Dr. Howard is convinced that slik raising to be profitable in this country, mount be pursued by many families and am a small scale—as a sort of "side line." am it were, to other agricultural underankings. He estimates that from 20 to 36 pounds of cocoons could be raised on m small farm, and the work could be done emtirely by the women and children. Asthe profit on even this small output would range from \$30 to \$35 the addition the household income is not to be desuised by the small farmer.

While on a trip to Europe last sumanar Dr. Howard visited the silk-raising memtries and found the industry highby profitable, even on the large estates. The work was performed largely by the wamen and children, while the men dulled at harder tasks. A child is said In become uneful at the age of five years. sand large families therefore do not necmean poverty. Upon his return Bur. Howard recommended the purchase af a four-basin silk reel with which to must the silk from the cocoons purchased by the department. The raw silk said in the open market, he contended, would help defray the expenses. Two weeks of this size were imported from France. One was set up in a building in the department grounds in Washingtum, where it is in full operation, while the other was sent to Tulullah Falls, Ga., where a northern capitalist has estab-Maked a silk farm of 3,000 acres, with the purpose of establishing a colony for the makeing of silk.

Two women were brought from France an operate the machine in the department building, and their work is one of some most interesting sights in the cap-Man at present. It was only after the utmost persuasion that they were induced an leave their native land. It is hoped. however, that American girls may be milde to learn much from them. The good suffices of the immigration bureau will the entiated to induce a colony of Italian more growers and reciers to come to this

MATION'S BIGGEST BUSINESS.

Delivered by Uncle Sam Last Year.

I asked Postmaster General Payne Thow in his opinion the United States most office compares in efficiency with writate business organizations and forweign post offices, writes M. G. Cunniff, the November World's Work.

"How do I know?" said he: "I've Sheen postmaster general only a year." An assistant postmaster general was since invited to address a convention wif postmasters, runs an old story. He _jokingly_replied:

monthing anyway. What do I know a about the postal business?"

"I cannot go. I couldn't tell you

Said another assistant postmaster general:

"If a man attends closely to his work he can learn to manage one of These departments in about 40 years. "When he goes out and another pupil common in-the chances are a politician. A business? Why it is simply a trainschool!"

Through 75,924 post offices, and in much mass as to require for railroad Aramsportation 31 trains each a mile mong traveling 203 times around the wquator, more than 745,000,000 pounds of mail matter was delivered last year. M an average were made, every man, freeman and child in the United States "muceived 61 letters, 21 newspapers or meriodicals, and 14 packages; and evway sixth person registered a letter.

The people of the United States paid \$330,000,000 in postage for its postal sumrvice-last year. Over \$4,000,000 was smald to support the post office.

Play Stages in Child Life. Dr. Hutchinson divides the child's The into six play-stages, correspond-"liming to primitive civilization, which he malls the "root-and-grub, the hunting, the pastoral, the agricultural and the commercial." The root-and-grub stage he the first when the infant chiefly minows its interest in life by clutching and bright objects. A little later, the wolling spoot or ball attracts him exmetly as it attracts the kitten. From this he passes into the hunting stage, where he hides himself, jumps out at people from behind doors, and neonless his environment with imaginary wild heast. Last, he emerges into the commercial stage, when he trades in mar-Abes and fills his pockets with schoolboy merchandise. "In short, the school and play, in 15 short years, has brought him from the root-digging cave man no the 'bear' of the stock exchange, the macriern captain of industry."

Typographical Error.

"Gee whiz!" exclaimed the reporter. Booking over his report of the wedding in the paper, "I'll bet that bridegroom will be sore." "What's the matter?" asked the

make editor. "He owns an old family homestead and in the suburbs somewhere, I be-Marve, and he told me to say the young comple will reside at the old meanse.' The papers got it 'old man's." -Philadelphia Record.

TO IMPROVE POTATO.

Englishmen Hope to Keep Choice Varieties from Deteriorating.

Battonal Society to Culture Tuber Being Planned-Value Leasened by Poor Conking-Education Needed.

There are nearly 40,000,000 potato enters in the British isles, and the majority of them do not get the full value of the tuber because of bad cooking and the culture of bad varieties.

