

## HARVEST TIME.

On the eve of the day that has been agreed upon for beginning the harvest the village becomes deserted as the shadows of the night fall upon it. Only very old people and very young remain at home to look after the fowls and the cattle. The 80-year-old, bowed-down graybeard, or the equally old and bent grandmother, assisted by some bright boy of 8 or 10—friends whom old age and childhood have united—alone remain in the village. All the others go to the fields on the eve of the solemn day, to stay there through the night and to begin reaping as soon as there shall be enough light faintly to discern things.

A cart, in which the main thing is a small cask with water, or, still better, with kvass (a fermented, slightly acidulated, but non-alcoholic drink, made of baked rye flour), is taken. If the fields are at a certain distance from the village, there the harvesters stay all day, returning home only when it grows quite dark, to take some cold supper, consisting of bread and cucumbers or onions. If the fields are far away, they stay there at night, as well.

The heat in the fields is terrible. On a cloudless day, when a hardly perceptible breeze moves over the soil, one feels, on bending to the lot, burning ground, as if plunged into a Turkish bath—especially if the breeze is intercepted by the surrounding wheat or rye. In this almost unbearable atmosphere the women work with the sickle.

This is slow and hard work—the woman seizing with her left hand a bunch of stalks, cutting them with a rapid oblique movement of the sickle, and gently depositing the cut branch on the ground. It is cut branch by branch, also a long apprenticeship, and which peasant girls begin to learn in their 11th or 12th year. The back soon begins to ache; perspiration covers the body, runs down the brow, and falls in heavy drops upon the face. Very often a busy, hardly a week old, sometimes even less than that, lies close by in the grass or in the shadow of the cart, and when the exhausted mother comes in response to its hungry cries, she often cannot satisfy its thirst.

One hour—scarcely more—of sleep in the middle of the day, in the shadow of the cart, and the afternoon work is resumed, to last with but little interruption till after sunset. This means 12, 14 and 15 hours of work, and the better the soil the more of soil the peasants own, and the wealthier they are, the more unwearied energy they put into the work. I never saw people work so hard at harvest time as upon the fertile, boundless meadows of Tambov.

It is already quite dark when the harvesters return home, and the young people—especially the girls—fill the air with the night with their songs. The harvest, every portion of it, has its special songs, mostly dating from the remotest pre-Christian antiquity.

These songs become especially lively and gay when the best part of the harvest begins—when the rye, or the wheat, after having been left for a few days to dry in the sheaves, heaped together in stacks, is carried home. Every one is ready then to give a lift to the weary horse as it slowly moves along the unpaved country road, and to encourage it with encouraging words as it brings home the food of the family.

In many families bread may have been wanted, and the last flour parsimoniously used in expectation of the new crop. Now, at least, a few sheaves will be hurriedly thrashed with the flails, and the winnowed grain taken to the village windmill, in order to hasten the long expected day when the flour in many packages of bread baked with "new" flour obtained from this year's crop.

For millions of households in Russia that day is a much greater festival—except, perhaps, Easter—and that fresh baked rye bread with salt, is the best meat of the year. No better reception indeed can be made to a welcome visitor than to offer him new bread and salt. The fresh-baked loaf, with the wooden salt box, stand on the table of the zia for every man, woman or child who may enter the house.

When the month of July and August are dry and hot, the spring sowings begin to ripen almost as soon as the rye and wheat harvests are over. The slow work of harvesting oats, barley, buckwheat, occasionally some spring wheat, peas and lentils, as also flax and hemp, begins almost immediately after the winter crops are in, leaving no time to rest.

Every day brings some new work with it, work which in most cases must be done at once, because in August and in the first half of September the weather often becomes unsettled. Every bright day, sometimes even a few hours of sunshine, must be taken advantage of to save this or that crop.

