

NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

Great Increase in the Various States Where It Is Used in 1903.

Never before has the production of natural gas in the United States been so great as it was in the year 1903. This is the opening statement made in Mr. Oliphant's report entitled "The Production of Natural Gas in 1903," which the United States geological survey has just published.

The increase in Pennsylvania and Ohio was especially remarkable, amounting respectively to \$1,330,651 and \$2,123,583. The value of the product of West Virginia also showed an increase of \$1,192,174.

Four states, namely, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Indiana, and Ohio, produced 94 per cent. of the value of natural gas in 1903. Of these states Indiana alone had a decreased production in 1903 as compared with 1902.

The volume of natural gas produced in 1903 amounted to 238,769,067,000 cubic feet at atmospheric pressure and represented approximately 5,968,728 tons. If the density should remain the same throughout, this quantity would fill a reservoir that was 1.2 miles high and covered a square mile of ground, or it would fill a pipe that encircled the earth at the equator and that had an internal diameter of 49 feet. Its heating value would equal that of 11,508,453 tons of bituminous coal.

Natural gas was burned during 1903 by 427,047 domestic consumers and 7222 manufacturers, a total of 634,269 persons, firms, and corporations that were supplied with light, heat, and power. A careful estimate puts the number of individuals benefited at not less than 4,500,000.

A large amount of money was expended in 1903 in building mains for conveying natural gas in equipping new compressing stations, and in drilling gas wells mainly in Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Kansas.

It is interesting to note that the United States produced 99 1/3 per cent. of the entire world's product of natural gas.

Mr. Oliphant discusses the natural gas industry by states. The report also contains a variety of interesting facts relating to the wide distribution of natural gas in the United States, its illuminating properties and calorific value, the application and economy of the natural gas engine, and the number of companies in the various states and the value of the gas consumed in each. A record of well and pipe lines is also added. The report, which is published separately as an extract from the survey's forthcoming publication, "Mineral Resources of the United States, 1903," may be obtained, free of charge, on application to the director of the United States geological survey, Washington, D. C.

THE FOUR-HORNED GIRAFFE

Species of Quadruped Discovered in Africa by an English Explorer.

Something of a sensation was produced a few years ago by the announcement that a species of animal had been discovered in Africa, resembling a small giraffe, but having four horns. Specimens which had been shot by natives were sent to England by Sir Harry Johnston, a British official on duty in Africa. By him or by others the animal was called the okapi, says the New York Tribune.

Dr. J. David, of Basel, Switzerland, who accompanied a Belgian expedition to the Upper Nile, to make studies for a railway route, has published a report of his experiences in that region. He is said to be the first European to secure a specimen of the okapi with his own gun, the skins and skeletons hitherto shown having been provided by the natives. Dr. David may be, therefore, in an excellent position to describe the physical character of the animal.

This ruminant, he says, has not the bearing of an antelope, as many imagine, but much more nearly resembles a tapir. Its stripes are more beautiful than those of the zebra, and are usually double, white within black. The back is reddish, particularly in the males; the ears are very large and adorned with tufts of hair, and the mane is erect. Some of them of both sexes have horns, while others have none, whence Dr. David infers that there are at least two species. The height of the okapi at the withers is 19 to 5 feet.

Three-Footed Bear.

There is at least one bear in Hancock county traveling about on three feet. Two men were out hunting where there was a bear trap set ready for the animals that were ramping somewhat dangerous. During the night the men were awakened by a growl and snarling that betrayed the presence of a great bear. They found a foot in the trap a huge foot, too, and it is thought the animal to which it belonged would weigh over 500 pounds. The bear had gnawed off its foot in its desperate efforts to escape.—Louisville (Mo.) Journal.

Eyeglasses in Alaska.

An Alaskan missionary once for a "pick of eye-lenses and eyeglasses." A few years ago he made a similar request, and in response received a large quantity. That supply is running short. There are frequent applications for glasses from people to whom they would be a great boon.—N. Y. Sun.

The Mistletoe Kiss.

Kissing under the mistletoe is an old English custom. The plant was held in high reverence by the Druids, who used a golden sickle with which to cut it, and afterward divided it among the people as a charm to protect them against disease and sorcery.

GAMBLING IN MEXICO

GAMES AT WHICH THE VISITOR INVARIABLY LOSES.