This year has been a remarkable recrudescence of the attempt to produce a perfect English variety. It has been successful in at least three new sorts, and their disease-resisting power, their great fruitfulness and their eating qualities have led to extravagant prices being asked for single tubersprices ranging from £500 to £3,000 \$ ton. These are, of course, seed-grow-

The prolific nature of the new varieties will make them available to most growers next.sesson, and then will follow the usual deterioration due to careless culture and the variation of soil.

The suggestion has been made, however, that now is a fitting time for the formation of a National Potato society, to further the culture of the potato. A central council will be formed in London, with county committees whose duties will be to conduct trials of new or not generally known varieties. Coupled with this will be a systematic and practical endeavor to secure for consumers a steady supply of the best potatoes grown in the king-

dom. The Gardener is leading the movement on the subject, and there is every prospect of the society becoming a tangible benefit to growers and consumers. What is even more urgently needed, however, is an association to impress upon housewives the fact that potatoes are temperamental and require varying treatment in the cooking.

The reform of restaurants is apparently hopeless, because they treat the potato as a vegetable which can be cooked and kept hot indefinitely

SPEAKER CANNON'S CIGARS.

Becent Incident Which Shows He Does Not Yet Realise Pully His Change of Office.

Uncle Joe Cannon hasn't fully come to a realization of the fact that he is the speaker of the house of representatives, or, if he has, he occasionally has a lapse of memory.

One day recently, after the house went into committee of the whole, he came down from the rostrum and abntmindedly walked through the corridor to the room of the committee on appropriations, of which he was chairman for many years. Approaching the desk he formerly occupied, he seemed to look for something.

"What is it, Mr. Cannon?" asked one of the clerks.

"Why, my box of cigars," said the speaker. "Didn't you take it with you into the speaker's room?" replied the clerk.

pleasantly. "By Jove, that's right!" exclaimed Uncle Joe, with a characteristic gosture of his left hand. "I had forgotten."

But the fact which he had forgotten was not where he had placed his box of cigars, but that he had been elected speaker and had changed his office from the committee of appropriations room to the speaker's room.

BOYS MAY WEAR SWEATERS.

Scholars in Philadelphia Schools Are Haups Over Recent Decision of Hygiene Committee.

.The objections of his teacher, notwithstanding, the small boy of Philadelphia may wear a sweater to school if he desires. The board of education committee on hygiene has so decreed Some time ago the teachers of the Twenty-fourth ward appealed to the

sectional board to adopt a rule forbidding the wearing of "a garment called a sweater" in the school rooms. Unwilling to overstep its power by legislating concerning a pupil's wearing apparel, the sectional board referred the matter to the central board, and that body in turn saddled it upon its committee on hygiene. As this committee is composed exclusively of physicians. it was thought perhaps it could be shown that the wearing of a sweater Indoors was injurious from the hygienic standpoint. But the physicians, after carefully considering the professional aspect of the case, decided there was no reason why a boy should not wear a sweater to school if he wants to, so laid the matter on the table. The boys are happy.

May Criticiae Art. The right of a newspaper to criticise the work of an artist was maintained by Judge Halsey at Milwaukee recensiv. Paul Kupper sued a paper and its critic. John M. Handley, because the critic had said that a horse Mr Kupper had modeled in competition for a statue had bovine characteristics. The court held that the criticism was regarding the artist's work and not against him personally, and was therefore privileged and not actionable.

New the for injunction. A Cleveland woman who secured an injunction restraining her busband from eating at her table must expect the poor

man to patronize the free lunch route

Traffic on Electric Lines. The electric roads of the l'nited States carried last year three times the population of the earth.

BAN PUT ON CORSETS.

English Women Waging a Crusade Against Time-Honored Article.

The Rainy-Day Skirt Is Popular, But Its I'se Beveals the Awkwardness of the Average Woman in Walking.

Perhaps it is too much to say that the "new woman" has inaugurated a campaign against feminine traditions, but it is certain that from Leeds and Birmingham blasts have been sounded upon the trumpets of the anti-corset crusade, while in London and the suburbs the new rainy-day skirt, which within the last few months has been seen in large numbers, is already working a reform in teaching women to be

careful how they walk. Leagues have been formed for the suppression of that first mentioned article, which has so long been regarded Exessential to feminine dress, and men are being enrolled among the members.

