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MIRAMICHI ADVANCE

Vol. 25. No. 20. CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK, MARCH 29, 1900. D. G. SMITH, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR
TERMS—$1.00 a Year, in Advance

BUSINESS NOTICE

The "MIRAMICHI ADVANCE" is published at Chatham, Miramichi, N. B., every THURSDAY morning in time for despatch by the earliest mails of that day.

It is sent to any address in Canada, or the United States (Postage prepaid by the publisher) at ONE DOLLAR A YEAR, payable invariably in advance.

Advertisements, other than yearly or by the season are inserted at eight cents per line nonpareil, for 1st insertion, and three cents per line for each continuation.

Yearly, or season advertisements, are taken at the rate of $5.00 an inch per year. The matter, if space is secured by the year, or season, may be changed under arrangement made therefore with the publisher.

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

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75 Rolls Dry and Tarred Sheathing Paper.
75 Kegs Wire Nails, $2.45 per Keg.
30 Boxes Window Glass.
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10 Tons Refined Iron, $2.50 per 100 lbs.
Cast Steel, Bellows, Chain, Nuts, Bolts, Washers, Grindstones, Grindstone Fixtures.
White Mountain Ice Cream Freezers, $1.90 Clothes Wringers, $2.50 Daisy Churns, $3.75
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Barber's Toilet Clippers, Horse Clippers, Lawn Shears, Accordions, Violins, Bows and Fixings.
Farming Tools, All Kinds
Mower Sections, 70c. doz. Heads, 40c. each. Knife Heads, $3.00.
" " Guards, 35c. each, Rivets, Oilers.
My Stock of General Hardware is complete in every branch and too numerous to mention.
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"BOBS" AFRAID OF CATS.

Lord Roberts, commander of two hundred thousand British soldiers in South Africa, possessor of the Victoria Cross and all sorts of medals, is about paralyzed with fear at the sight of a cat. No cat has been admitted to the Roberts house for years. During one of the actions outside Cabul, when bullets and gunshot were freely falling around the General and his staff, he was, as usual, coolly indifferent, but all at once he was seen to tremble and pale with fright. The hero of a hundred fights pointed helplessly over his shoulder to a neighboring wagon, and the staff saw a half starved black cat perched on top of it. His strange fear of the cat was so great as to completely distract General Roberts' attention from the field of battle, and it was not until a subaltern drove the animal away that the English general was able to bring his thoughts back to the conflict.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The Perthes Geographical Establishment at Gotha, Germany, issues at intervals a volume of statistics entitled "Die Bevolkerung der Erde," in which the most recent information as to the population of the World is summarized. The most painstaking methods are employed to reach satisfactory conclusions as to regions where no exact data can be obtained. All sources of information are critically examined and the grounds upon which estimates are based are clearly set forth. There is probably no other publication dealing with population which is so widely accepted as authoative. The tenth volume is about to appear and the installment relating to Europe, prepared by Prof. Dr. A. Supan, has been published. Most of the information it contains is based upon censuses made in 1895-98, though a part depends upon the enumerations of 1890-94. Dr. Supan reaches the conclusion that the present population of Europe, in round numbers, is 381,000,000. According to "Die Bevolkerung der Erde" for 1870, the population at that time was 302,000,000, and the increase in thirty years has been 79,000,000 or an annual average of over 2,630,000.

Le Mouvement Geographique of Brussels has recently published a very interesting paper by M. Lancaster, director of the Belgian Meterological Service, on some of the earlier computations of the population of Europe. The first attempt to reach an approximate conclusion was in 1787, when the celebrated German geographer Busching estimated the population of Europe at 150,000,000. This estimate, very likely, was far from accurate but it is accepted as the best approximation attainable at that time. If we compare it with the present figures an increase of population of more than 2,000,000 a year for over a century is indicated. In 1830 the French geographer and statistician Balbi gave the population of Europe as 288,293,000, but this estimate proved later to be excessive. The first man able to base his work largely upon official censuses or the investigation of careful writers was the famous German statistician Dieterici, who, in 1855, computed the total population to be 272,000,000. From the satisfactory results he obtained it is evident that the augmentation in the number of inhabitants in the past forty-five years has been over 100,000,000.

