NOTES AND COMMENTS.

France and Great Britain in conference in Paris to attempt a reconciliation of French and British claims in West Africa, makes timely a more precise summary of the causes leading to this conflict of interests than we have yet given. The territory to which these rival claims relate lies in the Western bulge of Africa, between French Senegal on the west and the British Niger territories, including the Niger Protectorate and Nigeria, on the east. The coast line of this area forms the north coast of the gulf of Guinea, and running eastward from Senegal, is divided as follows: British Gambia, Portuguese Guinea, French Guinea, British Sierra Leone, Liberia, French Ivory coast, British Gold coast, German Togoland, French Dahomey, British Lagos, and the Niger territories. Each of these divisions has, or had, a hinterland, that is, an extension inland as wide as the extreme points of its coast line, the interior limit of which, is, under the current theory, determined by international agreement or by contact with the territory of another power. The right to a hinterland carries with it the right to make treaties with the native chiefs establishing the political influence of the coast power within its limit, and it is the disregard of both rights by France, in her attempt to build up a great colonial empire in that quarter, that, England claims is the cause of the present conflict. The ambition of France is to connect her three main areas of occupation in West Africa— Algeria-Tunis on the north, Senegal on the west, and French Congo on the south, and so in time to gain control of the whole western bulge of the continent.

Under an agreement with Great Britain, made a few years ago, her sphere of influence south of Algeria-Tunis, has been pushed down across the desert to a line drawn from Say, on the middle Niger, to Barua on Lake Tchad, but on the west coast Morocco and some Spanish colonies prevent a similar southward extension of French influence to Senegal. As any immediate junction of the latter with Algeria-Tunis by seacoast is thus out of the question, French activity is directed for the present to connecting Senegal and the French Congo through the hinterlands of the various colonies on the Guinea coast; a task made easier by the fact that the line extending from Lake Tchad to Say, agreed upon as the southern limit of French influence in that quarter, does not extend west of the Niger, thus leaving the hinterlands of these colonies undetermined. Eight years ago France so extended the Senegal hinterland south and east as to cut off the hinterlands of British Gambia and Sierra Leone, and the way is now open for a junction of this hinterland with the French Ivory coast. This done, she has only to extend the hinterland of that coast eastward in the rear of the British colonies to reach the lower Niger and so tap the trade of that stream, and, in fact, to add the larger part of the interior region west of the Niger to Senegal. As this would, of course, deprive the British colonies of their hinterlands, and confine them to their small possessions on the coast, Great Britain has sharply protested against it, not alone as a violation of the international principles governing hinterlands, but of the rights acquired under a system of treaty-making sanctioned by common agreement. Whether the commissioners of the two powers will find a basis of settlement satisfactory to both has yet to be seen; fective occupation is the only true test but the French contention that ef- of ownership, will, in view of the dilatoriness of England, which has occupied the coast for more than a century without attempt to introduce civilization into the interior, be a difficult one to overthrow.

THE AGE OF WOMEN.

The common objection among womankind to letting their ages be known is not shared by the women of Japan, who actually display their age in the arrangement of their hair. Girls from nine to fifteen wear their hair interlaced with red crape describing a half circle around the head, the forehead being left free with a curl at each side. From fifteen to thirty, the hair is dressed very high on the forehead and put up at the back in the shape of a fan or butterfly, with interlacing of silver cord and a decoration of colored balls. Beyond thirty, a woman twists her hair around a shell pin placed horizontally at the back of the head. Widows also designate themselves and whether or not they desire to marry again.

A dispute between a husband and wife in Detroit became so exciting that the husband floored his partner with a tea-kettle, and then repeatedly kicked her. She shouted murder, and a policeman entered, and was about to arrest the man when the wife attacked the officer with a bucksaw, and with it ripped his uniform to tatters.

AGRICULTURAL

WINTER CARE OF DAIRY COWS.

