

EDITORIALS.

WE are informed by one who follows fishing as a partial means of livelihood that the river Jordan is very destitute of fish at the present time. Trout especially are so scarce that days may be spent in trying to catch them without a bite. He says it is freely asserted by men who profess to be acquainted with the subject, that the dam which has been lately erected at the outlet of the Lake is the cause of this scarcity. This dam is so open that the water flows through it; but the fish cannot pass through, and to surmount it would require on their part a leap of twelve feet. The fish will probably take to the canals which will lead from this dam, for the want of any other outlet, and perish. Our informant himself does not vouch for the dam being the cause of the scarcity of fish; but he knows that since the dam was built they have become scarce, and there are those who say they know it to be the cause.

We mention this to call the attention of the authorities who have had the dam erected to the subject. Fish are a valuable article of food, and great interest has been taken in their culture in this community. In building dams, therefore, across our streams, particular pains should be taken to not interfere with their habits, and not to place obstructions which will prevent them from passing up and down at their pleasure. If the dam referred to has this latter effect, there should be a fish-way constructed so that they may pass to and fro freely.

THE Monthly Report of the Department of Agriculture, for May and June, has come to hand. It contains a Review of the Condition of the Crops June 1st, a Eulogy of Tennessee as a most desirable location for settlers, Change in Texas Cattle-raising, British Imports, Agricultural Productions of Wurtemberg, Southern Planting, Northern Farming, Deterioration of Cotton and Sugar-cane, Epizootics among Swine, Entomological Record, Chemical Memoranda, Botanical notes, Microscopic Investigation, Scientific Notes, Facts from Various Sources, and Market Prices of Farm Products.

From the report of Dr. Bouley, an eminent physiologist and veterinarian, to the Academy of Sciences at Paris, it appears that the recent International Sanitary Convention held at Vienna, and attended by able veterinarians and sanitarian delegates from Germany, Austro-Hungary, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Roumanian Principalities, Russia, Servia, Switzerland and Turkey, to determine the best methods of preventing the cattle plague, and consider proper sanitary regulations in regard to international cattle traffic, concluded that the plague never develops itself spontaneously outside of its native home in the neighborhood of the Asiatic dependencies of Russia, that it is only propagated by contagion and consequently is not an epidemic, that it has always become extinct when the conditions favorable to its propagation cease to exist. The measures concluded on as the most essential to prevent the introduction or spread of the disease were: first, the immediate slaughtering of all animals that had come in contact with the plague, as also of those which might be considered as under suspicion of having the disease, in consequence of the influences to which they had been exposed, this being accompanied by a proper compensation to the owners; secondly, the burial of the dead bodies of all animals affected with the plague, without attempting to utilize them in any way whatever; thirdly, the utilization of the flesh of sound animals killed under suspicion, but proved after death to have been perfectly healthy, this to be permitted only under special conditions rigorously determined; fourthly, the destruction of the germs of the contagion wherever they can be found, in the slaughter-houses, on harness, in pastures, in railway trains, &c., as also the disinfection of all objects with which they have been brought in contact; fifthly, isolation, as complete as possible, of the places where the plague has been found to exist, so that no animal believed to be capable of carrying the contagion or of receiving it shall be allowed to enter the infected districts, this isolation to be put into practice on farms and all other localities, and to be of greater or less extent, according to the extension of the disease; sixthly, the estab-

lishment around the places in which the isolation has been ordered, and which have been declared infected, of a zone where the movements of cattle are forbidden, as well as all commerce in anything that may serve as a vehicle of the contagion, such as fodder, dung, and animal products and materials of every kind; seventhly, the suspension of fairs and movements of cattle in the infected locality and the suspected zone, so that the authorities may have a guarantee that animals have not been moved by clandestine traffic from the place which they originally occupied; eighthly, as soon as a case of plague has been officially established in any locality, an immediate declaration is to be made of every new case, as soon as known, by the keepers of animals; ninthly, after the disappearance of the disease from the localities, suitable precautions and methods of disinfection are to be prescribed preliminary to the re-stocking of the stables and pastures, and the re-establishment of the liberty of trade in cattle.

It was recommended that whenever the disease had broken out in a country, the fact should be immediately announced by telegraph, and a weekly official bulletin be published, showing the stage of the disease, the preventive measures adopted, and the nature and terms of the regulations introduced. Germany had the most satisfactory arrangements for disinfecting cattle-cars, by deluging them with water from a considerable elevation, of at least 170° F., as soon as emptied of cattle. The principal point established by the convention, according to Bouley, was the necessity of an obligation to slaughter all animals as soon as the disease made itself manifest, or as soon as there seemed a probability that an animal would be attacked. In this way the plague would be arrested by the sacrifice of the smallest number of animals.

We append some extracts from the Report—

INFLUENCE OF VARIOUSLY COLORED LIGHT ON VEGETATION.—As the result of a series of experiments upon the influence of variously colored light upon vegetation, Dr. Bert has arrived at the following conclusions: 1. That green light is almost as fatal to vegetation as darkness. 2. That red light is very detrimental to plants, though in a less degree than green light. 3. That though yellow light is far less detrimental than the preceding, it is more injurious than blue light. 4. That all the colors taken singly are injurious to plants, and that their union in the proportion to form white light is necessary for healthy growth.