To-day it is the oats or the barley that must be cut and brought under shelter, otherwise they will be over-run by the rain and become rotten. To-morrow it will be buckwheat which has begun to "flow," and requires immediate cutting, while the men have perhaps engaged to work for the next few days on a neighboring landlord's estate, and so it is the women who have to accomplish this hard work. The following day it may be the flax which

is in the same critical condition; or the flax that has been rotting in the small ponds has to be spread out at once in the fields for drying. And then, amid all that work, there will be, in most cases, some rye or wheat to be thrashed for the sowings in the fall. This is mostly done with the flail, or by making horses tread over it in a circle.

Moreover, the land will have to be harrowed, and sown, with quantities of additional work will have to be done for the neighboring landlords or farmers. These last may have rendered in the winter some service to the peasants when they were short of money and food, and now they require these services to be done in their fields. And with all that, the rains, which become more frequent, continually interrupt the work, which, from being now intermittent, becomes often for that very reason the more intense. In 1900, in many parts of Russia, the binding of the oats, as also the carting, was entirely done at night, after a full day's work.

Boundless steppes—the Russian name for prairies, exactly similar to the Manitoba and Dakota prairies on the Canadian border, and covered with a thick layer of extremely fertile "black earth"—spread over southern and southeastern Russia. I have myself seen fields where, with the usual rest of the soil each third year under fallow, crop after crop had been gathered for 80 consecutive years, the crop continuing to remain richer than it was elsewhere on the best manured clayey soils.—Prince Kropotkin in Youth's Companion.

### HE LET THE FURNACE FIRE OUT.

Now, there was a man with a red, red nose.

And a weak and watery eye; He stood in the street with a patient pose While the cars went hurrying by; And he read a paper and stamped his toes And softly kerchiefed his crimson nose.

A friend soon joined him in waiting there And asked: "What is the latest row? And what has been taken, and when and where?"

And the man said: "Kooche-ah-choh!" And the friend said: "Jiminy! You don't say?"

Now what do you think will be done to-day? The man turned then and he sighed; "I think That the next is Oo-chooly choo! I mean—Ah-choo!—and a quivering blink Closed his eyes as the tears came through."

"Perhaps, but it seems quite a hefty plan; I don't think they will," said the other man.

"It isn't—Ah-choe!" cried the red-nosed man, "But it's Ooo-choo-ooakety-wow!" "That's just what I said when the war began,"

Said the friend, "They're doing it now!" But the other answered, "Oh, can't you see It is Woo! Ooo! Yoosh wishy-ooof-kawhee!"

"No, no. You're wrong," said the friend at that.

"Why, the place is too far away From the seat of war, and I'll bet my hat It will not be attacked to-day." And the man with the nose that was ruby red Just gurgled and groaned and shook his head.

"I don't mean the war," were the words he said, "I thought you were asking for me What I took for this cold that is in my head, And I told you—Whoo! You! Chaw-ee!"

And the friend then snickered and said, "You sneeze like a class in geography!"

### Little Things That Tell.

It is the little things of life that often do the most mischief, so that it behooves one to look out for trifles and deem nothing unimportant. A man who was greatly attracted by a girl, and would probably have fallen in love with her, if some little thing had not intervened, told one of his intimate friends who noticed that his attentions were discontinued, that the little habit of laughing at the end of each remark was the wedge that first started the rift within the lovers' love which, "widening slowly" made "the music mure," so far as he was concerned. Almost everyone has one or more little personal habits more or less annoying to his associates, of which he himself is quite unconscious.

"I do wish Selma X would not begin to hum a tune in the middle of a conversation," said one of her friends. "It is very irritating and shows that she is not paying the least attention to anything that I am saying. It is certainly not complimentary, and I have heard a number of people speak about it. Someone really ought to tell her."

Unfortunately, however, that someone never will. We all dislike to be told of our faults, and the task of correction is an ungrateful one. There are other little habits that are even worse than faults of manner—unpleasant little traits which develop all unconsciously, but which are exceedingly detrimental. It is not necessary to specify the little tricks that jar one's sensibilities. Everyone has noticed such irritating trifles in others, although he himself feels perfectly sure that he has no such annoying traits. —New York Tribune.

