

QUEEN'S THRONE ROOM.

Beauty of the Great Winter Hall in the Chinese Winter Palace.

Her majesty's throne room at the winter palace fronted on a court which was surrounded by well-built walls with curiously shaped doors and windows and ornamented yellow and green-tiled designs at intervals.

Entering I was struck by the beauty of the great central hall—the harmony of its proportions, the somber splendor of its color. It seemed to me the most satisfying, the most picturesque, of all the restful, harmonious Chinese interiors I had seen.

The curious feature of the domes in several of the palaces in the Violet City, so effective from within, giving elevation and space to the interiors, is that they are not visible from the outside of the edifice.

Great wooden doors, with huge gilded dragons in high relief, opened into apartments to the right and left of this splendid hall.

DANGERS IN AIR DRAUGHTS

An Austrian Scientist Revives a Theory Well-Known Exploded.

Prof. Max Herz, an Austrian scientist, has just published an essay upon the difference between wind and draught, which is likely to convince the public that the old-fashioned prejudice against draughts is not altogether unjustified.

By a draught is meant a current of air in an enclosed space. The men of a former generation attributed nearly all the evils that beset them to draughts and they would not have slept in uncurtained beds for anything. Of course, their windows and doors were shaky and houses stood far apart, so draughts were nearly inevitable.

But the modern scientific world tries to deny draughts altogether and calls them winds, which are harmless and even wholesome to a certain degree. Dr. Herz says that anyone who cares to find out the difference between a wind and a draught can do so in any apartment which has windows on different sides of the house.

It is the passing wind which sucks up the air in the room and draws it out and this causes the room to have what is called a draught.

The effect upon sensitive persons is immediately felt, like the fore-runner of pain to come. A draught will always be felt as colder than the wind.

Topsy-Turvy Arrangement. "Business may be business," said the man with the auburn hair, "but some business men are certainly the same."

LASSOING WILD ELK.

TRANSFERRING ANIMALS FROM RANGE TO NATIONAL PARK.

Stirring Scenes Enacted While Capturing Antlered Herd for the National Preserve.

Scenes that man never again may witness in the western hemisphere are now being enacted on the great mesa along the coast range, where the only surviving elk outside of parks in the United States, the remnant of the great bands of the antlered herd that once ranged the western plains by thousands, are being temporarily taken into captivity to be again liberated within a day of two in an immense inclosure in the Sequoia national park, near the Yosemite valley, some 100 miles to the north of the present roundup.

Stirring scenes are those connected with the capture of this antlered herd, says the San Francisco Call. Men whose lifetime training has been among the cattle herds of the west are engaged in the work.

A year ago an effort was made to take the elk into captivity to transfer them to the Sequoia national park, but it was doomed to failure. An attempt was made to drive the animals. On that occasion two hands of elk were added northward by vaqueros.

The history of this band is unique. When the last of their kind had disappeared from mountain, plains and valleys throughout the west and when it was presumed that so far as California was concerned there were no elk in existence it was discovered that there were a few survivors running loose on the great ranges of Miller and Lux, in the neighborhood of Button Willow, 25 miles southwest of Bakersfield.

And here on this great cattle farm the remnant of all that is left of the elk kind in California increased from year to year until now there are between 250 and 300 full grown elk in the bands that roam over the cattle ranges across the mesa lands and in the foothills of the coast range.

One elk was killed by exhaustion, another died in the corral, and a third died from injuries. When the riders closed in the powerful bulls became infuriated and charged the vaqueros.

As quickly as the ristas were over the horns other riders caught the elk from the rear. The animals were thrown to the ground and tied. While this contest lasted three ponies died from exhaustion and excitement.

At midnight five stock cars, containing 22 elk, left Lokern for Exeter. They will be landed on Monday and move overland a distance of 30 miles to the government reservation. The roundup will be continued from time to time until the entire herd has been captured.

Doing All He Could. "Oh, yes," remarked Ketchy, in a self-satisfied way, "Lulu and I will start out in married life under very favorable circumstances. Her mother gives us a neat little home, her father furnishes it, and her uncle de Long has given a carriage and pair. Besides, Lulu has a snug income in her own name."