Whatever method of taking care of cows is to be adopted, the general outline should be made early in the fall, and if successful should be continued through the winter, for cows are largely creatures of habit, and having once become accustomed to a certain routine do not respond favorably to any great changes. In regard to their food the important thing to consider is that it consists of such grain and forage that when combined form a well-balanced ration, and herein a knowledge of the chemical composition of the different foods becomes of great assistance in determining the kind and amount of each that may be profitably fed. While very good results may be obtained with a ration considerably at variance with that established by the best feeding it is better in making plans for the winter food to so arrange that the nutritive ratio shall be as near as possible to what has already proved to be the best; that is, about one of protein to six of carbohydrates. It seems to be the best policy to feed those things that are grown on the farm, and with the proper rotation of crops enough can be grown so that it will not be necessary to purchase any other foods, although on our western lands it seems that foods rich in carbohydrates are more easily and abundantly grown than those in which the protein substances predominate, so that it is frequently profitable in order to get the best use of the home-grown foods to purchase bran or oil meal, substances rich in portein. But whenever we have a good crop of oats and a good crop of clover hay we can with our almost sure crop of corn make a ration that would be difficult to improve upon. At the beginning of the feeding season it is best to make the amounts of each kind of grain correspond with what would equal the established balanced ration, but in my feeding experience I have noticed that different cows need their food made up in different proportions and even the same animal will need changes from time to time in the make-up of its food. By the time the herd is on full feed the observant herdsman will have learned the needs of the different animals and can make such variations as seem best. The form in which the food is given is a subject worthy of consideration and involves the controversy of grinding or feeding whole grain. The solution of the question is a matter of judgment, for under some circumstances ground food may be best and under other circumstances whole grain may be better. The whole grain has the advantages of cheapness of preparation, less liability of injuring the animals by overfeeding, and if the droppings are utilized there is certainly less waste.

In my own experience I have made my best success and most money during the time I have fed whole grain, shelled corn, oats and clover hay. Another important consideration in the management of a herd of cows in the winter is the manner of feeding and handling the cows at feeding time. Each cow should have her own stall and be taught to go to it, and should be fastened so she cannot molest any other cow. She should be fed at regular times—twice a day is often enough—and the herd fed in regular order. Above all things the food manger should be kept clean and especially free from any taint that is offensive to the cow. The best plan is to have movable boxes or pans that may be scalded with hot water and exposed to the sunlight whenever an animal begins to leave food in any part of them. In our climate our dairy cows must have some sort of shelter from storms and cold during the winter, yet in providing this shelter consideration should be had for the natural requirements of the animals. Nothing is more injurious to the health of a herd of cows than to be confined at any time in a barn in such numbers that the heat from their bodies will keep the temperature above the freezing point during the winter. While it is true that cattle so confined are usually great producers of milk and butter, at the same time their condition is such as to invite the most disastrous diseases our cattle are liable to. The herds of cows found to be worst infected with tuberculosis have been those which were apparently the best protected from the inclemencies of the weather. Nature in her care for all animals has not neglected the cow, and if allowed to do her part she covers the animal, which if liberally fed then lines this coat with a thick layer of tallow, both nonconductors of heat or cold. Neither are in the least a hindrance to her milk-giving ability, but a milking cow can rarely provide herself with either of these protections against cold if confined in a warm barn. Such cows have thin, short hair and very little tallow under the skin. With such natural protection a cow will show no sign of discomfort in very cold weather. A protection against wind and rain, together with a good bed to lie on, is all that seems needed to keep a cow comfortable as far as cold or storms are concerned. But feed and shelter to a cow count for nothing without a good herdsman. He must not only be kind and neat and regular in his habits, but he must understand his cattle. Cows are unable to speak the human language, yet they are continually expressing their wants and feelings by their actions. A good herdsman understands these symptoms and is constantly reading their meaning. This knowledge comes to a man only by long experience and close study of animal nature and its possession is almost always the key to success.

THE HORSE FOR PROFIT.