## A Minister's Duty

### A Glowing Tribute to the Sterling Worth of Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder.

"When I know anything worthy of recommendation I consider it my duty to tell it," says Rev. James Murdoch, of Hamburg, Pa. "Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder has cured me of catarrh of five years' standing. It is certainly magical in its effect. The first application benefited me in five minutes." 33 Dr. Agnew's Pills cure the liver and stomach. 10c.

### Keep Your Eyes Open.

(Toronto Telegram.)

It is no happy-go-lucky business this ever present necessity for evading the perils that beset life on the streets of a busy city.

Has to catch a car or to cross the streets in front of a car is the great source of danger and death. If people would make it a rule never to cross a dangerous street until they can see the track clear in front of them both ways; if people would remember to take care of their lives even while they are hurrying for a car, there would surely be some reduction in the number of tragedies that now bring the ache into so many hearts.

### Itching Piles.—Dr. Agnew's Ointment

is proof against the torment of Itching Piles. Thousands of testimonials of cures effected by its use. No case too aggravating or too long standing for it to soothe, comfort and cure. It cures in from 3 to 6 nights. 35 cents.—95

### STEEL CONCRETE STANDPIPE AT MILFORD, OHIO.

A steel-concrete standpipe was recently constructed for Milford, Ohio, from the design and under the superintendence of Mr. J. L. H. Barr, of Batavia, Ohio. The system of reinforcing the concrete is known as the Weber system, and makes use of small steel rods for reinforcement. The standpipe is eighty-one feet high from the base to the roof, and the dome-shaped roof is a rise of 8 feet, making the total height above the foundation of 84 feet. The minimum inside diameter is 14 feet. For the lower 30 feet the wall is 9 inches thick; for the next 25 feet the thickness is 7 inches and the upper section of the wall is 5 inches thick, the reductions in thickness being made on the outside. The outside surface of the wall is perpendicular. The foundation is octagonal, with an inscribed diameter of 20 feet, and it is 6 feet deep. The concrete for the foundation was mixed in the proportion of 1 part cement to 7 parts gravel, while the concrete for the wall was made of 1 part cement and 3 parts clear, sharp sand. The standpipe proper was washed with neat cement grout and the top was troweled smooth.

The steel rods used with 1x1-8 inch steel tees bent into rings with the ends lapped about 6 inches. These rings are set about 3 inches from the outer surface of the wall and are held in place by perpendicular tees spaced about 18 inches apart, to which the rings are fastened by wire bands.—Engineering and Building Record.

### Neglect a cough and contract consumption.

## Shiloh's Consumption Cure

The Lung Tonic

cures consumption, but don't leave it so long. Try it now. Your money back if it doesn't benefit you.

Price: 50c. S. C. Wells & Co., 201 25c. 50c. 1c. Le Roy, N.Y., Toronto, Can.

### Small Coins Brighter and Newer.

(Philadelphia Record.)

"Have you noticed the improved quality of the coins now in circulation?" asked the trolley car conductor, as he pulled a handful of bright pennies, nickels and dimes from his pocket for inspection.

Due to an effort on the part of the Government to put better money into circulation by recalling the worn and shiny pieces from which the impression of the die has become effaced, I've noticed for the past two years a steady improvement in this respect. All the banking institutions now throw aside the coins that show decided signs of wear, and the Treasury Department reissues these with new ones. In England a soiled bank note is unknown. The paper money is always new and bright, being recalled before it becomes worn. It's getting to be that way in this country with our small coins."

I was cured of a bad case of Grip by MINARD'S LINIMENT. Sydney, C. B. C. I. LAGUE.

I was cured of loss of voice by MINARD'S LINIMENT. Yarmouth. CHAS. PLUMMER.

I was Cured of Sciatica Rheumatism by MINARD'S LINIMENT. Burin, Nfld. LEWIS S. BUTLER.

(Exchange.) "Thirty days hath September," Every person can remember. Puzzles even scholars some.

When March the twenty-first is past, Just watch the silvery moon, And when you see it full and round Know Easter'll be here soon.

