

BLUE RIDGE ENTERPRISE.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL FOR HOME AND FARM; GIVING RELIABLE INFORMATION OF THIS NEW COUNTRY.

VOL. I.

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NO. 52.

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FROM THE "SPIRIT OF THE TIMES" OCT. 6, '83. KENDALL'S SPRAIN CURE.—The Spavin Cure manufactured by Dr. E. J. Kendall Co., Enonburgh Fall, Vt., is having great success. There is abundant competition among specifics of this kind, but the ingredients of this have really wonderful properties. James A. Wilson, civil engineer, of Fremont Ohio, gives a strong testimonial of a cure effected by it in the case of one of his horses. The price is 50¢ per bottle, and it can be had from any druggist.

Sorghum Sugar Experiments.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 4.—Prof. Collier, late chemist of the Department of Agriculture, and a firm believer in the practicability of producing sugar from sorghum in sufficient quantities and of a quality to supply a great part of the demand for sugar in this country, appears to have awakened the interest of the Agricultural Department in a subject about which it was supposed to have become somewhat inefficient. In a report which is going to be made public, Prof. Wiley, of this department, gives some interesting information about the experiments with sorghum during the last year, and takes a more hopeful view of the subject than Commissioner Loring formerly held. He pronounces erroneous the prevalent impression that every farmer may become his own sugar-maker. Sorghum, unlike sugar-beet, contains various non-crystallizable sugars, the separation of which demands much skill and scientific knowledge. Sorghum sugar will have to be made in large factories. The existing factories have shown that it can be made, but how profitably or unprofitably cannot be stated by Prof. Wiley, who suggests that farmers near factories may, in effect, make their own sugar by raising the cane and trading it at factories for sugar. Cane giving 60 pounds of sugar per ton ought to bring the farmer 35 pounds, the rest of the sugar and molasses going to the manufacturer to pay expenses and yield profit. The profitability of making sugar from sorghum depends largely on utilizing all waste products. The scums and sediments make manure hardly inferior to guano. Bagasse, or crushed cane, can be turned into manure by being thrown into hog pens, as at Rio Grande, N. J., or it will make a fair quality of printing paper. It is not economical to burn it. If the manufacture of sorghum sugar is proved to be profitable, it will result in supplying to a large extent our demand for sugar, but as sorghum makes a great deal more molasses in proportion to sugar than the sugar-cane does, the Prof. concludes that when there is enough sugar there will be a great deal more molasses than can be disposed of.

Prof. Wiley has made experimentally some fair samples of rum and alcohol from sorghum molasses. Under favorable circumstances one gallon of molasses weighing 11 pounds, would give 2.75 pounds absolute alcohol, 3.03 pounds of 90 per cent. alcohol, and 5.5 whisky or rum. Thus, each gallon of molasses would give nearly half a gallon of commercial alcohol and two-thirds of a gallon of whiskey or rum. As it has been abundantly proved, he says, that sugar can be made from sorghum, the Government should make no further experiments in that direction. Prof. Wiley has tried the diffusion process, and finds it yields 20 per cent. more sugar, but at a somewhat higher cost than grinding. The Government, he thinks, should purchase machinery for large experiments in the diffusion process, and should raise its cane somewhere else than near Washington, as land here is expensive and not adapted to the purpose. The Government should also make arrangements with agricultural colleges and other agencies in various States for experimenting with sorghum culture to determine what parts of the country are most favorable to the culture of sugar-producing plants. Prof. Wiley suggests in each State the trial of two acres divided into 10 plots—five for sorghum, four for beets, and one for corn—to test for purposes of comparison the general fertility of the soil and the character of the season. The Government ought to carry on for a season or two the process of selection of sorghum seed in order to secure an improvement in the quality of the cane. It may be stated that the past season proved a disadvantageous one for sorghum sugar making, not only at the Agricultural Department, but generally. The conviction is growing among some of those who have made experiments that sorghum cannot be relied on to make sugar in the extremely Northern States, but that in spite of occasional successes in Minnesota there is a sorghum belt as there is a corn belt, north of which the crop cannot be relied on.

