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MIRAMICHI ADVANCE

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BUSINESS NOTICE

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The "MIRAMICHI ADVANCE" having its large circulation distributed principally in the Counties of Kent, Northumberland, Gloucester and Restigouche, New Brunswick and in Bonaventure and Gaspe, Quebec in communities engaged in Lumbering, Fishing and Agricultural pursuits, offers superior inducements to advertisers. Address

Editor Miramichi Advance, Chatham, N.B

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New South Wales has expressed, through Lord Beauchamp, its wish to supply transport waggons for South Africa, and is trying to ascertain from Lord Roberts what class of waggons he requires.

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CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK.

The New South Wales Minister of Education, addressing a number of teachers who had volunteered, advised them if they come across a spy or a traitor not to shoot him, but to tie a rope round his neck and drown him like a dog.

At Holy Trinity church, London, the first Sunday after the relief of Ladysmith, it was given out that Lady White and her daughters desire to return thanks to Almighty God for the relief of Ladysmith and the safety of Sir George White and his force.

Lord Salisbury is about to lose another private secretary, Viscount Newport being ordered to the front with his regiment, the Royal Scots Militia.

Twenty-five additional bushmen are going to the front from Tasmania, so that the full contingent consists of 1,313 men.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Since England's military resources have been concentrated in South Africa, the Czar's Government has made several moves on the strategic chessboard. It has guaranteed a loan to Persia, for the repayment of which the receipts of all the Persian custom houses are pledged, including those upon which British creditors have hitherto possessed a lien. In consideration of this loan Russia, is to have railway concessions which, when turned to account, should render her ascendancy at Teheran unshakable. It is also certain that the Russian garrisons near the northern frontier of Afghanistan, and especially in the neighborhood of Herat, have been largely re-enforced. More recently, a Russian squadron has appeared off the west coast of Corea,, and has demanded the cession of a naval station near 'Chemulpo.'

None of the three moves mentioned, however, is likely to plunge Russia into war. Her preponderance in Persia is, at present, uncontested; Japan is not yet ready to measure strength with her, and could not safely make acquisition of a Corean seaport by the latter power a casus belli; finally, nobody believes that Russia will invade Afghanistan until that kingdom is thrown into confusion by the death of the present Ameer. More serious than any of these demonstrations is the assemblage of an army, said to number a quarter of a million men, on the Russian coast of the Black Sea; adequate arrangements have been made, it is reported, for the transfer of this force to Turkish territory, and the Black Sea fleet has been mobilized in order to protect the transports. Such is the instrument of coercion by which the St. Petersburg Government is backing its demand for the concession of railway privileges in Turkish Armenia and the adjoining territory, which would enable it to control the interchange of commodities between Asiatic Turkey and Persia, and also to compete with the railways, which German subjects intend to build, for the trade of the Euphrates and Tigris valleys.

For upward of twenty years, Russia has had a grievance against Turkey which could, at any moment, be made a pretext for war. By the Treaty of Berlin, the Sultan was bound, not only to cede to the Czar the towns of Kars and Batoum and the surrounding districts, but also to pay a considerable pecuniary indemnity. The indemnity has not been paid; it is doubtful if the Sultan has the power, even if he has the wish, to pay it. Hitherto Russia has shown herself an indulgent creditor, and, even now would refrain from pressing for the payment, of the money due if the desired railway privileges in Armenia were conceded. Under the circumstances, Abdul Hamid will, undoubtedly, yield to the pressure brought to bear upon him by the Russian Foreign Office, unless he is assured that Germany approves of his resistance, and will defend him from attack. Is there any likelihood that such assurances will be forthcoming from Berlin?

It is not credible that the Emperor William II., will committ himself to a course, the outcome of which would be a war with Russia, in which he himself could not count upon the aid of Austria and Italy, while the Czar would, unquestionably, have the support of France. The Triple Alliance does not pledge the Austrian and Italian partners to co-operate with Germany in such a contest, and they would have nothing to gain by transcending the letter of their compact. It may be said that Italy covets Tripoli, and that Austria would like to extend her Bosnian province to Salonica and thus to secure a seaport on the Aegean. But the Sultan will never agree to pay such a price for Austrian and Italian assistance. He would prefer to make the railway concessions desired by Russia, and to remain on friendly terms with the Czar's Government.