The average farmer who grows several kinds of grain and maintains three or four kinds of live stock, usually has but an incidental interest in horse breeding. Teams are required to do the work on the farm. If one operates a farm dairy and has poultry products and fruits, and vegetables, where deliveries must be made to the city or village every day, he has constant use for a roadster team. Where a farm is devoted almost exclusively to meadow or pasture and orchard lots, the work may be done largely by the medium sized teams. Such a proprietor who has a real liking for a horse and who takes pride in training and fitting his team to good serviceable work and graceful appearance, may breed this style of equine successfully. A good foundation for breeding, however, is always imperative if one would succeed.

The average roadster horses of high quality, while very intelligent, and kind in disposition, are somewhat sensitive and nervous because of their high instinct and powers of quasireasoning. Because of this delicate organization, much more training and handling will be required for such horses, and this should be begun if possible, before the youngster is a month old. There should be no feeling that this time given to training in youth is wasted. If the creature is kept for one's own work, its excellence and efficiency during a quarter of a century and its faithfulness and alert movement, will many times repay for the time devoted to its early lessons.

Such a colt properly trained also in times of business prosperity, will sell readily because of its training for from three to ten times the amount it would bring, as a crude untrained animal, at four or five years of age.

As a rule the roadster horse should weigh, when mature in growth, at five years, not less than 1,100 pounds For heavy work on the ordinary farm three such horses worked abreast will do as much heavy plowing or harrowing as a rule, as the largest pair of draft animals. Their all-around adaptation to many kinds of farm and road work renders them especially serviceable. Three such horses on a small farm of less than eighty acres will afford, during the greater part of the year, a good double team and a single driver for use at the same time. When one of the pair may be sick or lame, the third horse may take its place, so that there is ordinarily always a team to be relied upon. If possible on the average farm of 100 acres or more, two good teams of this sort should be maintained. Where convenient four mares, to be used alternate seasons for breeding, furnish a profitable investment. In fact where the work of the farm is not very burdensome, all may be used for breeding, alternately, one pair for the spring and one for the autumn.

In the case of the farmer distant from a city or village, whose principal business is fattening hogs, cattle and sheep, and growing grain for this purpose on more than half of his farm, it is desirable where his work requires more than one team, that he employ large draft mares. One such team may, to advantage, be of medium weight, about fourteen hundred pounds at maturity, and another should weigh not less than sixteen hundred pounds.

It is always advisable that brood mares should be worked moderately through at least eight months of the year. The influence on the future offspring engendered by labor is of much value; and the physical strength derived from the work is of value to the dam in such cases.

Autumn colts, as a rule, are preferable in the case of draft animals, interfering less with the heavy spring work when horses are most needed. When warm box stalls are provided for the dam and young in cold weather, there is an advantage in training the colt to eat the proper grain for its best development and withholding it from the grazing grounds until its frame is more mature.

In breeding, sound hoofs, eyes, and constitution, as well as good disposition should be sought in the parentage.

NOTES.

Keep the fodder tied up close to the husking.

It is a waste of land to give it only half the cultivation it needs; it is a waste of time to spend it half-doing a thing.

Cabbage may remain out without danger of injury from frost, after beets, carrots and turnips should be stored for the winter.

Nothing is better established in agriculture than the value of a proper rotation of crops. Do not raise a crop of corn or a crop of wheat five, ten or fifteen years in succession on the same piece of land, and then wonder why you get a small yield.

If you have bean poles standing in the ground pull them up and store some where under shelter. If they are worth using they are worth caring for.

An eastern gardener pulls up the poles that have any beans on them when frost comes and puts them away vines and all, where frost cannot get at them, and in this way is able to keep the beans fresh for some time.

If you find it hard to get the manure out in time to plow the fields, take it out as often as a load accumulates, if it is every day. It is better by far that the manure rots and leaches upon the field then it wastes by leaching in the barnyard and loses its strength in the wayside ditch.

100,000 MEN WERE SLAIN.

A MIGHTY BATTLE OF PREHISTORIC TIMES.

Discovery of a Field Where Barbarians Fought Twenty Thousand Years Ago — Thirty Acres of Skeletons Have Been Found in the Mississippi Valley.