After the moon has reached its full, Then Easter will be here, The very Sunday after In each and every year.

And if it hap on Sunday, The moon should reach its height, The Sunday following this event Will be the Easter bright.

## KING EDWARD'S TRAVELS.

### The Royal Yacht Being Got Ready in Time.

The Royal yacht Victoria and Albert has just been docked at Portsmouth for an overhaul and refit, and she is to be ready for sea by March 1. It is understood that the Victoria and Albert will be required about the middle of next month by the King for a cruise in the Mediterranean, and that His Majesty intends to pay a visit to the King and Queen of the Hellenes at Athens. It is rumored that the King's cruise will terminate at Venice, and that he will proceed thence direct to Copenhagen for the family celebration of King Christian's eighty-sixth birthday on April 8. If the state of public affairs should render it inexpedient for the King to go to the Mediterranean, he will probably go instead for a cruise in some water, and the royal yacht will carry His Majesty to Copenhagen and back. The Victoria and Albert will be required about April 22 to convey their Majesties from Holyhead to Kinsale, where she will remain until the conclusion of the royal visit to Ireland on April 30 or May 2.

### Minard's Liniment Relieves Neuralgia.

Endurance of the Yaks. Yaks, which are the best of burden in Tibet, are very sure-footed and will carry a load of more than 200 pounds safely along the steep, craggy hillsides. They can exist on the scantiest grass, but grain food suits them for a few days only. Eight miles a day is good average work. A recent traveler tried leather boots for his yaks, without success. Tame yaks are white, black, gray and brown, and all intermingle gradations of these colors. The wild yak is invariably black and in early spring his winter coat almost sweeps the ground. At such seasons wild yaks are almost indistinguishable, and a story is told of a big game hunter in Tibet who shot his own baggage animal by mistake.

### Nothing Left to Break.

(Scraps.)

Mrs. Wiggs—Cook has only broken one dish to-day, dear.

Mr. Wiggs—That's better. How did that happen?

Mrs. Wiggs—It was the last one.

### Lifebuoy Soap—disinfectant—is strongly recommended by the medical profession as a safeguard against infectious diseases.

### Chicago a Health Resort.

(Boston Globe.)

Chicago is the healthiest large city in the world. For years Berlin has been a close second to Chicago in the competition for a low death rate, but London has now supplanted her. London's estimated population for 1903 is given as 4,613,812, with a death toll of 72,109, the death rate per thousand therefore being 15.62. Chicago's estimated mid-year population was 1,885,000, with a total of 28,925 deaths, including the 1903 fire victims, making the death rate per thousand 15.34, or only 1.7 per cent. less than in London.

### Cost 10 Cents—But worth a dollar a year.

This is the testimony of hundreds who use Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills. They are so pure, so pleasant and easy to take. The demand for this popular Liver Regulator is so great it is taxing the makers to keep up with it.—93

### A Curious Dog Tax.

"The rains absorb alcohol, and so, no matter how much one drinks, if he will eat raisins continually, not less than three or four to each glass of beer, for example, they will prevent the alcohol from being taken up in the blood, and thus preserve a state of sobriety."

In Brussels the dog tax is managed on a very odd system, dogs being taxed according to their value instead of at a fixed rate. The various suburbs have different rates, too, so that a man living at Exelles pays perhaps a trifle less for his dog than he would if he had a house in Boisfort. A rich Belgian, who was noted among his friends as being a trifle "near," as the Scotch say, owned a very valuable dog. When looking about for a house in Boisfort, he selected one in the district where he would have to pay the least for his dog. Unfortunately his cleverness was misplaced on this occasion, for his work lay at some distance from his house, and the canine attendant or cab hire more than made up for the extra dog tax.

