WE WILL SEE IT FIRST.

CANADIANS PROPOSE TO CAPTURE THE NORTH POLE.

Willis Chipman's Plan—Careful Study of the Failures of Others Convinces Him That the North Woods Surveyors Are the Men to Overcome All Obstacles.

Much interest was excited by an article in a recent issue of the Popular Science Monthly upon "Arctic Exploration," in which Stuart Jenkins gave reasons for his belief that the men above others best able to win the North Pole were Canadian surveyors. Investigation reveals that the conception of the idea belongs to Willis Chipman, a civil and sanitary engineer, of Toronto, and who at the last meeting of the Ontario Land Surveyors brought the scheme under the association's notice.

WILLIS CHIPMAN.

"As far as the use of sledges is concerned he is right," said he, "for to my mind the lesson taught by the hosts of Polar expeditions since 300 years ago when the region first engrossed geographers, is that no great open sea—which Parry thought he discerned—really exists. The contingency of meeting open water around the Pole must not, in these latter years, be considered, and our surveyors need not figure upon portaging a vessel piecemeal, as in the premises suggested by Mr. Jenkins.

"What I gathered from careful study," Mr. Chipman continued, "is that an unbroken tract of ice will be found clear to the Pole, if the season be favorable. Crevices will occur, filled sometimes with water, pools may be met with, but my contention is that it will be melted ice water and not that of the deep sea. The ice-pack possibly cracks occasionally in the Summer, but quickly is frozen again. For some hundred miles north of Canada's north shore the ice is very rough; but I believe the farther the northing after that the less hummocky, and for the reason that the ice floe only melts or cracks near the shores: not toward the Pole—the centre of the paleocrystic sea. That is why I pin my faith on sledges. The means of progression that enabled Markham in '76 to attain the latitude of 83 degrees 20 minutes, that brought Lockwood and Brainard in '82 to within 500 miles of the Pole—the 'farthest north' of all—is good enough for me, and therefore I cannot subscribe to the Peterboro' canoes with which Mr. Jenkins would emburden his party. If, indeed, trial should prove the existence of water channels too wide for sleds to bridge, much better results would accrue from the employment of aluminum sledge-boats.

"Nordenskjold's opinion is that the best means is by wintering at Smith's Sound, or the Seven Islands, off Spitzbergen, and making either a starting point. Parry advised Spitzbergen. My reason for adopting Smith's Sound is that I consider it better to go from the known to the unknown. Better keep to the beaten track even though it be strewn with gnawed bones and dismantled wrecks. Profit by the experience of the gallant men who have already braved the terrors of Baffin's Bay.

"Mr. Jenkins selects Upernivik, which but for an outpost fishing station 50 miles north, is the most northerly abode of civilised man in Greenland, for that matter, in the world. He aims at the right target, but falls short of the mark. Every year in succession, lately, vessels have reached Smith's Sound—generally managing to work through—but they reach it. Why should not the surveyors adopt the top-notch, of Summer navigation as a commencement point for their race to the Pole in the Spring following? The Alert wintered at the north side of the entrance to Robeson Channel in '75-'76, just round the easterly corner of Grinnell Land's most northerly point; and the Discovery of the same expedition wintered in Lady Franklin Bay, a short distance south. The Greely expedition spent two winters on Lady Franklin Bay at a later date. From the north point of Grinnell Land the long-sought end of the earth's axis is distant less than 500 miles! Here our men of compass and chain must fix their headquarters, and to guard against famine, establish depots every 50 miles back to Cape York, which is on the north shore of Baffin's Bay, in latitude 76 degrees. From here my idea simply is to advance on the Pole, leaving depots every 50 miles, not 100, as Mr. Jenkins proposes, up which chain will be forwarded supplies sufficient to eliminate all possibility of famine. The homeward route will be as safe and easy to retrack as a transit-line cut out through an Algoma township, along which caches have been made. The surveyors thus could count on success.

