my advertising. But there's the rub. I found it expedient to use the newspapers in order to get the right persons to apply for the cards. Then I found I could include the essential matter in my newspaper advertisement. Hence, while my card is still valuable, my newspaper announcements are indispensable."

\$50.00 to California and Return

Via the Chicago, Union Pacific & North-Western Line, from Chicago, April 23 to May 1. Choice of routes going and returning. Correspondingly low rates from all points. Two trains a day from Chicago through without change. Daily and personally conducted tourist car excursions. Write for itinerary and full particulars regarding special train leaving Chicago April 26.—B. H. Bennett, 2 East King street, Toronto, Ont.

Nothing Left to Break.

(Scraps.)
Mrs. Wiggs—Cook has only broken one dish to-day, dear.
Mr. Wiggs—That's better. How did that happen?
Mrs. Wiggs—It was the last one.
Lifebuoy Soap—disinfectant—is strongly recommended by the medical profession as a safeguard against infectious diseases.

Chicago a Health Resort.

(Boston Globe.)
Chicago is the healthiest large city in the world. For years Berlin has been a close second to Chicago in the competition for a low death rate, but London has now supplanted her. London's estimated population for 1903 is given as 4,613,212, with a death total of 72,100, the death rate per thousand therefore being 15.62. Chicago's estimated mid-year population was 1,835,000, with a total of 28,925 deaths, including the Iroquois fire victims, making the death rate per thousand 15.74, or only 1.7 per cent. less than London.

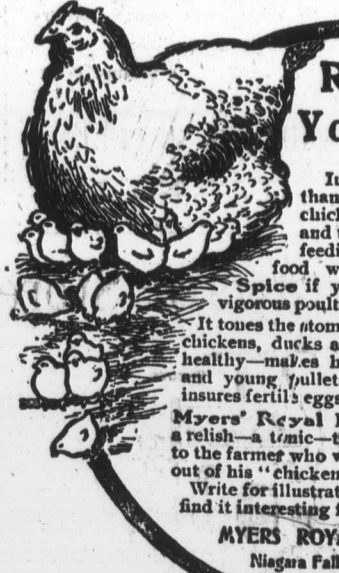
Great Service to New York

The New York Central affords excellent service to New York, Boston and points in the Eastern States. See your ticket agent for full particulars.

She Was a Hustler.

(St. Louis Star.)
"George," said the leap year girl who meant business, "I love you dearly. Will you be my husband?"
"Why—er—this is so sudden," stammered George. "Give me time to think."
"Well," she rejoined, as she looked at her watch, "think quick. The last car is due in fifteen minutes."

Raise Every Chick Your Hens Hatch



Indigestion kills more chickens than any other disease. When chicks begin to droop—look peaked and thin—won't eat—it's due to over-feeding or wrong feeding. Season the food with Myers' Royal Poultry Spice.

Spice if you want to raise plump, strong, vigorous poultry.

It tones the stomach—regulates the bowels—keeps chickens, ducks and turkeys fat and healthy—makes hens lay all winter, and young pullets early layers—and insures fertile eggs.

Myers' Royal Poultry Spice is a reliable tonic—that is indispensable to the farmer who wants to make money out of his "chicken yard."

Write for illustrated booklet. You'll find it interesting from cover to cover.

MYERS' ROYAL SPICE CO.

Niagara Falls, Ont. & N.Y.

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ISSUE NO. 16 1904.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup should always be used for Children's Coughs. It soothes the child, cures the cough, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea.

WANTED—A GENERAL SERVANT. Highest wages paid; comfortable home. Address or apply to Mrs. W. Holton, Hamilton, Ont.

Any Lady Can Make Easily \$12.00 to \$24.00 weekly by representing us in her locality in her spare time. The position is pleasant and profitable the year round. Will gladly send particulars to any lady who may need to make some money, and will convince you that this is no deception. Write to: Mrs. Davidson, Drawer 66, Brantford, Ont. Mention this paper.

The Independent Cash Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Toronto, Canada.

Applications will be received for Ontario Agencies at leading towns and villages. Address head office, 24 King street west, Chas. C. VanNorman, President and Managing Director; Wm. Gray, Superintendent.

BUSINESS GUIDE

tells all about notes, receipts, mortgages, leases, deeds, bills, property, stamps from seizure, landlord and tenant, ditches and watercourses, etc., one agent sold 47 copies in three days; another sold 58 in a week. Fresh edition now ready; outfit 25c; order outside the U.S. if not satisfactory money refunded. The J. I. Nichols Co., Limited, Toronto. Mention this paper.

B & C

LONG HIP
A POPULAR CORSET FOR 1904

253
NO BRASS EYELETS

MANUFACTURED ONLY BY
BRUSH & Co.,
TORONTO, - ONT.

When He Fell Down.

(The Standard.)
He—Wor't you let me give you just one kiss before I go?
She—Will just one satisfy you?
He—Yes, darling.
She—Then I won't give it to you.

DEAFNESS CANNOT BE CURED

by local applications as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed, it has a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed, unless it be cured at once by the method of Catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

F. J. CENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

Sold by Druggists, 75c.

Take Hall's Catarrh Pills for Constipation.

Origin of the Word "Tariff."

The word "tariff" says the Westminster Gazette, is derived from the Spanish town of Tarifa, which was the name given to the place where the Moorish General Tariff landed in 710 A. D. from the North of Africa, with a small force, to make a preliminary raid on the coast of Andalusia, preparatory to the overthrow of Spain by the Moors. It was at Tarifa that the conquerors instituted a table of Customs regulations, or "tariffs," from the duties collected at the port. As in the case of many other of the older Spanish towns, Tarifa, which is the southernmost town of Europe, is still of quite Moorish aspect.

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Can be had in TUBS, PAILS, WASH BASINS, MILK PANS, STABLE PAILS, ETC.

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