

Discovered Compound for Burning Ashes.



John Ellmore, a cobbler of Altoona, Pa., says that he has discovered a compound for burning ashes which will revolutionize the industrial world. He says that tests have demonstrated that ashes treated with the compound make a fire hotter and at the same time cheaper than the fire produced by the burning of coal. Should the new process prove practicable, it is asserted, the price of fuel, especially coal, will be reduced to but a fraction of its present cost. Another advantage claimed for the new compound is that it almost wholly does away with smoke.

COAL IN SPITZBERGEN

ANTHRACITE DEPOSITS OF GREAT VALUE BEING WORKED.

Mines on West Coast Have Proved Most Profitable—First of Arctic Islands to Send Fuel to Market.

Washington.—The prospect brightens that Spitzbergen may become a source of anthracite of some importance. The more the archipelago is examined, the more promising it is said, are the coal mining prospects along some of the coasts, and in a number of the valleys. The railway, which was built three years ago a little inland from Advent bay to bring coal down to the shore, is to be extended further into the main island to tap new sources of supply recently discovered. This is in about 75 degrees north latitude, or a little more than 800 statute miles from the north pole. In order to make the short railroad already in operation available the year around the miners built it all the way under cover. Many tons have been hauled down to the shore on these tracks to await the arrival of steamers that have carried several loads of excellent coal to European markets.

The chief discoveries of coal have been made in ice fiord, the deep indentation of the west coast, and especially in Advent bay, where the railroad was built. Here about 50 miners are living in small, warm dwellings. They have already proved the practicability of winter mining, and two years ago they installed electricity to illumine the long Arctic night in the coal mine, and in their little settlement, so that they may add to the coal output every month in the year. It was in Advent bay that Mr. Conway, who made the first crossing of Spitzbergen, replenished the coal supply of his little steamer 11 years ago.

The world will not be indifferent to any important coal resources which the Arctic regions may afford. Some day it may be drawing appreciable supplies from Greenland, and news of fresh discoveries of coal in any part of the accessible Arctic will be heard with interest.

Meanwhile Spitzbergen, the first of the Arctic islands to send coal to market and to be the goal of tourists every summer, is still a neglected waif whom none of the family of nations has yet sought to adopt. Some benevolent party of tourists may give it a flag of its own, unless the protection of one of the nations is extended over it.

Nitrate of Soda to Be Imported. Mobile, Ala.—The first cargo of nitrate of soda ever brought to this port has arrived on board the steamer Brantwood from Chili. Further shipments will follow to supply not only the territory adjacent, but those points in the middle west where the inland freight is cheaper than from Baltimore and Philadelphia.

A few cargoes have been received at New Orleans during the past 18 months. Nitrate is used in this country for a variety of purposes, the principal ones being for the manufacture of powder and fertilizers; particularly in the latter field consumption of same has increased rapidly, especially in the south.

Chili, it is said, is the only country in the world where nitrate of commercial value is found.

TO BOOM TRIAL MARRIAGES.

Society Incorporated in California to Further Its Practice.

San Francisco, Cal.—An incorporation, the object of which is the furtherance of trial marriage principles, has filed articles of incorporation here. The directors of the association are San Francisco, Oakland and San Rafael residents, who have been holding meetings recently.

The corporation name of the organization is the Eugenic Association of California, which is defined in the articles to mean "the science of so propagating the human race as will lead to the highest attainment in mankind, spiritually, mentally, morally and physically."

The purpose of the organization, as set forth, are "to encourage an intimate acquaintance with the laws governing the propagation of the human species, to study and encourage the application of the laws of heredity to the improvement of the human family and so propagate it through the intermarriage of persons found best adapted to each other for the upbuilding and betterment of mankind."

The corporation reserves the right to issue charters to similar associations in other cities of the state. The directors are C. A. Grimmer of this city, S. Bachrach of Oakland, S. Sophia Curtis of this city, Mrs. T. Olson of this city, H. H. Overbeck, Oakland; Jennie Chamberlin, Dr. Eugenia C. Campbell, Oakland; Mrs. M. C. Burnett of this city and Dr. A. N. Boyen of San Rafael.

TELLS OF OUTPUT OF MINES.

Lead and Zinc Production of Dubuque District is Enormous.

Dubuque, Ia.—A bulletin of the United States geological survey just issued from the government printing office reviews the history of lead and zinc mining in the upper Mississippi valley.