Everything Provided for the Comfort of the Losing Player—Skinning Schemes That Are Employed.

"If you visit the city of Mexico," said a returned New Yorker, according to the Sun, "you will hear them talking about reform. They will tell you that the old capital is going to put on the lid, as New York has done, and then they smile."

"Then you are asked if you would like to see the game that is played in Monte Carlo, and your host, a gracious clubman, conducts you to the palace. Its furnishings are rich. Purple hangings adorn the walls. There are replicas of the Laocoon and of the Venus of the Capitol.

"The orchestra renders the sensuous music of the ball room. The atmosphere is fragrant. Everything necessary to make the player linger is there, even to the occasional winning. But the end comes to all who, having entered, sit out the game.

"But the great game of the city is American poker. The American visitor can find poker establishments at every turn.

"Special pains are taken, so the player is assured, to give him the same sort of entertainment he would find at home. He meets with varying success until the period of fascination begins.

"Then the player wants to stake all he has. The dealer seems to know just what is wanted, and the player gets four of a kind—say four tens. Now that sort of a hand in New York would make an American feel as if he owned a whole string of automobiles with an English building in each.

"In Mexico it makes him feel like one of the Montezuma family. While he is under the spell another player at the showdown smiles, as only a Mexican can when he has a sure thing, and lays down what is called four typewriters.

"Such instances as this are quite frequent in the Mexican card house.

"But the game which seems to hypnotize, that draws the bloods as well as hot pools, is viga. Ever hear of it?"

"A canvas sheet hangs back of a counter. The figure of a man's head with a big mouth is drawn upon the sheet. The player throws a ball at the cavernous opening.

"The ball falls upon a sloping board that bristles with nails. It meanders through the maze of spikes. There are three pockets.

"One is marked red, one white, and one with a star. If the ball rolls into the red pocket the player wins; if it drops into the white the player loses. If it finds itself in the star hole the player has won, conditionally. It is almost certain that the ball will never get into the red hole, but it does sneak quite often into the stellar receptacle.

"That is what catches the eye. The player has paid a quarter for this ball. Ten dollars is put up by the house. The player is told that he has won this conditionally.

"In order to take it away he must again throw the ball and land it in the red pocket. This costs 50 cents. He throws the ball again, and it lands in the star hole.

"The house puts up \$30. That also is the player's, conditionally. The throw for this costs \$1. The player takes another chance.

"The ball finds the star hole as before. The player loses. When he quits he is to use a gambler's expression, 'skinned to death.'

"As he backs out a peon drops in, hurds a ball and it makes a straight race for the red pocket. This is done for the benefit of the victim who has seen the first player lose. When the peon throws the counter is so manipulated that the ball finds its way to the winning pocket.

"Such a game could not run at Coney Island or even in the best manipulated districts of New York, but it flourishes in the City of Mexico day and night. And although no one ever beats it, the barefaced swindle seems to fascinate all classes addicted to gambling. It has more patrons than the whilom lottery.

"When your host has shown you all these games he takes you back to his club, and while he rolls cigarettes he says to you:

"We are going to quit bull fighting, and then we are going to import a man like your Meostair Jerome, and he will put the lid on all that I have shown you, may be some day, when all these people you have seen to-night are dead, and when you Americans come no longer to visit us."

Japanese Art.

The following notice was posted up recently in an art exhibition in Tokio, Japan: "No visitor who is mad or intoxicated is allowed to enter in. If any person found in shall be claimed to retire. No visitor is allowed to carry in with himself any parcel, umbrella, stick and the like kind, except his purse, and is strictly forbidden to take with himself dog, or the same kind of beasts. Visitor is requested to take care of himself from thievly."—St. James Gazette.

Hurt.

Mrs. Pilkington: Oh, I'm so glad to see you're home. I heard you were in that dreadful accident. Were you hurt any?"

Mrs. Bilkinton: Yes, I was considerably hurt. Charlie saved his English bulldog first and then came back after me!—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Between Friends.

Gladye: I refused Ferdj two weeks ago, and he has been drinking heavily ever since.

Ethel: (ant) It about time he stopped celebrating!—Puck.

JOHN CHINAMAN'S WEAPONS

Whether Knives or Pistols the Mongolian Wants Them of Gigantic Size.