The result of Dr. Supan's computations shows a mean density of population for the continent of 39 to the square kilometre. The mean density in the United States, according to the census of 1890, was 7 to the square kilometre. Belgium remains the most densely populated country, with 224 to the square kilometre, Netherlands coming next with 152, then the British islands with 128, Italy 111, Germany 97, Switzerland 76, France 71, and Austria-Hungary 70. The tables illustrate that very significant feature of the second half of the century—the more rapid increase of urban than of rural population. Over one-third of the people of the United Kingdom now live in cities of 50,000 or more inhabitants. Towns of 50,000 residents are classed among the large centres of population and in all the leading countries of Europe, with the exception of Russia and Switzerland, from a fifth to more than a third of the total population now live in these larger cities. The tendency, in this industrial age, to abandon the country and crowd into the towns is strikingly illustrated by Mr. Weber in his recent book, "The Growth of Cities in the Nineteenth Century." He mentions as typical the United States in 1790, with a population of 3,900,000, of whom only 3.14 per cent. lived in towns of 10,000 or more inhabitants; and Australia in 1891, with about the same population, 3,800,000, of whom 33.20 per cent. lived in towns or 10,000 of more population.

DANGEROUS AND INGLORIOUS.

Patrol Duty is a Soldier's Least Welcome Task.

Of the word "patrol," if you look it up in the dictionary, you will find a sample explanation; but the average English at home has no idea of its real meaning as exhibited in warfare—especially war against an enemy like the Boer, says the London mail.

It requires more courage, more real pluck to patrol the kobjes round about our camp than to make a charge in company with thousands of your fellows in the teeth of a deadly fire. In the latter case the excitement, the spirit of the military display, the confidence in yourself and officer, the anxiety to get at the enemy, all these combine to impel the men to that brilliant dash and pluck for which our army is noted.

But the patrolling—that is quite a different matter. Two or three mounted men walk their horses in a leisurely way up to the kopjes scattered all over the veldt and examine them for signs of the enemy. Finding none, the next cover is examined, and so on. The patrols are on the open, the Boers lurking behind the boulders, hidden from sight. Possibly the first notice the unlucky man has of the vicinity of the enemy is a volley fired at close range, and then it is a race for life. I have watched these patrols from a distance, with nerves all on the quiver.

I have been with them and experienced the weird feelings that, in spite of every effort, creeps over you as you proceed closer and closer to some isolated kopje. Are the Boers there or not? Then tension grows keener and keener until one feels it would be a relief were the enemy to open fire. From one kopje to another the patrol has to go—taking his life in his hands—doing work which, if necessary, is one of the most dangerous, arduous and trying in the service.

And if you are shot there is no glory attached to your memory. "So-and-So was shot while on patrol;" a few simple words which convey a great deal, but only to the initiated. I have been there and know, and can say without exaggeration, that I was glad when the enemy opened fire. The whizzing of the bullets all around the rush for life, and the end of the suspense—the excitement of it was glorious.

The Home

THE SONG OF SONGS.

Ah! poet vainly striving for a theme
To voice the unformed music of the heart,
And catch within the cunning net of art
The faint elusive phantoms of thy dream;

Leave lonely fields and yet more lonely throngs,
And in the kindly twilight stand before
The meanest cabin; from its open door,
In low, sweet strains, will float the song of songs,

As soft the mother's eyes yearn o'er her child,
And from her crooning lips, like incense rare,
She breathes the vespers of her mother-care,
Above the lids its music hath beguiled.

TO CLEAN RIBBONS.

Now that ribbons are so extensively worn it is quite worth while to know how to clean them successfully and easily.

The two methods here given have been put to the practical test many times over, so there need be no hesitancy about trying either one through fear of failure or of unsatisfactory results.

The first method is exceedingly simpel, and answers the purpose, for all except white ribbons or those that are very badly mussed. Fill a glass fruit jar about half full of gasoline—more or less, according to the amount of ribbon to be cleaned. Place the soiled ribbons in it,—all colors, lengths and kinds may go in at once—and screw the cover on tightly. Shake the bottle occasionally, and leave it closed for from two to six hours or over night. Then take out the ribbons, shake each one well and hang it to dry in the open air. The ribbons will be clean, and the dirt will be found in the bottom of the jar. Of course, the ribbons need a thorough airing, and sun bath to remove the odor of the gasoline, but that is all. No pressing is required, as the gasoline does not affect them as water would.

The clear gasoline should be poured off without disturbing that at the bottom; then the dirt which has settled at the bottom should be emptied out and the clear gasoline put back, ready for use another time. Keep it tightly covered, and, of course, never use it near a fire, because of the danger of its igniting.