Burned Up in a Convent.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 6, 1884.—At 11 o'clock last night fire was discovered in the convent of the Immaculate Conception at Belleville, Ill., the capital of St. Clair County, 14 miles from here. The alarm was first given by the watchman at Harrison's machine-works, and Mr. James Stout, of the City Foundry, was about the first man attracted to the scene. When he reached the place the windows of the third floor presented a horrible spectacle. There, in their night-clothes, suddenly aroused from their slumbers, stood in despair a large number of the terrified inmates. There was no chance of rescue, and the only alternative was the dreadful leap. Soon afterward volumes of smoke were seen to spread throughout the building, followed by loud explosions, and then a few took the desperate chance of hurling themselves through the windows. Mary Campbell was the

first to try the leap, but when her body was lifted up from the icy pavement she was in a dying condition, having sustained horrible injuries.

By this time the alarm had spread through the city, and hundreds of men appeared and consulted as to what was the best course of action. The fire engine had not yet arrived, and the flames were spreading rapidly, and at many of the windows were to be seen figures of women clad in their night garments, some of them leaning out and screaming for assistance, others trying frantically to open the sashes, which seemed to be beyond their power. Hundreds of men were ready to rush into the place to rescue the inmates, but the doors were all locked and so solidly constructed that all ordinary attempts to break them in were futile. At last James Sturt procured a ponderous bar, with which, a dozen men using it as a battering-ram, an entrance was effected. A rush was made up stairs, and many of the inmates were led through the blinding smoke to the ground in safety. But to the horror of the rescuers it was discovered that in accordance with a rule of the convent the bedrooms had all been locked, and a number of them still remained so. The battering-ram was brought to bear upon these doors also, but they, too, proved of stout and unyielding material, and the gallant band were obliged to abandon a large number of the unfortunate inmates to their fate.

The convent was a very fashionable educational institution, young ladies from various parts in Southern Illinois, St. Louis, and foreign countries being among its students. Almost all the unfortunate at the window were young ladies, and here and there among them were seen the sisters heroically striving to keep the panic-stricken from dashing themselves upon the frozen ground below. The Lady Superior was seen to move alternately between three rooms on the third floor, at the windows of which seven young ladies were standing. The fire was rapidly approaching them, but she could be seen passing from group to group and exhorting them to remain where they were. Suddenly a flame shot into one of the rooms, and two young ladies occupying it were seen to fall back from the window. At the same moment Sister Jerome darted from the next window, followed by the occupants of the room, three in number. As they did so a crash was heard, and that room also became filled with flames, and the floor collapsed almost immediately afterward. Twenty-six lives were lost in all.

The fire had its origin in the furnace, in the south-west corner of the basement, and when discovered the fire immediately above the furnace was ablaze, and volumes of smoke were rapidly pouring through the stairways, corridors and halls of the building. By the time the sleepers were thoroughly roused the smoke had become suffocating, and all avenues of escape were filled with blinding smoke. Then a panic ensued. The almost unparalleled cold retarded the work of the firemen, and even if they could have reached the scene without delay they could have been of but little service in rescuing the victims. There are no ladders in the Belleville department and no provision for the deplorable emergency had been made by the managers of the institution, which did not even employ a night-watchman. The unfortunate inmates were therefore powerless to help themselves, and those were witnesses to the horrible affair were powerless to assist them. Among those who received injuries in their successful endeavors to escape were Daisy Eberle, who was slightly injured by her fall; Agnes Schneider, who jumped from a second-story window and fell upon her shoulder, dislocating it; Lou Mott, who fell from the third story and serious internal injuries, and Dena Horn and Fannie Brinker, who jumped upon the veranda and were found there nearly frozen to death.

The convent was valued at \$80,000, and was insured for \$42,500.