The bulletin was prepared by State Geologist Bain of Illinois and covers exhaustively the entire region. In the 83 years preceding 1904 the value of the lead output of this region at the then prevailing prices was the enormous sum of \$60,000,000, and this was produced for the most part with the crudest devices—mere hand windlasses and sump pumps.

The bulk of this wealth came out of the hills at Dubuque, where lead was first discovered by Indians, and the mines developed by Julien Dubuque, an adventurer and the founder of the city.

The zinc production has been inconsiderable until recent years because there was little market for it and extracting processes were crude and wasteful.

The hundreds of thousands of dollars going into mining in Dubuque now is for zinc no less than lead. Zinc ore worth from \$3 to \$12 10 and 15 cents a ton, to-day commands \$14 to \$18, yielding an immense profit on a comparatively small outlay.

ENGLISH ABANDON UMBRELLA.

Makers Complain That Poorhouse Seems Not Far Away.

London.—Umbrella dealers are complaining that their trade is declining. It is certainly less brisk than formerly. The English climate has not altered, but many persons are ceasing to regard the umbrella as indispensable. The dealers attribute the falling off in sales to the disease of silk hats and the more frequent use of derbies, which are better adapted to wet weather and are cheaper.

Another supposed cause is that rain-proof coats are worn by many more persons than formerly.

SUGAR BEETS IN ENGLAND.

Experiments in the Midland Section Prove Successful.

Washington.—Consul F. W. Mahin, writing from Nottingham, furnishes information regarding the cultivation of sugar beets in England and the project to establish a sugar factory in Lincolnshire, stating that successful experiments during the last season have been announced. Consul Mahin continues:

"The experimenters now state that it is fully demonstrated that at least the midland section of England can grow the sugar beet to fully meet the requirements of quality, quantity and cost. For instance, on a farm near Stamford, in Lincolnshire, the yield of sugar beets last year averaged 20 tons per acre—the German average is given as about 16 tons—and expert analysis showed the quality of the beets to be highly satisfactory."

"A question has arisen which threatens to embarrass the sugar factory projects. Fear is expressed that if these projects were accomplished foreign sugar-producing countries would reimpose the bounties abolished by the international convention of 1902, which they could do by withdrawing from the agreement in 1903 after formal notice thereof, thereby crushing the incipient British industry. To allay this fear it is proposed that the British government be asked to give some guaranty that bountied foreign sugar shall not be allowed to compete on equal terms with that of the home product. It is reasoned also that without an assurance of this nature capital would shrink from the proposed beet sugar factories."

TEACHER HALF A-CENTURY.

Never Married Because She Regards Man in Light of Luxury.

Sigourney, Ia.—"I have never had a love affair. I am heart whole and fancy free. I am not a man hater. I think they are very necessary at times, but I regard them in the light of a luxury generally. I never just exactly felt that I could afford to support myself and a man too."

This statement was made by Miss Nancy Frey, who has just opened her eighteenth term of school, and at 71 years of age holds the unique position of being the oldest teacher both in years and point of service in Iowa.

Miss Frey was born in Knox county, Iowa, in 1835, and began teaching at the age of 25. Two years later her family removed to Sigourney, and since then Miss Frey has continuously taught school in Keokuk county.

"I began teaching in the days when teaching was the only profession a woman was allowed to enter with the consent of her relatives," said Miss Frey. "I was aware of two alternatives left for a school teacher. I chose to remain a bachelor girl. I don't allow anyone to call me an old maid."

Miss Frey has kept step with the progress made in pedagogy and her school is said to be one of the most advanced in study and the best disciplined in the state.

TO COLLECT MILE OF PENNIES.

Women Adopt Unusual Plan to Pay Off a Big Church Debt.

La Porte, Ind.—There is a debt resting on the First Christian church, of which Rev. Marion H. Garrard is pastor. The Ladies' Aid society of the church has decided to lift the burden, and they will adopt an unusual method of accomplishing the desired end. They will collect a mile of pennies. Each member of the church will be supplied with a narrow strip one foot in length. On one side of the strip will be printed the financial plan. The other side will be divided into spaces large enough to hold a penny each, 16 to each strip. The coin side of the paper will be coated with an adhesive preparation to hold the pennies.

It is calculated that when a mile of pennies is received the sum of \$344.88 will have been collected, and this will enable the women of the church to pay the debt.

Tells on Yankee Nimrods.