"What would prevent it?" queried Mr. Chipman. "Parry with his cumbersome flotilla of boats and sleighs records that he traveled by far the better part of his distance on ice three, often five times over, and even then his party lacked the aid of snow-shoes. More's the marvel that they ever returned from that—date considered—most wonderful of all Polar expeditions. Markham when he got back from 83 degrees 20 minutes stated his belief that no similar party would ever go farther, but it was scurvy that made his brave fellows retreat. An unwieldy sledge, large tracts of mountainous ice and drift snow caused Payer on his second journey in 1874 to return after going 313 miles, but even then, going and coming, he only consumed a month. Lockwood and Brainard's 'farthest north' was won without snow-shoe equipment, of which they sorely felt the need. With proper up-to-date appliances the scheme for a successful Pole hunt by sledge is no romantic, impracticable, one. Peary's late trip on foot through 'Greenland's icy mountains'—his traverse of the ice-cap—proves what may be accomplished.

"Peary," declared the speaker, "I regard as the ideal Arctic explorer; he's a civil engineer as well and that's the next best thing to a Canadian surveyor. Take his record, 1300 odometric miles in ninety-six days, sometimes covering twenty and twenty-five with a maximum of thirty. His daily programme was breakfast, four to six hour's marching, one half hour's halt for pemmican and to rest the dogs, a second and equal 'trick' at walking, and then supper and bivouac.

"It's robbing Peary of no credit when I say that men like the Tyrrells, who went 2200 hazardous miles by cance (850 of which were through absolutely new country devoid even of a wood splinter for fuel), by snow-shoe 650 miles (throughout which they slept under the open sky, tentless, in a 40 degree below zero temperature), and by dog-sled 350; men like 'Yukon' Ogilvie, who has traversed the Rock Mountains from end to end, and amid a thousand hardships explored the country around and between Rivers Yukon and Mackenzie; men like Geologist Low, who spent last Winter in Labrador, and was the first white man to pierce the interior, are the men, if any, scientifically educated, plucky, strong and inured to fatigue, to follow the line of collimation of their transits and smoke their pipes in camp right over the North Pole. This expedition would be no 'picnic;' the men chosen must be good men and true, incapable of flinching at work, discomfort or danger, nor liable to dismay among mountains of ice or illimitable snow areas crushed topsy-turvy. But it can be done by men of our profession—the weakest, bodily, of whom thinks nothing of walking thirty-five miles a day, whatever the temperature, for six months or a year, as any topographer on a railway trial line has to do, for his work includes location and measurements of all houses, fences, streams, hill-tops, etc., 1500 feet each side of the centre line. Surveyors prosecute their calling amid hardships, and I believe that the hardships father north do not increase in proportion to the latitude.

"Studious care must be taken in the equipment. Sleighs, like Peary's, broad in the runners, which must be shod with iron to increase the tractive resistance, with standards holding light but strong cross-bars; both skis (Norwegian snow-skates) and snow-shoes of best make, and material to mend them; sails for the sledges, which can be utilized to roof the camp tents, savor of luxury where lightness of 'dunnage' is everything; muzzles for the dogs, as they are accustomed to much raw meat and hunger continually for the nutriment inherent in snow-shoes and kossacks; and the host of trifles, like vaseline for snow-burn, and wind-burn that experience has taught the Arctic tourist to include in his 'pack.'

"Pemmican—a good substitute of the 'extinct' buffalo article, is still made from the dried and powdered meat of the Barren Land reindeer, mixed with that animal's tallow—is the proper staple for both men and dogs; it keeps longer and is more nutritious for its weight than any other known.

"Peary on his first expedition took besides pemmican, beef extract, pea-soup, biscuits, tea, coffee, sugar, flour, corn-meal, evaporated fruit and vegetables. Everything was packed in tins for fear of the dogs, and with small alteration his bill of fare would suffice for the surveyors.