When the recent attempt on the life of a Chinese reformer was made by his own countrymen the police found in Pell street, where the would-be assassins lay in wait for their victim, a revolver with a barrel 12 inches long, and near it a hunting knife with a blade six inches long. The circumstances showed that the Chinaman in America retains his preference for weapons of large size, says the New York Sun.

It is not generally known, though the police know it well enough, that Chinamen will use only revolvers of knives of formidable appearance. Almost without exception, every crime in which a Chinaman has figured as principal or accessory in New York has been committed with a weapon of this sort. It is not only true of New York, but the fact has also been observed in San Francisco and other places where the Chinese population is large.

The Chinaman will invest in no other weapons, and these rarely being kept in stock he usually buys his arms second hand.

The reason for this preference is not easily explained. The Chinaman says: "He likes." He certainly does. Apparently, though, you can't get him to realize that a small revolver can be almost as effective as the large one, and even if he concedes the truth he prefers to act with a bigger weapon. It impresses as well as executes.

A dealer in weapons told this of his experience: "The Chinaman will buy only a .38 or .41 caliber Colt gun or the like, and the longer the barrel the better he will like it. I'd like to sell such guns if I could get them to sell second hand. They don't come into the market, but the Chinese sell them among themselves. They bring almost \$12 apiece. Even when a Chinaman is forced to buy a cheaper weapon he still insists on a long barrel. He also prefers the steel blue to the nickel kind, which rust more quickly.

"You see Chinamen do not often shoot, but when they do they mean business, and they know that this big gun is effective. It requires a large bullet, but it usually kills sure. "In buying murderous knives the same thing is true. They buy only hunting knives, or stilettoes, with blades about eight or ten inches long. They pay from 75 cents to one dollar apiece for these. When they buy they usually form a club and go to a Broadway wholesale cutlery house and get a quantity at a time. To compete we have to sell at wholesale prices, too. I guess nearly every Chinaman owns a hunting knife; revolvers are less frequently owned."

For all that the Chinaman is peaceable. There is safety in big revolvers. They cannot be carried about in a hip pocket without inconvenience, and so they are more likely to lie in a drawer awaiting a real emergency than to be used for trivial unpleasantnesses.

Butterfly Worth \$5,000.

Ohio Man Captures Rare Insect in His Rambles in South America.

John Haviland, whose home is in Springfield, O., arrived in New York from Ecuador some days ago with a butterfly such as was never seen before here—one so beautiful and so rare, says the New York Globe, that it is worth \$5,000. It has been sent to Lord Rothschild, Rothschild in London, who has for years collected remarkable flies and strange butterflies.

Mr. Haviland was private secretary to Maj. John Harman, manager of the Guayaquil & Quito railroad, now being built between these two South American cities, thereby opening up the Andes.

During his spare moments Mr. Haviland amused himself by catching and mounting the many beautiful butterflies and dragon flies which fitted about the orchid-bung trees of his Ecuadorian home. One specimen was of such beauty that fearing his mounting might be too crude for perfect preservation, he brought it to a professional in New York city to have the beautiful fly more carefully preserved.

Immediately the old collector went into ecstasies.

"You have," he said, "the only butterfly of this kind I have ever seen. I am the American agent for Lord Rothschild, who is collecting flies and bees, and has the rarest collection and the most valuable in the world. He has just paid \$250,000 for a pair of flies. You must send this butterfly to England. If Lord Rothschild has none like it he will pay you good for it, and it shall be known as the Haviland fly."

The amateur butterfly catcher was more than surprised. He had not dreamed that his little insect was worth so much money. But he left it with the old collector, to be shipped to London.

Discarded War Material.

Vast quantities of discarded war material are thrown upon the general market by the successive changes in armament adopted by the various great powers. The Italian government now offers for sale 600,000 rifles adopted so recently as 1887, with 48,000,000 cartridges, 1,200 nine-pounders and 500 seven-pounder guns with 200,000 shells, and 170 seven-pounder mountain guns with 17,000 shells.

Terribly Worse.

"But, auntie, I think there are worse things than being kissed by a young man."

"What, for instance?"

"Why—not being kissed by a young man."—Houston Post.

THE RICHEST MAN.