### Minard's Liniment Cures Dandruff.

### DON'T MARRY THIS GIRL.

Who is lazy. Who is a flirt. Who cannot control her temper. Who dislikes children and animals. Who is not neat and tidy in her dress. Who is deceitful and is not true to her friends. Who fusses, fumes and frets about everything. Whose highest aspiration has never soared above self. Who is amiable to suitors and "horrid" to her family. Whose chief interests in life are dress and amusements. Who lacks thrift, and has no idea of the value of money. Who cannot bear to hear any one but herself raised or admired. Who thinks more of making a fine appearance than a fine character. Who is coarse, imperious and domineering in manner and conversation. Who never thinks that her mother needs an outing, amusement or a change. Who humiliates servants by snapping at them or criticizing them before guests. Who appropriates the best of everything for herself, and is thoughtless of others. Who dresses in the height of fashion when going out, but does not care how she looks at home.—O. S. Marden, in Success.

### Minard's Liniment Cures Burns, etc.

### KIOSKS AT SUBWAYS.

Attractive metal kiosks are being erected at the entrances of the New York subway.



There are very few cleaning operations in which Sunlight Soap cannot be used to advantage. It makes the home bright and clean.

### The Manufacturer's Advertising.

The experience of a manufacturer is interesting: "If I could get my monthly mailing card into the right hands, I could afford to rely on it mainly for my advertising. But there's the rub. I found it expedient to use the newspapers in order to get the right persons to apply for the cards. Then I found I could include the essential matter in my newspaper advertisement. Hence, while my card is still valuable, my newspaper announcements are indispensable."

### \$50.00 to California and Return

Via the Chicago, Union Pacific & North-Western Line, from Chicago, April 23 to May 1. Choice of routes going and returning. Correspondingly low rates from all points. Two trains a day from Chicago through without change. Daily and personally conducted tourist car excursions. Write for itinerary and full particulars regarding special train leaving Chicago April 26.—B. H. Bennett, 2 East King street, Toronto, Ont.

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### Great Service to New York

The New York Central affords excellent service to New York, Boston and points in the Eastern States. See your ticket agent for full particulars.

### She was a Hustler.

(St. Louis Star.)

"George," said the lean year girl who meant business, "I love you dearly. Will you be my husband?"

"Why—this is so sudden," stammered George. "G—give me time to think."

"Well," she rejoined, as she looked at her watch, "think quick. The last car is due in fifteen minutes."

### MYERS' ROYAL POULTRY CO.

Niagara Falls, Ont. & N.Y.

### A Monument of Ears.

Throughout Corea a number of monuments are still standing which date from the war of 1592, when Japan invaded Corea with 300,000 men. These "Monuments of Ears," a they are called, mark the burial places of the 10,000 ears which were cut from the heads of the Coreans as trophies of victory. There are many of these monuments in Japan also, for some of these gruesome relics were taken home by the conquering army.

### Canary Bird and Bullfinch Millinery.

There has been a run on rare birds skins and plumage for ladies' hats this winter. One young lady wore what, I suppose, is called a garden hat, judging by the greenery which bedecked its ample brim. Among this brilliant foliage I counted eight bullfinches. However, a young and pretty girl could thus bedeck herself like an original savage passer the imagination. There was a woman who recently wore \$200 on a ball dress made from canary breasts—but she was French.

## ISSUE NO. 16 1904.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup should always be used for Children's Teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for Diarrhoea.

### WANTED—A GENERAL SERVANT.

Highest wages paid; comfortable home. Advances or apply to Mrs. W. Holton, Hamilton, Ont.

### Any Lady Can Make Easily

\$12.00 to \$20.00 weekly by representing us in her locality in her spare time. The position is pleasant and profitable the year round. Will gladly send particulars to any lady who may need to make some money—and will convince you that this is no deception. Mrs. Davidson, drawer 65, Stratford, Ont. Mention this paper.

### The Independent Cash Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Toronto, Canada.

Applications will be received for Ontario Agencies at leading towns and villages. Address head office, 24 King street west. Chas. W. Norman, President and Managing Director; Wm. Gray, Superintendent.