"The North Pole is in Canada, and as Lieutenant-Governor Shultz, of Manitoba, reminds us, in the Dominion still live survivors of the boat's crews of Franklin, Dease, Richardson, Simpson and Black to keep alive the old traditions of discovery. Who then but Canadians have the first right to locate it?"

HIS MISTAKE.

A Russian Visitor's Encounter With the English Language.

A Russian gentleman told me a funny story of his first encounter with the English language. On the day after his arrival in London he made a call on a friend in Park lane, and on leaving the premises wrote down in his note book what he supposed to be the exact address. The next day, desiring to go to the same place again, he called a cabman and pointed to the address that he had written down. The cabman looked him over, laughed, cracked his whip, and drove away without him. This experience being repeated with two or three other cabmen, the Russian turned indignantly to the police, with no better results. One officer would laugh, another would eye him suspiciously, another would tap his head and make a motion imitating the revolution of a wheel.

Finally the poor foreigner gave it up, and, with a great deal of difficulty recalling the landmarks which he had observed the day before, found his way to his friend's house. Once there and in company with one who could understand him, he delivered himself of a hot condemnation of the cabmen and police of London for their impertinence and discourtesy. His friend asked for a look at the mirth-provoking address, and the mystery was solved. This was the entry:

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RING THE BELL.

The Russian had with great care copied character for character the legend on the gate post, supposing that it was the number of the house and the name of the street.

Managing Hens.

Tommy Suburb—"I wonder why these new Queen Anne houses has front and back porches just alike?"

Bobby Broadmeadow—"I guess that's to fool the chickens, an' make 'em think they're on the front lawn when they're in the back yard."

AGRICULTURAL.

Milking.

There are so many and important details in connection with dairy management which must not be neglected or overlooked that it would be a hopeless task to endeavor to pick out just what process is most important. We believe there is a general tendency among dairymen toward neglect and carelessness in the matter of milking.

Lack of systematic methods in milking may cause an otherwise profitable dairy to become unprofitable.

A neglect in not insisting upon cleanliness is sure to be followed by badly-flavored butter, which must sell in the general market at a low figure, or if sold direct to private customers will cause dissatisfaction, and if more cleanly habits are not speedily resorted to we should expect they would lose their best customers.

One of the first requisites, therefore, of a good milker is to keep the milk absolutely clean. We will presuppose the milk pail, which, by the way, should never be of wood, is perfectly clean. The milkers' hands must be thoroughly washed and dried. Never milk, or allow any one else to, with wet hands. If proper precaution has been exercised, the cow's udder and sides can be freed of dirt by carefully brushing. Unless in exceptional cases, never wash a cow's udder.

After the milk is drawn from the cow it should be removed from the stable as soon as possible, where it is to be set or separated, as it is apt to absorb foul odors.

There is a very general feeling that it is advisable not to feed the cows until after the milking is completed; especially is this urged where ensilage forms a part of the ration. The ensilage imparts a most disagreeable flavor to the butter if the milk is subjected to its odor for any length of time. We have noticed when cows are fed at the time of milking that they quite often are very uneasy to get the last particle of food, especially if it is in the far corner of the manger, and in so doing necessarily stir up the dust.

If cows have been accustomed to being fed before being milked they will be somewhat troublesome until they get accustomed to the new order of things. Some men have made the mistake of cleaning the stable before milking. This is a bad practice. A better way is to leave the stable till after all milking is done and the milk taken from the stable.

The next requisite of a good milker is to secure the largest quantity of milk possible. To do this several points must be observed. It is not necessary, in fact it is not practical, to milk oftener than twice a day, but the periods between milking should be as nearly equal as convenient. Care should be taken that the milking is done at the same hours each day. The milker must be quiet and gentle with the cows and see to it that there is nothing to disturb or annoy them, not only at milking time, but all the time. Rapid milkers as a rule are to be perferred. Repeated experiments have proven that much more milk can be drawn from cows for a given length of time by rapid than by slow milking. When the cow's udder is very full one should begin milking rather slowly so as not to injure the udder.