So long as Austria and Italy should refuse to co-operate in the defence of Turkey, the German Emperor could not afford to act, lest he should find himself isolated in Europe. No doubt, if he could rely on the vigorous support of the British Foreign Office, the scale might be turned in his favor at Rome and Vienna, but it is not England's cue to provoke the Czar's hostility. She wants peace in the Far East, in Central Asia and in Egypt, and, for that reason, she is no more likely at present to oppose Russia's acquisition of railway privileges in Asiatic Turkey than she was to oppose similar concessions in Persia. She cannot fight Russia with a fleet and she has no soldiers left with which to fight her on land, except in India, and even the Anglo-Indian army is depleted by the contingents sent to South Africa. After the war in South Africa is over England will be in a different position, and can then take measures to prevent Russia's attainment of a dangerous preponderance in Asia Minor and in the Euphrates Valley. As things are now Egypt could not be protected against a Russian army advancing by land in a southwesterly direction from the Caucasus, and it is by no means certain that a large French expedition could not be despatched by sea to Alexandria. On the whole, we may take for granted that, if Russia's plans are limited to railway concessions in Armenia, she will not have to resort to force in order to fulfil her wishes.

One of the officers of the Salvation Army sent to South Africa writes:—"I spent the whole of yesterday afternoon with the soldiers at Fort Napier. The sergeant of the Queen was telling me how the Gordon Highlanders acted at the storming of Dundee. Just as they were nearing the Boers a number of men in the Boer lines held up their guns and yelled, "For God's sake, don't shoot, lads! We are Scotch, haven't fired a shot at you!' It appears they stayed too long in the Transvaal, and were commandeered and compelled to fight.

The Law Times calles attention to the fact that the operation of the Wills Act is suspended in the case of soldiers serving on the field. In consequence of this it is open to a soldier to make his will on the battlefield by word of mouth. His will is also valid even though he be a minor when he makes it, and a subsequent marriage does not annul a will so made, as would ordinarily be the case.

Agricultural

WOOD ASHES FOR ALL CROPS.

Good wood ashes are usually looked upon simply as a source of potash. While it is undoubtedly true that this potash is very available and is taken up by the plant at once, the good results from applying this fertilizer are partially due to the small percentage of phosphoric acid, ranging from 1 to 2 per cent. and quite a percentage of lime, amounting in some cases to 35 per cent. In soils of mineral origin the lime is very effective, in liberating plant food, particularly potash. The combined effect, therefore, of all these elements in wood ashes is always beneficial. Ashes have always been considered an excellent fertilizer. The supply, however, is rapidly decreasing, and in many cases it is impossible to obtain them. We depend chiefly on Canada and even that source is not always reliable.

Furthermore, the wood ashes now on the market are exceedingly variable in composition. Some contain a great deal of dirt, and not a few lots have been leached for making soap before being sold for fertilizers. This leaching process removes nearly everything that is soluble, and is particularly effective in taking out the potash. However, the greater part of the lime remains, and even leached ashes can be applied with profit. The ashes should always be bought subject to analyses or the purchaser should require a guarantee as to the percentage of potash and phosphoric acid, particularly the former.

It is generally understood that hardwood ashes are much richer in potash than soft wood, such as that from maple, poplar, cottonwood and the like. This is true to a certain extent. However, softwood ashes are much lighter than hardwood and consequently weight for weight, the difference is not so great as is sometimes supposed. Prof. Voorhees states that the average commercial ashes sold for fertilizers contain about 6 per cent of potash, 2 per cent of phosphoric acid and 32 per cent of lime. High grade ashes have frequently contained from 10 to 40 per cent. of potash. Leached ashes contain about 1 1-4 per cent of potash, 1 1-2 to 2 per cent. of phosphoric acid and 29 per cent of lime. Tanbark ashes are poor in fertilizing content and seldom contain more than two per cent. of potash. Limekiln ashes are also poor in potash, but contain a very high percentage of lime, amounting in many cases to 50 per cent.

There is a difference of opinion as to the value of coal ashes. If obtained from anthracite coal, they contain a trace of potash, 8 to 15 per cent. of lime and magnesia, and some soda. The chief value from an application of this class, however, is supposed to be chiefly due to the mechanical effects upon the soil. At any rate coal ashes of all kinds should be preserved and used as a top-dressing to grasses or about fruit trees and bushes.