### BUSINESS GUIDE

tells all about notes, receipts, mortgages, leases, deeds, wills, property exempt from seizure, landlord and tenant, ditches and watercourses, etc., one agent sold 47 copies in three days; another sold 88 in a week. French edition now ready; outfit 25c; order outfit to-day; if not satisfactory money returned. The J. Nicholson Co., Limited, Toronto. Mention this paper.

### When He Fell Down.

(The Standard.)

He—Won't you let me give you just one kiss before I go?

She—Will just one satisfy you?

He—Yes, darling.

She—Then I won't give it to you.

### DEAFNESS CANNOT BE CURED

by local applications as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by educational remedial. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube is inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and the tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by colds. Deafness caused by catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

Sold by Druggists, etc. Take Hall's Catarrh Pills for Constipation.

### Origin of the Word "Tariff."

The word "tariff" says the Westminster Gazette, is derived from the Spanish town of Tarifa, which was the name given to the place where the Moorish General Tarif landed in 710 A. D. from the North of Africa, with a small force, to make a preliminary raid on the coast of Andalusia, preparatory to the overthrow of Spain by the Moors. It was at Tarifa that the conquerors instituted a table of customs regulations, or "tariffs," from the duties collected at the port. As in the case of many other of the older Spanish towns, Tarifa, which is the southernmost town of Europe, is still of quite Moorish aspect.

### Blockade Runners.

London cables from Tokyo been brick blockade since the opening of the coal and provisions which were mostly of Chinese origin from the fleet, one leading to the advent of dapper flunks scatter, ever again at a prearranged hour.

St. Petersburg cables from Port Arthur, and fortress yesterday. Southern Manchuria, the country is strikingly and that the troops healthy, and animated active operations, and native population, in commercial world, is full of faith in it. The correspondent says: "The Chinese soldiers in the uniforms, with the Russian national provide provisions from horses brought from country. The mandarin to this government, ing to carry water on their conduct is passively no harm."

The correspondent works regularly. He is sentries are posted and are doing duty dividing China and Mother is warm, and the In Port Arthur, all the habitans have been state of alert, though impatient that the long a time inevitable."

In a second telegram gives details of the Japanese to block the ports the store of the pedo boat Sital on five gono fleet, and says: "The Japanese fleet the Japanese steamship, the Japanese ships, a Lieut. Kimbata, of wounded, went to on Japanese ships, and other vessels."

London cables: The Times on board Hainan, in a despatch telegraph by way

## JAPANESE

## Revealed

## 20,000

London cables: Reg- tion of the report of pation of Wijn, these of authenticated war quence. The Tokio on Chronicle sends a repes news have reached 4 left bank of the Yalu with scarcely any op Cossocks. Nothing can ther the Russian with is absolute, or sugges tion of their apparat the Yalu River.

According to a Dal from St. Petersburg, has telegraphed to Gen further information of Cossock brigades must present. It is underat tempting a surprise rection.

The Daily Telegraph spateh, saying that complete withdrawal from Northwestern an bank of the Yalu and is still occupying.

The Chronicle's Shan quotes a Japanese off effect that the whole campaign has been of was revealed to the anese officer, who is in His treasury was of the Japanese finding, where they intended landing. The discover scandal, and the news made to hide the fact honor had been taris are credited with a large sum of money concerning the movemts.

According to the Kori Daily Mail, the editor to the first Japanese Monday, which was announced for their parts of the difficulties vance are abundantly to the thaws, the mod deep. Number of the from frost-bitten ter.

Where At the London cables: despatch sent by telegraph to Wag-Hai Y April 5. It says: "ermining in the vicin for fifty hours, and vessels of either of the even scouts. The on this is not the Bill for. This is a quite different from success in ending in the flotillas of junk are the northwest. Their usually Liao-Tching, they are conveying p.

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## PAGE FENCES Wear Best

It is the fence that has stood the test of time—the heaviest strain—never sagging under the heaviest load. Order through our local agent or direct from us.

THE PAGE WIRE FENCE CO., LIMITED, Walkerville, Ont. Montreal, Que. St. John, N.B. Winnipeg, Man.