

Canary Bird Breeding in Germany.

The United States consular clerk at Berlin says that third in money value among the articles exported to the United States from the consular district of Hanover during the last quarter were canaries. For more than a century canary breeding has rendered bare existence a possibility to many poor people in Germany, and has brought a competence to others. Fifty years ago the industry had grown to such dimensions that it became necessary to seek a foreign outlet for the trade. Salesmen were accordingly sent out, first through the Rhine district, then to Belgium and Holland, and, soon afterward, to England. The German canary dealers soon succeeded in establishing a brisk trade with St. Petersburg, the birds being brought by carrier to Lubeck, and thence forwarded by ship to their destination. Encouraged by their success, the German bird dealers, about the year 1850, began making shipments to New York. This proved a very profitable business, and after the introduction of steamship lines birds were sent to South America and Australia.

Canary breeding in Germany has, from the commencement, been chiefly a home industry of poor people. The principal seat of the industry was formerly the Hartz Mountains, where the poor mountaineers, engaged chiefly in the timber and mining industries, were in great need. Almost every family then had in the sitting room, the bedroom or the garret a breeding place for their birds. In the summer the food necessary for the birds was easily obtained, and before the winter came the dealer had purchased them. After the Hartz Mountains became more frequented by visitors desirous of benefiting by the pure Hartz air, the poverty of the mountaineers was diminished, and the canary industry fell off more and more. At present only fine singers are bred in the Hartz, and for these the dealer must pay a high price. The industry was then transferred to Eichsfelde, in the province of Hanover, where there are many very poor weavers. Nearly all of these are now engaged in breeding the cheaper varieties of canaries. The industry exists also in the poorer districts of Hesse, in the great Lunenburg Moor, in parts of Westphalia, and among the Sudetic Mountains (Erzgebirge) in Saxony. In the fruitful districts of the province of Hanover, where there is not so much suffering, the business is not carried on extensively. In recent years large numbers of birds have been bred in the cities, chiefly as a pastime. The extent of the canary breeding industry is shown by the fact that about 250,000 canaries are bred every year in Germany.

Among the foreign markets the first is the United States, which takes, in round numbers, 100,000 birds annually. Next in importance is the English market, which takes about 50,000 per annum. Then come Brazil, Chili, the Argentine Republic and Australia. To these countries salesmen are sent with canaries every year. The remaining birds, especially the finer Hartz Mountain birds, are sold in Germany, where more value is attached to fineness of song, and where higher prices can be obtained than anywhere else. The average price for ordinary canaries is from three to four marks for males. Hence the canary industry adds about 1,000,000 marks per annum to the national wealth of Germany, and this amount goes chiefly into the hands of the poorest class. The growth of the industry is said to be due to two causes: (1) The German bird dealers have always been very enterprising, and (2) the canaries bred in Germany are said to sing better than any others. About two-thirds of the canaries exported annually from Germany to the United States are imported by a German resident of New York, whose German home is at Ahlfeld, in the Province of Hanover, whither the birds are brought from all parts of Germany. At Braunlage in the Hartz this dealer has a factory which is capable of turning out every day the material for a thousand bird cages. This material is given to the peasants, who make the cages at home. From Ahlfeld the birds are shipped to New York via Bremen, accompanied by attendants. Each attendant has under his care about a thousand birds, each in its own wooden cage.—Sci. Am.

Natural gas has been struck at Caladonia, Ont.

A copy of the first edition of Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield" was discovered in London a few days ago for \$175. The author sold the original copyright of the book for \$300.

Hawk-bury is the meanest place in the world and a majority of its ratepayers the meanest souled. Some time ago it voted a bonus of \$5,000 towards a railway to be built to the village, and now, because the road was not completed for two weeks after the time specified by the law, the villagers, by a vote of 51 to 39, decided to take advantage of their rights to save paying. It seems there are only thirty-nine really honest men in Hawk-bury.—Perry Sound Star.

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75 " Felt Hats - " 45 "	20 " All wool do. " 12 1/2 "
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10 " Gingham - " 5 "	75 " Men's do. " 50 "
10 " Muslins - " 5 "	75 " Overalls - " 50 "
8 " Prints - " 5 "	1 75 " Pants - 1 25 "
10 " Shaker Flannels " 5 "	7 50 " Men's Suits 5 00 "

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