

CURRENT TOPICS.

The war with Japan left Russia practically without a navy. It is not surprising that she should be thinking and planning the construction of a new fleet, and a reasonable naval programme would be taken everywhere as a matter of course.

Almost the entire press has opposed the schemes of the admiralty as foreshadowed in semi-official statements, and has pointed to the need of agrarian reform, which will cost a good deal of money, of universal primary education, of public works and other things that are essential in themselves, and, in addition, conditions of pacification and regeneration.

Puzzle—Find something that has no coal tar in it. There is coal tar in everything we eat; more than half our drugs are products of coal tar; all our dress goods are dyed by coal tar; artificial perfumes, saccharine, which is 500 times sweeter than sugar; explosives, medicines, food preservatives, and photographic developers are all provided by coal tar.

Shortly after his return from the United States, Mark Hambourg, the noted pianist, went to Warsaw, Poland, to fulfill an engagement. The other evening, according to a despatch from that city, he was walking on one of the principal streets, when he was accosted by a messenger, who professed to come from Mr. Hambourg's hotel.

The home of tiling is Italy. There it is used for hallways, dining rooms or bedrooms, and always it is in perfect condition, shining, smooth, and unspotted, as it should be.

"I am so sorry that Mrs. Brigham is moving out of the city. I shall miss her so much." "Were you such good friends?" "O, it isn't that we were so friendly but she has the nicest set of flat silver in the neighborhood, and I used to borrow it every time I wanted to entertain."

Fashion Hints.

The union of blues and purples is a favorite ground for experiment this season, and since the slightest mistake in shade means disaster many of these experiments are distinct failures; but, on the other hand, there are combinations of purple and soft blue which are triumphs of color harmony.

Purple, blue and gray are the dominant colors in the new millinery, but there is infinite variety in shadings of these colors, and the wine shades, greens and browns are well represented, while the all-black hat, black and white hat and all-white hat are popular, as they always are.

Large choux of tulle trimmings, broad-brimmed hats, usually of the lighter colors, combined more tones than are seen in the velvet trimming. Dull, rather light blue, gray, violet and a vague green are all combined in the tulle trimming of one exquisite great hat from Alphonso, and from Reboux comes a hat of purple velvet on which are massed all imaginable fuchsia tints, purple, red, pink, all vivid, yet consorting as amicably and with harmony as unerring as in the flower itself.

Plumes of many tones, too, are associated upon one hat, the color scheme not including merely many shades of one color, but many contrasting colors so subtly mingled that they do not strike one discordant note.

These are problems for artist milliners, but the dyers have furnished color keys in many of the flower and feather trimmings which may inspire even a milliner who could not of her own initiative plan color combinations so unusual and so successful.

To the marvelous skill of the dyers is due much of the rise in millinery prices, for the results obtained imply much experiment and highly skilled labor, and these things cost.

It is only in nature that beauty does not invariably come high. Any adequate description of the colorings obtained in feathers and flowers is an impossibility.

It seems as though every imaginable color scheme had been essayed by the makers of these trimmings and the results are admirably beautiful.

Ostrich plumes and other feather trimmings show exquisite color combinations, the ostrich feathers shading from stem to tip or from stem to end, not only through shades of one color, but through contrasting colors as well.

Vivid blue shading to black, blue and gray, fuchsia red and taupe, but the combinations are innumerable, and the same is true in the province of the many curious feather trimmings ground under the head of "fantasia."

Ostrich plumes, especially of the uncut, will give a modish and costly as ever, but they are not so novel as certain other feathers, and consequently many women have turned aside to these new favorites.

Osprey aigrettes, massed so that they swirl over the whole crown of the hat and fall out over the wide brim, are popular, and have a delightful effect of lightness in this day of heavy hats, but they are, of course, exceedingly expensive.

For that matter, so are all of the really fine and beautiful feathers. The gourah feathers, which are prime favorites, are especially charming when used in the fashion just described, that is, spraying over the whole crown of the hat and forming practically the sole trimming, were expensive even last season, but have doubled in price, and, thanks to the demand, are still soaring.

They are usually left in their natural coloring of smoke gray, touched with white, and are charming upon an all gray hat, upon blue, violet and many another color.

Coarser feathers, many of them more frockish than beautiful, trim less expensive hats, often making up by charm of coloring for lack of the fineness and delicacy that are the charm of the osprey and the gourah.

NOTED PIANIST MADE CAPTIVE.