London.—The British government has been advised that arrangements are being made in America by large bodies of sportsmen for a visit to East Africa, presumably in quest of game. By direction of his government the British ambassador has directed the attention of the department of state to this matter and has furnished the information that, with a view to protecting game from extermination, everyone must conform to certain strict regulations which are in force in the protectorates of British East Africa and of Uganda. Under these regulations it is necessary to obtain a sportsman's license, which costs about \$250 for each protectorate, and no more than 500 such licenses can be issued in any one year.

Grows Palms on Texas Soil.

San Antonio, Tex.—The growing of date palms for their fruit is a new and rapidly developing industry along the delta of the Rio Grande in Texas. Experts from the department of agriculture at Washington have made exhaustive experiments in this section, with the result that they unreservedly advise the planting of date palms in a considerable territory that by means of their soil surveys has been found to be particularly adapted to their growth.

This, with the exception of a small area along the Gila river, in Arizona, is the only section of the United States where these trees do well.

MORE COCOA IS USED

TASTE OF AMERICAN PEOPLE EVIDENTLY CHANGING.

Big Increase in Value of Imported Product While Coffee and Tea Show a Decline—Figures Prepared by Government.

Washington.—Cocoa importations into the United States are now averaging more than \$1,000,000 a month, against an average of \$25,000 per month a decade ago. Mentions importations of both coffee and tea show a decline, especially during the last two years. Whether the taste of the people of the United States in the use of this class of the requirements of the table is actually changing can perhaps scarcely be determined by the record of a single year or brief term of years; but it is at least an interesting fact that the value of cocoa imported into the United States has more than quadrupled in the last decade, while that of coffee has actually decreased during that time, and that of tea increased about ten per cent. In quantity, however, the change has been less strongly marked.

The figures of the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor show that the quantity of cocoa imported in the eight months ending with February, 1907, is about three times as much as that of the corresponding months of 1897, a decade ago; that the quantity of coffee imported in the same eight months is more than one-third greater than that for the corresponding months of 1897, and that the quantity of tea imported during the same period is about 11 per cent less than in the corresponding months of 1897. Thus cocoa importations have increased practically 200 per cent, those of coffee 39 per cent, while those of tea have decreased 14 per cent during the decade.

The total quantity of cocoa imported in the crude state in the eight months ending with February, 1907, is 61,239,427 pounds, valued at \$8,344,426, against 20,730,059 pounds, valued at \$1,930,831 in the corresponding months of 1897. The total quantity of coffee imported in the eight months of the fiscal year 1907 is 647,266,151 pounds, valued at \$51,869,152, against 466,204,372 pounds, valued at \$53,332,608 in the eight months of 1897; and the quantity of tea imported in the eight months of 1907 is 72,475,440, valued at \$11,606,058, against \$1,220,822 pounds, valued at \$10,247,506 in the corresponding months of 1897.

The average valuation of the cocoa imported in the eight months ending with February, 1907, is 13.6 cents per pound, against 9.3 cents in the corresponding period of 1897; that of tea, 16 cents, against 12.6 cents a decade ago, while coffee shows a fall, averaging eight cents per pound in the eight months of 1907 against 11.4 cents in the corresponding months of 1897.

It is only during the last decade that cocoa has formed any considerable part in the importation of articles of this character for the table. The value of cocoa imported in the crude state in 1887 was but about \$1,500,000. By 1897, a decade later, it amounted to a little less than \$2,000,000. In 1907 the total will probably exceed \$12,000,000 for the full fiscal year, since the average for the eight months, for which a record is already made, is above \$1,000,000 per month, and in the single month of February the total importation was \$1,250,000. These figures do not include prepared or manufactured cocoa, of which the importations are comparatively small, amounting to less than \$500,000 annually.

A very large proportion of the cocoa imported is drawn from American countries. Of the 61,000,000 pounds imported in the eight months ending with February, 1907, over 15,000,000 pounds were from Brazil, over 13,000,000 from the British West Indies, more than 10,000,000 from the West India islands, about 9,000,000 from South American countries other than Brazil, while the remainder came chiefly from Europe, but was presumably shipped first from the South American countries to European ports and dealers and thence to the United States. Brazil seems to be gaining in its contribution to both the cocoa and coffee consumption of the United States. A decade ago Brazil supplied but 17 per cent of the cocoa imported into the United States, while in 1907 she supplied about 25 per cent. Of the coffee imported in 1897 Brazil supplied 76 per cent and in 1907 83 per cent, these figures in all cases for the eight months ending with February.