Evidences of a mighty battle between barbaric races contending for the possession of the great Valley of the Mississippi twenty thousand years ago, in which sixty thousand and perhaps a hundred thousand tawny skinned warriors gave up their lives, have been discovered in the Indian Territory.

The initial discovery was made by laborers employed in grading a roadbed for the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Railway, a few months ago, near Redlands, I. T., in the northern part of the Choctaw Indian reservation. They were surprised to find, at a depth of six to eight feet, a deposit of human bones, ancient pottery and stone weapons of warfare. The road at this point ran through one of the terraces of the Arkansas River bottom for a considerable distance, and as the grading progressed carloads of human bones, most of which crumbled when exposed to the air, and great quantities of rude battle axes, arrow points, long, daggerlike javelin points and pieces of pottery were unearthed.

THIRTY ACRES OF SKELETONS.

The workmen made no effort to preserve the relics, and the real value and extent of the prehistoric remains might never have been known, had not Professor Edwin Walters, an archaeologist and geologist, in the employ of the road, happened along about that time. He recognized the importance of the find, and has recently made extensive excavations. By digging and sounding he has ascertained that thirty acres, most of which is heavily timbered, are underlaid with human bones.

His first theory was that he had found an ancient burying ground, in which for many successive generations the tribesmen had been laid to rest, but when he picked up a skull in which thirteen moss agate arrow points were embedded the conclusion was forced upon him that he had come upon a prehistoric battle ground.

Further excavations revealed other skulls, pierced with arrow points and many skeletons in portions of which arrow points or stone javelin heads were buried. One of them was dug up with a stone javelin head thrust through the spine and projecting for several inches through the breastbone. Scarcely a skull has been found that does not bear the marks of violence. The great number of stone war implements that are being found confirms' Professor Walters' theory that one of the most sanguinary struggles of prehistoric times occurred there.

GREAT PRIMEVAL CONFLICT.

The mystery which envelops that strange scene of primeval conflict may never be cleared away, but to the mind of Professor Walters the story of that early struggle is as an open book. The seventeen years he has spent in exploring the mounds, fortifications and buried cities of the vanished races of Central and North America have developed facts of surpassing interest to archaeologists.

All of the prehistoric inhabitants of North America, Professor Walters believes, came originally from Central America. Thirty thousand years ago three millions of people, breaking away from the vast population that for countless centuries had occupied Central and the northern portion of South America, journeyed northeastward along the coast of the Carribean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, and finally overspread the Mississippi Valley. They belonged to the race of Maya-Toltecs, who, as is shown by their monuments and ruined cities, had attained a remarkably high degree of civilization for that remote period.

As the centuries passed the wanderers lost much of their knowledge of architecture, astronomy, chemistry, civil engineering, and sculpture, in which the parent race had become proficient. Instead of building temples and monuments, they became mound builders, and their rude structures are scattered throughout the Mississippi Valley and the region of the great lakes.

Ten thousand years passed, during which the Mound Builders lost all of the characteristics of the Maya-Toltec race, and when, as the successive waves of immigration from the Yucatan swept over the Pacific slope and eastward toward the Mississippi Valley, the supremacy of the Mound Builders was threatened, they fortified their frontier against the incursions of their new enemy. The Mayas made periodic attempts to wrest the rich valley from their grasp, and many were the fierce battles fought.

Professor Walters has found a series of fortifications extending north and south and facing each other. The first of the prehistoric chain of fortifications that mark this one time bloody battle line is found near Omaha, Neb. From that point it followed down the river bluffs to Kansas City, and, from there has been traced southward almost to Mexico. The battle ground just found in the Choctaw country forms a link in this chain of fortifications and goes far toward proving the correctness of Professor Walters' theories. Here, he believes, the decisive battle of this great international war of the primitive race was fought.

It is in the midst of a rough, rolling country. The Arkansas River, broad and deep, runs east and west at this point, its channel being against a rocky wall on the north bank of the river, in the country of the Cherokees. To the south and left of the river are two broad terraces, covered with giant oaks, and it is the higher of the two, through which the railroad runs, which contains the prehistoric remains. Upon this terrace can easily be traced the rude fortifications which were evidently the objective point of the warlike Maya-Toltecs.