That women are bad walkers-many being pigeon-toed-is declared to be one revelation of the new skirt. Physical culturists, discussing the question, say the greatest offender is the "mannish girl," whose attempt to assume man's ease and freedom is an absurd mimicry. Watch a woman going upstairs at a railway station. In nine cases out of ten they will plod laboriously up, their feet coming down at either side of the stair.

toes turned in. In sitting, too, women are guilty of a number of sins of awkwardness. A stout woman invariably sits squarely. with her feet planted 12 inches apart. The lean woman winds her feet about the legs of the chair or else crosses her less and thrusts her feet out in front of her, while the small woman either sits with her feet dangling in a helpless way or perches herself on a high seat with one foot touching the ground and the other hooked around the ankle of the

EMPEROR TAKES TO THE PIPE.

Mio Pavorite Is a Meerschaum Made After His Own Design, with a Cherry Wood Stem.

Wary of the best cigars the world affords, tired of clarettes presented to him by the sultan, the emperor had taken to smoking a pipe before the surgical operation on his throat was performed. Perhaps the monarch wishes to flatter his people, for certainly the pipe is one emblem of Germany, just as is the stein. As he never does things by halves, his malesty-ordered several pipes, but he has his favorite, a pipe made after his own design. The bowl, egg-shaped, is of mearschaum, as befits an imperial pipe. for, as smokers know, a good meerschaum pipe needs more care than a The stem is of wild cherry wood. Where the stem enters the bowl a big "W" is carved on the meerschaum. Silver branches twine in and around the "W." and on a branch is seated a silver bird. The branches, elongated, form a scroll all around the bottom of the bowl.

SOLDIERS AS CORN DOCTORS.

Tommy Atkias, However, Evidently Tries to Dodge the Study of Chiropody.

Apparently there is no very keen desire on the part of Tommy Atkins to . study the art of chiropody. The class for introducing noncommissioned officers and men to the mysteries of corncutting was to have met for the first time the other day at the Station hosnital. Rochester row. London, but only three pupils appeared.

The first lesson was therefore adfourned to a later day, when it is hoped that a few more soldiers will be present. carer to earn the additional six pence a day which is to accrue to all qualified battalion chiropodists.

Capt. Cuddon-Fletcher, of the R. A. M. C., is the instructor. The pupils will be taken through a manual of chiropody, and practical experiments will be

It is hoped that after a month most of the battalions will be able to boast the amenity of an attached qualified corncutter.

NAPOLEON'S WILLOW DOOMED.

Famous Tree Near the Chapel at Windsor in the Way of Modern Changes.

Napoleon's willow at Windsor, England is doomed because of changes about to be made in the chapel grounds. A branch was cut from the weeping willow that sheltered Napoleon's grave at St. Helena, and planted at the beginning of the nineteenth century near the chapel at Windsor. The branch took root and became a superb tree, but a thunderbolt broke its largest branch September 2, 1870, when the French empire fell at Sedan. Yet the tree lived on. It was struck again by a thunderbolt when the young prince imperial, son of Napoleon III., fell massacred in Africa by the Zulus. The brave old tree, whose fate was seemingly bound up in that of the Bonapartes, has outlived both shocks -a seeming prophecy of the triumph of the race—only to fall under the hand of the woodchopper.

Seek to Restore Lauvre. A movement is on foot to restore

much of the lost splendor of the Louvre. Recent excavations in the garden on the Rue de Rivoli side show that about a third of the entire palace is underground. The Societe des Vieux de Paris will try to have the ancient most and drawbridges restored, thus enhancing the majestic appearance of the palaces and contributing to its preservation.

BIG GAME IN A HOTEL.

Quests in Singapore Hestelry Are hiartled by Mirange Additions to Their Number.