The gasoline will turn white ribbons yellow, so this method is not advisable for them. It also leaves the ribbons in the same condition that it found them as regards their being mussed or crumpled, so those that are badly creased should be given the treatment that is accorded the white ribbons.

Prepare a suds of soft water and any pure soap, wash the ribbon in this just as you would wash a fine handkerchief, rinse and let it partially dry. Take it down while still damp in all parts and roll it smoothly over a wide card or piece of pasteboard, rolling a piece of clean white muslin with it. Wrap the muslin around last, so that the ribbon shall be covered, and place the whole under a heavy weight. A letter press is an excellent place in which to press it. Leave it until it shall have had time to dry.

The ribbon will come out looking fresh and clean ,and will have lost none of its "life," as is the case with ribbons which are pressed with an iron.

If a good soap is used the colors will not run, and this process takes out the creases as well as removes the dirt.

GOOD FERN FOR HOUSE CULTURE.

The "Boston fern," Nephrolepis exaltata Bostoniensis, is one of the few ferns that adapt themselves easily to house culture. It has the hard epidermis, with a large amount of silica, that enables it like the palm, to endure the conditions of our ordinary living rooms. Nephrolepis exaltata, often called the sword fern on account of the outline of its long, narrow fronds, is called "the Boston fern," because some years ago at Boston a plant developed extra long fronds, so that their weight carried them over causing a very graceful appearance. For the same reason it is called the Fountain fern. A well taken care of plant attains a large size. The soil best suited to it is an equal mixture of good fibrous loam, leaf mold and sand. The pot should have good drainage. The greatest growth will be in spring and summer, and in this condition the plant will need a generous supply of water; at other times a moderate amount will suffice. A good light, but not strong sunshine is desirable. Keep the foliage clean and look out for scale insects. An occasional light spraying with clean water is an advantage.

EUROPEAN COOKERY.

The Exposition at Paris will attract a great body of American visitors. When its allurements are dulled, a great many will look about for other amusements, and among them will be a number who will find it in gastronomic diversion. This will amount to a liberal education to many if they will seek the dishes for which various localities of Europe, outside of the great capitals, are famous. For example, at Boulogne freshly caught soles are prepared in a manner superior to that employed elsewhere. Those who propose to get about on bicycles or to travel by automobile, at the old inns of Brittany, situated on the by-ways, will gind enjoyable meals in which the game of the heaths and shellfish of the shores occupy a prominent place. In Normandy there will be bouillabaisses and salmis made of guillemots and fishing-birds. The latter suggest, rankness, but the cooks of Normandy know how to suppress all hint of that. At Nimes can be procured famous stuffed green tomatoes, and at Vaucluse trout and crayfish; at Perigueux truffled turkeys and truffled partridge pies; at Bordeaux pre-sale mutton, mushrooms, the most delicate sardines and ducks' livers with olives. Spain is rather a dry country for the epicure. Stuffed peppers and the hams of Montrachet, from hogs fattened on acorns, will merit trial. There is a legend that these hogs feed on snakes, but all swine do that if they are allowed free range. Italian cookery has fallen to a low level compared to its former high standard. In Italy the ordinary tourist will not be likely to taste genuine beccaficos, which in these days are for a great measure birds of legends. Any of the smaller species do duty for them, and when all birds are lacking Italian cooks know how to counterfeit beccaficos in form and flavor in a concoction of liver and bacon. There remain, however, in pristine perfection the risottos of Florence and the maccaronis of Naples. The same is true of the delicacies procurable in the Greek islands, such as fish soups, mullet cooked in oils, lamb and kid stuffed with pistachio nuts, and pastry of surpassing merit. Their kabobs or curries are also highly praised, but no first-rate curry can be had where the ingredients that go to compose it are not indigenous. Austria offers a wide field for epicurian exploration. The cookery there is as varied as the nationalities that compose the empire. Of Hungarian dishes we know something in New York, but we are ignorant of the flavors of Bohemian pheasants, Austrian mutton and the famous cakes and confectionery of Vienna. German tables d'hote will be of interest to tourists from our Western States as offering a basis of comparison with those of Chicago and Sioux City. The wise traveller will content himself with the meritorious sausages, rye bread and sound beer of Germany. Lovers of the best vintages of Burgundy will find them in Holland. There is hardly an inn where Romanee Conti or Clos Vougeot cannot be found of better qualty than can be procured at the more pretentious restaurants of the great capitals.