Out in Front. "That man appears to be a leader of public opinion." "Yes," answered Senator Sorghum. "He appears to be. But in my opinion he's like a man going through a tunnel ahead of a train of cars. He's simply hurrying to avoid being run over from behind."—Washington Star

PRIZES FOR UGLY GIRLS.

Novelty in the Way of a Public Exhibition That Was a Success.

An interesting showman in Milan, who has more than once organized successful beauty shows, recently struck out in a new line by arranging what might be styled an "ugly" show, whereat a number of women and girls competed for three prizes which were offered for the three ugliest competitors. And strange to say, the show was a decided success, which goes to prove that, contrary to a common belief, there are some women sufficiently ugly to be conscious of their defect.

There were 14 competitors, and by all accounts every one of them deserved a prize; indeed, some one suggested that while considering to whom to award the prizes the judges had worn smoked glasses in order to save their feelings. However that may have been, the winner of the first prize—a young woman of 24—was the wife of a local frame maker and the mother of five children.

In the German town of Haschmann it is an annual custom to award cash prizes to the ugliest girl of the year, also to the most crippled and to a woman of more than 40 lovers who has had at least two lovers at different times, but lost them.

These prizes are provided by the interest derived from a sum of money left by a wealthy Haschmann philanthropist, and are really intended to encourage local men to marry the ugly, the crippled and the rejected; but in this matter they do not appear to be very effective, though the prize to the ugliest girl generally amounts to about \$15, and that to the cripple to some \$12, while \$10 usually falls to the woman of blighted affection.

CATS DRIVE OUT RABBITS.

Stray Descendants of Summer Cottager's Pets Do This in New Jersey.

Ten years ago this island, then known as Tatem's or Seven Mile Beach, offered the lovers of rabbit hunting one of the finest shooting grounds in the state. Since then, says a local report, the supply of rabbits has been decreasing rapidly.

The rabbit tribe has been almost wiped out by cats. The original cats were brought here by summer cottagers, and either from choice or because they were abandoned by their owners they strayed into the swamps on the island and remained there, subsisting on birds and field mice and upon fish cast ashore on the beach. When the breeding season of the rabbits came around the cats waged a relentless war upon the young bunnies and devoured hundreds of them.

This outdoor life soon caused the cats to lose their gentleness. They increased rapidly in numbers and each succeeding generation became wilder, until now, hiding in the deep swamps, there are many almost as ferocious as catamounts. The offspring of these cats, born and raised in the woods, develop to an unusual size. They have heavier fur and longer and sharper claws than the domestic tabby. Some of them weigh as much as 20 pounds.

They have little fear of dogs, often boldly attacking them. In these encounters the dogs usually suffer the more damage, coming out of the fight badly torn and scratched and often being saved from being blinded only by the arrival of their owners.

In fight these felines are remarkably agile and easily outrun the dogs. They are very tenacious of life and even when badly wounded will show fight.

ATTACHABLE BOOT SOLES.

Invention of London Man Greatly Simplifies the Repairing of Footgear.

An ingenious system of resoling a boot when the existing sole is worn out has been devised by a London inventor. In this boot, says the Scientific American, the outer sole is attached to the inner sole by means of brass screws inserted in a series of eyelet holes round the welt. When it is required to attach a new sole the worn sole is simply unscrewed and the new one substituted. In the case of the heel the screws are driven into holes in the under surface of the heel so that not only do the screws fulfill the function of attaching the new heel, but constitute efficient protectors as well. The attachable soles and heels are standardized in various sizes and can be placed on the market ready for instant attachment.

The process of soiling and healing a boot can be accomplished in five minutes. The idea is especially applicable to soldiers' boots where the foot covering is subjected to constant and heavy wear. The main advantage of the device is that no time is lost during the repair of the boot. The American military department has ordered samples of the new boot and proposes to subject them to severe trial by men on active service.

Electricity Gains on Steam. New York plans to receive her railroads by electric traction, and Sweden is experimenting with the monophasic electric system with a view to its adoption in the government railways. The present tests relate to an 18,000-volt trolley system. A number of tests will be made to learn the best operating voltage to use in the working of the lines under the various local conditions. The locomotive is of 25-ton type and has two main axles each carrying a 150-horse power motor working at 25 cycles. Two locomotives can be coupled together and controlled from a single point. The pneumatic control system is used for the locomotive.

