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MISCELLANEOUS.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Relations between Great Britain and the Transvaal are not likely to be improved by the speech of President Kruger before the Volksraad, denying the suzerainty of England in the South African republic. The president's contention is that although in the convention of 1881 between the two countries the suzerainty of Great Britain was acknowledged, no recognition of it is made, in precise terms, in the London convention of 1884, which now regulates their relations. Article IV. of the latter agreement does, however, restrain the Transvaal from concluding a "treaty of engagement with any state or nation other than the Orange Free State, or with any native tribe to the eastward or westward of the republic, until the same has been approved by her majesty of the queen." The Transvaal will, of course, loyally abide by the convention in its entirety, and, indeed, has given proof of its desire to do so by repealing, a short time ago, the alien immigration law which England deemed a violation of its provisions; but it cannot recognize British suzerainty, which is opposed to the treaty. As Mr. Chamberlain has only recently asserted the suzerainty of Great Britain, by asking Parliament for a military credit in order to maintain that suzerainty in the Transvaal, and by refusing arbitration on the ground that a suzerain nation never arbitrates disputes with a vassal state, the issue is thus clearly raised. As to the validity of President Kruger's claim it is difficult to judge without the full text of the London convention, the authorities accessible, differing as to its meaning, though in the main favoring the British contention.

According to the Statesman's Year Book, which gives the British view, the treaty of 1881 restored self government as respects internal affairs to the Transvaal, the control of external affairs being reserved to her majesty, as suzerain, while upon the same authority, the convention of 1884 "restricted" the British suzerainty to control of foreign relations." Appleton's Cyclopaedia for 1884, however, expressly states that the British suzerainty over the Transvaal was revoked by the London convention, and the official documents of that year mention that in the latter instrument articles assigning powers with respect to the internal government and foreign relations of the Transvaal were omitted. This would seem to sustain President Kruger's claim that the convention of 1884 greatly modified the suzerainty conceded to England by the Pretoria treaty of 1881; though Article IV. of the former agreement, limiting the treaty making power of the Transvaal is incompatible with his assertion that there is not a word in its bearing precisely upon that point. On the other hand in view of the predominant interests of Great Britain in South Africa and of her concession of self-government, it is easy to understand how the Transvaal might admit England's right of approval of treaties embodied in that article, though whether in doing so British suzerainty was also acknowledged is a question. Mr. Chamberlain, and the British nation as well, will certainly insist that it was, the independence of the South African republic not only making impossible the future federal union of the South African states, but making possible alliances with foreign states fatal to British supremacy in that quarter.

The report that the Czar and the Sultan have made agreements for mutual support may or may not be well founded, but the one thing certain is that even Russia might well value Turkey as a military ally. The situation in the Levant has been wonderfully changed, indeed, from what it was a year ago. The wilful "sick man" of the Bosphorus, so far from being a candidate for the dissecting table, has gone through a fight in which he has easily felled his antagonist, and must at least be called convalescent. In spite of Turkish cruelties, whether in Armenia or in Crete, the world must admit that the Ottoman Empire has shown a splendid ability to defend what it considers its rights. It may be said that no great courage was required for tackling little Greece; but Turkey had no hesitatingly grabbed with gigantic Russia in the Plevna campaign, and Russia, too, was then provided with plenty of allies. In this year's brief war with Greece, Turkey showed a degree of military skill and a power of rapidly mobilizing troops which put her among the powers useful, if not desirable, as an ally. The nation that is ready to stand up for its cause on the battlefield, and successfully maintains it there, gets something more than the immediate prize in dispute. This truth Japan has illustrated recently, and no one will say she is not a valuable ally in war for even the most powerful of nations. The bad but vigorous man of the Bosphorus has in like manner gained prestige as a fighter. He is off the invalid list, and has shown that he must be reckoned with in affairs that concern him. This is a matter far more important to him than the rectification of his Thessalian frontier.

CHILDISH JOY.

Mr. An' Billy don't have to study 'bout Alaska this year. Why not? Pap's done wore th' map out o' our gaiter.

AGRICULTURAL

ADVANTAGES OF ROTATIONS.