Where a man employs a number of milkers it is profitable to have the milk drawn from each cow carefully weighed and recorded at each milking. This not only enables one to know who is doing good, faithful work, but it forms a basis on which one may judge of the general health and condition of the cows and their probable care. While this may be somewhat of a guide, we must understand that for butter-making the Babcock test must also be used in determining the right of any cow to a place in our herds.

The Seeding of Clover.

It is when the snow is on the ground that some farmers seed clover on wheat land, but it is doubtful if seeding too early is of any advantage. It is true that broadcasting the seed over the surface covers every portion, and the rains carry it into the soil, but there are periods in the early spring when the ground is as hard as a rock, and if the seed is not washed away it will be clustered in spots, leaving others bare, as it is witnessed every season. It is not the case that all farmers venture to seed down their clover until the season is warmer, but the rule is to sow as soon as it can be done. The proper method is to harrow the wheat with a smoothing harrow, sow the clover seed and harrow the field again, which does not injure the wheat but enables the seed to be better covered and secure lodgment. Plenty of seed is important, as the birds destroy a portion; some of the seed may be worthless, and a portion is also destroyed should a warm spell of weather be followed by severe cold. These causes have prevented good stands of clover, although the failure of the seed was attributed to something else.

Clover is a nitrogen gatherer. That is, it procures the greater proportion of its nitrogen from the full nitrogen of the atmosphere, and by its roots, which take up nitrogen as ammonia and nitric acid, when the rains bring these substances down from the air and carry it into the soil. Any nitrogenous fertilizer is therefore of but little value for clover, but the crop is greatly benefited by potash and lime. Land plaster (sulphate of lime), which is sparingly soluble in water, gives excellent results on some soils, but land that has been heavily limed with air-slaked lime in the fall should be in excellent condition for clover, provided it is not deficient in potash. An application of 100 pounds of sulphate of potash will often prove sufficient to induce a large yield, but wood ashes, which contain both lime and potash, can not be excelled for clover.

Leaving the value of clover as a hay crop aside, it is one of the best crops known for restoring the fertility of the soil. Its roots, which contain nitrogen largely, restore that substance to the soil, and it is a practice with many to cut the first growth for hay and plow under the second growth, followed by an application of lime. If this is done the only forms of fertilizers required by the farmer will be potash and phosphates, which will keep the soil well supplied with plant food in fair proportions for nearly all other crops. Red clover is a biennial, but the new crimson clover, which is an annual, may be sown in the fall and plowed under in the spring, being well adapted on soils that will not produce red clover; but where red clover can be grown it should be given the preference, as it can not be surpassed in the many advantages which it possesses by any other crop grown upon the farm.

Grinding Feed for Stock.

So much wheat and other small grain is now being fed to stock that the matter of grinding the grain ration has become an important matter. Farm animals were naturally herbivorous, and their teeth and digestive apparatus is better adapted to coarse forage than to concentrated grain tionsra. The experience of mankind has found it best to grind all grain for human food, and in practice it is found that stock gets more good from ground than from whole grain. If properly managed the extra profit will more than repay the cost of grinding. If advantage is to be taken of the gain in feeding value from mixed rations, it is almost necessary to grind the grains before mixing, especially when bran, middlings, cottonseed meal and flaxseed cake are used.

The farmer who wishes to feed ground grain will generally find it the best plan to buy a mill and do his own grinding at home, thus saving the expense of hauling, and providing profitable work for himself and teams. For fattening hogs and cattle it will be found best to mix corn meal with the ground wheat, and for growing pigs, calves, and colts, corn meal is far better than whole corn, so it will be expedient to buy a horse power mill, which will not only grind small grains, but will also chop corn, and crush corn and cob together without the trouble of shelling.