ENORMOUS INCOME AND POSSESSIONS OF CEAR OF RUSSIA.

So Great That Anything Like an Exact Estimate is Impossible—Simplicity of His Life.

It was reported from St. Petersburg the other day, on semi-official authority, that the czar had given \$100,000,000 from his private treasury to Russia's war fund. If correct, says the Chicago Journal, this is the largest single gift ever made by an individual donor to any cause.

The czar is the richest man on earth. Even Mr. Rockefeller's many millions would look small by comparison.

His expenditures are almost incredible. It is estimated that the magnificent state ball which was given just as the war with Japan broke out cost over \$1,000,000.

The czar's gifts to the orthodox church in the course of the year average over \$2,500,000.

On the other hand, the church turns over large revenues to him, estimated to exceed the amount which it receives.

With the exception of the sultan of Persia, the czar owns a greater fortune in diamonds and precious stones than any man in the world.

The czar is the luckiest man on earth in the matter of "windfalls." His loyal subjects are constantly leaving him large sums of money by will, which are not always accepted.

Delicate diplomacy is required to induce the czar to accept a legacy. As a rule, a wealthy Russian who desires to leave money to him communicates with some official of the imperial household before he makes his will, and obtains the gracious consent of his majesty to his design.

Even when this has been done, and the man dies, careful investigation is made before the money is accepted, with the object of finding out whether anybody who had a moral claim on the testator will suffer by his disposition of his wealth. If so, the czar orders that the money be diverted to the proper channels.

These legacies, when accepted, are never used by the czar for his private gratification. He regards them as a trust fund, and they have been so regarded by most of his ancestors. This fund is drawn upon for charitable and religious purposes.

Five millions of rubles (\$2,500,000) were given to him to relieve the starving peasants during the last terrible famine in Bessarabia.

The czar made liberal donations from it to the last Indian famine relief fund and to the aid of the negro peasants of Martinique who suffered by the eruptions of Mount Pelee.

It is impossible to arrive at any exact estimate of the wealth of his imperial majesty," said a high diplomat, from whom most of the facts set forth in this article were obtained, "but I should think that, on the most conservative estimate, he must be worth, from all sources, far more than \$50,000,000 a year.

"This is actual revenue, and does not take into account the huge treasures in specie, bullion, and diamonds which are stored in the vaults of the Peterhof palace, in the citadel at Kronstadt, and elsewhere.

"Although he is undoubtedly the richest man in the world, his imperial majesty is a man of the simplest tastes, and his purely personal expenses would probably be easily covered by \$50 a day.

"Except when it is necessary to assume the outward show of his exalted rank, he dresses in a suit that you could buy for \$25. He dines very simply, except at state dinners, and many stock brokers smoke far more expensive cigars than he does.

"Her imperial majesty the empress is equally simple in her tastes. She has finer diamonds, and more of them, than any other woman; but she does not wear diamonds half a dozen times a year.

"She goes driving in St. Petersburg in a much less showy and less expensive equipage than nine out of ten of those which you may see any day in Hyde Park, and so does the dowager empress."

Lack of Family Life.

Men who separate themselves from their families pay a very high price for success. Some of the very greatest failures in life in America in recent years have been failures of men whose lives and careers are blazoned abroad as those of great, successful men. Their sons are noted for their worthlessness, degenerate sons of worthy sires. These young men are unfitted to make a living for themselves, and they are unfitted to spend the money which their fathers piled up with infinite pains and labors. In these cases it is extremely doubtful if the worthless sons are to be blamed, the fathers, the great, successful men, are primarily at fault because, though they made money and a name, they did not give any time or pains or thought at all to the most important work in the world, which is the rearing of honorable and useful men.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Foxy Boy.

"Gran'ma," says George, "you gave me a awful little piece of pie!"

"Why, George!" cries the dear old lady, "I gave you an extra large piece. I remember cutting an enormous piece for you."

"Gran'ma,"—the small boy ruminates a few minutes before speaking again—"Gran'ma, your glasses magnify a good deal, don't they?"—Cleveland Leader.

Feminine Anarchy.

Stella: Jack and I are to be married.

Bella: What freak election boys men do make.—N. Y. Sun.

SEEKING WATER POWER.