PROPOSED NEW STATE

TO UNITE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA.

The Unique Name of California Has Been Suggested by Los Angeles Man—Territory Involved.

The suggestion of Arizonians and Los Angelesans to segregate the counties of southern California, annex the territory of Arizona, and form a new state, having common interests and claims, has decided merits, well worthy of consideration. Such a union, says the Los Angeles News, was proposed a number of years ago, when the division of California was urged by many citizens living south of the Tehachapel and, if we mistake not, it was W. S. Knight, of Los Angeles, who invented the short, euphonious name of California for the appellation of the proposed new state.

In addition to the seven counties, usually classed as southern California—namely, San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara—there are three others which naturally belong to this section of the state—San Luis Obispo, Kern and Inyo. These ten counties comprise an area of 68,787 square miles, or about two-fifths of the state of California. Their population, according to the census of 1900, was 341,645. Adding 30 per cent. for the average increase in the last five years—certainly a moderate estimate, for Los Angeles alone nearly doubled its population in that period—the present population of the ten counties is close to 500,000.

If to this is added the area of Arizona, 112,920 square miles, and its census population of 1900, 122,031, also with a 20 per cent. increase, bringing it up to 146,437, we shall have an aggregate population not far from 650,000 with which to start the new state of California. There were 19 states with a less population in 1900.

It is suggested that Los Angeles will naturally become the capital of the new state, but there may be other claimants for that honor. With few exceptions the state capitals have not been located at the metropolitan centers. In the early days of the republic there was a strong sentiment against having the political capital in the commercial metropolis. It was deemed unwise to have the legislative halls brought into too close contact with commercial influences. If that sentiment should prevail in the new state the capital might be located at Pomona or Redlands or Riverside. Either of these towns is easily reached from all points of the proposed new commonwealth.

California's representation in congress would be two United States senators and three representatives, but the latter would be increased by one or two representatives by the census of 1901. The two great states of California and Arizona would then work effectively together for common interests, and would wield a much greater influence than at present in the halls of congress and in all national affairs. The development of the port of San Pedro and Wilmington harbor would receive a new stimulus. Asiatic lines of steamers would be established and Los Angeles would become the recognized emporium of all the southwest, with all its magnificent agricultural and mineral resources and its splendid commercial possibilities.

Let all sections of southern California and Arizona make a concerted effort to create, organize, develop and perfect the new and imperial state of California. Before the next census is taken it should be known in all lands and should be unrivaled in reputation for climate, scenery, production, rapid growth and wonderful development.

Samoa's Queer Volcano.

In spectacular geology the Vavan volcano in Samoa seems to have a place by itself. The crater is seven miles in length, and it forms lava mountains that are slowly carried great distances by the molten sea beneath, as many as five or six of these shifting mountain chains seeming to be now in existence. The mountains may have a length of four or five miles, with a width of a quarter of a mile in places and a height of 200 feet.

Gave It a Fair Trial.

"Walter, do you mean to say this is the steak I ordered?" "Yes, sah."

"This looks like the same steak the gentleman across the table refused to eat a few minutes ago."

"Yes, sah; we always tries it three times before we gives it up, sah."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Will Sell It Cheap.

Rachel: Here is your ring, Solomon. I can never marry you, for I love another.

Solomon:—Vere de man you love?" "Heavens! You won't kill him, will you?"

"No, but I will sell him de ring cheap."—Translated from Tales from Faintly-Journal.

BEES SHIRK THEIR WORK.

Honey Hunter Says the Insects Do Not Make a Bee Line.

"There are several popular errors about the ways of bees which need rectifying," said the Hubbard, a honey hunter, according to the New York Sun. "The average bee, instead of being an example of industry, is about the laziest thing that flies. 'Even in the busy season in mid-summer no bee will quit its hive until after the sun is well up and has taken off the heavier part of the dew, and so soon as the sun slants toward the hills in the afternoon every bee will come flying home and go to roost, though darkness is four hours away."