In tea importations the decade also shows a marked change in the source, of supply. In 1897 China supplied 55 per cent of the tea imported; in 1907 but 33 per cent. Japan, which in 1897 supplied 37 per cent of the total supplied in 1907 practically 50 per cent. The importations of tea from the United Kingdom and the East Indies combined, which may probably be considered as representing the East Indian tea imports, formed in 1897 about six per cent of the total and in 1907 about 14 per cent of the total imports of this article.

Shunned Men for 27 Years. Omaha, Neb.—Miss Jennie E. Carroll, a Wyoming spinster, is dead. She had not spoken to a man for 27 years, and requested that none but women attend her funeral.

IMMIGRATION IN 1906.

Highest Total in Eleven Years Through Atlantic and Gulf Ports.

Chicago.—The tide of immigration through the Atlantic and gulf ports reached the highest total in eleven years in 1906, according to the statistics compiled by the railroad agents, which show also that more than 500,000 immigrants have settled in the Mississippi river valley states and west during the last six years.

The reports for the first two months of 1907 show a decrease of 5,000 as compared with the corresponding months of 1906, but telegraph reports just received by the Western Passenger association, up to and including April 5, 1907, show the volume of immigrant travel to have been enormous during the month of March and the first week in April, overcoming the loss of 5,000 in the first two months and showing an increase of 22,000 over a corresponding period of 1906.

More than 80 per cent of the immigration was for states west of Chicago. In the northwest, Minnesota and Wisconsin got the bulk of the new population, as nearly all the Scandinavians were destined to those states. The northern peninsula of Michigan also received a good share. Those arriving through the gulf ports were mainly from the Mediterranean countries, and the greater portion were destined to the southern portion of Texas along the new line to Brownsville.

WAY TO SPEND PUBLIC MONEY.

Cornell Professor Writes on Work of Agricultural Commission.

Washington.—The scope of the work of the commission recently appointed to inquire into and report as to the policy that should prevail in the expenditure of public moneys provided for scientific experimentation and research in the interest of agriculture, is discussed in a letter from L. H. Bailey, of Cornell University to President David Starr Jordan of Leland Stanford university, chairman of the commission. Mr. Bailey is president of the Association of Agricultural colleges and Experiment Stations which the commission represents.

President Bailey in his letter says: "There needs to be a correlating of subjects and methods, an understanding of the most effective distribution of investigation efforts among the different state and national institutions; consideration of the influence exerted in research in agriculture by current methods of appropriations by legislatures; discussion of what constitutes research; the relation of this research to the teaching and publicity functions of the institutions, and in general, such a directing of experiment and research in the interest of agriculture as shall economize the work, render it more effective and integrate it with wise policies in the interest of the public welfare."

SIX AUTOS TO DASH FOR POLE.

Will Be Built So as to Traverse Both Land and Water.

New York.—Admiral B. S. Osbon, secretary of the Arctic club, is authoritatively for a statement that six automobiles are being built here and abroad for individual "dash" to the north pole. Two of the machines are intended for Dr. Frederick Cooke of Brooklyn and a third is for Anthony Fiola, the leader of the Zeigler expedition. Admiral Osbon said he was not at liberty to tell for whom the other three automobiles were planned, but he said that they were intended for three distinct expeditions. Admiral Osbon said that the automobiles were either copied after or an improvement on an automobile built by a letter carrier in Alaska.

"He has a route covering hundreds of miles near the arctic regions," Admiral Osbon is quoted as saying, "and he navigates immense bodies of water with his machine, for it is a water traveler as well as an ice trotter. The revolving gear which turns the rear wheels while the machine is on solid ice or land, is fitted with blades which drop down and propel the 'craft' when open water is encountered."

LAND SINKS IN NEBRASKA.

Strong Odor of Oil Comes From the Ground.

Gross, Neb.—Five acres of land west of this city have sunk fully two feet in the past few weeks.

The ground affected is on the farm of Mr. Littig, two and one-half miles from the city, and a strong odor of oil is rising from the ground.

Some of the residents are of the opinion that this country rests on a newly forming volcano, while others believe that the disturbed farm rests over a vast subterranean lake of oil.

It is asserted by some of the citizens that they have heard the distinct jangling of waves as they have washed against hidden shores in the depth of the earth.