Use of Niagara Falls for Generating Electricity Stir Other Countries to Action.

The lesson of the use of Niagara falls for generating electricity has been put to worldwide application, says the New York World. Throughout the world falling water, according to a paper read before the British association by Mr. Campbell Ewinton, yields to man's use an energy equal to 1,433,290-horse power of which Great Britain figures for only 11,200-horse power. The British Aluminum company gets 7,000-horse power from the falls of Foyers and it expects presently to procure 17,000-horse power from Loch Leven. The North Wales Electric Power company is about to tap Lake Llydaw, on Snowdon, and hopes to obtain 8,200-horse power for every working day of nine hours. Finally, the Scotch Water Power syndicate is peering round in quest of waters that it can imprison at lofty levels and so generate electric power. From Loch Sloy, 757 feet above Loch Lomond, it is going to get 6,600-horse power, and at Ardull, higher up it proposes to get further energy. Even a modest stream that drops several hundred feet may be a source of power.

UMBRELLA A WIRY THING.

If Not Attached to Owner by a Chain It May Disappear with an Entire Stranger.

Umbrellas are proverbially a hard thing to keep, says the Illinois State Journal. They have such a way of making up with an absolute stranger and walking away with him. No matter how much a man may be attached to an umbrella, if it is not attached to him with a chain he may as well bid it an affectionate farewell whenever he puts it down in a corner and turns away to transact some business. However, this rule, hard fast and inflexible as it is, does not apply unless the umbrella is new and shiny and cost more than 35 cents at retail. To keep an umbrella on down through the years and have it on hand to use with your grandchildren, select one with a cracked handle and a hole in the cover as large as a boiler-maker's hand. Then you can't lose it, or if you do after repeated attempts, a small boy will be around at your door with it in the morning claiming a reward for his honesty.

JAPAN AS OUR CUSTOMER.

England and the United States Are Favored in Trade of the Insular Country.

According to an article in the German Export Review, quoted in the consular reports, the materials needed for shipbuilding are bought in England. Even big ships built for Japan in Germany's yards were ordered to Armstrong's in England for their armament. Recently Krupp and the French firm of Schneider are preferred. The fact that England and the United States are favored is shown by the purchase of material for the Yokohama waterworks. In calling for bids it was provided that the work come from England and the water meters from England or the United States. The names of firms even being specified. Locomotives for the railroads in Japan and Korea are bought exclusively in the United States, presumably because they are more quickly obtainable there. The friendship for the United States is increasing.

BUSY LAKE SEASON ENDS.

More Traffic This Year on Great Bodies of Water Than Ever Before.

"The great lakes are about to see the close of one of the busiest seasons they have ever known," said a lake captain in the Washington Post. "A large number of immense new vessels were added to the carrying fleets this year, but the increase in capacity was not sufficient to meet the increased demand. No vessel, no matter of what class, ever had to be without a cargo. One of the big steel vessels of 70-day capacity as much as 25 or 30 vessels of the type in use a few years ago, and they make their trips in about one-fourth or one-fifth the time. Why, we had to depend on the old-timers, the great lakes would have to have more ships, numerically, than there are on all the seas in the world."

THEATER ON MOUNTAIN TOP.

Opera House at Thale, Germany, Is the Most Novel Resort in the World.

Probably the most novel theater in the world is that which was recently opened at Thale in Germany. The theater is on the summit of a mountain and is surrounded on all sides by steep rocks; the seats for the audience are hewn out of the rock and accommodate 1,000 persons, and the stage which is also hewn out of the rock, is 80 feet long by 54 feet wide. No artificial scenery is used, but the background is formed by the dense forest and by the outlines of the mountains in the distance. The dressing-room for the actors is close at hand in the forest, but completely hidden from the audience. The theater is fully protected from the wind, and its acoustic properties are so excellent that every word is heard.

Embalmed by Bees.

Bees can embalm as successfully as could the ancients. It sometimes happens in damp weather that a slug or snail will enter a beehive. This is, of course, to the unprotected slug a case of sudden death. The bees fall upon him and sting him to death at once. But what to do with the carcass becomes a vital question. They set to work and cover it with wax, and there you may see it lying embalmed just as the nations of old embalmed their dead. When a snail is the intruder, he is, of course, impenetrable to their stings, so they simply cement his shell with wax to the bottom of the hive.—Nature.

