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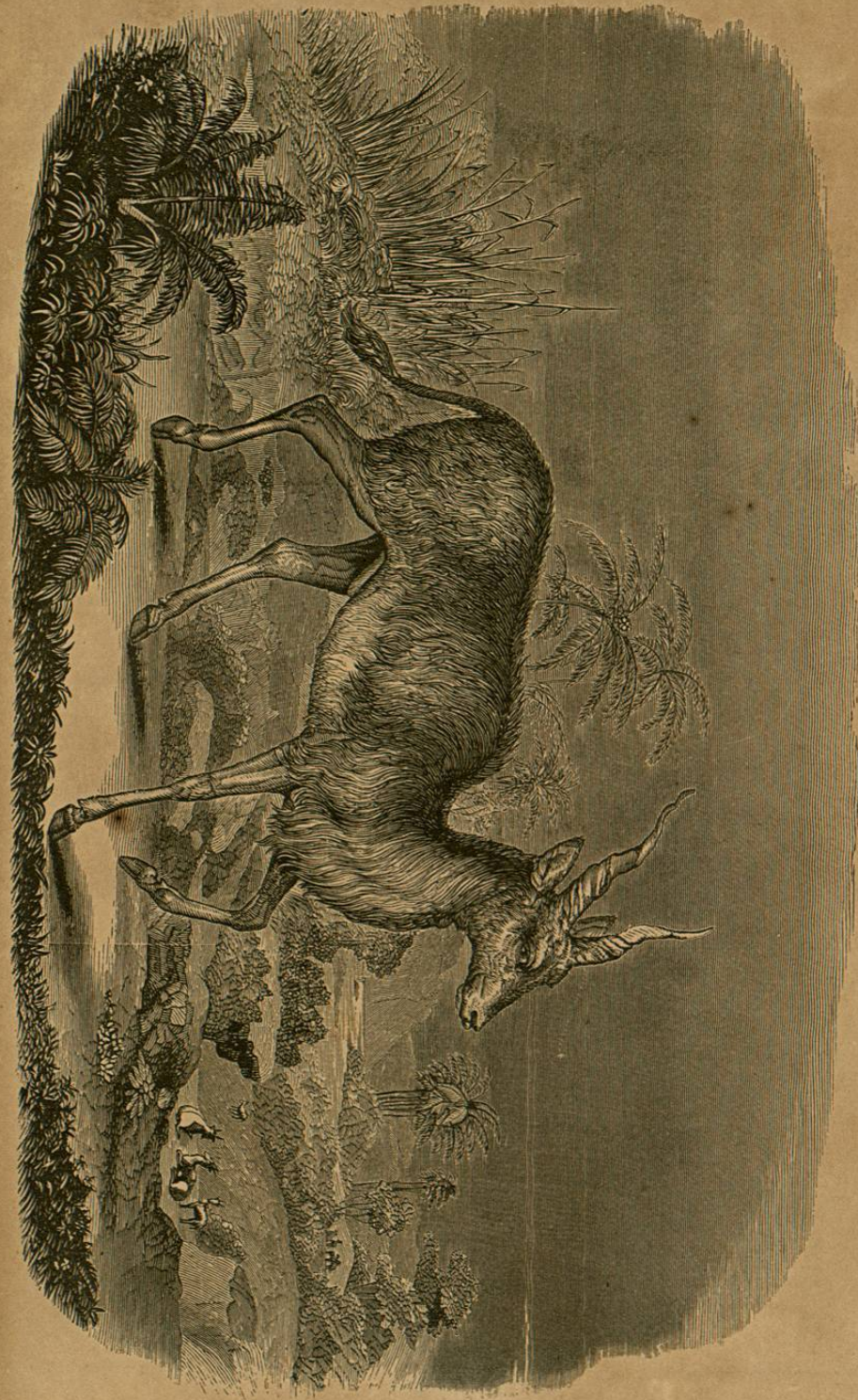
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Nov. 30/86

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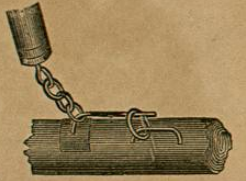


Fig. 1.

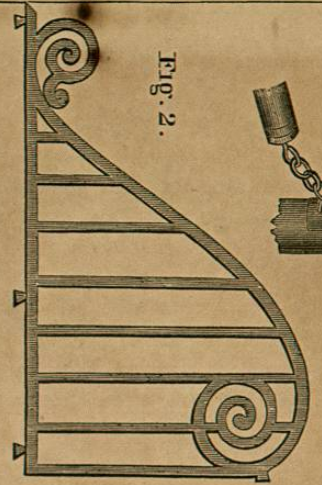


Fig. 2.

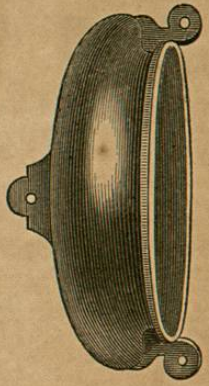


Fig. 4.

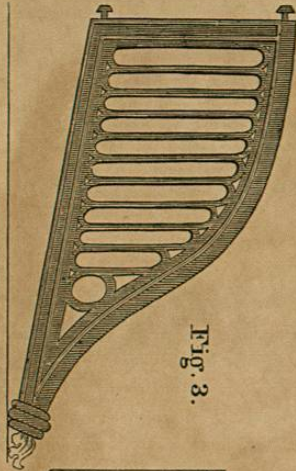


Fig. 3.