Mark Hambourg is a Prisoner of Revolutionists.

Shortly after his return from the United States, Mark Hambourg, the noted pianist, went to Warsaw, Poland, to fulfill an engagement. The other evening, according to a despatch from that city, he was walking on one of the principal streets, when he was accosted by a messenger, who professed to come from Mr. Hambourg's hotel.

Mr. Hambourg entered and was immediately gagged and bound by two masked men. He was then taken to a room where other men were assembled, and was told he was in the hands of the Revolutionists. He was also informed that if he would play on the piano for them he would not be harmed.

Mr. Hambourg had no option but to consent. Then his hands were bandaged and he was led down several flights of stairs to what he imagined was a large underground room, where he performed four pieces on an excellent instrument. The Revolutionists did not applaud him. After playing he was led back, with his eyes bandaged, to the first room he had entered, where he was courteously thanked. He was informed that he would not be paid for his services, but that he might expect a satisfactory sequel.

He was then released. The following evening Mr. Hambourg fulfilled an engagement before the Philharmonic Society. There was such immense enthusiasm that he deduced there were many Revolutionists present, who paid him by giving him an ovation. He was recalled 26 times and played six encores.

RAILWAYS DEATH TOLL

ONE PASSENGER KILLED FOR EVERY 457,164 CARRIED.

Broken Rails and Level Crossings Chief Causes for Accidents in Canada.

During 1907 there were 587 persons killed and 1,698 injured on the railways of Canada. This is the largest number in the history of Canada. Of the total number 69 were killed and 69 injured on level crossings. This also beats the record. Of the total number killed 70 were passengers and 249 employees.

With respect to passengers 26 were killed and 93 injured in collisions, 21 were killed and 127 injured by derailments, and 10 were killed and 35 injured by jumping on or off trains. Forty-six employees were killed and 135 injured by collisions and 12 killed and 56 injured by derailments.

Of trespassers on the railway tracks, such as tramps, etc., 185 were killed and every 457,164 persons carried in one killed for every 749,961 carried in 1906. One passenger in every 91,299 was injured, as compared with one in every 111,168 during the preceding year. In addition to the foregoing, eleven shopmen and other employees were engaged in the actual work of operation were killed and 454 were injured, bringing the total up to 508 persons killed and 2,432 injured.

In connection with the killing of 34 persons during the year in coupling or uncoupling cars, and the injuring of 141 employees from this cause, the report notes that the number of fatalities last year was more than three times the average rate for any ten years before the present system of automatic coupler was introduced.

TORONTO'S FATAL RECORD.

Then, too, 71 persons were killed and 1,736 injured on the 814 miles of electric railway in the country. Of the total fatalities twenty-two occurred in Montreal and twenty in Toronto. Not a single passenger was killed in Montreal, while nine lost their lives in Toronto.

Of non-fatal accidents, many of which were of a minor character, 490 occurred in Montreal, and 1,000 in Toronto. The gross earnings on the electric were \$12,630,430, showing a betterment of \$1,163,559 over those of the preceding year. The proportion of operating expenses to gross earnings was 61.35. The total number of passengers carried was 273,999,404, a gain of 36,344,330 over 1906.

Twenty-eight railways show an average passenger charge of 2.232 cents per mile. Four railways, whose passenger revenue represents 71 per cent. of the total, for the year return a rate of 2.07 cents. The five principal railways, representing 73 per cent. of the total freight earnings, show an average rate of 7.02 cents per ton per mile.

COMPETITION KILLS.

On the subject of bad rails, the report says—"The matter was taken up quite comprehensively at the meeting of the Canadian Society of Engineers in May last. The fact was brought out during the discussion that in the year 1906 of three railways 537 rails had broken, of which 439 had been in service for one year and under. The character of the Canadian rails was indicated as one of the chief causes of railway accidents, and manufacturers, but there was a consensus of judgment that here, as in the United States, the fundamental trouble had grown out of keen competition on one hand and pressure upon the mills on the other, which had led to the economizing of labor to a degree which has meant poor and defective rails.

That, however, is bad economy which leads to the wasting of human lives and valuable property. The killing of 35 persons and the injury of 287 by derailments in 1907, and the injury of 287 by derailments in 1906, are a sufficient warning that the price may in some degree have been the price which Canadians paid last year for hasty and imperfect production of steel rails."

TO SAFEGUARD LIFE.