The growth of towns in North Carolina has been very slow. Before the war, Wilmington, the largest town, had fewer than 10,000 citizens, although her foundations were laid as far back as 1740. Her population was still less at the end of the war. Probably the aggregate population of all our towns did not then exceed 30,000. Since that time there has been a notable change. Wilmington boasts 20,000, Raleigh 13,000; Charlotte has, say 8,000, Newbern 7,000, and all others would foot up aggregate of nearly 100,000. And everywhere new buildings are going up and improvements are the order of the day. We doubt if any town in the State is at a stand-still, although some to be sure have been outstripped by their more thriving neighbors. This is matter for congratulation. We need a greater proportion of town population. But we are now on the right track—let's keep it up. For the towns to flourish their people must engage in some work—they must start more industries. And they will do it. Nearly every town in the State is doing something in some manufacturing line. Let the ball roll on.—*News and Observer.*

Manufacture of Steel Pens.

Steel used for making pens reaches the factory in sheets about two feet long by one foot three inches wide, 0.004 inch thick. They are cut into bands of different widths, according to the dimensions of the pen required, the most usual widths being two, two and one-half, and three inches. The bands are then heated in an iron box and annealed, when they are passed on to the rolls and reduced to the desired thickness of the finished pen, thus being transformed into ribbons of great delicacy, about four feet long. The blanks are then stamped out from the ribbons by a punching machine, the tool of which has the form of the pen required. The blanks leave the die at the lower part of the machine, and fall into a drawer with the points already formed. They are then punched with the small hole which terminates the slit, and prevents it from extending, and afterwards raised to a cherry-red heat in sheet iron boxes. The blanks are then curved between two dies, the concave one fixed and the convex brought down upon it by mechanism. The pens, now finished as regards their form, are hardened by being plunged, hot, into oil, when they are as brittle as glass. After cleansing, by being placed in a revolving barrel with sand, they are tempered in a hollow cylinder of sheet iron, which revolves over a coke fire after the manner of a coffee roaster. The cylinder is open at one end, and while it is being turned, a workman throws in twenty-five gross of pens at a time, and watches carefully the effect of the heat on the color of the pens. When they assume a fine blue tint, he pours the pens into a large metal basin, separating them from one another, to facilitate the cooling. After this process, which requires great skill and experience, comes the polishing, which is effected in receptacles containing a mixture of sand and hydrochloric acid, and made to revolve. This operation lasts twenty-four hours, and gives the pens a steel-gray tint. The end of the pen, between the hole and the point, is then ground with an emery wheel, revolving very rapidly. There only now remains to split the pens, which is the most important operation, being performed by a kind of shears. The lower blade is fixed, and the upper one comes down, with a rapid motion, slightly below the edge of the fixed blade. This gives perfect smoothness to the slit, and at the same time makes the pens bright, they are subjected to the operation of brushing by being placed in a revolving barrel almost entirely filled with box-wood sawdust.—*Chronique Industrielle.*

To Fence or Not To Fence.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Jan. 8.—The question of fence or no fence was passed upon today by the voters of Richmond county. The majority for abolishing fences in the county is about 600. Public sentiment in Georgia is growing in favor of doing away with fences on farms and in favor of fencing in cattle and other stock.

Trip to Central South Carolina.

Editor Blue Ridge Enterprise: On the 21st of December I set out in company with my brother Griffin to spend our Christmas holidays. The first day we reached Mr. Wilson's, on the Chattooga Ridge, where we spent the night quite pleasantly. His residence being very high it commands a beautiful view. We got quite an early start, traveled down the mountain some six miles, then we had good roads all the way. Four miles above old Picketts we met two of our cousins coming to meet us. We dismounted, fed our horses, ate our lunch, and rested an hour. We then mounted and followed our guides. We soon reached the home of our cousins. We were very tired, but ready for fun. The music being ready, the young people gathered in and had a dance. The next day being the Sabbath, we had some sacred music on the organ. Monday night we attended a dance at Mr. Thomas Oliver's, where Mr. Oliver and family gave his guests a hearty welcome, and a pleasant evening was spent. Christmas day quite a crowd of us took dinner at Mr. Reuben Arnold's, and we enjoyed it very much. On the same night we attended a dance at the residence of Mr. H. D. Rowland, where there were quite a number of people. The next day we took dinner at Mr. Wm. Oliver's. We spent the remainder of the week visiting relatives and friends. Sunday we attended the Presbyterian church, where we heard quite an interesting sermon. Christmas being over, we started for home, arriving the 4th of Jan. M. N.

