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Board Works

Jan 1 01

MIRAMICHI ADVANCE

Vol. 25. No. 36. CHATHAM, NEW BRUNSWICK, JULY 19, 1900.

D. G. SMITH, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR
TERMS—$1.00 a Year, in Advance

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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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SPECIOUS REASONING.

A man who is old enough to have rheumatism is fortunate if he is still young enough to turn his disability into a joke.

A minister met a parishioner, and asked him the usual question;

Weel, John, how are you to-day?

Gey weel, sir, gey weel," replied John, cautiously. if it wasna for the rheumatism in my right leg.

Ah, weel, John, be thankful; for there is no mistake. you are getting old like the rest of us and old age does not come alone.

Auld age! said John. I wonder to hear ye. Auld age has naething to do with it. Here's my ither leg, just as auld, and it's quite sound and soople yet.

◆

Golfing skirts of green and brown, peat scented tweed, are a late departure.

The Home

UNIRONED CLOTHING.

To iron flannel is a mistake. Let us spend as many hours as we choose upon table linen and cotton garments. But do let us be wise enough to retain the magnetism, the vitality, of the fresh air and sunshine in under flannel. A hot iron kills those life-giving forces. Don't laugh at this, dear housekeeper. The flannel has enmeshed the subtle, sweet life of the air which only our finer interior senses can apprehend. When once exhausted it can never be regained by proximity to all the orris root or sachet bags in the world.

In place of ironing, if flannels are hung evenly on the line, then pulled out, smoothly folded straight and put under such pressure as the clothes basket with its burden for the next day's ironing, it will be found, the next morning that they are smooth enough to satisfy the most fastidious. In like manner, pull out hosiery, fold, and spread under the basket with the flannels.

Sheets that are in constant use may be treated in like manner. Unless one has tried it, one cannot imagine how well they look after pressure. The hems and selvages may be rubbed over, nothing else. More than one eminent physician is a believer in the life-giving properties of air and sunshine, administered through the interstices of clean, unironed clothing.

HAND-MADE UNDERWEAR.

There is certainly a great satisfaction to be had from home-made underwear. In the first place, the material is sure to be good, the embroidery or lace is apt to be carefully selected, with an eye to durability, and each garment is well fitted and adapted to the wearers' individual whims and fancies. Hand-sewed underwear, which is almost the most expensive to buy, and incomparably the most beautiful, can easily be made at home, out of simplest materials, if only there are patience and even moderate skill.

Silk lingerie is but little used nowadays, because it does not wash prettily, and cleaning is so very expensive. The preferred cottons are nainsook, fine cambric and lawn. Lace is more used than embroidery, and elaborate puffs and tucks have quite gone out. Hemstitching is very much in fashion, as are pin-head tucks and narrow soft lace.

Chemises, corset-covers and many of the new night-gowns, too, are cut low-necked, either heart-shaped, square or round. The prettiest chemises are drawn in at the waist-line with ribbon run through a beading, and the newest corset-covers reach just to the waist and are often filmy bits of lace, lawn and ribbon. The wide umbrella drawers continue most-popular, and of night-gowns there is an infinite variety, including the Empire, Mother Hubbard, round-yoke and sacque.

NEW TOUCHES FOR OLD PRESERVES.

Instead of being entirely supplanted by the more modern canned fruit, old-time 'pound for pound' preserves were never more popular than now, for the reason that we have learned how to give them a delicate, natural flavor of the fruit, instead of a pungent, cloying sweetness.

There are certain rules for every vaiety of fruit and method of preserving, but the gist of them all is that no skill in making can give prime preserves if inferior fruit, coffee sugar, tin pans and iron spoons are used. Have a porcelain-lined or graniteware kettle and use it solely for preserving; and in preparing as well as in cooking fruit, let every other vessel be of granite or earthen-ware, and spoons and ladles of silver or wood. This done, with prime fruit, granulated sugar, knowledge and careful work, you can defy "luck' and be sure of success Heating the sugar in the oven before it is added to the fruit gives a handsomer color to jams and preserves as well as jelly.

Raspberry Jam.—Red raspberry jam has a far more refreshing flavor if it is made of one part red currants to three parts raspberries. Stem, wash and dry the currants on a towel; mash slightly in the preserving kettle, and stew slowly till soft enough to strain through a jelly-bag. Allow one pound of sugar for every three-fourths of a pound of berries and one gill of currant juice. Heat the sugar; boil the juice twenty minutes; add the sugar; stir till dissolved; then add the berries, and cook slowly for one hour, stirring almost constantly.

