

chanic as well as the farmer, in very many ways. The tendency to extravagance has been followed so long, and the credit system has come so thoroughly into vogue, that the means of wage-earners and of producers is gone in advance, and it is a hard struggle to keep the wolf from the door and to maintain at the same time the appearance of "style" taken on when the extravagance was entered upon. The facility of producing at home, of fixing up and keeping in repair the house and its furniture by home labor, of working over many things that are now thrown away, seems to be almost forgotten. There is too little planned work to save, and altogether too much worry. Many are crowded to former practices by necessity; but the quicker all return to non-extravagant methods, the better it will be for all. And one thing is needful as a good starter, that people direct more grumbling to themselves, and throw less fault on their neighbors.

TURKEYS' ARMY.

It seems to be a somewhat prevalent opinion in Russia that the Greeks, if allowed to go to war with the Turks, would speedily be beaten, and this view appears reasonable when the military strength of the two countries are compared. But the fact is that the Turkish forces both as regards quality and quantity are considerably less formidable than appears from official reports. A German military journal, the *Jahresberichte*, recently gave some interesting illustrations relative to this subject.

In 1895, it is pointed out, when troops were being mobilized on account of the disturbances in Armenia, 28,000 men of the fourth army corps and 20,000 of the fifth failed to respond to the call, and of those that met—or rather were driven together—7,000 deserted from the fourth and 5,000 from the fifth corps. Of twelve battalions that were to be used for a military expedition, eight were almost dissolved by desertions.

Those that remained were in a destitute condition. For weeks the soldiers went without uniforms. Not only was the pay withheld but provisions were distributed only at irregular intervals. The men had to live by plunder, and many of them sold their arms to obtain bread. It is not supposed that the conditions are much improved at present.

The Turkish officers, as a rule, are entirely without the education necessary to conduct a modern war. It is supposed that about fifty per cent are unable to read and write. They are, therefore, almost barred from a thorough theoretical knowledge of modern tactics, and consequently incapable of rendering effective service against a modern army. The soldiers are in a similar condition. The government knowing the general tendency of its servants, dares not in times of peace entrust the costly modern arms to the care of the soldiers, fearing they would be stolen. The soldiers, therefore, are allowed to handle only old, worthless blunderbusses. When called upon for active service they are armed with rifles with which they are not familiar, and their usefulness

as infantry is by this fact considerably reduced.

What a small energetic country can accomplish against a large nation was recently demonstrated in eastern Asia, and the proportionate strength between Greece and Turkey is not far from similar to that between Japan and China.

TOO MANY SOCIETIES.

A recent discussion in church matters has sprung up through the East, as to whether there are not getting to be too many societies in church work for effective service—whether there are not so many meetings of societies as to exclude the central directing force which should operate in them all, and to tend to disruption instead of to unity.

There can be no question that from the standpoint of church efficiency too many organizations within the body make the appearance of an activity that is superficial; the complicated machinery runs itself out; and when it comes to adding organizations outside of the church, humanity finds it impossible to keep up with all, and some must suffer from neglect. In the present state of affairs, it is claimed that generally the churches are the sufferers.

It is necessary in church work to have such organizations as will reach all classes of members, and to give all grades of instruction within reach. When this is accomplished, the addition of new societies, or a union with organizations beyond, operates to the detriment of the individual; hence a line must be drawn beyond which it is inadvisable to pass. In the Church which has the bulk of its membership gathered in these mountain valleys there are provisions for organizations of a fundamental and auxiliary character, forming avenues of training in every grade, to meet the needs of every member in the Church. This being the case, it may be readily seen that union with other societies operating in the social, ethical or benevolent fields occupied by the Church, cannot be otherwise than detrimental to the Church efficiency of those who direct their attention to other channels which assume to take up similar work. It is not profitable to have "too many irons in the fire."

DUCK DAYS NEARLY OVER.

The murderous pothunter and the almost as sanguinary sportsman who go out armed for ducks during the few spring days which the law allows them to pursue this timid, half-starved game, will have few more opportunities this season to show their prowess. On the 1st of April the law throws its protection around the waterfowl of the State, and until October 1st they may not be killed or disturbed without violation of the statute. It is to be hoped that those whose duty it is to see to the enforcement of this particular law will spare no pains in capturing and convicting every violator; be he of high or low degree. After this year—at least until our wise legislators shall make other changes in the

law—the slaughter of ducks, geese, etc., in the spring, when most of them are about unfit for food anyway, will be prohibited, the new statute closing the season on the 15th of February. Instead of as now on the 1st of April. This is a proper step in the direction of protection, and still another advance might be made by closing the season a couple of months earlier, say December 15. The tendency of civilization every where is toward the protection of the native fish and game with which the streams, lakes, plains and mountains of the country were once stocked. Men differ, of course, as to the best means of affording this protection, but common sense would seem to suggest that one most excellent way is to shorten the season during which such fish and game may be taken. Every enactment having this for its purpose, or designed in any way for preservation and protection of so desirable a resource of our State, should receive the warm commendation and the hearty support of all who are the commonwealth's well-wishers.

POLICE COMMISSION RESOLUTIONS

The fire and police board has tendered its "assistance and co-operation" to the municipal league in enforcing the city ordinances. Considering the state of affairs that has made the action of the municipal league necessary, this offer is funny—indeed, it is quite comical—as coming from a commission established by law to take the lead and to see that the ordinances are enforced. If there is a solitary expression in the preamble and resolutions adopted that does not bring to the minds of the respectable people of the community a feeling of contempt for the pusillanimity of the action taken, the commission ought to point it out. To be decent, the commission ought to expunge those resolutions from the record, and then—enforce the city ordinances. The latter is what the citizens want the fire and police commission to do, instead of indulging in vulgar epithets toward its critics and passing ridiculous resolutions.

The fire and police commission was not intended as a bureau for such procedure as that last evening; it was instituted to run a police department in the enforcement of the law, and why is this not done? There is no question that the members of the police force obey the orders of the management of the department. Yet City Attorney McKay appeared before the commission last evening, and declared officially that the law is not enforced. If that be true, and no one aware of the existing conditions doubts it, why does not the police department do its sworn duty? This is not, and ought not to be, a matter of personal feeling on the part of the heads of the department, but a question of obeying the law they have sworn to uphold. The NEWS has no quarrel with those officials, either as individuals or in their official capacity; neither has it any inclination to criticize them more than it knows the public well requires. It is much more satisfactory to us to be able to commend than to have to find fault with them. If the commission which is placed at the