CRITICS OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

English Soldiers From a German, a French and a Roumanian Viewpoint.

Among the more friendly of the critics of the British Army who are just now taking notes of its imperfections and better qualities, is the Deutsche Heeres-Zeitung. While sternly criticising and making the most of the mistakes committed in South Africa, it has high praise for the British regimental officers for the courage and intrepidity with which they are leading their men. Where errors have been made, it holds they have been with those highly placed who have seemed to believe that their new adversary was half barbarian, whereas he is really a highly trained soldier and efficient in the use of modern weapons. The Deutsche Zeitung praises the rank and file and draws attention to the marches made under trying conditions, in burning heat, often without sufficient water, followed by bivouacking in the open on cold and sometimes rainy nights.

The Nouvelle Revue treats the subject of its criticism from a different point of view in a discussion by M. Michel Delines on a paper by a Mr. Vassilevski, apparently a Russian. This gentleman had been visiting the barracks of the Household Cavalry in London, the comfort of which surprised him, especially the excellence of the table service, with its ale and various sauces, and the electric lighting. These, however, it may be remarked, are not found in the quarters of the more humble Tommy Atkins. Mr. Vassilevski was much struck by the tall, well set-up figures of the men who were engaged in outdoor exercises. Their twisted moustaches, well-dressed hair and chins impeccably shaven, and their boots polished to such a degree "as to throw into ecstasy the whole world of bootmakers," proved to him clearly that these men were of the elite and the darlings of the nursemaids in the park.

This picture of the private soldier of aristocratic corps of the British Army is matched by one more imaginative still of the officer. According to this writer the British officer is the lion of the drawing-room and the hero of the divorce court. He is perverted, capricious and blase, a reader of French novels, and a frequenter of music halls. He dwells in a palace, has a negro for a groom and a Frenchman for his chef. He enters the army that he may wear a uniform and live at a military club, but he cares nothing for his profession and has no interest in service. Such is the British officer as seen by M. Vassilevski and appreciated by M. Delines.

The Independance Roumaine of Bucharest sees the subjects of its criticism from again a different point of view. In a general way it has a fairly good opinion of the British soldiers, but cannot help remarking that they are of a low class, and marked with the "gross and brutal character which is fundamental in the Anglo-Saxon." The army training however has emancipated them from the defects of their origin and they fight well, but without a real sense of patriotism though they have a certain traditional loyalty. Soldiers of this class require officers of a high order and that the Roumanian critic believes the British officer to be. He "hunts the tiger in India, the elephant in Africa, and the native everywhere," and is always ready for adventure. "For the most part they despise strategy and tactics," but they have the instincts of war and compensate for their deficiencies by coolness and courage.

These are samples of the tone in which the European Continental press speaks of the British Army, giving credit to the merit of the fighting element, but as a general rule criticising severely the generals and staff.

RIFLES DEADLIER THAN CANNON.

It is generally supposed that more men are killed by artillery than infantry fire. This is a totally erroneous notion, as from medical reports, it would appear that the rifle is responsible for nearly 90 per cent. of the British killed. In the Franco-German war it is estimated that 6,969 Germans were killed by rifle bullets, and only 695 by artillery fire.

IN MOURNING.

What! back again! exclaimed the young housekeeper, you can't expect me to give you cake every day.

No, lady, repleid the poor beggar. I thought maybe you had an old suit of black clothes you might give me. Me poor ole mother eat the cake you gev me yestid'y.

"My money is always in creasing," remarked the tailor, as he proceeded to press the trousers.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

How Agriculture is Encouraged in New South Wales.

The importance attached by the various Australian governments to the encouragement of agriculture, especially by the diffusion of practical knowledge, is shown in the fact that in most of the colonies a department of agriculture has been established, the official head of which is a member of the colonial ministry. In New South Wales the necessity of providing the means of technical agricultural education, and establishing a college and model farms in various parts of the colony, became fully recognized, and a site suitable for a central establishment was selected at Ham Common, near the town of Richmond, in the Hawkesbury district, about thirty-nine miles from Sydney, where an area of about 4,000 acres was reserved for the purpose. The buildings and furnishings of the college and farm, now in the seventh year of existence, were completed in January, 1896, and officially opened on the 14th of April of the same year. Accommodation is provided for ninety-six resident students, and during 1898 there was a full roll. Theoretical as well as practical instruction is imparted by experts in every branch of agriculture, and experimental work is carried on with cereal and other crops, fertilizers are tested analyses of soil and made and the arts of dishorning and speying cattle, with other veterinary surgical practices, are taught. The live stock attached to the farm and college comprises 46 horses, 57 bullocks 1151 head of dairy cattle, 140 pigs and 130 sheep. There is an orchard, thirty acres in extent, and a vineyard, ten acres in extent, and the cultivation of plants for the expression of scent has also been begun.