Following the topography of the country in his calculations, Professor Walters figures out that the invading army came across the level plain lying to the west, drove the outposts of the Mound-Builders back from their settlements around the great mounds that may still be seen at some distance west of the recently discovered battle ground, to the main fortifications or earthworks. Here the two great armies, each possibly numbering two hundred and fifty thousand, engaged in a struggle that should only cease when one or the other had been hopelessly vanquished.

What a terrible hand-to-hand struggle it must have been! Every acre of that "dark and bloody ground" contains the ghastly remains of from two thousand to three thousand warriors, and that they died amid a perfect rain of arrows, javelins and stone axes the vast numbers of these death-dealing instruments unearthed bear mute testimony.

FOUGHT HAND TO HAND.

What fearful carnage must there have been when between sixty thousand and one hundred thousand men, armed only with bows and arrows, javelins and rude battle axes, went down! Little wonder that almost every skull is crushed in with a blow from a battle axe or pierced with arrows, whose tips had previously been dipped in poison.

HERE IS THE BUTCHER GIRL.

A sixteen-year-old girl in San Francisco has hit on a novel way of earning her living. She has gone into the butcher business and is making a great success of it. Her name is Lillie Kanitz, and her customers say that it is a real pleasure to have a steak or a roast cut off and served by a brown-eyed slip of a girl in a spotless print gown and apron instead of a man in a spotted jacket and apron.

Miss Kanitz's father, Otto Kanitz, conducts the Log Cabin Market in San Francisco. She is a full partner in the business and her father's only assistant. The father, according to the San Francisco Call, is as proud of his daughter as possible. The girl has so mastered her trade that when her father is away she is left in charge of the shop. She runs it like a veteran, too, filling orders from a quarter of beef to a tid-bit for somebody's pet dog. A girl butcher might not be expected to be attractive in person and manner. This one is. She is said to be straight and lithe and active, and the arm that wields the cleaver instead of a golf club or tennis racquet is prettily rounded, with a supple little wrist and tapering fingers. Miss Kanitz has rosy cheeks, brown eyes and hair, and dresses becomingly. She has a gentle manner, and, while business life has made her alert and keen, it has not taken away her girlish modesty and simplicity. Her parents are industrious Germans, who, by years of steady labor and frugality, have acquired considerable property. The girl butcher and her mother own city real estate valued at several thousand dollars. This was deeded to them by Mr. Kanitz, but the possession of it has not been a check to the daughter's ambition to earn money for herself. She keeps the books of the firm, makes out, collects, and pays all bills, and delivers orders to customers in their own homes. Early any morning she is to be seen with her horse and cart whisking briskly from street to street.

Miss Kanitz was graduated at one of the grammar schools two years ago, and is a fine housekeeper. She bought and has paid for out of her own earnings a piano. The first payment she made on it was $200, which she had saved out of commissions allowed by her father as a bill collector. Mr. Kanitz expects to go to Dawson City next spring, leaving his daughter to carry on their joint business.

A FREE GIFT.

Miss Bibbs—See here! Why are you unloading all those shingles in front of my door? We haven't ordered any.

Driver—No, mum.—They comes wid the compliments of the neighbors. You see, folks thinks from the way your boy acts that you can't afford to buy any.

CAREFULLY TRAINED.

Miss Antique, taking politely proffered seat in a crowded street car—Thank you my little man. You have been taught to be polite I am glad to see. Did your mother tell you to always give up your seat to ladies.

Polite Boy—No'm, not all ladies, only old ladies.

MAN'S SMALLEST BONE.

The smallest bone in the human body is situated within the drum of the ear

FIXING HIM OUT.

Hunston—I'd like to go shooting tomorrow, if I could only get a dog that is well trained.

Ethel—Oh! I'll let you take Dottie then! She can stand on her head and shake hands and play dead, and say her prayers and do lots of things!