Each kind of grain should be ground separately and afterwards mixed in the proper proportions, as each kind of grain is so different that it will not otherwise be properly crushed or rolled. Finely cut hay or shredded cornfodder may be added to the ground feed ration if desired. In order to avoid waste, good clean troughs must be used in feeding ground feed, whether fed wet or dry. In windy weather it will be best to dampen the meal or chop even to soaking it, while for growing animals it may in many cases be cooked to advantage. The higher the price of grain and live stock, the more profit there will be in grinding, soaking or cooking grain food.

DEADLY WORK.

Employes in Champagne Cellars do Not Live Long.

The temperature of these gloomy corridors cut in the native rock varies from about 46 degrees Fahrenheit. In winter the men enjoy it for its mildness, but in summer it seems far from genial. The excessive dampness, too, must be prejudicial in many cases. If you touch the heavy canvass screens which divide the galleries, you feel that you could squeeze quarts of water from them, and the walls, of course, reek with moisture. Yet there is really not a degree too much cold nor one drop too much of humidity in the cellars. All this is necessary to tame the high spirits of the champagne wine. The loss by bursting bottles is enormous, even under these conditions of discomfort for mortals and restraint for wine. There is electric light in the cellars, but its lustre seems much abated by the prevalent gloom and oppressive humidity. The men work among the bottles 30 yards away, but are dimly visible. And what tedious, uninspiring work it is?

Imagine, for instance, a person spending 10 hours of continuous toil in lifting bottles from their racks, giving them a turn or two and replacing them; this, too, in absolute solitude, in a slip of a gallery deviating from a main corridor, and curtained off from sound of his comrades' voices in the distance by the wet sackcloth at the opening. No doubt, with men of conscience and concentration, this loneliness serves well enough in the interests of the firm. A deft workman will, it is said, turn from 25,000 to 30,000 bottles daily.

This is his work day after day. It is one of the various processes which give us a wine clear as crystal, from which almost every particle of sediment has been coaxed and expelled. But it does not suit all men. Some cannot stand this dismal monotony, which really seems almost on a par with certain of the experiences of a Siberian exile.

Life in the champagne cellars does not tend to length of days. After a spell of years in such employment the man seems to have become unfitted for continuous existence above the ground and in a dryer air. While he is daily in the damp atmosphere of 45 or 46 degrees, and supported by a daily magnum or two of good red wine, he has not much to complain about. But afterward he is apt to fall to pieces. Forty-five is reckoned as a good age for him to attain.

Must Take Their Chances.

"What do you think of these eggs?" whispered the lean boarder.

"These eggs," responded the fat boarder, whose occupation was that of advertising clerk in a newspaper office, "are too late to classify."

The Dullest Spot.

Jack—"Miserly has been studying it up and he says the sense of touch is dullest on the back."

Dick—"Touch him for $10 and see if you don't strike a duller point than that."

The Secret of Wealth.

Twyan—"People who are always preaching economy seem to think that the way to get rich is to make dollars go farther."

Triplett—"Isn't that the right way?"

Twyan—"Not at all. The secret of wealth is to make them come faster."

ROUND THE WHOLE WORLD

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE GLOBE.

Old and New World Events of Interest Chronicled Briefly—Interesting Happenings of Recent Date.

Another splendid diamond, weighing 230 karats, has been unearthed at the Jagerofontein mine, South Africa.

Gen. Gourko was made a field marshal by the Czar, upon his retirement from the post of Governor-General of Warsaw.

In Finland the Salvation Army has now 140 officers and 5,000 recruits. The Russian authorities no longer oppose its work.

In order to cope with New Zealand and Australian competition, Irish farmers are being urged to make butter all the year round.

An annual international music trade exhibition is being organized in London. It will begin at the Agricultural hall next summer.

A concrete bridge having a clear span of 64 feet and 26 feet wide was recently constructed over the Danube at Munderkingen, in Austria.

The Quorn hounds in England recently followed the fox for twenty-seven miles, in two hours and seventeen minutes, before it was killed.