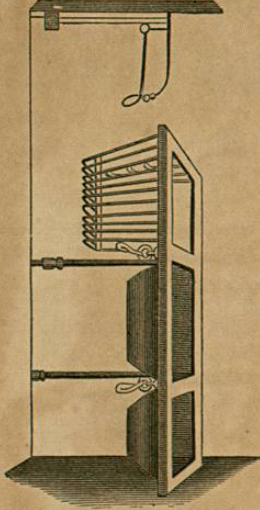


Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

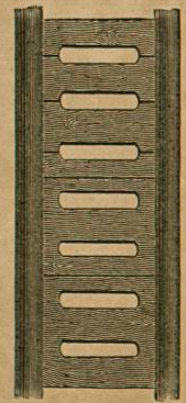


Fig. 7.



Fig. 8.

36TH CONGRESS, } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { Ex. Doc.
1st Session. }

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS

FOR THE YEAR 1859.

AGRICULTURE.



WASHINGTON:
GEORGE W. BOWMAN, PRINTER.
1860.

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REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,
January 3, 1860.

SIR: Agreeably to the design of Congress, as indicated in the clause of the act of March 3, 1859, "for collection of agricultural statistics, investigations for promoting agriculture and rural economy, and the procurement of cuttings and seeds," I have the honor herewith to transmit the agricultural portion of my report.

Owing to the reduced appropriation made by Congress for agricultural purposes, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1860, the office has been compelled to reduce its expenses and confine its action to a more limited sphere than heretofore. In doing this, it was found necessary either to decline purchasing for distribution the usual varieties of garden and field seeds, or to abandon the experiment of propagating the tea, and various other foreign plants and grape-cuttings, for which orders had been given. The expense which had already been incurred in their procurement would hardly justify the office in throwing them aside. It was accordingly deemed advisable to apply the remainder of the funds solely to the procuring of information and preparing the material for the Agricultural Report, and to the propagation and distribution of such varieties of foreign seeds and cuttings as had been already engaged. These were of such a nature that, if they had been distributed throughout the country immediately upon their receipt, the probability is that very few of them would have reached their destination in a fit state for propagation. The tea seeds, more particularly, arrived in such a condition that it was of the utmost importance to plant them at once. For this purpose, large propagating houses were erected upon the government grounds north of the canal, between Four-and-a-half and Sixth streets. These structures now answer well the purpose for which they were intended, as is exhibited by the fact that we have, ready for distribution, over 30,000 well-rooted tea plants,

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, June 13, 1860.

Resolved, That there be printed, in addition to the usual number, three hundred thousand extra copies of the Report of the Commissioner of Patents on Agriculture, for the year 1859: fifteen thousand of which shall be for distribution by the Interior Department, and two hundred and eighty-five thousand for the use of the House of Representatives.



FONDO BIBLIOTECA PUBLICA
DEL ESTADO DE NUEVO LEON

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12,000 foreign and domestic grape-vines 900 rooted, seedless, pomegranate cuttings, and various foreign, medicinal, and ornamental plants. These will be ready for distribution during the present winter and the ensuing spring.

The nature of the tea plant is such that it cannot be successfully cultivated in the open air above the northern boundaries of Tennessee and North Carolina. For this reason, the larger portion will be sent south of that line. A sufficient number, however, will be divided among the remaining States, to satisfy the reasonable demands of such persons as have the conveniences necessary for their protection during the winter months.

Last summer and fall an agent was employed to travel through several of the Northern States for the purpose of collecting the best varieties of ripe native grapes. An experienced chemist was also engaged to analyze the fruit thus collected, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of saccharine matter and other ingredients contained in the juice of each variety, and determining which kinds are best adapted to the making of wine. The reports of the agent and chemist appear in this volume, and will, no doubt, prove valuable and interesting to the public.

It is now about twelve years since Congress adopted the system of making annual appropriations for agricultural purposes. Previous to this time, there seemed to be but little progress made by the people in this branch of our national industry. Agricultural newspapers were then in their infancy, while agricultural societies were scarcely known or heard of. The attention paid by Congress to this subject seems to have awakened the people to its importance. It has stimulated inquiry, encouraged new experiments, and to such an extent has the public mind been excited, that agricultural societies have been formed and are now in successful operation in nearly every county and State throughout the Union. Newspapers entirely devoted to agriculture are published in nearly every State, and at prices which place them within the reach of all. Enterprising men in all the principal cities have established agricultural warehouses, where varieties of seeds, plants, and cuttings, from foreign lands, as well as from different sections of our own country, can be purchased upon reasonable terms.

More recently, a national agricultural society has been established, which will undoubtedly prove valuable as a medium of communication between the various county and State societies. Indeed, so thoroughly have the public become impressed with the importance and necessity of paying more strict attention to improvements in agriculture, that

it may well be doubted whether anything Congress may do can give an additional impetus to the movement.

I have no hesitation in saying that the necessity no longer exists of distributing the various seeds of *domestic* growth, inasmuch as the facilities for obtaining them are such that every person of enterprise enough to cultivate them can obtain everything in that line from the seed-stores. If, therefore, it is the desire of Congress to continue the appropriation for agricultural purposes, I would recommend that it be limited solely to the collection of valuable information for the agricultural report and the collection and distribution of such varieties of foreign seeds, plants, and cuttings, as have not heretofore been introduced into this country.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. D. BISHOP,
Commissioner.

Hon. WM. PENNINGTON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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