Singapore is possibly the most humid place on earth. The atmosphere is almost always "sticky" from the combination of heat and rain. Animals and reptiles of all kinds abound in the Malay peninsula, as they do in India and other tropical countries. At Singapore Raffles' hotel is the gathering place at night of all the foreign residents looking for a chance friend from home on one of the many incoming steamers, says a London exchange. Wide plazzas run the entire length of the house on each floor and overlook pretty flower gardens and well kept grounds. One day in the early part of last winter one can imagine the amazement of the assembled patrons on beholding a huge python serenely crawl-

ing about the lower plazza of the hotel. This reptile, which measures about 12 feet in length and was as large in body as a man's arm, is now on exhibition in the small "zoo" connected with the botannical gardens in Singapore. It quite gives one the "shivers" to think that one might have been waked up some morning and found this formidable

foe in one's bedroom. · Shortly after the advent of the python players in the billiard room one evening were startled to see a young tiger moving quietly about the room. There was a shrick and a sudden disappearance of billiard players, but eventually the beast was captured. Whether it came from its native jungle or escaped from some native who had it in captivitythey frequently do have them as petswas never known, but his tigership was also sent to swell the collection at the "soo."

The permanent residents of Raffles' hotel after these two experiences had grown rather accustomed to strange things prowling about, but were still unprepared for the next encounter. which took place in February. The huge native servant who stands guard at the door was startled, not to say alarmed, one day by a sudden and violent contact with some animal rushing between his legs. It turned out to be a wild boar, strayed in from no one knows where

NO FREE COPIES.

"The Bustler" Was Ready to Do Bustness on the Spot, But for Spot Cash Only.

"I never read of a case on newspaper enterprise without it bringing up a recollection of 30 years ago," said a city hall official, so he laid aside hisnewspaper to stroke his gray locks, relates the Brooklyn Citizen. "I was then a miner and prospector, and we had camped at the mouth of a pass in the Bitter Root mountains, on the dividing line between idaho and Montana, and for 40 days we had not seen a human being outside of our own crowd. At five o'clock in the afternoon two men in charge of three pack mules reached our camp, and as they halted one of the men said:

"Good afternoon, gentlemen. Will you be kind enough to inform me if there is any town around here?"

"Town? Town?" repeated the captain. "Why, man, do you know where you are?"

'In the Bitter Root, I take it." "Yes, and you are looking for a town? Well, the nearest town I know of, if you keep to the west, is about 400 miles from here."

"Only 400? Well, that's not so bad. Can we camp here to-night?" "Of course. What are you loaded with?"

"Well, it was the Montana Weekly Herald ten days ago. In another ten it may be the Idaho, Hustler. We've got press and type and everything necessary to get out a lively sheet. Jim. better get the pack off. I've got to write a salutory and leading editorial to-night. Westward the Star of the Empire, and so forth. The office of the Hustler is now open for business. Subscriptions, four dollars per year; always payable in advance. Two dollars for six months. Job work done on reasonable terms. All advertising considered cash, unless otherwise agreed, and no specimen copies forwarded unless paid for."

Possillar Hobby. Perhaps no monarch has a more curtous hobby than the shah of Persia, who is a veritable enthusiast at cat collecting. He has a specimen of every kind of cat of every country-cats of all sizes, all colors and all shapes. There are many scores of them, and some of the best specimens are always taken with the Persian ruler on his travels. If ever his majesty sees a kind of cat which he does not poseess—a very rare occurrence-he gives orders for it to be bought for him at once, even if the price be a thousand pounds. There are special and highly remunerated attendants to look after these favored felines.

Tokio's Rapid Grewth. According to statistics collected by the police at the close of last year. Tokin has now a total population of 1,839,788 persons, living in 392,039 houses. Tokio is growing enormously. Ten years ago the official returns gave the city a total population of 1,409,869, so that its increase in a decade has been no less than 429,921. It is now as populous and flourishing a city as it was in the flourishing period of Tokugawa rule, and year by year its suburbs are extending, a process which will certainly be accelerated by the taying of electric railways.

Coal from Japan. The coal production of Japan was almost trebled during the years from 1892 to 1901, and the amount exported a littie more than double in the same time. while the extension of steamship and railway lines and growing number of factories caused the domestic consumption to be almost quadrupled.

DEATHS ON THE RAIL

Number of Persons Killed During Last Fiscal Year.