Beside the practice of general dairy farming work, instruction is imparted in cheese-making, also in the management and breeding of poultry, in the rearing of bees and the preparation of honey for the market, in the killing and dressing of sheep in the carpenter's and the blacksmith's arts, in the construction of fences and in various mechanical trades. There are also experimental farms in Bomen, 304 miles from Sydney, in the Murrumbidgee district, and at Wollongbar, 366 miles from Sydney, in the Richmond river district. The former is near the town of Wagga Wagga, and embraces an area of 2,400 acres, of which 1,200 acres are in cultivation, 1,000 acres being devoted to growing cereals, of which 500 acres are for seed wheat, the remainder being utilized for oaten hay and malting barley; 85 acres to fruit trees and grape vines, and 80 acres to forage plants, such as maize, sorghum, millet, barley, rye, oats, cow pea, roots, grasses, etc., while 8 acres are under olive trees, the remaining portion being taken up by irrigation plots, nursery and experimental plots. Quarters have been provided for twenty-five students, and there are also cottages for the manager and workmen; likewise barns, a hay shed and stables. There is no natural water supply, but dams of 6,000, 10,000 and 40,000 yards capacity have been excavated, and are used for supplying water to the irrigation plots Some thousands of farmers have visited the farm since its establishment.

AFRICAN DIAMONDS.

Appearance the Beauties Bear In Their Original Home.

The "dry diggings" of the Kimberley district, in South Africa, afford the unique locality in which the diamond has thus far been found in its original home, and all our knowledge of the genesis of the mineral has been derived from study of this locality, says Popular Science Monthly. The mines are located in "pans," in which is found the "blue ground" now recognized as the disintegrated matrix of the diamond. These "pans" are known to be the "pipes," or "necks," of foreign volcanoes, now deeply dissected by the forces of the atmosphere—in fact worn down, if not to their roots, at least to their stumps. These remnants of the "pipes," through which the lava reached the surface, are surrounded in part by a black shale containing a large percentage of carbon, and this is believed to be the material out of which the diamonds have been formed. What appear to be modified fragments of the black shale inclosed within the "pipes" afford evidence that portions of the shale have been broken from the parent beds by the force of the ascending current of lava—a common enough accompaniment to volcanic action—and have been profoundly altered by the high temperature and the extreme hydrostatic pressure under which the mass must have been hid. The most important feature of this alteration has been the recrystallization of the carbon of the shale into diamond.

This apparent explanation of the genesis of the diamond finds strong support in the experiments of Moissan, who obtained artificial diamond by dissolving carbon in molten iron and immersing the mass in cold water until a firm surface crust had formed. The "chilled" mass was then removed, to allow its still molten core to solidify slowly. This it does with the development of enormous pressures, because the natural expansion of the iron on passing into the solid condition is resisted by the strong shell of "chilled" metal. The isolation of the diamond is then accomplished by dissolving the iron in acid.

DOLL KINDERGARTEN.

Over in Germany there are 5,000 childern in one district alone who are employed to dress dolls and help in the manufacture of various kinds of toys. All the children who do this work are under 12 years of age. They are taught the art of dressing a doll at the tender age of 4. At the same time, according to the compulsory education law, they are obliged to go to kindergarten for at least one year, and that term is devoted to such things as the making of dolls and dressing them, doing everything in fact, excepting molding the heads, which is done by men expert at it. After that the German children have three or four years of study, when they are allowed to go into the doll and toy factories to add to the family's income to the extent of a few cents a day.

The children who go to the kindergarten have lots of fun making clothes for the dollies, and so fond do they get of some of the little waxen-faced creatures that they are often sore at heart when the matron comes around and collects them all, to be sent abroad many to America, where more fortunate little girls may buy them and keep them for their own.

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