As ashes contain a large percentage of lime, it is thought advisable to apply them to the clover crop which precedes the field crop to be fertilized. They can be put on at the rate of from 1 to 2 tons per acre. in the fall and winter. The clover sod must be broken the following spring, and the cultivated crop planted. Thereafter to maintain the fertility of the soil 500 lbs. per acre should be applied either the following winter or early spring. Where intensive culture is practiced, such as in the growing of potatoes, tobacco and hops, the application may be increased to 3 1-3 tons. Where large amounts like this are applied the application must be made the fall and winter previous, or at least a part of it should be put on in advance. For garden crops a lighter aplication is satisfactory and may be put on very early in spring.

In any event, whether applied to field crops or to orchards, the application should be made some time ahead of planting. The ashes should be thoroughly and uniformly mixed with the surface soil. Where only a small amount is to be used, say 300 to 400 lbs. per acre, it is best to scatter it about the hill, working it in well. In no case put on a heavy application near the plant, as the caustic effect is always injurious. As a general rule for field crops, when the application is made in the spring the ground is plowed and the ashes scattered over the surface, which is then harrowed and prepared thoroughly for seeding. Where the soil is deficient in phosphoric acid it will pay to add to the application of ashes 300 to 500 lbs of bone.

For lawns, where a heavy, vigorous growth is always desirable, the grass plants must be well fed. The first spring apply a heavy coating, three to four tons, of wood ashes to begin with, and then every spring thereafter put on 500 lbs. of ashes and a little bone and the grass will have a dark green color, resist the effect of drouth and will crowd out the weeds.

PLANTING AND CULTIVATING STRAWBERRIES.

Do not plant in a small garden if you can help it, but choose some place where you can use a plow and team. A few long rows are better than many short ones. Never plant in the fall unless you have time and money to throw away. Plant on ground free of weed seed or you will rue it. Plant as soon as the ground is in good working condition, but not before. Have the clods well pulverized, then mark the ground off with furrows 3 or 4 in. deep and 40 in. apart. Have your plants ready before the furrow is opened. Take up a small bunch of plants, dip the roots in water, then sprinkle fresh dirt on them till it adheres to every rootlet, then get them set quickly before the dirt dries on them, and you will not lose a plant. Plant them 18 in. apart, spreading the roots out well and pressing the dirt down firmly on the roots. Plant them on the level. If they are above it they will dry out and die. If below, in cultivation the clods will roll down on them and cause much unnecessary labor.

The same day you plant them, cultivate them. Keep the surface foose at all times until frost in the fall. Never plow with big shovels. Never throw the dirt up to them so as to make a ridge. At all times, plow as close to the plants as you can, dragging the runners with the plow or cultivator into a close row. If weeds appear in the rows, pull them out. Do not cut off the runners. If you will let no fruit grow on them the first year you will have a bigger crop the next. It pays to pinch off the fruit stems. Do not neglect this crop and you will have a thing of beauty and pleasure in the end.

TREATMENT OF MANURE.

All manure should be kept under cover. When exposed to the weather the loss to the farmer cannot be realized. It should be turned over and well mixed two or three times through the winter in order to rot it before applying to the different crops, and all remaining over should be composted. A few barrels of lime to mix with muck and manure will add greatly to the value of the compost. Some good soil free from small stone is also beneficial. When obtainable, sea and rock weed well chopped up by the action of the sea can be added, which is a great help to lighten up any heavy, stiff clay land; in fact, it is a benefit to any land. Too many farmers depend mostly on the manure saved from the stock to keep up the farm. In many cases the roots and other crops use all manure obtainable, and when no attention is paid to the compost heap the meadows are neglected and in due time become exhausted. You must feed the farm if you expect it to feed you.

EDUCATED NOSES.

Curious Facts About a Little Known Profession.

Men whose olfactory nerves are so highly developed that they can differentiate' between odours that the uneducated noses cannot discern are employed by chemists, tea-importers, and the large wine and liquor firms.

A perfectly-trained nose is of the utmost use in the compounding of perfumes, and it therefore happens that practical chemists should train their sense of smell to a very high pitch of perfection.

Artists in sniffs can improve their talent by constantly exercising it. It has been proved that blind people depend a great deal upon their sense of smell.

