

Chas. Babbit,

GENERAL DEALER IN

DRY GOODS AND GROCERIES,

Boots, Shoes, Hardware, &c.

In this first issue of the Gazette, I have much pleasure in thanking the public for their patronage during the time I have been in business, and hope by catering to the wants of my customers in a manner, satisfactory as to prices and quality of goods, to merit a continuation of the same.

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Wampum.

When Columbus discovered America he found the Indians carrying on trade from tribe to tribe with wampum. Anything that has value may be used as money.

Wampum is an Algonquin word meaning "white." The Indians have ever been fond of ornaments, particularly of beads. The used to make beads of seashells in the following way: A fragment of stone was with much care "worked down" to the size of a small nail, having one end quite pointed, and it was then fastened to a piece of cane or a reed.

The shell beads thus tediously manufactured were called "wampum." These beads were either white or of a purple color—the last being valued much higher than the first.

The wampum was artistically strung upon hempen threads and used as necklaces, bracelets and rings; often it was woven into "belts" about three inches in width and two feet in length.

The wampum belt served many purposes; it was sent from tribe to tribe with solemn promises and messages; it was used in making peace, in asking for aid in time of war, for personal adornment, and also as a "circulating medium."

For a long time after white people had settled in the new world small coins were scarce and wampum was used as "change." Finally the "pale-faces" set up lathe, by treadles for the purpose of making wampum, quite as well as the Indians; wampum-makers were, as we say nowadays, "out of a job."

Barley as a Stock Food. A Butler Co., O., farmer writes as follows: "I have 300 bushels of barley that I cannot get more than twenty cents a bushel for."

Barley is an excellent stock food. On the coast it is crushed between rollers instead of being ground, in which case the grains are flattened by this process into chips, just as a lead bullet if we strike it with a hammer.

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Clover vs. Buckwheat for Soil Enrichment.

In answer to an enquiry as to the relative value of the above plants coupled with a mention of the difficulty of securing a catch of clover, Prof. W. A. Henry, of the Wisconsin Experiment Station, makes the following reply in the Breeder's Gazette. He says:

Quite generally our correspondent should hold to red clover, which is much superior to buckwheat for improving the fertility of poor lands. The best nurse crop to secure a catch of clover with is the rye plant. Clover will catch with rye when it will fail with wheat, oats or barley.

I wish our correspondent would try sowing clover seed by running a drain drill lightly over the rye field in the spring to distribute the clover seed. Set the teeth so that they will deposit the seed about half an inch or more under the surface, but not so deep as to prevent the clover from coming up.

Sown in this way with rye, I think you will succeed quite generally in getting a catch, and after clover has been used one or two times on the farm marked improvement will follow.

I know of a sandy Wisconsin farm that have been made of permanent high value and excellent fertility through carefully bringing in the clover plant, which gave uncertain catches at first but improved with each year's effort.

Clover will surely grow on the lands inquired about, under good farming, though there may be an occasional back-set.

It is now settled that clover roots get nitrogen from the air and give this over to the soil, thus increasing its fertility in the most expensive element sold in commercial fertilizers.

On these sandy lands I should not, as a rule, plow clover under but having grown a crop would feed it to farm stock and apply the manure to the land. Even the stubble and roots left in the clover field after the removal of the hay leaves the ground richer in nitrogen than before the clover was grown.

Occasionally clover may be turned over to advantage, in which case I advise that it be allowed to grow up, die down and then be turned over in fall or spring, preferably in fall, unless the soil blows away too badly when left bare in winter.

Clover may be plowed in August and the field sown in rye in September, clover being sown again on the rye in spring time.

The buckwheat plant does not get nitrogen from the air and so is not nearly so good as the clover plant. However, buckwheat furnishes vegetable matter, and this is important in sandy soils.

In some cases, therefore, it may pay to sow buckwheat, though this should never be done where clover can be obtained. I should count on a clover crop as worth two or three times as much as buckwheat for turning under.

In some cases barnyard manure is of course better than either if it can be applied in considerable quantities.

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ERRATIC GEOGRAPHY.

Mountains and Lakes Found on the Map, But Nowhere Else.

Among the anomalous results that geographical exploration is constantly calling to the front is the annihilation of "landmarks" which have been considered to be firmly established. Less than three years ago it was discovered that Mount Isewan, a peak of the Great Alps, which figured on all detailed maps of the Alpine regions with the very respectable elevation of upward of 15,000 feet, had no existence in fact, and the assumed mountain has since been consigned to oblivion.

A somewhat less complete effacement was announced in the early part of the past year in the removal of 7000 feet from the height of Mount Brown in British America—generally credited with an altitude of 15,000 feet in place of the 8000 feet, which is now given to it by Professor Coleman—a condition somewhat similar to the experience of Mount Hood, in Oregon, which, when being gradually reduced to its presumed height of 15,000 to 11,000 feet, brought out the facetious remark that with a few years more of grace the mountain would be a hole in the ground.

It is now clear, had no existence what ever? And finally, as the latest negative contribution to geographical knowledge, we have in the Jackson-Harmsworth report from Franz-Josef land (recently brought to London by the vessel of the expedition, the Windeby), the assurance that not a trace of the so-called Peruvian Land of Lieutenant Beyer could be discovered, and that even Lily Land, a merely a detached architectural mass of entirely inconsiderable extent.

The life of a clam. The clam's body is completely enveloped in the mantle, except for two openings, through which the foot can be pushed out. The other is for the siphon, or what is commonly known as its "neck."

When a clam is current, laden with minute plants and animals, reaches the gill chamber, some of these organisms are retained for food, while the water flows in through one end and out the other.

Every fresh test of the quality of Puget Sound fish results in confirming the claim that the quality of any of the world and far superior to most. The progress in establishment of its production as a steady and permanent industry is nevertheless very slow.

The Worst River on Earth. "The scourge of China," is what they call the Yang-tse-kiang River. During the last 20 years, its floods have fourteen times forced the massive dams of the central provinces and each time covered its banks with thousands of human corpses.

They broke the news to the convict as gently as possible, but he was nevertheless quite overcast.

"Pardon?" he shrieked, "surely you don't mean me? Pardon? For me? After I have been habituated to every luxury it will kill me. Mercy! I implore you, mercy!"

"But there was no mercy. The will of the law was inexorable."—Detroit Tribune.

"Ah, Henry," she sighed, "it is very kind of you to tell me that I am still beautiful and that I look as youthful as I did ten years ago, but you are wrong. I have had proof of it."

"Why, my darling, what do you mean?" he asked.

"To-day when I got aboard the car," she bitterly replied, "not a solitary man offered to give me his seat."

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