Pigures Given Out by Interstate Come merce Commission Show Mcayr Increase-Due to Great Bulk of the Business.

The railroads of the United States killed 3,554 persons and injured 45,977 during the year ending June 30, 1903. The total number of casualities, 49,531. cost the railroads \$9,596,977 property loss, as compared with \$7,645,496 for the previous year. The facrease in the number killed was 735 and in the number injured 6.179.

These facts are shown by accident bulletin No. 8 issued by the interstate commerce commission for the fiscal year and for the second quarter of the present calendar year. Although the report shows a large increase in casualties it is noted that the number killed in train wrecks is three less, although the numher thus injured increased by \$38.

The commission finds an excuse for the poor showing made by the raffronds.

The report on this point reader For the large increase in totals and in nearly all the items an explanation is to be found in the well-known and widespread increase of railroad traffic which has taken place, and which has been made apparent by the published reports of railroad earnings. It is also to be noted that the course pursued by the commission in instating upon full reports of all accidents has been productive of good reults. Railroad companies are much more careful to include all accidents in their reports to the commission than they were, and it is undoubtedly true that much of the increase is due to the fact that the accident reports are fuller than during the preceding year."

It is stated that the number of men employed in the train service on June 30 last was about 12 per cent greater than on June 30, 1902. On the roads of densest traffic, where liability to accident is greatest, the increase has been more than this

The expansion of freight traffic led to the employment of men so rapidly that the percentage of inexperienced men in service this year is larger than ever in the history of railroads.

The report further shows that out of the total number killed 321 were passengers and 3,233 employes, and out of the total number injured 6.273 were passengers and 39,004 employes. During the months of April, May and June last 844 persons were killed and 11,461 injured, which is a decrease of 83 fatalities quer the previous quarter. Attention is called to the fact, however, that 23 fatalities were due to butting collisions. which are always the result of carelessness.

REMARKABLE OLD WOMAN.

Although 133 Years of Age and The tally Blind the in an inveterate Smoker.

Mrs. Mary McDonald, familiarly known as "grandmother," has begun what is claimed to be the one hundred and thirty-fourth year of life. For 14 "ears she has been an inmate of the Home for Aged and Infirm Colored Persons, at Philadelphia. The old woman has been blind a number of years, but she is still remarkably tive, and keeps her own room in order without assistance. Her memory of events of bygone days is remarkably clear and accurate, although of later years she has taken little recognizance of passing events, having lived largely in the days of her youth.

Mrs. McDonald is so shriveled by years that she is scarcely more than three feet in height and weighs scarcely 70 pounds. She is an inverente smoker and relishes her after dinner pipe load above every other pleasure in life. The old woman needs no assistance in filling and lighting herpipe: The greatest care is taken of "grandmother." whose genial disposition has won her the affections of the entire staff of the institution. She is believed to be the oldest woman in America.

PARIS NEWSPAPERS WARNED.

Government to Put: End to Prize Guessing Contests Which Have Greatly Excited Populate.

. The guessing competitions and treasare contests started by a number of Paris newspapers are not to be allowed in future. M. Bulot, procurator general, has called a meeting of all the newspaper proprietors and intimated to them that the minister of justice had determined to suppress such things in future as infringing the lottery law. He will not, however, interfere with the existing competitions.

The Petiti Parisien, which organized the first newspaper competition-that of counting the number of grains of wheat in a bottle has peceived 2,000,-000 solutions, and 300 men were employed to classify the guessers. In order to arrive at these conclusions the competitors have counted some 67,000,-448 grains, representing 350 tons of " nest.

During the 20 days that the competition ran the circulation of the paper exceeded 2,000,000 daily, its ordinary issue being 1,300,000. The net profit of the competition for the proprietors of the newspaper is \$65,000.

The Real Thing. A Sait Lake City man has invented an alrehip with which he expects to carry passengers to the St. Louis exposition. After they get there the exposition will seem mighty tame, says the Chicago Daily News, if they happen to encounter a Nebraska cyclone on the way.

THE WHALERS LOSE

Season Closes with Very Pew of the Big Fish Caught.

Only One Ship Has a Profitable Trip to the Arctic Waters-History of Other Disastrous

Second.

