ALL SORTS

The Turkish minister of the navy is said to be worth $12,000,000 His salary is $80,000 a year

The population of Japan increased from 33,110,793 in 1872 to 46,304,999 in 1892, and is increasing rapidly

As an original stockholder of the Pennsylvania railroad Col William Davis, of Huntington, N Y, uses a pass issued, without limit in 1850.

The bishop of London has received a subscription of $25 from an undertaker who described the gift as a thank offering "because trade has been so brisk of late."

A barrel with a capacity of 43,000 gallons has just been completed for a great wine firm at Schiltenheim, on the Rhine. A banquet was given in its interior to twenty-four people.

The Chinese name for Port Arthur was Lushunkow; the town had, twenty years ago, only a few thousand inhabitants, and was used as a place for the deportation of criminals.

The most frequented lake in Europe is the lake of Lucerne. last year twenty steamboats plied on it and carried 1,529,000 pasengers and over 1,000 tons of baggage and freight.

To manufacture tobacco grown in Canada a factory is about to be opened in Winnipeg Experts say that the Canadian tobacco is hardly distinguishable from the Havana product.

The Australian detectives find football useful Criminals will hide six days in the week, but they have to come out on Saturdays to see the football game, and the police are on hand

One discovery made by an exploring party in Abyssinia recently is that the river Gelo skirts the southernmost extremity of lake Tata instead of flowing into the lake, as was hitherto believed

The London Sketch says a professional betting man should go out of business when fifty years old. After that age a man makes mistakes. Between fifty and sixty-five he stands to lose seventy-five per cent. of what he accumulated before fifty.

An English thief was arrested the other day whose method was to induce little boys to take off their shoes in order to run a race, and leave him in charge of the shoes. When they returned, breathless, he and the shoes were gone.

The first "bomb outrage" was committed on Christmas eve, 1880, by Saint-Nejant, who wished to remove Napoleon, then first consul, in the interest of the royalists. Napoleon escaped, but among his escort and the bystanders there were about 130 casualties.

The other day, just as the tide in the Thames was turning from ebb to flow and the fish were coming up the river again, a very heavy rain, following several days of drought, suddenly flushed the sewers of London, and the rush of foul water killed the fishes by the million, so that the dead bodies covered the banks for miles.

The house of commons, is losing its dignity. Black and White hears that members have been seen around the premises in shirt sleeves in warm weather. It expects to find a member with musical tastes entertaining friends at tea on the terrace by playing "Good-by, Dolly Gray," on a mouth organ. The Londoners have just heard of "Dolly Gray,' and it is popular

The Berlin Omnibus Co, finding that the hats used for horses are unsuitable in the case of pairs, have introduced "sunshades" for their protection from the sun These "sunshades" consist of a wire framework covered with canvas and fasten to the harness The advantage claimed for this novelty is that besides protecting the animals from the sun, it allows a free current for air to pass over their heads.

Prof Thomas Oliver, addressing the industrial hygiene section of the sanitary congress in Glasgow, said the system of "rushing" work introduced into Britain from America not only caused unwholesome fatigue and many accidents, but "predisposed the individual to ill health and created a taste for stimulants, unhealthy recreation and love of excitement such as was offered by theaters and music halls.

The old three-decker, Duke of Wellington, once the pride of the British navy, is being broken up at Portsmouth. She was launched in 1852 and headed the fleet that went to the Baltic when war was declared against Russia in 1854 At that time she was the biggest man-of-war in the world, though her tonnage was only 6,071. But she carried 131 guns. "She can fire 300 shots a minute What can stand up to her?" said a London paper. She was of wood, of course, and represented the produce of seventy-six acres of forest oak, reckoned at forty oaks, 100 years old, to the acre

RECLAIMING WILD LAND

The Value of Drainage Near Rothville, Mo.

CROPS WHERE FISHES ONCE SWAM

How a "Yankee Farmer" Bought Swamp Land For Fifty Cents an Acre and Is Converting It Into Productive Land Worth From Fifty to Seventy-five Dollars.

One of the largest private enterprises in the west to reclaim waste land is now under way between Rothville, Mo., and Dean's lake, on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, says the Kansas City Star. The fire in the engine operating the dredger is never banked, because the force works in two shifts throughoout the entire day and night. The tract comprises 9,000 acres of swamp land, which a year ago was a sportsman's ideal resort for duck hunting and fishing. The owner is W. A. Rankin of Rankin, Ill., who is opening the eyes of Missourians to the value of land they had long since given over to the fishes. Mr. Rankin was four years buying this big lake. It was sold by the county as swamp land at from 50 cents to $1 an acre. The whole tract could not be acquired at once, and the investor waited patiently until he could obtain a tract the size he wanted. The people smiled at the Illinois man's poor investment and felt sorry for him. They are not pitying him now, because they see that Mr. Rankin was wiser than they knew.

Mr. Rankin's dredgers have been at work about a year. Here and there where the water has been drained off are small patches of corn, hay and oats. Their advanced condition now clearly indicates the remarkable productiveness of the land.

The main canal running through the center of the swamp will be four miles long and twenty feet wide. It will empty into Yellow creek, which in turn loses itself in the Grand river. There will be lateral ditches leading to the main canal. With the water removed and dangers from floods reduced to almost nothing by the drainage ditches, the tract will rise into high class Missouri farming lands—from $30 to $75 per acre. Mr. Rankin has already invested $50,000 in the drainage work and intends to place as much more before he has his system perfected. He employs every ablebodied man at from $1.50 to $3 a day, but it is noticeable that most of the workmen are strangers in the community. The reason is that Rothville laborers have an aversion to working in the mud. It is not a clean job, and the man who undertakes it must face the necessary condition of soiled clothes as if he enjoys it.