The throat as well as the nose of a professional sniffer must be entirely healthy, for any imperfection in either locality is apt to affect the nasal organ deleteriously. The very greatest care has to be taken against catching colds, for influenza or catarrh of any kind will literally put a man off the scent for many days, and sometimes for months together.

A highly educated nose reaches a state of useful activity in about five years, but ten are required to create it a B.A. among noses, and even at such a state of perfection it can easily be beaten by many of the "lower animals," for these make up their lack of speech by their marvellous sense of smell.

Men who cultivate their olfactory nerves for the perfume manufactory sniff in a particular manner and quite scientifically. Compounding chemists will not thrust their noses into the neck of a bottle, but will pour a portion of the extract into the palm of one hand, and rub it well in.

In this way the fumes become disseminated in the air immediately below the nostril, and an energetic sniff drives them forcibly against the olfactory nerves, which is the way in which they should be presented to be properly realized.

Experiments are often made by men who are nose educators. Such have revealed the fact that morphia, mixed with sugar and taken like snuff, will paralyze the olfactory nerves and render the sense of smell powerless.

Strychnine, on the other hand, vitalizes it and makes it more sensitive. It is not recommended to those who live in over-odourous neighborhoods.

Musk is the most enduring of perfumes. Two or three grains of it will scent a room for years. It is odd, but true, that the sense of smell is most alert when the air contains a considerable amount of vapour.

OFFICIAL PRAYER.

Prepared By Episcopal Bishops For British Soldiers in Africa.

The great majority of the services held in the British army and navy, are according to the Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church. The Board of Bishops of the Church of England has just issued a special "official prayer," for the use of their soldiers in South Africa. The phraseology is interesting when read reflectively, It is as follows:

"Almighty Father, I have often sinned against Thee. Oh, wash me in the precious blood of the Lamb. O God, fill me with Thy Holy Spirit, that I may lead a new life. Spare me to see again those whom I love at home, or fit me for Thy presence in peace. Strengthen us to quit ourselves like men in our right and great cause. Keep us faithful unto death, calm in danger, patient in suffering, merciful as well as brave, true to our Queen our country and our colors. If it by Thy will, enable us to win victory for Britain; but, above all, grant us the better victory. over temptation and sin, over life and death. that we may be more than conquerors through Him Who loved us, and laid down His life for us, Jesus, our Saviour, the Captain of the army of God. Amen,"

A series of extraordinary scenes were witnessed at the weekly meeting of the Belfast Board of Guardians recently. A Unionist member rose to move a resolution congratulating the Royal Irish Rifles on their conduct during war, Lord Roberts and General Buller on the success of their military movements, and General White on his gallant defence of Ladysmith. A Nationalist member objecting, the Unionists Guardians, rose in a body and sang "God Save the Queen," the Nationalists meanwhile hissing, groaning and hooting. Several challenges to fight followed, but harmony was eventually restored by the chairman taking up the next matter on the agenda.

Reuter's correspondent says there is reason to believe that many skilled Belgian and Dutch artillerists have been engaged and imported into the Transvaal from April, 1896, in regular batches up to the eve of war. They received £50 in cash, the same amount on arrival at Pretoria, 10s. a day pay, and grants of land. Specialists also accompanied the new guns.

THOSE LOVING GIRLS.

Mattie. Loss of sleep, you know, means loss of beauty.

Helen. Indeed! How long have you been troubled with insomnia?

RUSHED.

You seem to be very busy, Miss Dorothy?

I should think so. I'm doing so many things for so many people that I can't do anything for anybody.

HOUSEHOLD.

TROUBLES THAT DO NOT COME.

Of the hard and weary loads
'Neath which we bend and fall,
The troubles that do not come
Are the heaviest ones of all.

For grief that cuts like a knife
There's oil of comfort and cure,
And the Hand which binds the weight
Brings strength and grace to endure.

But to phantoms of pain and woe
The lips of Pity are dumb,
And there's never oil of wine
For troubles that do not come.

There's a song to lighten the toil,
And a staff for climbing the height,
But never an Alpine stock
For the hills that are out of sight.

There are bitter herbs enough
In the brimming cup of to-day,
Without the sprig of rue
From to-morrow's unknown way.

Then take the meal that is spread,
And go with a song on thy way,
And let not the morrow shade
The sunshine and joy of to-day.

PRETTY RUGS.

