AGRICULTURAL.

DECOY FOR WILD FOWL.—A novel decoy for wild fowl, recently patented by Mr. Redmond, of Rochester, N. Y. The inventor applies a cord to the common decoy, and runs it through an eye or pulley attached to the sand filled bags in the bottom of the stream, thence to the shore, where the sportsman, by dexterously pulling the cords, causes the decoys to move and dive in the water like living birds. In running water, or where the wind prevails, the decoy may be allowed to move with the current or by the action of the wind, and may be drawn back by the cord.

WOOD PULP MAKING.—According to *Leffel's News* Newton's pulp mill, at Holyyoke, Mass., uses five cords per day of spruce and poplar wood in the making of manila papers. In wood-paper manufacture the split four foot timber is fed into a circular fan-like hopper provided with swiftly revolving steel knives, which cut the timber into small chips in very short order, when a fan drives them up into the loft, where they are shoveled into two steel digesters holding from four to six tons each. Soda ash and other chemicals are introduced, a heavy head of steam is turned on, varying in different mills from 100 to 200 lbs. pressure to the square inch, and the chips are cooked until the fibers are thoroughly separated. Then the pulpy mass is washed out into vats to drain off the chemicals, and after it has become solid it is again washed out and pumped up into the engines and beaten, and the usual process of paper making is then gone through with.

Some makers, like Superintendent Tower, formerly of the Dexter Company, of Windsor Locks, think ever-green woods far preferable, as having a larger and more hardy fiber. He thinks we are only in the rudiments yet of wood-paper making, just as the rag-paper men were twenty years ago, and believes the time is coming when, by gradually discovering processes, wood papers may be as finely made as rag papers are now.

Why Cotton Seed Kills Hogs.

A writer in the Macon Telegraph and Messenger argues that it is not at all improbable that much of the mortality among the swine of Georgia, and ascribed to "hog cholera," is the result of eating fresh cotton seed, to which they have frequent access at the gin house or when carted to the field and spread out for manure. In proof of this suspicion he cites the following experance:

"We have lost scores of hogs both in Liberty and Baker county, from the eating of fresh cotton seed, and took some pains to investigate how the poison operated. Strictly speaking, there is no poisonous element in the seed itself. Repeated examinations of the intestines after death shows their action to be purely mechanical. The hogs gobble them up without proper mastication, and the seeds, stimulated and warmed by the fluids of the stomach, forthwith begin o swell and sprout. It is this germination that causes the death of the animal. As a proof of this, when the germ has been destroyed by long exposure to the weather or steaming, hogs will eat the cotton seed with impunity. We have seen them burrow for weeks in a pile of old cotton seed in a fermented state, eating them *ad libitum*, without injurry. Indeed, the writer has used cotton seed to fatten his meat hogs, mixed with rice flour, bran, turnips, potatoes or loose corn, and thoroughly boiled, with the happiest result. Even in a green state they are excellent food for cattle and sheep, although the butter produced from the milk of a cow fed chiefly upon cotton seed is white and cheesy in its consistency."

CURE FOR THE CROW.—A successful plan has been tried by placing in the crow's way a number of grains with horse hair run through them. He is bound to swallow one and his note of alarm is soon sounded. It is impossible for him to dislodge the grain, and if he can be watched a sufficient length of time, he will be seen to cut his throat in scratching at it. His usual note is changed, and life to him is such a misery he would "even wish that he were dead." It has been noticed that after the note of alarm had been sounded all the crows in the vicinity will leave that field and approach it no more that season. It is a simple thing, yet all who try it will find it a success.—*Lenoir Topic.*

The Manufacture of Spools.

The Hartford *Courant* says: The Willimantic, Conn., Thread Company of this city, whose yearly business calls for about twenty-five million spools which have to be made of white birch, has secured a tract of twenty thousand acres of woodland in Piscataquis county, Maine, and will establish a spool factory on the ground there. In this way the best of material for spools will be readily available, and by manufacturing them a considerale saving in freight will be made, since the finished article instead of lumber will be shipped. The company will continue at Willimantic to use Connecticut birch as heretofore, but, as that does not meet all the demands, the Maine factory will materially help out. It will give an idea of the amount of wood required, to state that the little spools used each year by the Willimantic company would, if laid one against the other, extend over four hundred milles, or would virtually lay a double track between New York and Boston; and there are more than four million miles of thread wound upon them.