There is no more fifty cent land in these parts. Mr. Rankin's enterprise has sent prices skyward. Those who own swamp land, but haven't the means to convert it into productive fields, will wait in the hope that another millionaire investor may start their way. It would be useless for the owner of a few hundred acres to attempt any marked improvement on his own account, because water from adjoining lands would nullify his efforts, but many small landowuers could combine and organize a drainage association under the laws laid down for that purpose. There is talk of doing this since observing the admirable results of the Illinois man's system.

Mr Rankin employs between sixty and seventy mon. They live in tents located on the high land. The dredger eats its way through the land, the water following behind in the completed canal. No retracing is required. The waterway is finished up to the point where the dredger stands. The people of the neighborhood of Rothville call Mr. Rankin "the Yankee farmer" because he came into a wilderness that nobody wanted and with his strange looking craft is driving out the fish and water moccasins and turning it into a land of promise. It is Yankee-like, they say, to do those things

The Czar a Hard Smoker.

After breakfast the czar of Russia smokes a very strong Havana cigar, says the London Mail, and indulges in tobacco incessantly for the rest of the day, although his doctors have warned him that it is most injurious to his health.

In a Japanese Garden.

In a garden wee and cool,
Stunted pine and fairy pool,
Tinkling, tinkling now and then
On her carven samisen,
Sighing for the little man
Gone to fight for dear Japan,
Sits the girl, Oyucha San.

Ah, but you were proud of heart
When you saw his troops depart!
Riding like a foreign lord,
Boots and cap and dangling sword,
Demigod and hero man
Who would make a new Japan--
Thus he seemed, Oyucha San.

"Good success!" I heard you pray
On the hour he went away.
Shuold the gods heed, can you guess
What may come with "good success?"
How his sword may change the plan
Of the silken old Japan,
Almond eyed Oyucha San?

Hear the crickets' reedy tune!
See the lantern of the moon
Glint the lacquer on the deep
Where the gray carp lies asleep!
Why should armies scheme and plan,
Dun ambition for Japan,
Which is blest, Oyucha San?

How the gods may be surprised
When Nippon grows "civilized!"
When the spade of commerce threads
Railroads through your iris beds!
Vanish clogs, kimono, fan;
Vanish beauty from Japan—
Vanish you, Oyucha San!

Progress calls you, so, alas,
Yeddo's blossom time must pass!
Soon you'll hear the grinding mill
Shriek and fume on Nara's hill,
O'er an ugly, changed Japan—
And for this your little man
to war, Oyucha San.

CORN FOR CHICKENS

The fact that corn for hens is largely opposed by a number of writers and breeders is simply a mere fad Corn is pre-eminently the feed for fowls during midsummer, and especially during the molting period

It is very true that corn must be intelligently fed with a balanced ration But where the breeder leaves this great cereal out of the ration entirely and substitutes "expert ration," recommended by some theorist, he must necessarily substitute a ration largely without science or good common sense

Where the great danger lies is in recommending corn as a superior food for fowls to the farmer, for he quickly drops every other ration and feeds largely a straight corn ration, simply because it is so handy and so easily fed.

In this manner of feeding there is likely to be a great harm done But if corn is rightly handled there is no grain or combination of grains superior to it for hens.

The exact amount of corn that can be safely fed to a flock of hens depends largely on the breed and on the age of the hens The Mediterranean breeds will stand more corn in their ration than the Asiatic, or even the American, breeds.

It would be hard to feed too much corn to either of these breeds during the molting season, if they are not over one or two years old, where the proper ration of protein is included. Where the balanced ration is kept up to the proper proportion much more corn can be fed during the molting period than is the custom in hot weather

The habit of allowing hens to shift for themselves during the molting season amid the ravages of lice and a scarce of water, or at least only a limited amount of water, during the usual extremely dry, hot months, results in a majority of cases in loss and frequently in mortality of the hens during their molting ordeal.

There is no greater task on the fowls' system than the producing of a new quota of feathers Hence the great necessity of providing the proper foods at this time of the year is obvious, and should not be so carelessly overlooked as is common on the average farm

It is wisdom, however, to see how much corn can be used in the ration, rather than to see how little can be used This can be done by giving good balanced ration and carefully noting results It may seem strange to some for us to say that fowls can be fed poor on a straight corn ration, but such is the fact

In feeding corn to fowls fed alternates, and allow the hens free range and plenty of cool shade Corn and wheat bran make a good ration Place a shallow box in a cool, shady location and keep it constantly supplied with wheat bran, and allow the hens free access to it

Tack a few narrow strips across the top, so as to prevent the fowls from getting into it with their feet, feed the hens all the corn at night they will clean up, but the morning feed may be omitted To feed hens largely on corn during the laying season makes them become broody.

This fact is without question; therefore, it is necessary to understand what effect is sought for and what foods will bring about such desired results, and feed accordingly. The food plays quite an active part in feeding for special effects. It is a well-known fact with the horseman that to feed a horse wheat bran will produce a nice, sleek coat of hair. Likewise, it is no less possible with poultry to feed proper foods in order to produce special desired effects.

If hens, during the molting season, are fed a ration consisting of one-fifth animal food, greater gain will be noticed and the fowls will be laying before cold weather is on, and if properly housed will keep at it all winter long, while egg prices are at a maximum

Therefore, it has been fully demonstrated that where economy and efficiency are sought, both in producing eggs and growing a new quota of feathers, no grain is equal to corn for the principal ration If animal and vegetable foods are alternately provided no harm can result from the free use of corn.—The Indiana Farmer.