

AGRICULTURAL TOPICS

FARM VIEWS AND NEWS

Agriculture is the Foundation of Industry and Commerce.

THE MODERN FARMER. The modern farmer is becoming a director of machines.

BOOK FARMING. Many people seem to think that an agricultural education is simply so much "book learning."

THE FUTURE OF THE FARM. The future of the farm is bright. The farmer is becoming a director of machines.

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ALASKA'S BIG GROWTH

Rapid Development of Our Northwestern Territory.

SOON TO BE CROSSED BY RAILWAY

All Rail Communication From New York to Paris in Eight-Hour Run.

Within a year or two Alaska will be traversed by railroads almost from end to end.

When the railroads now building and projected are completed it will only need a short northern spur from Eads.

The Yukon river is open to navigation from May to October, and forty steam wheel steamboats ply between Dawson and St. Michael's.

Primarily the railroads so far have been built to tap the enormous mineral wealth of Alaska and the Canadian Yukon.

The post office of this empire is centered in a wooden building.

The fisheries of Alaska are rich beyond calculation. Its cod banks are believed to equal in wealth those of Newfoundland.

As a measure of Alaska's growth it is noted that her total foreign trade, all her debt and all her gold, in 1898 was less than \$20,000,000.

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THRILLING TROLLEY TRIP.

The Berlin correspondent of the Philadelphia Press, who was one of the small party on the Berlin-Zoo electric train when it traveled at the record speed of 125 miles an hour, thus describes it:

Every one on board was nervous and excited, even Dr. Schulz, the head of the state railway, and the famous electrician, Privy Councillor Meissel and Herr von Lachner, Zimmerman and Borchers.

Dr. Meissel got on in front and carefully scrutinized the motor car and inspected the wheels, brakes and springs with keen, quiet eyes.

As we approached Marienfelde the speed was increased, and we began to fly, but with hardly any oscillation.

Then we drew up gradually and arrived at Zooem, having made fourteen miles and a half in eight minutes.

"Now," said Dr. Meissel, "we shall see what she can do."

Dr. Meissel took a careful look around, and off we went, the speed increasing every moment.

It was a cool day, and the impact of the wind was noticeable, whistling through every crevice of the car.

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UNIQUE SECRET ORDER

Customs and Origin of the Society of Cephalists.

Each of the Four Hundred and Twelve Thousand Members Cedes His Skull to the Society—Banalities and Wild Arm'd Grimace Sellers of Friends—Circles Are Being Formed the World Over.

Many versions, mostly fanciful, concerning the secret society of Cephalists have been published, but the truth far exceeds in interest the uncanny tales all have read, says the New York American.

The Cephalists number 412,000, according to the general secretary and founder, Max Schreff, a prominent architect of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

Starting with the idea that the membership be composed with a pact devolving the skulls of all to the society, the original thirteen have added to their number until the half million mark is in sight.

The members are mostly free thinkers, men who feel no qualms over association with the skulls of their former associates.

"I pondered a long time," says Mr. Schreff. "I had always believed that the seat of dignity in man rested in the skull; so I dignified my friend and took the head home with me.

"Yes, Homer, old boy," continued the secretary, addressing the skull, "we have been companions for many years, and when I go my headpiece will join you."

"There are 140 skulls within ten feet of me. They are all properly labeled and numbered, and with each is a record of the owner's achievements, together with a phrenological estimate of the skull.

"We are not cranks. We believe that the head, the birthplace and repository of noble thoughts, should not be committed to the annihilating flames nor get to the worms in the grave; therefore we preserve the skull. We are performing a great scientific service, for our phrenologists are enabled to compare the bumps upon the skulls with the known attainments, peculiarities and attributes of the owner.

"Cephalists have grown to the number of 412,000 in twelve years. We form circles all over the world, and the circles are growing. By and by the circumference of the circles will touch."

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IN OCTOBER DAYS.

A Portrayal of Forest and Field by John Burroughs.

Now comes the sunset of the verdant year. When chimes from still and slow. Burn in the leaves till trees and groves appear. Dipped in the sunset's glow.

The day sends down its beams Till all the acorn punctured solitude Of sunshine throes its dream.

On hedge and tree the bitter-sweet has hung Its fruit that looks a power. While silver spray with coral berries strings In part of autumn's dower.

Now downy shily drifts his winter veil. His white chips atrew the ground. While crows hark back from hill or accented dale. A true autumnal sound.

I hear the feathered thunder of the grouse Soft rolling through the wood Or pause to note where hurrying mole or mouse. Just side the solitude.

Behold the orchards piled with painted spheres. Now plucked from bending trees. And sweetest baskets tossing golden ears In russet sun and breeze.

Once more the tranquil days brood o'er And soothe the earth's tolling breast; A benediction all the landscape fills That breathes of peace and rest.

Stories Told of the Former Postmaster General.

The announcement of the death of former Postmaster General Wilson S. Bissell was received with sorrow by the older attaches of the post office department, says a Washington special to the St. Louis Republic.

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FRUIT FROM PORTORICO

A Grower's Opinion of the Island's Oranges.

James Struthers of Bayamon says. This Winter Thousands of Boxes of Oranges From Wild Trees Will Be Shipped to the United States.

"Porto Rico will be the orange island of the world, its coffee will cease to have the same vogue in the United States it one time had in Spain, and its people will be lifted out of poverty and ignorance."

"The orange districts of Porto Rico have a self evident advantage over southern California for the production of citrus fruits.

"As to quality, the Porto Rico orange is as good as any other. Of course, there are good and bad oranges in the island, just as elsewhere, but I am sure it is a reasonable statement that the average orange of Porto Rico is superior to the average orange grown in any of the citrus belts of the United States.

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BURLGLARS' AID SOCIETY.

Chicago Organizational Aid to Mark Homes For Mutual Benefit.

The "Burglars' Aid Society" is the unofficial title of an organization band believed to exist in the new city police precinct of Chicago.

Crosses, circles and the picture of dogs, made by a knife, pencil or chalk, are believed by the police to be the principal characters of this strange code.

"The meaning of the mark, the police believe, is that no entrance can be obtained through the opening under which it appears.

"Above the door at 350 Justice street the picture of a large dog was found. It is believed to be a warning to beware of the building allowed to run loose in the yard at nighttime.

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