The whaling season in the northern Atlantic, which ended last month, was a disastrous one. Of the dozen steams sailing craft that cruised in the Arctic waters not more than three have made expenses, and only one, the Alexander, had a profitable trip.

Ever since 1848 whaleships have cruised in the Arctic ocean for the bowhead whale with varying luck, but never before in the history of the industry has the chase been marked by auch poor success as this year, except when disaster has overtaken the fleet. This was the case in 1817, when 34 vessels were crushed in the ice, cansing a loss of more than \$1,000,000. Five years later came another disaster, when 12 out of a fleet of 20 crafts were lost, entailing damage, saids from cargoes, of \$442,000.

For some years prior to the entrance of the Superior into the Arctic whaling had been carried on in the waters of the northern Pacific. In the year foilowing the fine voyage made by the Superior, no fewer than 154 vessels tried their luck in the chase for bowheads.

In 1852, when there were 278 ships engaged in the fishery, 3,000 whales were captured, rigiding about 5,000,000 nounds of bone, which sold for a little more than 50 cents a pound. The largest catch in the last 20 fears was made in 1887, when 29 ships took 360 whales, of which 292 were bewbeads.

In 1895 only 46 whales were taken, Poor as was the season of 1895, it wasn't a patch to the record of 1903, and if whalebone does not jump to the six dollar mark, it will be because some sharp Yankee has a cargo or two stowed away for just such a year as this.

So far as heard from, the number of whales captured this year is about half that of 1895. The failure of the catch in 1895 was due to the early formation of her. That season whater in plenty were seen to the westward, but no one could reach them. This fear they were seen in open water. sandwiched in between ice floes, and capture was impossible.

Capt. Foley, a well-known whaling master, who sailed for New Bedford agents, has just returned to San Francisco in the auxiliary schooner Monterey. He made use of gasoline to drive his engines, and he reports the experiment a very, successful one, escept that the catch did not reach his expectations. This was due, however, to the thick ice encountered east of Point Barrow.

Capt Foley raised eight or tem whales, but only succeeded in capturing two, which yielded 3,500 pounds of bone. The steam whaler Thrasher, Capt. Gurney, of San Francisco, which was reported clean on October 11, arrived down from the Arctic on November 8, in exactly the same condition. After a seven months' cruise ta northern waters she returned without having taken a single whale, and, as her fitting out cost \$20,000, her owners suffer cuite a loss. Only once did her crew have a change at one of the monstern, and then he got acray.

IRELAND LOSES IN RESIDENTS.

Decrease of Sixteen Thousand There the Past Year. Exclusive of Emigrants.

Ireland is a country which still lines. thousands of its natural increase of population by emigration, in which more boys are born than girls, and the most fatal epidemic is influenza.

The population of Ireland in 1302, according to the registrar general's return, was 4,432,274. The marriages. numbering 22,949, and the births, 101,-863, show a trifle increase on the average of ten years; the deaths, 77,676, were a trifle below the average. The excess of hirths over deaths he

ing 24,187, and the loss by emigration amounting to 40,190, there was a decrease in the population during the year of 16,003, less whatever immigration there was of which no record is

NEW STYLE SMOKER

French Ballway Officials Toot an Impromed Pattern of Coach for Users of Tobacca.

An effort is being made to introduce a new type of railway carriage on the Metropolitan rallway, in France, suitable for smokers, the glass of the windows being replaced by metal plates pierced with square holes. Many officials were present at a trial

at Paris. Police Prefect Lepine ap- , t peared with a box of cigars, and soon, all were smoking merrily. The smoke passed through the holes, and the ventilation was excellent, but it was rather chilly in the car.

A woman suggested having the compartments made smaller. The experiment, as a whole, was pronounced a SUCCESS.

New Mask for Automobilists. The difficulty automobilists find in protecting their faces has at last been satisfactorily solved. Ugly masks and goggles are now likely to be cast aside for a new mask, which is strong and transparent, and modifies in no way the appearance of fair complexions. It is constructed of transparent horn, with the usual spectacle glasses, and thus obviates the danger of fire so

much feared with inflammable cellu-

loid maska.

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