Three Wives Too Many.

PETERSBURG, Va., Jan. 9.—S. L. Harly, of Nottaway county has been arrested, charged with bigamy in having married a lady at Baltimore, at which time he had three wives living. Harly is 55 years of age, and was formerly a merchant in New York, and has lived in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland. He was lodged in the Nottaway jail to await a requisition from the Governor of Maryland.

Rod and Gun Items.

A Hunting Story Worthy of the Glorious Climate of California.

R. H. Rawles proposed that we take a bear hunt on Monday morning. We made every preparation the evening before, and, after a hearty breakfast, at 5 o'clock mounted our horses for the hunt. We were provided with Winchester rifles and three well-trained bear dogs. After a run of about an hour they came to bay. We hitched our horses and crawled through the brush to the dogs. The undergrowth was so thick that we could not see ten feet ahead of us, but at last we found the bear, a large brown one, perched on the limb of a large pine tree, about a hundred feet from the ground. We took position and commenced firing. Bears are very tenacious of life, and this one proved no exception to the rule, as we each fired three times before he fell. When we reached him he was dead.

We now started back, intending to cut a way in from our horses and to pack him out, but we had not proceeded one hundred yards when the dogs became very excited and commenced barking up another tree. Looking up we discovered two bears, a brown and a black one lying close together on a large limb. We took position with the understanding that I was to take the brown, and Mr. Rawles the black one. Just as we got ready to fire I cast my eye down the tree, and near the ground, the brush having obstructed our view, I discovered a large bear hanging to the side of the tree broadside to me. Mr. Rawles, being further round, could not see it, and told me he would reserve his fire and for me to go for him. I was about forty feet from it, and fired twice when it tumbled, badly wounded.

We now turned our attention to the other two in the tree. At the first fire they commenced bawling—the bawling of the dogs, the bawling of the bears, and the rapid firing of our Winchesters made it lively, I can assure you. We fired three shots apiece before they fell. One of them was pretty lively when he reached the terra firma, and it required two more shots, at a distance of ten feet, to kill him; the other rolled about fifty feet down the hill, and was dead when we got to it. The dogs now took the trail of the wounded one, and after a run of a quarter of a mile brought it to bay. When we came up we found it up a large macondra tree, thirty feet from the ground. He looked to me to be as large as a four-year-old bullock. He was badly wounded, but still able to make an ugly fight. He fell at the first fire, but lodged in the forks of the tree; but three or more shots apiece brought him to the ground.

We again started for our horses very much elated with our success, but had not gone more than a hundred yards when the dogs started in full cry, going this time in the direction of our horses. We supposed that this time they had jumped a panther. They had scarcely gone a hundred yards before they had treed their game. We now examined our rifles and found that we had both emptied our magazines. I found six cartridges in my pockets, but they were too large for Mr. Rawles's gun. When we came up with the dogs we again found they had another bear—this time a fine black one. Mr. Rawles being without ammunition, I had all the fun to myself. If there is anything that will make a man feel out of place, it is to be in a bear fight without a weapon to fight with. I fired two shots, one of which passed through the heart, and he was dead by the time he struck the ground.—*Santa Rosa Democrat.*

How the Poor were Kept from Freezing and Starving in Atlanta.

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 7.—The cold weather of last week steadily grew worse until Friday and Saturday nights, when the mercury touched zero. Such weather in this latitude is productive of the most dreadful consequences among the poor, who are prepared neither with shelter, food, nor provisions for such a state of things. On Saturday it was learned that hundreds of poor women and children were huddling around their last burning stick of wood, and the *Constitution* of Sunday morning made an appeal to the citizens to send to its office money, provisions and fuel, which would be distributed by its business department. At noon about thirty wood wagons and as many more as a provision train, had gathered in front of the office. Merchants worth hundreds of thousands of dollars took their places as drivers, each with a wood wagon and a provision wagon under his charge, and started on a tour of the city, working all day until nightfall. Some indescribable scenes of suffering were witnessed. All to-day the *Constitution* of office looked more like a military supply depot than a newspaper office. Hundreds of sacks of flour, coffee and sugar, sides of meat and hams, and on the sidewalk, cords of wood were seen, while the streets were full from morning till night with peo-