Probably the most extraordinary journal in the world is published weekly at Athens. It is written entirely in verses, even to the advertisements.

The Royal University of Ireland has not only admitted women to all the privileges of the institution, but a lady football team has been organized there.

Queen Victoria knows what it is to eat juicy American apples. Every year a lot of the choicest picked fruit is sent to her from Albemarle County, Virginia.

Mr. Harry McCalmont, the owner of Isinglass and of the new steam yatch Giralda, has been made president of the Sports Club in place of the late Sir John Astley.

A monument of Father Damien, the lepers' friend, was unveiled recently in Louvain amid the great rejoicing of the people. Constantin Meunier was the sculptor.

Archdeacon Farrar has been appointed one of the Queen's private chaplains in place of the late Canon Prothero. The official title is Deputy Clerk of the Closet-in-Ordinary to Her Majesty.

A French Government official lately sent in a bill of 14,000 francs for cab fares in a single year. The bill was disallowed and the official dismissed from the service at once, and will be prosecuted in the courts.

With regard to the proposed revival of Olympian games, to be held every four years in one or other of the European countries, it has been decided that the first series shall take place in the ancient arena at Athens in 1896.

Passenger rates have been largely reduced on the state railway of Russia. By third-class a person can travel 5,000 miles for $12.50, and a fourth-class has been established for the benefit of those who are too poor to travel.

Religious persecution still obtains in Russia despite the humane sentiments of the new Czar. The Government has issued a circular prohibiting Stundist prayer meetings and declaring the sect "dangerous to church and state."

Mrs. Mary Clement Leavitt, in her travels around the world, found in China a Heavenly Foot Society, the members of which are young men pledged not to marry women whose feet are smaller than natural expansion would produce.

The London Society for the Abolition of Compulsory Vaccination has urged "all anti-vaccinists and all lovers of liberty to use their utmost exertions at the election of guardians to procure the return of candidates favorable to their movement."

John Earle, a Scotchman, is the oldest person in the British Isles, having been born in 1779. For over fifty years he followed the occupation of a travelling shoemaker, and in the course of his peregrinations wandered over the greater part of Europe.

Expulsion of Jews from territory nearer the frontier than fifty versts has been stopped by order of the Russian Minister of the Interior, and an imperial ukase is expected to abolish the law prohibiting Jews from settling within the zone indicated.

In opening a public library the other day the Lord Chancellor of England said that, although 75 per cent. might read fiction, it was worth while establishing the institution for 25 per cent. of thoughtful readers, while the moderate reader of fiction was by no means an evil.

Frederick York Powell, who has been appointed to the Regius professorship of modern history at Oxford, England, made vacant by the death of Mr. Froude, is a law lecturer at Christ Church, a historical lecturer at Trinity, and the author of several works of English history.

Personally conducted archæological excursions are the latest innovation. Prof. Dorpfeld, of the German School at Athens, is to lead one to Egina next May, thence to the excavations in Attica, to the island of Delos, to Assos, to view the work of the American explorers, and then by way of Ilion back to Athens.

The royal baron of beef for Queen Victoria's Christmas dinner party at Osborne was cut from a fine West Highland bullock bred and fed at Windsor Park. The baron was roasted at the great kitchen fire in the castle and when cold was sent to Osborne, where, with the boar's head and game pie, it adorned the royal sideboard.

Dr. Bertillon, the inventor of the measurement of criminals, is evidently determined to let no man escape, for he has now discovered a new process by which handwriting may be identified. It is based on the measurement beating of the pulse, which are said to have in everybody a different characteristic effect on handwriting.

Abbe Theure, of Loigny, has been given the chief prize of $2,500 by the French Academy for his bravery. The abbe on Dec. 2, 1870, under a heavy fire, saved more than 500 wounded, French and German, who, in the confusion of a night, would otherwise have been massacred. On the following day he attended more than 1,000 wounded in his parsonage and church.