Status of Oom Paul.

Before the Beer war it had been intended by the people of the Transvaal to erect a colossal statue in honor of Kruger on an imposing pedestal in Church square, Pretoria. Only the base was erected, however. While the war was in progress the statue ordered by the Transvaal government, was delivered by the sculptors at Delagoa bay. It was impossible to convey it then to Pretoria, so it was laid in a timber yard, and there, neglected and almost forgotten, it has since remained.

Kindness Between Fights.

Japanese examine the bodies they find lifeless in the field, and taking from each such valuables and mementoes, as a soldier would be likely to possess, send them in a neat package to the relatives of the deceased. Having cleared up the muss, buried the corpses and shipped the belongings, hostilities are reopened until there is once more an abundance of material upon which to demonstrate that kindly emotions stir the hearts of those at war.—Washington Times.

WHAT THE JAPS READ

HAVE ACQUIRED OCCIDENTAL HABIT OF PIRATING BOOKS.

Ahead of Western Nations in the Appropriation of Modern Literature—Are Great Readers.

The first western novel translated into Japanese was "Ernest Maltravers" by Bulwer Lytton. This was in 1879. It was published under the poetic title: "A Spring Story of Flowers and Willows." The latest fiction over which Japan is pouring—in stores, banks, commission houses, railway and steamship houses—"The Letters of a Self-Made Merchant to His Son," and pirated at that! The lack of an international copyright law and the lax literary morality of the Japanese has robbed Mr. Lytton of a royalty on more than 200,000 copies which have been sold in the Sunrise Kingdom. But Mr. Lytton has some revenge; the Japanese clerks have to read it as a text book. "In the Japanese arrangement of the book," says Harold Dwyer, in his article "What the Japanese are Reading" in the Book-lovers' Magazine, "this humor was entirely overlooked. The production was accepted solely as a serious gospel to overconfident, young 'nabobs.'" And yet Japan is not so far astray in its estimate of the book, which does preach a first-rate business gospel in homely language. But piracy and even plagiarism are not considered more than venial offenses in Japan. Many a hard-worked preacher or editor will sympathize with the literary workers of Japan who make no bones about appropriating a good thing when they see it, without the formality of using quotation marks. Only we Occidentals are not so honest about it.

The Japs—"The little brown polyglots" as Mr. Budge appropriately and picturesque calls them—look upon plagiarism as an indication of extensive and tenacious memory, and regard the use of quotation marks as an exhibition of questionable taste. American fiction is not popular in Japan, but science, philosophy, and poetry are. The writings of Ibsen, Tolstoy, Simon Newcomb, Edward Holden and David Starr Jordan are well known, and appreciated. Emerson, Whitman and Longfellow are enjoyed. Mark Twain, so far, "has failed in laughing his way into Japan," whereas in Russia he shares the honors with Grover Cleveland! "Japan is an empire of poets."

The present Mikado has written nearly 50,000 odes! But as a Japanese ode consists of only 31 syllables, and as "rhyme, reason and metre are alike ignored" the imperial output may be reverently discounted. The mass of the people, however, like western nations, are great newspaper and magazine readers. "More than a thousand newspapers and magazines are published in the empire. The Imperial Public Library at Tokio has 500,000 volumes, nearly 1,000 of which are printed in the languages of Europe." Notwithstanding this facility to read, the daily press is not circulating, for it does not reach its circulation or sell its wares on the streets. To get a copy you must go to the office of publication.

Not only Japan is ahead of the west in that nearly every newspaper has a "pension" sale, where subscribers in going to jail, and standing trial for any offense committed by the journal. This representative of some of the more independent papers spends a large portion of the time in prison, either awaiting the hearing of his case, or even when out of the toils he has no other duties to perform. His salary is larger than that of most of his colleagues, and his position is in demand. He enjoys the generous title of editor-in-law, and when he is behind the bars the actual editor is merely a contributor. No wonder the makers of comic opera go to the east for their ideas. The west cannot match its serious whimsicality or its soporific subtleties!

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Few Beggars Deserving.

"I have never known a deserving case of street begging," was the remarkable statement Sir Eric A. Buchanan, secretary of the London Mendicant society, made the other day.