MORAL DIETETICS.—Dr. Bock, of Leipsic, writes as follows on the moral effect of different articles of food and drink: "The nervousness and peevishness of our times are chiefly attributable to tea and coffee; the digestive organs of confirmed coffee-drinkers are in a state of chronic derangement, which reacts on the brain producing fretful and lachrymose moods. Fine ladies addicted to strong coffee have a characteristic temper, which I might describe as a mania for acting the persecuted saint. Chocolate is neutral in its psychic effects, and is really the most harmless of our fashionable drinks. The snappish, petulent humor of the Chinese can certainly be ascribed to their immoderate fondness for tea. Beer is brutalizing, wine impassions, whiskey infuriates, but eventually unmans. Alcoholic drinks, combined with a flesh and fat diet, totally subjugate the moral man, unless their influence be counteracted by violent exercise. But with sedentary habits they produce those unhappy flesh sponges which may be studied in metropolitan bachelor halls, but better yet in wealthy convents. The soul that may still linger in a fat Austrian abbot is functional to his body only as salt is to pork—in preventing imminent putrefaction."

How India-Rubber is Obtianed.

A correspondent of the Boston *Commercial Bulletin*, writing from the Amazon river, Brazil, gives the following account of the method of gathering rubber, as lately observed by him. The process, in many respects, resembles the method of obtaining sugar from the maple trees in Vermont:

"At last we arrived at the encampment, which seemed to be on an island in a vast archipelago. Though the Indians divided the water into river, creek, lagoon, the latter formed by the overflow in the rainy season, I could not perceive the distinction. In some instances the lagoons appeared to have a current, while the rivers had none, but I accepted their names.

"There were abundant groves of rubber trees in all directions, and men, women, and children were engaged in collecting the rubber, with more method in their labors than I should have expected among such a rude and savage people. Each one had a certain number of trees allotted to him, which he bored with an auger. He then inserted in the hole a piece of hollow cane. To the bark of the tree he fastened with mud a shell of a large clam, found in some of these rivers. These serve to catch the liquid. When it drips from the cane it is white as milk, but thicker or with more body.

"A trough dug out of a log is stationed in a central point, and when the trees are all tapped, the man goes his rounds, watching the shells and pouring the contents, when full into the trough. Toward sunset a fire is made of leaves and twigs, upon which is thrown the fruit of a certain kind of palm which gives forth a dense smoke.

"A small round-bladed paddle, like those used in the canoe, is dipped into the milk, and turned over once or twice. It is then drawn out, covered with the coating of the liquid gum, and held at once in the smoke of the fire, which hardens and also darkens the coating. It is again plunged into the milk and again smoked, and this process is kept up until the blade of the paddle is covered an inch to an inch and a half in thickness. A knife is passed along one edge of the blade and the mass removed. It appears in shape like a shoemaker's lapstone with a sort of nozzle on one side. In this state it is shipped. From one of these lumps of commercial gum the different coatings may be readily detached."

In this connection we may state that the New York Belting and packing Company, No. 37 Park Row, New York, have lately placed in their show window a large and splendid living specimen of the rubber tree. The plant is in vigorous condition and attracts much attention.—*Scientific American.*

The Most Married of Women.

Benj. Abbott, who has just died in Smyrna, N. Y., in the 82d year of his age, was the seventh husband of his widow, who survives him. This much talked-of and much-published event (for it went the rounds of the press of the nation), when he for the second and she for the seventh time bowed before the altar of Hymen, occurred on June 30, 1875, he then being 78 and she 82 years old. Mrs. Abbott's history in the marital relations of life stands perhaps without a parallel, and traditon has it there is to be yet another. It is currently stacted without contradiction that some years ago she had a vision in which eight men stood before her in a peculiarly impressive manner, which she has ever regarded as prophetic of the number of conquests she was to make. The eighth is just as likely and as reasonable as the seventh, and already public gossip is beginning to mark this and that man as the victim of the next conquest. Her maiden name was Williams, and she has been successively Mrs. Traux, Mrs. Riggs, Mrs. Farrow, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Barry, Mrs. Pratt and Mrs Abbott. In every instance, save the first, she has married widowers, some of them with a good number of children, and on one occasion in her early married life she went to the almshouse and took therefrom three children and raised them. She never had any children of her own. All her life has been spent near Smyrna and all her husbands were buried by the same undertaker.

A singular illustration of the mutual dependence of countries, one upon the other, is made by the depression of agriculture, with other industrial interests, in Great Britain. The English manufaturers and consumers of phosphate manures have been largely dependent upon this country for the raw material, phosphate rock which is in South Carolina, the mining of which has afforded a support to several thousand persons. The stagnation of trade and the bad outlook for agriculture in England have stopped the demand for manures. The manufacturers of phosphates have curtailed their purchases of raw material, and are left with large stocks of the finished product unsold. It is stated that nearly all the phosphate companies in South Carolina have suspended oprations, and more than 2,000 laborers have thus been thrown out of employment.

THE NEWSPAPER LAW.—The newspaper law says if any person orders his paper discontinued he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount. Also an action for fraud can be instituted against any person, whether he is responsible in a financial view or not, who refuses to pay for his subscription.

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