The odor of oil is very pronounced, and there is also a strong aroma of brimstone.

Some of the more superstitious have lost all interest in coal oil and are spending their time in prayer.

Twenty-Four O'Clock in Russia.

St. Petersburg.—The new 24-hour time system has been installed in the time tables for railroads running to Moscow, by order of the government. By this system the hours are numbered consecutively from one to 24. This action is by way of experiment.

WAIF RICH AND TITLED

YOUTH FINDS HE IS SON OF A NOBLEMAN.

Accumulates Snug Fortune in the Klondike, Then Returns to States to Establish Relationship with British Lord.

St. Joseph, Mo.—Twenty years ago a young man whose home is in this city was a waif in charge of the Children's Aid society of New York. He was known on the books of the society as Eugene Purdy and had been sent from the home of the friendless at Kingston. His parentage was unknown.

A few months ago Purdy came to this city from Alaska with \$150,000 which he had accumulated during the six years he was in the Klondike, gold mining. He took a house and began a systematic search into his past.

He has received thousands of letters and many people have claimed relationship with him, but the young man known as Eugene Purdy has almost established the fact that he is a grandson of Lord Granville Barker of England and that his own name is Eugene Lee Barker. A London solicitor has informed him that there is a comfortable estate left by Lord Granville Barker.

The young man now expects to prove that he is the oldest living son of Sir Lee Granville Barker, who was the oldest son of Lord Granville Barker of Sussex. For all that Purdy knows his father may still be living.

Purdy first found a trace of his parentage when he found Mrs. Lulu Barker Martin, of Mineral Wells, Tex., who says she is his sister. From her he has learned that their father left England after a quarrel with his father and came to America. He married a southern girl and for many years lived at Memphis.

"Our mother had the yellow fever," said Mrs. Martin, in telling the history of her brother and how he happened to be separated from the family. "Our oldest sister, Carrie Barker, was the first one to die of it. Our grandmother on our mother's side, and three of mother's brothers also died of the plague."

"When the yellow fever was at the worst, Purdy came to our house with his children. He remained there some time and when mother took the fever a younger brother of ours had it at the same time. We thought mother would die and father thought he could save one of the little boys by sending him away with Purdy. Purdy moved to a house on the outskirts of the city and we did not see him or Eugene again."

"My sister Carrie went to Purdy's house to look after Eugene, and while there she took the fever and died. We did not know she was dead until they sent her clothing back. People were dying by the thousands and it was impossible to know who had died and who had not."

"Our mother and the other little boy, whose name was Lee Pearl Barker, recovered from the fever. For a long time we thought all the Purdys had died and that Eugene had died with them. Afterward we learned that Purdy had moved away from the fever-stricken city at night in a wagon taking Eugene. Then we moved to Carthage, Mo., and father began a search for Eugene."

"He was able to trace Purdy through Tennessee and toward the east, but lost track of him. We moved to St. Louis later and father still continued the search.

"One day father told us that he was going to look for Eugene and that he would not come back until he had found him. We have never seen him since."

Purdy has learned from other sources that he was taken when baby to some place in New York state by Purdy and that later he landed in the home of the friendless at Kingston. He was sent to the society in New York and from there sent to Missouri in 1886 with a car load of waifs.

PRUSSIANS' THRIFT GROWS.

Year of 1905 Broke Record for Savings Bank Deposits.

Washington.—The statistics of the Prussian savings banks for 1905 have lately been published and they may be taken as a criterion for the flourishing condition of the whole of Germany. Consul T. J. Albert of Brunswick writes on the subject as follows:

"Never before was the increase in savings bank deposits in Prussia so great as in that year. According to a statistician it amounted to \$127,120,000 advance over the previous year. In 1870 the entire deposits of the Prussian savings banks were only \$117,000,000. In 1905 they amounted to \$1,973,880,000. The present annual increase is now greater than the total amount of deposits was a generation ago. Almost 95 per cent of the books were for amounts up to \$714.

"The increase in the number of bank books in 1905 was 430,931, or nearly twice as great as the rate of increase in the population. The increase of the previous year had even been greater—namely, 439,303 books."

Club on a Mountain Peak.

Rome.—An international meeting of the Alpine club will be held next month on one of the highest peaks of Monte Rosa. A commodious refuge, built at an altitude of 9,000 feet by the Italian Alpine club, contains 30 sleeping rooms. The building is on Olen hill, near the Cimaletta lake.