ple clamorous for relief. The wagon trains also continued at work. The response of the merchants to the call for supplies has been surprising in its liberality. To-night the weather is raw and bitterly cold, and yet it is safe to say that there is not a house or a hut in the city where the people's benevolence has not placed a crackling fire and food for the week. The value of the provisions distributed is between \$5,000 and \$10,000. No distinction was made in the distribution in regard to color.

The year just at an end has been a remarkably disastrous one in point of accidents and calamities on land and water. Throughout its course these have crowded on each other with unusually great loss of life and property. Beginning with the memorable floods of the Danube and the Rhine; the Mississippi, the Ohio, and other Western rivers, the series of disasters continued with exceptional earthquakes, tornadoes, fires, cyclones, ship-wrecks, railway accidents, etc. The fatality has been exceedingly great. The loss of life, not taking into account the deaths from war, pestilence, crime and suicide, and not including those accidents in which there were less than three persons killed, amounts to 97,307 deaths.

Important Railroad News.

A New York correspondent of the *Baltimore Sun*, under date of Jan. 1st, says: "On yesterday the East Tennessee voted to turn over to the Western North Carolina road the business of the Memphis and Charleston, which was formerly given to the Norfolk and Western." The importance of this action is very great. It makes the Western Northern Carolina road a part of the great through system East and West, and also makes it a part of the great trans-continental line through the connections with the Southern Pacific, and thus develops our road into one of great consequence; and doing so, brings directly and indirectly, infinite benefit to a large portion of North Carolina.—*Asheville Citizen.*

The Philadelphia Record, Independent,

says: "Within the last ten years the people of the North and South have come to know each other better than ever before. Multitudes of Northern men have penetrated all parts of the South, and the social as well as commercial intercourse of the two sections has been greatly extended. For this reason the people will turn with incredulity and disgust from the usual partisan stories of Kluklux outrage and barbarity. This is, in fact, an era of good feeling, which no amount of sectional calumny can seriously disturb. Sectionalism has had its evil day, and with that its agitators must be content. For the present the country is too much occupied with questions of revenue and taxation to be diverted with accounts of Southern outrage, especially when the courts of the South are fully able to cope with offenders against the laws. The fact that a disposition to revive buried sectional controversy is manifested so early indicates that the programme of the majority in Congress to resolutely reduce taxation is by no means so gratifying to its enemies as they have pretended. If they really believed that an obstinate resistance to the policy of revenue reduction would be acceptable to the country, they would have no need of resorting to anything so desperate as a renewal of ancient sectional issues."

Two River Steamers Burned.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 9.—The steamboats Colorado and City of Alton were burned to the water's edge near the sectional docks in the southern part of this city, this morning. The overturning of a stove on the Colorado was the cause of the fire. The City of Alton has been dismantled. Each boat was valued at \$9,000. They belonged to P. P. Manion.

The number of persons killed by wild animals and snakes in India last year was 22,125, against 21,427 in the previous year, and of cattle, 46,707, against 44,869. Of the human beings destroyed, 2,606 were killed by wild animals, and 19,519 by snakes. Of the deaths occasioned by the attacks of wild animals, 895 were caused by tigers, 278 by wolves, 207 by leopards, 359 by jackals, and 202 by alligators; 18,591 wild animals and 322,421 snakes were destroyed, for which the Government paid rewards amounting to 141,653 rupees.

What will cure the worst case of dyspepsia? What will insure a hearty appetite and increased digestion? What will cure general debility and give a new lease of life? What will dispel nervous depression and low spirits? What will restore exhausted mothers to full strength? What will strengthen nerves and muscles? What will enrich the blood? What will enable you to overcome weakness, wakefulness and lack of energy? What will prevent chills and fever and other effects of malarial poison? Brown's Iron Bitters. It is well to know this.