A correspondent says that while he has been engaged in farming nearly all his life, he has only recently felt any interest in what people call "scientific" farming, and that he would like to have us tell him what are the advantages of rotation. He accepts the idea that rotations do rather advance, but he does so rather because everybody says so than because he has any well defined reason for his faith. To enumerate all the advantages of a good rotation would be a considerable task, and some of them are special, depending on particular circumstances and applicable only to particular surroundings. Among the more general advantages are those which depend on the fact that the feeding capacities of plants differ. Some require more of a given element than of another, that required being present in the soil in an available form only in limited quantities at a time, and a lapse of one or more seasons being necessary to render any surface feeders, others feed low-roots deep into the soil. Some are fast growers, and assimilate the elements they need in almost any shape they find them, while others are more delicate, and must have their plant food just as they want it, or they cannot assimilate it at all. The growth of different crops in succession on the same soil, therefore, prolongs the period of profitable culture by retarding exhaustion in special directions. All crops have insects and fungous enemies. If any plant is continuously grown on the same land, the insects attacking it multiply greatly in the presence of their favorite food, and the spores of fungi remain over in the soil, growing worse with every succeeding year. The Hessian fly often compels the abandonment of wheat where wheat has been continuously grown; a little scab in potatoes this year or a little smut in corn will cause more scab and more smut if the same crops are planted on the same ground next year. Again, certain crops derive all their nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash from the soil, so far as is known, while others of the legume family derive their nitrogen from the atmosphere, the growing of clover, may, therefore, increase the nitrogen in the soil for the use of other crops, and yet it cannot be continuously grown, for the land will become "clover sick" and refuse to produce it. Growing one crop on the same land continuously leaves the soil bare at certain seasons, while various crops put it in better condition, and when lying idle. A suitable rotation year, giving more continuous work for men and teams. One continuous crop to make a living by working during the year only for the brief time necessary for putting in and harvesting a crop, marketed at different times gives a steadier and more regular income, and is also less at the mercy of the crop is liable to fail, but all are wise to put all one's eggs in the same basket. There is also an economy in manure as applied to them directly; others some use most of one of the fertilizing elements that another crop should follow to use the elements less completely used by the first one. A good rotation may recover, helpful in keeping the soil free from weeds. If one crop makes the soil better than it would "turn into chest" for instance, a good rotation always includes some crop that requires close cultivation throughout the growing season, and this is the weeds that have sprung up in the soil. A rotation of crops also improves the mechanical texture of the soil, for somewhere along the line it is always helpful. It likewise necessary for the best results in live stock feeding, which requires a variety of crops, and, as all know, there can be no very successful farming without live stock. These are some of the advantages of a suitable rotation, and if our correspondent will think them over he will find in them ample reasons for faith in diversity and rotation. What constitutes a good rotation is largely a question of conditions, depending on the character of the soil the live stock kept, and the way it is to be handled, the demand for various crops, the climate, the condition of the farm, and many other considerations.

CARE OF AND SELLING HONEY.

Nearly all light-colored honey is now stored, and as soon as the sections are nearly all capped, it should be removed, as the bees will discolor it, if left in the hive. The whiter and cleaner honey looks the easier it is to sell. Many people use it as a table ornament. Do not wait for the last sections to be capped says a writer in Country Gentleman, but rather put them back together in a case to be finished, but this generally is not a success, and I either extract them or sell them at a discount. Some seasons we have a great many half or three-fourth finished sections, and then I proceed as follows: I cut the combs out of the sections and put them in a two-quart crock—seven will fill a crock. This I call "scurry" honey sell it for 50 cents per crock, and realize nearly 12 cents per pound. Customers come for it and call it a bargain. In removing honey from the hive, use a bee-escape by all means; if you do not, the bees are apt to tear open the cap-pings and spoil the comb by causing it to leak. Smoke very lightly, and place the escape under the case; next morning the bees have all gone below, and the sections are in the best condition for removal. The Porter escape

BEES' NIGHT WORK.

Bees work at night in the hive, building their combs as perfectly as if an electric light shone there all the time. The existence of the young depends on the rapidity of the saccharine food presented to them, and if light were allowed access to this it would in all probability prove fatal to the inmates of the hive.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S NEW YACHT.

Queen Victoria is to have a new yacht within two years. It will cost \$1,500,000 and will be the most luxurious craft afloat. Other European sovereigns own war vessels for pleasure trips. Queen Victoria's yacht, when built after designs, submitted to her, and will have guns only for firing salutes.

CAREFULLY REARED.

Fond Mamma—I am glad you had such a nice time at Mrs. Tiptop's, and I hope she noticed how carefully you had been brought up. You did not ask twice for dessert, did you? Small Son—No, indeed, ma. I didn't have to. Every time I finished a dish and began scraping the saucer with the spoon and smacking my lips, the waiter came and brought me some more without saying a word.

CALCULATING FROM EXPERIENCE.

Six minutes to five, said the man with the settled look as he glanced at his watch. "I have only eleven minutes in which to play the next game." Got an appointment? asked the other man as he checked his cue. Yes; my wife promised to be ready to go driving at half past three.

NO ASTROLOGER NEEDED.