Steps urged to increase the safety of travel include the introduction of a thoroughly tested block system, closer inspection of new rails, roadbed and the injury of 287 by derailments. The count of those responsible for mistakes resulting in railway accidents. The money waste involved in railway accidents during the year reached the high total of \$1,961,970, including \$642,248 for injuries to persons.

HIGHEST MILEAGE.

The total railway mileage of the country, including double tracks, sidings, etc., is placed at 27,611 miles. The addition during the year was 1,099 miles, not including 324 miles of new double-track. Of the total mileage Ontario has 7,837 miles, Quebec 3,515, and Manitoba 2,074. Canada has one mile of railway for every 289 inhabitants, and every 161 square miles of area—the highest mileage measured against population and the lowest measured against territory of nearly all countries of the world.

OVER A BILLION INVESTED.

The total capital invested in Canadian railways is placed at \$1,719,877,808. The total net earnings were \$42,989,537, representing a rate of 3.66 per cent. on the total investment. The capitalization averages \$56,995 per mile.

Traffic during 1907 showed substantial gains over the preceding year. In eight months there was an increase of 5,899,422 tons, and passengers carried increased by 4,147,537. The total number of passengers carried was 23,137,319, and the total number of tons of freight was 63,866,135.

The total earnings of the year were \$146,738,214, representing an increase of \$21,415,349, or 17.09 per cent. over 1906. Operating expenses amounted to \$103,748,672, an increase of 19.07 per cent. The proportion of operating expenses to earnings was 70.79 per cent.

ONE-TWENTYTH.

The number of persons in the employ of Canadian railways during the year 1907 was 124,012, and the total amount paid during the year in salaries and wages was \$58,719,493. It is estimated that quite seventy per cent. of the whole population of Canada win their daily bread from the carrying trade in all its various branches.

HEALTH

INFLUENZA.

Influenza is an acute infectious disease of peculiar character. Its original home is believed to have been in that mysterious region called Eastern Central Asia, where also the plague is thought to have its natural habitat. From this region it was wont to issue at irregular intervals of from four or five years to seventy or eighty, and invade first Russia and then western Europe.

It was for long not known how it spread from one country to another, its appearance in a city, for example, was hardly noted before the entire city was in its grip. It was thought due to some mysterious atmospheric "influence," whence its name from the Italian form of the word. The French call it la grippe, whence our "grippe," because of the way it seems to seize upon victims.

The last great irruption of the disease was in 1889-90, when it spread over the entire civilized world with such extreme rapidity that the belief in an atmospheric influence was for a time revived. A study of the epidemic, however, proved that it followed the wanderings of human beings along the lines of travel, in a definite direction, and the travel in Siberia and eastern Russia was along narrow caravan routes and in a westward direction. Once it reached populous western Europe, with its radiating lines of railways, it burst forth in every direction, and in a few days had passed the Atlantic, and each one who was suffering at the time from the disease became a focus of infection, and from each of these centers the disease spread, and the grippé seized upon great numbers in all parts of the city at the same time, as soon as the incubation period of from one to four days had passed. Europe for a time had the epidemic to itself, but it leapt to the two Americas, just long enough for the steamers to bring their infected human cargo, it appeared here on the Eastern coast, and as fast as steam could carry it spread over the entire country.

The epidemics in former times lasted from one to three or four years and then ceased, but since 1890 influenza has been epidemic in Europe and America every winter.

This is an exceedingly infectious disease, often confounded with a common cold, but really an entirely different ailment. It is especially fatal to the young, but not age is exempt, especially during severe and wide-spread epidemics.

An attack confers immunity for a variable period, from a few months to a year, but after that there appears to be an increased susceptibility. Many persons suffer from the disease every year.

Influenza prevails chiefly in late autumn and winter, although epidemics may occur in the summer, especially if the season is cold and wet. The disease assumes one of three special forms, called from the parts chiefly affected the respiratory, the digestive and the nervous. In each case the onset is sudden, with a chill, headache and mental depression, muscular pains, dizziness and high fever. Sometimes there are premonitory symptoms for a day or two, such as a sore throat, a fever, dry headache and pains in the arms and legs. Soon after the onset catarrhal symptoms—sneezing, running at the nose and watering of the eyes—make their appearance. In the respiratory form these increase in severity, and there are also cough and shortness of breath. It is not uncommon for this form to develop into pneumonia.