Spiced Currants—Make a richer and finer-flavored meat sauce, if one-fourth of a pound of seeded and chopped raisins is added to every three-fourths of a pound of currants. To every four pounds of fruit add two pounds of sugar and one ounce of stick cinnamon, the same of mace, half as many whole cloves, and a teaspoonful of white mustard seed tied in a piece of muslin. Cook slowly for one hour; then add one and one-half cupfuls of cider vinegar; stir constantly for five minutes and put away in pint-size glass fruit jars or jelly glasses.

Canning Rhubarb.—Rhubarb sauce is wonderfully appetizing with meat, especially in the late winter and early spring, when the appetite most needs coaxing. Select fresh, tender stalks, pare, cut into pieces, weigh, and allow half its weight of sugar. Cover the rhubarb with boiling water for two minutes; then drain; put part of the sugar on the bottom of the preserving kettle, and sprinkle the rest among the stalks as you add them. Cover the kettle closely and cook in a hot oven for half an hour. Fill hot fruit jars to overflowing and keep in a cool, dark place.

Crab-Apple and Plum Marmalade.—Plums, used in the proportion of one part to three of crab apple, add richness and a finer flavor to crab-apple marmalade. Stem and cut out the blossom end of the apples; stew, close-covered, in a little water, and when soft rub through a sieve. Cut up the plums, cook in a little water, adding the stones, till soft; rub through a sieve and mix with the apple pulp. Heat slowly, and when it commences to boil add heated sugar in the proportion of three-fourths of a pound to every pound of pulp, and cook half an hour or longer, stirring constantly.

Spiced Pears.—Pare evenly, halve and core rather sweet pears that are not over-ripe. Make a syrup of two cupfuls of vinegar, three pounds of sugar, one heaping tablespoonful of finely broken stick-cinnamon, and the same amount of green ginger root, both tied in muslin. This will be enough for six pounds of fruit. Cook the latter in the syrup until it can be easily pierced, and keep in fruit jars.

SUGGESTIONS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

The insipid taste of dried prunes is alleviated by stewing with them an equal amount of raisins. Cranberries perform the same kind office for dried apples.

Some people can accomplish marvels with gasoline; others complain they "can't do anything with it." The trouble is that the unsuccessful ones don't go at it properly. Generally the trouble is that not enough fluid is used. A silk waist, for instance, should be wholly immersed and allowed to soak several hours, then it must be worked up and down in the gasoline till all the spots have disappeared. It must then be rinsed in fresh gasoline and dried out of doors. The vessel in which the waist is soaked must of course be covered as the fluid is so volatile. Professional cleaners are said to use soap with the gasoline, exactly as if it were water. To clean gloves, wash them in the gasoline as if it were water.

The author of a book of salad recipes says that when the lettuce in the garden shoots up quickly during the summer into long seed stalks it can be utilized by stripping the stalks of leaves, cutting the tender portions into lengths, and tying in bundles like asparagus. Boil till tender and when cold and well drained serve with mayonnaise or French dressing.

Should any cereal like oatmeal, cracked wheat, etc., remain after breakfast, pack it in a clean baking powder can and put in the ice-box. Next day turn it out into slices about a third of an inch thick, dust with flour, fry, and serve with maple or sugar syrup.

◆

NEW IN UNDERLINEN.

The important change which has taken place in making very full skirts necessarily brings about a corresponding change in underlinen. We have escaped from the acute crisis which led many women—and those not the least delicate and careful of themselves—to repudiate fluffy lace and fine ribbon and adopt odious tights, tights, with grotesque lines, making the female outline resemble that of bathers in bathing costumes, than which nothing can be more ungraceful.

The fine cambric chemise, the drawers richly trimmed with lace, the thin under-petticoat, have become the indispensable basis of every woman's dress. Nevertheless these garments are still buttoned and adjusted very low on the stays, so as not to increase the size of the hips. Some women even wear their stays over them, but this practice often makes troublesome folds, and the underlinen, being made of fine lawn or nainsook, takes up a very small space beneath the silk petticoat, which should be more correctly called the underskirt. In fact this silk petticoat has length and fullness around the bottom, intended to support the bottom of the skirt. The upper part is still very tight fitting. The front breadth is cut almost straight. A few gores are made in the upper part, and there are two breadths, cut on the cross on each side, very narrow at the top, with two points quite flat behind to a depth of forty centimetres, beneath which is a sort of ground of a skirt, widening largely down to the bottom.

The skirt thus prepared is trimmed with one or two flounces of frilled taffetas, much shorter in front than behind. These flounces are edged with a ruche of taffeta ribbon or with gathers of mousseline de soie, which widens the flounces and supports the skirt better.