DESTROYING CATERPILLARS.—According to Schmidt, an excellent remedy against caterpillars consists in a dilute solution (1 part in 500) of sulphide of potassium, the infested tree being sprinkled with this substance by means of a small hand-syringe. This method has been used on a large scale in Southern France, and, it is said, without any injury to vegetation.

CHROMIC ACID AS AN ANTISEPTIC.—Dr. Douglass states that chromic acid, as an antiseptic, is far beyond carbolic acid, and, in fact, may be considered as standing at the very head of the list. It coagulates, hardens, and oxidizes decomposing organic matter, and when added to putrid flesh, urine or fecal matter, the offensive odor is soon absolutely removed, the mixture remaining fresh for an indefinite time.

PREVENTING SOWS FROM DEVOURING THEIR YOUNG.—It is well known that sows not unfrequently attack and devour their own young; or if prevented from this, will not let down their milk, so that the young pigs necessarily die for want of nourishment. When this state of things is not caused by a diseased condition of the uterus, it is said that the sow can be brought to terms by pouring a mixture of ten to twenty grains of spirits of camphor, with one to three of tincture of opium, into the ear. The sow will immediately lie down on the side of the ear to which the application was made, and remain quiet for several hours in this position without interfering with her pigs, and on recovery from the stupor will have lost her irritability in regard to them. The experiment has been tried in Germany hundreds of times, according to one of the agricultural journals, without any injurious effects. It is also said that the eating of pigs by the parent sow can be readily prevented by rubbing them all over with brandy, and making the same application about the nose of the sow herself.

SUGAR IN SAINT MARY'S PARISH, LOUISIANA.—It is reported that Mr.

Etienne Maynard, who, after the war, began without a dollar, and with one row of seed-cane in a garden, made, the second year, 41 hogsheads of sugar; and now, as the fruit of that small beginning, owns a plantation fully stocked, and worth at least \$25,000. The secrets of Mr. Maynard's success are industry, economy, and good implements.

EFFECT OF SNOW ON THE TEMPERATURE OF THE SOIL BENEATH IT.—Mr. C. G. Prindle, of Chittenden County, Vermont, has made an experiment designed to ascertain how far soil is protected from cold by snow. For four successive winter days, there being four inches of snow on a level, he found the average temperature immediately above the snow 13° below zero; immediately beneath, 19° above zero; under a drift two feet deep, 27° above zero.

NEW ZEALAND FLAX.—Mr. A. Carr, of Carbondale, Pennsylvania, who had for some years resided in New Zealand and gave special attention to the variety of flax cultivated in that island, thinks it could be profitably produced in this country. The dressed fiber commands the present year in the English market £25 per ton, and in New York 9 cents per pound in gold. It can be used as a substitute in all products manufactured from the common variety, as linen, cordage, paper, &c., and is extensively used for stuffing chairs, mattresses, &c., being as suitable and durable for that purpose as horse-hair.

THE RICH family held a grand reunion at Truro, Mass., on Wednesday and Thursday, June 26 and 27. The Norfolk County Gazette of June 29 published at Dedham and Hyde Park, Mass., gives a lengthy account of the affair. We extract—

Upwards of twelve years ago Mr. John F. Rich of Ware, Mass., began the preparation of a genealogy of the Rich family. During all these years he has spent much of his time on the work, and by dint of hard work, and at large expense, he has at last completed his arduous labors. Having accomplished this he conceived the idea of holding a family reunion, and accordingly invitations were extended to every known person by the name of Rich in the United States. It was decided that Truro, Mass., should be the place of meeting—a spot made sacred to the hearts of those glorying in the name of Rich, from the fact that it was here that their early ancestors first landed in this country. Wednesday and Thursday of the present week were selected as the time. On Wednesday morning some four car loads of the Riches embarked on the Old Colony Road, and at the stations along the route the numbers were largely augmented. It was a jolly crowd, all formality being dispensed with. In passing through the cars one was perfectly safe to pause and address any member of the party and call him or her Rich. At Wellfleet, the terminus of the railroad, the party was compelled to take stages for Truro, some seven or eight miles distant. The stage accommodations were totally inadequate for so vast a number, and vehicles of every description—quaint and ancient—were brought into requisition, and after an hour's delay the procession moved along in slow and steady pace, forming a sight that brought every living being in the pleasant little village of Wellfleet to the streets, all gazing in wonder and amazement at the Rich spectacle. And the journey was one never to be forgotten by those unfortunate, sweltering human beings who were compelled to participate in it. Those who have had the misfortune to travel this road, or in fact any road on Cape Cod, can fully understand the sufferings endured by these excursionists, coupled with the fact that every conveyance was crowded to its utmost capacity, the wheels of which went groaning through the sand to the depth of six or eight inches.