In the digestive form the most prominent symptoms are nausea and vomiting, or diarrhoea and severe abdominal pains, the first two indicating involvement of the stomach, the second two that the intestines are involved; sometimes all are present at once, indicating a very severe attack.

In the nervous form the headache is usually intense, and the muscular and neuralgic pains are very severe. Depression, both physical and mental, is a prominent symptom, the despondency often passing into melancholy, and sometimes leading to suicide. Insomnia is a common symptom, both during the attack and following it.

Convalescence is tedious, the body regaining its strength very slowly and the mind throwing off its depression only after weeks or months.

The most important part of the treatment is absolute rest in bed. The sick-room is to be, if possible, on the sunny side of the house, with windows kept open both day and night. The patient should be protected by light but warm bedclothes, and by a silk nightcap. The diet should be greatly restricted, especially while the fever lasts, but water should be drunk in abundance. The medicinal treatment naturally varies with the form which the disease assumes and the parts which it attacks.—Youth's Companion.

HIS BELIEF.

Miss Elderleigh—"Doctor, do you believe that bleaching the hair leads to sciffening of the brain?" Doctor—"No, but I believe that softening of the brain sometimes leads to bleaching the hair."

"That dress is becoming, my dear," said the man who thinks he is a diplomat. "She looks at him coldly for a moment, and then replied: "Yes, it is becoming threadbare."

REFUSES GREAT FORTUNE

THIS YOUNG MAN DOES NOT DESIRE WEALTH.

He Was Left a Legacy of \$150,000 on Condition That He Change His Religion.

England is in a state of amazement at the present time over the stand taken by a certain young man of the name of Henry Baxendale.

This Baxendale belongs to a sect known as the Primitive Christians. He knew he had inherited a legacy of \$150,000, the only condition being that he abandon this belief. He refused without a second thought.

Such behavior naturally created much surprise and people are now asking themselves what beliefs can make a man scorn money so. The question has been answered by an interview, which appeared recently in a London paper.

LIVES ON FARM.

The talk took place on Baxendale's farm some miles out of Westham, in Kent. Here he lives with his wife and a little community of simple believers in the "inspiration of the Word." The number varies. Just now there are seven of them altogether. Sometimes there are more. But, however many or however few they are, they have all things in common and live in accordance with the Apostolic commands.

"We believe," said the strange-looking, thoughtful-eyed young man in up-to-date farmer's dress—tweed coat and breeches, leggings, flannel shirt and soft collar—"we believe in the visible appearing of Christ, and we live in the certainty that God is watching over His chosen. To us this world is merely a place of proving, of testing, no more than an ante-chamber to the world which is on the other side of the grave. We see almost everybody occupied exclusively with the things of this life, and they seem to us to be like people in a burning house refusing to escape."

NO HOARDING OF MONEY.

"We will have nothing to do with business, with hoarding up money in banks, seeking to heap together riches by speculation, providing against future contingencies by insurance. How could those whose minds are set upon the eternal realities be dazzled and beguiled by the artificial and untrue? Everyone who inherits his house or his life is denying the existence of God. We leave all in God's hands, certain that He will provide.

"It may be that this money will come to me, though I shall do nothing to advance that result of the negotiations. If so, it will be spent in spreading the faith and in supplying the needs of the brethren. No Bible Christian can remain rich. However much money he inherits, he would not keep it long. The farm here supplies our needs, and we sell what we have left over, devoting the proceeds to the issue of books, in which the truth is set forth. We lead an ordinary life, we eat ordinary food. Of course, our fare is simple, and we do not indulge ourselves with much more than the bare necessities of life. But we are happy, and we know that our election is sure. What befalls us in this world is no matter. Our thoughts are fixed upon the world to come."

ADORNMENTS.

There are no pictures or adornments at the farm. Neither art nor music appears to the followers of the Old Paths to contribute to the glory of God, which can only be showed forth by sober purity of living. Even the glories of nature seem to them to be almost a snare.

"You have beautiful country all around you," the interviewer said. "Yes," he replied, without enthusiasm, "we recognize the work of the Almighty, but there is the danger of worshipping nature instead of the God of nature. We must guard against that." Bible Christians take no part in politics, which, being concerned entirely with the things of this world, are unworthy of their attention. They are serious folk, holding that all amusements which can be classed under the head of "foolish jesting" are "not conventional." Their seriousness has its root, however, not in anxiety about the state of mankind here on earth, but in seeking to fit themselves for the Kingdom of Heaven.