Petticoats for the street are mostly made stuff, trimmings of lace or muslin being reserved for the evening. As soon as the fine weather comes petticoats will borrow the brilliant colors of the flowers—turquoise, mauve, laurel green, cerise or orange color. A new idea is to match the shade of the petticoat with that of the lining of the skirt all petticoats being lined with taffetas in striking colors. This involves expense, for the price of petticoats is still high and adds greatly to the expense of dress. Prudent women will therefore have some sort of uniformity in the linings of their different dresses. Still better, they could choose their linings to match the color of the dress, which will enable them to wear the same petticoat without showing incongruous colors when the skirt is turned up.

White petticoats, though still in favor, are exclusively worn with evening dresses we are told, however, that they will be worn by day in the summer. Those made at the present moment are so trimmed with laces and very light materials that one almost doubts whether they are not entirely of lace. But we do not see many such petticoats sweeping up the microbes from the pavements of Paris.

We are told to expect for day wear what we saw a few years ago—many wide flounces of fine linen, lace and embroidered muslin, over silk petticoats bright or dark in color. In this case the flounce should be bordered with a large endive ruche of taffetas.

GAINS MADE BY RUSSIA.

Important Advantage Secured While England Was Busy With the Boers.

Now that the end of the war in South Africa is believed to be in sight attention is being turned in England to the advantages that have been gained by Russia during the eight months which it has lasted while the hands of England have been practically tied.

The first step taken by Russia immediately after it was seen that the Anglo-Boer war was going to be a much longer and more tedious affair than was first reckoned on was the mortgage she established over Persia, followed by the movement of troops to the Afghan frontier on the road leading to Herat. The next was the concession from the Turkish Government giving Russia the monopoly of railway construction in Eastern Asia Minor which virtually converts the great plateau of Armenia into a Russian sphere of influence. Simultaneously with the negotiations that give her this foothold in the regions overlooking the low lands of Mesopotamia and facing the German sphere in Anatolia, Russia, acquired a lien on Bulgaria in return for a small loan; she obtained the use of the important harbor of Bourgas on the Black Sea, which is connected by railway with Sofia, the capital and the Servian and Macedonian railways; and the Bulgarian army becomes again the advance guard of Russia in the Balkan Peninsula. These are her gains in western Asia and the near East.

In the Far East, Russia has obtained two notable concessions, one of which is believed by many to endanger the continuance of her pacific relations with Japan. The first of these concessions is the right to build a railway from, Kiahhta, the Siberian customs frontier station, south of Lake Baikal, to Kalgan, on the great wall of China northwest of Pekin. The obstacles to the construction of this road through eastern Mongolia, are nothing compared to those presented by the country through which the Manchurian railway passes to Port Arthur and Vladivostock.

ITS STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE is also greater, as it is so far removed from the coast that the chance of its being interrupted by an enemy foreign to China and Russia is reduced to a minimum.

The last concession was obtained from Corea on March 30, when the Corean Government made over to Russia a site on the shore of the harbor of Masampho at the southern extremity of the Corean Peninsula, to serve as a coal depot and naval hospital for the exclusive use of the Russian fleet. The value of the concession is doubly enhanced by a clause which prevents Corea from alienating to any other power any land in the neighborhood or even on Kojedo or any other island, which would cover Port Hamilton and Quelpart, islands which England has had an eye on for a long time.

The last concession gives Russia an exclusive ice-free harbor midway between Vladivostock and Port Arthur thus securing a winter base for her Pacific fleet which is being steadily increased. It also gives her command of the sea road to Pekin, and in a measure isolates Wei-hai-wei, and threatens Japan from across a very narrow channel. So secretly was this treaty negotiated that it was still unknown to foreign correspondents at Tokio in Japan in the middle of April, and apparently also to the Japanese Government.

The end of the South African war is therefore the more ardently desired, in order that the hand of the British Government may the sooner be free for contingencies which some believe are not very remote.

The feeling in England in relation to the Masampho concession seems to be stronger than with regard to the others, England having evacuated Port Hamilton in 1886 after obtaining an undertaking from Russia, not to "occupy Corean territory under any circumstances whatever." In 1894 Sir Edward Grey, then British Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, intimated that the British Government regarded this pledge as still valid. In the present circumstances, however, protest is unavailing and the precedent of Port Arthur makes it doubtful in the opinion of many whether Lord Salisbury would persist in any objection he might raise; while an untimely threat might set in motion the troops Russia has collected in central Asia along the Afghan and Persian frontiers.

THE PRESSING NEED.

Sir Harry Smith and the Old Color Sergeant.

When complaints fall to the lot of Tommy Atkins, he knows what to do with the florid part of them.

Fifty years or more ago Sir Harry Smith, for whose wife Ladysmith was named, was Governor of Cape Colony, and led a number of campaigns against the Kaffirs. Returning from a particularly lively one, he held a review of his troops, who were in a most dilapidated condition—barefooted, ragged and half-starved.