The procession was three hours in traveling the short distance of seven miles. When it finally reached its destination it was met by the Committee of Arrangements and every courtesy possible extended. Small cards, assigning places at the various farm-houses, were furnished by Mr. John F. Rich, Chairman of the Committee, and the Riches scattered to their various abodes for miles around, where they were received with the most distinguished courtesy, and made to feel quite at home. At three o'clock, a large number of the party assembled at the Town Hall, where they were furnished with a genuine Cape Cod dinner, which was partaken of with a zest known only to famishing humanity. At four o'clock the exercises were opened in the Orthodox Church, and commenced with prayer by the Rev. J. A. L. Rich of Maine. The church was densely packed with the Riches, the citizens of the town very considerably remaining outside in order to give the visitors an opportunity of gaining admittance, so far as the church would accommodate them. They followed the old and familiar tune of "Nearer, my God, to Thee." The Chairman of the Selectmen of Truro, Mr. Smith K. Hopkins, followed in an address of welcome, and extended the hospitalities of the town to the visitors. Hon. Mathias Rich of Boston,

was chosen President of the gathering, and an Executive and Financial Committee was appointed by the President, to have general management of this and all future gatherings of the kind.

The meeting reassembled in the Methodist church in the evening, which was filled to overflowing, hundreds being unable to gain admittance. The exercises consisted of prayers, singing, a poem, well written and finely delivered, by Mrs. Helen Rich, of New York, and an hour of social converse. We extract again from the Gazette—

On Thursday the exercises were opened in a large tent erected on the historical spot where the Riches were supposed to have first pitched their tent in yester olden time. After the singing of a familiar hymn in which the audience joined, Mr. John F. Rich delivered the genealogical address. In commencing his remarks Mr. Rich said—

"You have been cordially welcomed to the hearts and homes of this good old town, having come together from all parts of our country, to do honor at our sacred shrine. From the Pacific slopes, the Western prairies, the beautiful valleys of the South, the lake regions of the North-west and the rugged coast of New England, your feet have followed diverging paths, to meet at this family altar. Some of you are familiar with Cape Cod—where your childhood was passed; others are here for the first time, to visit the scenes most enshrined in every heart."

"Tracing out my immediate family, I found myself in a labyrinth of facts and information; the task became a pleasure and gradually developed itself into the present fruition. From one common ancestry, through a long line of marriages and intermarriages, we have become familiar with nearly fifteen thousand individuals of our blood, and of them all there is not one whose name we should care to blot from the records."

"My whole aim has been to make our genealogy perfect and reliable and I am free to candidly state that the bulk of authority gives our name a Norman origin and that RICH means powerful or wealthy, rather than an abbreviation of Richard. * * * Of all the hardy colonists of Doyer Neck, whose names come to us today, we are especially called to revere that of Richard Rich, 'mariner,' a man of substance and influence, and from whom, since 1633, we have all sprung. His wife was Sarah Roberts, daughter of Governor Thomas Roberts, who died between Sept. 27, 1673, and June 30, 1764, leaving the bulk of his property, as his will expresses it, 'to Richard Rich, husband of my daughter Sarah.' Their children were Richard, John, Thomas, Samuel, Sarah and Lydia, and in following out their branches we strike almost 15,000 people and about all the States in the Union."

At the conclusion of the address Mr. Rich was warmly applauded, and then followed five minute speeches by several gentlemen, mostly clergymen. Letters from invited guests, including one from Governor Washburn, and a large number from absent ones, and also one from Josh Billings, a member of the Rich family, expressing their regret at being absent, were read, and then followed the report of the committee on Publication, which was read and accepted, and 500 copies ordered to be printed.

After the morning services the whole family group was photographed.

Dinner was then served in the Town Hall and several tents outside.

The afternoon services consisted of prayer by A. J. Rich, of Brookfield, Mass., an original humorous poem by Dr. Stove, of Wellfleet, and speeches from Elder C. C. Rich, of Utah, M. D. Rich, of Boston, and others.

The evening services were held in the Orthodox church, and consisted of prayer by Rev. Mr. Sherman, the pastor; a family sermon by the Rev. A. J. Rich, of Brookfield, from the text, "That they may be one," John, 17: 21; an original Hymn, by Mrs. Helen Rich, of New York; a Farewell Poem, by Hiram Rich, of Gloucester; a Parting song, by John F. Rich, of Ware; benediction by Rev. Mr. Noble, Methodist pastor, Truro; and the passing of the whole company by the front of the pulpit to shake hands with the President and Vice-President. Says the Gazette—

The Committee of Arrangements, of which Mr. John F. Rich of Ware, was Chairman, made ample provision for the accommodation of visitors, which tested the hospitality of nearly every resident of the town. Nearly all the railroad and steamboat lines east of the Mississippi carried the delegates for half fare. The people for miles around came into town in every conceivable conveyance, some of which were of the most grotesque and ancient character.

Booths of every kind were established on the grounds, which were well sustained by the rustics and their sweethearts, who wandered back and forth, hand in hand, seemingly oblivious to all the perplexities