BELONG TO "ELECT."

They are, indeed, convinced that the present "mad worship of comfort and pleasure and wealth" must grow much worse before it can become any better. They do not believe that Christ will appear until after the "Great Apostasy," until the Anti-Christ, the Man of Sin, has drawn unto him all but the small number of the elect. In this they differ from the Plymouth Brethren, who look for the second coming at any moment.

Another point of difference lies in their attitude towards "formalists." They do not hold any regular service. They exert and encourage one another at all hours of the day, whenever there happens to be two or three together—at meal-times or as they work in the fields. Sunday to them is like any other day. They regard the Fourth commandment as having been superseded by the message of Christ, and they fall to find any teaching of his in favor of keeping holy the first day of the week.

ON THE FARM

THE PLAGUE OF POOR COWS.

It grieves us to think as we write of the very large per cent. of the dairy farmer's feed and time being wasted every day, every week and every month of this 1908 because he is undertaking to make money from cows which on the average are giving only about one hundred and forty pounds of butter fat per year, just enough to pay for the feed and labor, but furnishing no real profit to the farmer.

There is no necessity for the continuance of this state of affairs, but it seems almost impossible to induce the farmer to take measures to protect himself from this constant loss. All that is necessary is to use the scales and the Babcock test to ascertain the actual yield of the cows during the year, and it is not necessary for him to weigh and test every day. Professor Kri, of the Kansas station, who has given the matter especial study, is our authority for the statement that weighing and testing the milk three days in the week will be accurate to test the yield, and that the amount of milk produced and 94 per cent. of the butter fat as compared with the record taken every day during the period of lactation.

There is scarcely an eighteen-year-old boy on a farm who could not induce to weigh and test the milk three days in the week, in case his father will not do it, and thus determine what cows are dead beat boarders, mere manure factories and hence unfit to use in a dairy herd.

This, however, does not solve the whole problem, for it does not tell us how we can breed cows that will be available and testing them the farmer can in time develop a herd that will produce two hundred and fifty pounds of butter fat a year. He might safely take two hundred pounds as the minimum, and he could expect to have a course of two or three years. If one hundred and forty pounds will pay the cost of labor and feed then the sixty extra pounds will be profit and surely this is sufficient to induce the farmer to ascertain the facts with reference to his herd, and to test the milk, and furnish him in the shape of the Babcock test.

This having been done, and a herd of two hundred pound cows being secured, a more difficult problem remains, namely, how to secure bulls of better pedigree that will mate with the cows furnished him in the shape of the Babcock test.

It is not necessary to say that this is an exceedingly difficult matter. The farmer buys a bull, uses him for two or three years, and then to avoid inbreeding he sells him and buys another. He does not know and he cannot know at that date the value of the bull for dairy cows. Another year must pass until the first of the heifers comes in and he cannot determine the value of these for still another year, really not for two years. Hence in the matter of breeding he is simply going it blind.

What is the remedy? We know of none except an organization among farmers in the neighborhood, or among patrons of a creamery who use some breed of cattle by which they will be enabled to keep track of cows that are heavy butter producers, say three hundred to three hundred and fifty pounds, and buy from each other, calves from these cows and when their merits as dairy sires are ascertained sell them to each other or exchange with each other. This involves co-operation, for which farmers, as a rule, are not yet prepared, but for which they will have to prepare themselves if they are to get the real value of the feed that they are now wasting on inferior dairy cows.

Creamery companies could be very helpful in this, if they would, and to their own great benefit. If they are passing out of existence, or the simple reason that the supply of milk is running short, partly due to the centralized creamery and partly to the fact that the cows that are producing their cream are not yielding more than half their capacity.

These creameries could afford to employ by the year some bright young fellow who understands how to handle the Babcock test and good practical judgment in the way of preparing balanced rations, to ascertain for the farmers just what their cows are doing and to suggest better methods of feeding. This in time would lead to an organization of the patrons among themselves by which they would be able to select sires worthy of a place at the head of their dairy herds. This is the method followed in Denmark, the most up-to-date butter producing country in the world. We know of no other way which will enable the farmer to get the value of the feed that he now wastes upon his dairy cows.—Canadian Thresherman.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY. The following answer was recently given in a geography examination to a question, From what source do most of our rains come? Most of our rains come straight down, but some of them come sideways.

Landlord—"How do you find the steak, doctor?" Guest—"I'm! By hunting carefully all over my plate!"

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