When the time came for him to say a few words he lavished praise upon them, dwelling upon their bravery, endurance, and even upon their soldier-like appearance. This last compliment was too much for the patience of the old color-sergeant. He stepped forward,—tattered and unkempt,—saluted most respectfully, and then said:

"Begging your pardon, Sir 'Arry, we don't want no gammon. We want boots!"

◆

The Paris coutourieres are cleverly combining cloth, silks, poplins and embroidered muslins with foulards.

HINTS FOR THE FARMER.

KEEP COWS BY THEMSELVES.

I wish to emphasize the fact that milch cows should be kept separate from other domestic animals, both in the stable and pasture. This is not a matter of sentiment, but of practical business, as by thus doing more and better milk will be obtained. Too often when a cow stable is constructed, no other provision is made for the shelter of calves, horses, and perhaps pigs! I have even seen hens roosting on the poor cow's backs. What can you expect from such a medley? Well, all the other animals and fowls will probably do well except the milch cattle.

In the first place the bleating of young calves distresses their mothers, and cause the milk flow to become erratic. They should be kept in another building, entirely separate from the cow stable, out of sight and sound. The smell of horses and pigs in the same apartment is particularly obnoxious to cows, while the danger to milk quality thereby is incalculable. Cows are largely what man makes them, and so their environment should be of the best.

Farmers carrying on mixed stock raising as well as general agriculture are apt to keep all kinds of cattle in the common pasture, to the detriment of dairy interests. Such men often wonder why their milch stock never can be made to pay "like they read of in the farm papers." Is it any wonder that they don't "pay," when sheep are eating the grass from under their noses, and horses and dry stock crowding them out of the choicest bits of pasturage? Give the cows a show in both the stable and grazing field, and they will reciprocate lacteally.

A young dairy friend of mine once made the sad mistake of putting his calves and pigs in the same enclosure. He supposed that by so doing he was killing two birds with one stone, but the result was most disappointing. The calves were soon taken with the scours, and he had some most valuable young heifer ones too, and despite extra slopping with milk and rations of oil meal, they drooped and constantly declined. Then he placed them in a pasture far removed from the swine, and they soon began to recuperate. However, what was lost at the beginning was never fully regained that season so you see how costly the experience was.

Cows naturally are fastidious about the water they drink and they should not be compelled to frequent a watering place used in common by other domestic animals. I consider that the purity and abundance of the water supply has as much to do with assuring dairy success as does the quality and amount of food given to the cows. If you possess any dairy interests at all, do not let the rights and privileges of the milch cattle be in any manner infringed upon. Do not let other stock crowd upon them either in the stable or pasture, as it cannot be allowed without serious detriment to your milk yield.

THE USE OF LIGHTNING RODS.

While a good many farmers consider lightning rods a delusion and a snare, yet the investigations of scientists prove that when properly put up and grounded they are of great protection to buildings. The best rods are made of copper, aluminum or brass, but copper is generally used. It is cheaper and the best conductor. Aluminum is also a good conductor and the low price at which it is produced compared with a few years ago seems destined to bring it into favor for this purpose.

The best form of rod is that of a ribbon, say 1-8 of an inch thick by 3-4 or 1 inch wide. In rodding a building the points should be not over 40 ft. apart and stand 6 ft. above the roof. They should be connected along the ridge and the rods run to the ground on each end of the building. Sharp turns must be avoided in erecting a conductor, for electrical charges prefer to go in a straight line through the air rather than turn corners. The rods can be raised above the roof and away from the building by glass or porcelain insulators.

Unless the wire is well grounded the equipment will not prove satisfactory. The conductor should be attached to a ground plate of copper having at least 25 sq. ft. of surface, including both sides. An old copper boiler flattened out makes a cheap and effective ground plate. This must be buried in damp earth and if possible should be located near a spring or stream. If the rods are also connected to the water pipes a better ground connection will be made. Moist soil is the only kind which will conduct electricity, and if the place cannot be put in soil that is naturally moist, provision must be made to wet it occasionally.

WATER HORSES OFTEN.

In very warm weather and when horses are doing heavy work, such as drawing the binder, it is excellent practice to take water to the field and water the horses two or three times in the course of a half day. This is very little trouble and is of wonderful help to the team besides being humane. This can be accomplished by placing a barrel on a low sled, drawing it to a convenient point in the field and wrapping the barrel with wet gunny sacks. The water can thus be kept reasonably cool for half a day.

◆

AN UNDESIRED GRACE.

Daughter, I notice that Harry isn't a bit gallant to other women.

No, indeed, ma; I broke him off that right after we were married.

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