Very handsome rugs are made by drawing narrow strips of soft woollen goods through burlap with a steel crochet hook and trimming off the loops evenly on the top. Cut the burlap one inch larger all around than you wish the rug to be; turn the raw edge over one inch and hem it. Then sew it in a frame, just as you would a quilt for quilting. If you think you cannot afford to buy stamped patterns, get plain burlap and sketch the design on it. Geometrical designs are pretty and are not hard to draw. Floral patterns may be stamped with some of the large perforated stamping patterns or copied from pictures. Light grounds are prettiest for flowers.

Soft woollen underwear is excellent for filling the designs. A very pretty rug has a landscape with a deer in the foreground. It was made of old woollen underwear dyed the colors required with diamond dye, and looks very natural. Ivy leaves on a black background make a pretty border for a rug. Cut the pattern out of pasteboard and mark them on the burlap with a pointed stick dipped in bluing. An old castle with a river and bridge in front would be pretty for the centre of the rug.

Small square or brick-shaped pieces of Brussels carpeting, bound with cloth or dress braid, and sewed together in the proper shape makes pretty rugs. A plain border may be put around it, and a heavy crocheted fringe sewed across the ends if you like.

To make a matting rug, out a piece of closely woven matting any length desired, and paint a spray of poppies, or other large flowers with green leaves in the centre. Edge it all around with rope, and finish the ends with tassels made of frayed rope.

Oil cloth mats may be made of old Brussels carpet. Cut it the size you wish, tack it down loosely to an attic or other floor that is not used much. then paint it with brown house paint. The wrong side of the carpet should be uppermost. Let it dry in thoroughly, and add a good coat of varnish. Let it dry a week or two and it can be washed like other oilcloth. When the varnish and paint wear off renew them, and it will last four or five times as long as common oilcloth.

A soft rug to lay beside the bed may be made as follows:—For the foundation take a piece of burlap or old ingrain carpet the size you wish for the rug, and hem or bind it all around. Select some cast-off men's clothing of any color, cut the goods into strips three inches wide, and slash all along one edge two inches deep and one-fourth of an inch wide. Sew a strip of the darkest material all around the foundation, allowing the fringe to cover the hem. Proceed in this manner with all the other pieces, taking care to have each strip overlap the one before it at least an inch. The last strip, which will come in the middle, should be slashed on both edges, and made somewhat full.

Very pretty rugs are made from common burlap, worked in cross stitch with yarn. Select a smooth, firm piece of burlap and dye it black. Hem the edges and work a design in each corner and the centre in cross stitch. using bright colors. Place them in a rug frame to work them. Almost every housekeeper has odds and ends of colored wools that can be used, or one can usually buy remnants of yarn and zephyr for a trifle from the dry goods store. Line the rug with cloth.

E. J. C.

CARE OF WORKING HANDS.

Callous spots may be removed by the use of pumice stone, and stains by lemon, borax or ammonia, according to their nature. At night, after washing, rub the hands well with cold cream or any other emollient that agrees with the skin, wipe off all superfluous grease and wear old large gloves with the palms cut out to afford ventilation, to keep the sheets of the bed from being soiled. Never wash the hands in very hot or very cold water, as excessive heat and excessive cold are as destructive to the beauty of the hands as to the beauty of the face. Moist hands are unpleasant both to their owners and to those with whom they come in contact. To keep them dry wash them occasionally in water in which a lump of alum has been dissolved. Sunburn and freckles may be removed by the use of lemon juice and glycerine in equal proportions, or with a paste of cornstarch and glycerine.

I was talking to a lady whom I was sitting by at a dinner party last week, and deploring the loss of so many useful British lives in South Africa. She took this coolly, for she said that Great Britain is over-populated, and that it can well afford a little blood letting. I pointed out, however, to her that there are about a million more women in Great Britain than men, and that, consequently, the difficulty in finding a husband would be even greater after the war than it already is. The lady is unmarried herself, and this view of the South African butcher's bill so struck her that by the time we arrived at the entrees, she had her doubts as to the policy of the war; at the sweets, she was convinced that it was an immoral war; and I left her a peace-at-any-price girl.

President Kruger's pipe has been the subject of a judicial notice in Dublin Students of Trinity College broke the windows of a firm of tobacconists because it was said, they had once presented a pipe to the President of the Transvaal Republic.

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