He—The astrologer described you exactly, and said that I would marry you. She—Don't you think it was a waste of money to consult him? He—Why? She—I could have told you the same thing myself.

is considered best, but the old double-wire comb is much better than none. I use them both. As soon as the honey is taken off the hive, it should be stored in a clean, dry, airy bee-proof room. Never store honey in a damp place. All the propolis should be removed from the sections to make them look presentable. Now, don't rush your honey off to the commission merchant unless you are sure he has sales for it, or you are prepared to sacrifice. When you are ready to sell, write to one or more reliable (be sure they are not commission merchants, and ask if they have an outlet for your goods; then be governed by the replies. Better still, look after your home trade. By a little push you can sell plenty of honey right to your neighbors. I sold some every trip, if you take goods in fact well. I have both comb and extracted honey for sale, and thus far have found no difficulty in selling every season from 800 to 1,500 pounds to the home trade. I make it a rule to sell only a first-class article, and I often get more for my honey than the general run of honey in the stores is worth for the same weight. I have sold a quantity of my honey to a commission merchant and take what it brings, rather than spoil my home market. Sometimes the local merchant will sell quite a quantity for you, if you take goods in trade for the honey. I have had experience on both sides of this transaction, and it can be made a success if you are a hustler and not a blockhead, as is sometimes the case. This is, of course, some trouble, and work; but by managing it as described, you realize nearly twice as much for my honey as I would if I sold it all to the city market that is already overflooded with the product and has to find an outlet in country towns and the country. It is the same practice holds good with small fruit. Resist commission and heavy competition out of the profits. Avoid them as much as possible.

WASHING BUTTER.

Years ago it was generally supposed that in order to make really fine butter one must not allow a drop of water to touch it. Of late years, since we began to hear so much about granular butter, we have been instructed to wash it in successive waters until this was drawn off clear, or free from milkiness. It is my opinion that neither one of those policies is the right one to follow, writes Mrs. E. R. Wood.

I have tested this matter of washing butter for a number of years, and have come to the conclusion that either extreme is to be avoided. To wash it, even in granular form, until the water runs off clear, will give us a butter that will not decay or turn strong as soon as that not washed so thoroughly, but it washes out much of the flavoring and more regular income, and is also less at the mercy of the crop is liable to fail, but all are wise to put all one's eggs in the same basket. There is also an economy in manure as applied to them directly; others some use most of one of the fertilizing elements that another crop should follow to use the elements less completely used by the first one. A good rotation may recover, helpful in keeping the soil free from weeds. If one crop makes the soil better than it would "turn into chest" for instance, a good rotation always includes some crop that requires close cultivation throughout the growing season, and this is the weeds that have sprung up in the soil. A rotation of crops also improves the mechanical texture of the soil, for somewhere along the line it is always helpful. It likewise necessary for the best results in live stock feeding, which requires a variety of crops, and, as all know, there can be no very successful farming without live stock. These are some of the advantages of a suitable rotation, and if our correspondent will think them over he will find in them ample reasons for faith in diversity and rotation. What constitutes a good rotation is largely a question of conditions, depending on the character of the soil the live stock kept, and the way it is to be handled, the demand for various crops, the climate, the condition of the farm, and many other considerations.

SCALDING AND SUNNING. Scalding water is indispensable in the dairy, but it must be used at the right time and in the right way, else it were better not to use it at all. All vessels that are to be used in the dairy should first be thoroughly washed and rinsed with cold water, and then scalded with a plenty of really steam-hot water. If the hot water be first applied, the milk remaining in any cracks, crevices or seams of the vessels is apt to be cooked into a hard paste or glue that water cannot remove. This glue will inevitably ferment and contaminate butter when afterwards used. After vessels have been washed, rinsed and scalded they should be exposed to the direct rays of the sun for several hours; all day is better. There is nothing like sunlight for killing ferment germs, microbes, bacteria and all such.

GREAT SHOOTING.

Some Wonderful Feats of Marksmanship

A few exemplary old citizens, who did their deer hunting before the noble game was as scarce as it now is, were recalling feats of marksmanship, when they were the Nimrods of the day. "I very seldom pulled a trigger that I did not get venison," modestly declared one veteran whose hair and voice have grown thin. "In one instance I brought down a fine buck that I never expected to get. I saw him coming on the dead run—that is, I saw his antlers, for he was on a ledge about a hundred yards away and just enough below me to cover everything but his horns. I tried to get his head or box in sight, but he was going too fast. Just because I was mad I let fly at a trunk of one horn. I followed along slowly muttering at my hard luck, when I found my buck dead as a herring." "Shot him dead through the horn, hey?" sneered the man who will soon be eighty. "Better wait till you hear it all. That bullet struck the lower side of one of the prongs, glanced and went through the head of the deer. It was natural enough, and I only tell it to show what strange things may happen." "Couldn't have been much stranger," said the old man who has been bald so long that he is proud of a little tuft of hair above each ear. "I once had a peculiar experience myself while out killing deer just for the sport of the thing. I shot a deer in the hind foot, the same bullet going through his brain." "Carromed on the hoof, I presume," chuckled an old cynic, who looked as though he didn't believe a word that had been told. "Oh, no; the deer was scratching his ear with his foot when I shot."

DAN. McLEAN.

LICENSED AUCTIONEER for County of Grey. All communications addressed to LAMARSH P. O. will be promptly attended to. Residence Lot 19, Con. 6, Township of Bentinck. DAN. McLEAN.

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THE GREY REVIEW

IS PUBLISHED EVERY Thursday Morning. AT THE REVIEW OFFICE, GARAFRAXA ST., DURHAM. TERMS: \$1 per year, IN ADVANCE. CHAS. RAMAGE Editor & Proprietor

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