"Then there are few bees that will hunt for honey from flowers so long as they can find corn or syrup or brown sugar to steal. The fact is so well known to apiculturists that many beekeepers buy corn syrup for 50 cents a gallon and pass it along to the bees, which convert it into something that resembles honey, but is not honey, and still sells for the genuine product of the bees. When a man can buy syrup for 50 cents a gallon and then sell it back to the trader as honey for eight dollars a gallon he can get rich right away, provided he has enough bees."

"The greatest mistake that is made about bees is the belief that they follow straight lines when carrying home their loads of honey. I assure you that the bee line one reads about in the books does not exist."

"When a laden bee is going home with a big load of honey in its stomach and great wads of pollen on its hind legs it takes the easiest course, regardless of any line. In our hilly Maine country no bee will rise in the air to surmount a hill when it can go around the obstruction."

"When a sharp rise lies between my honey box and the bee tree every bee flies away on the arc of a circle, so as to avoid exerting itself by rising. In such cases I place my box on either side of the hill and make my triangulation nearer the apex. If one were to go chasing after a bee that was flying around a hill his calculations might lead him to China."

"The beekeepers tell us that white clover honey is the best, but I do not agree with them. Domestic honey such as is gathered from white clover, buckwheat and other cultivated plants, is too sweet."

"To my mind wild honey that is stolen from the blossoms of dogwood and hazelwood and wild hyacinth and mint and nettle is far better than anything bought in the stores. It has a gamy flavor about it that suggests wild brooks and great trees and singing brooks and everything that lives out of doors and away from the contaminating taint of mankind."

DECEITFUL ACCOMPLICE.

Would-Be Smuggler Was Fooled, So Were the Customs Officers.

George W. Whitehead, appraiser of merchandise at the port of New York was talking about smuggling yesterday at the New York Tribune.

"No great amount of smuggling is done," he said. "To smuggle extensively, it is necessary to cheat, you or me cheat them, and then they betray you. Altogether, in the end, you lose rather than gain."

Mr. Whitehead smiled. "Not so long ago," he said, "a certain skipper haled a fisherman off the coast, and asked him if he would smuggle ashore for him a cask of brandy."

"The fisherman agreed, and two casks of brandy were lowered into his boat."

"One," said the skipper, "is for your trouble and risk, my man."

"Well, a week or so later the skipper called with a team at the Jersey fisherman's house for his cask of brandy. It was night. He got the cask, and started on the dark and lonely way back home."

"But the custom house people have sharp eyes and ears. They lay in wait for the skipper. They caught him a mile outside of the fisherman's village, and there was the cask of brandy in the wagon."

"He said nothing. There was nothing to say. The cask was opened."

"We'll sample this fine liquor," said a customs officer.

"And he put his mouth to the bung, and then drew back, amazed. The skipper was amazed, too. The cask contained nothing but water."

Industrial Precious Metal. The world's total supply of platinum during the year 1904 was about 13,800 pounds, 12,200 pounds of which came from Russia. The United States produced 200 ounces, valued at \$4,150. All of this came from California and Oregon, the Wyoming mine having suspended operations. The price of platinum increased ten per cent during the year. According to Dr. David T. Day, of the United States geological survey, the outlook for an increased production during 1905 is good. The present price of platinum—\$20.50 an ounce—is the highest which this metal has reached in recent years.—Electrical World.

DOG PROUD OF CLOTHES.

Canine That Is Very Much Distressed When Deprived of Correct Apparel.

There is a dog in Augusta who dresses just like a man, wearing the regulation coat, vest, collar and cravat and is very proud of his apparel, seemingly, being very much distressed and ashamed whenever his busy master does not have time to rig him up in his clothes, reports the Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle.

"If there are any who are 'from Missouri,' they may be satisfied by calling at a blacksmith shop on Ellis street, near the city hall, where they can be introduced to him by his master, George Bailey, a negro employe of the smelter."

He wears them with a conscious dignity and is hugely delighted when anyone stops to notice his attire and comment thereon. He will gaze intently at each speaker and joyously wag his tail when complimented upon his appearance.

It is not known what whim induced the blacksmith to thus clothe his canine pet. "In all points like as we are." But he certainly devised the dog's dress most ingeniously. No detail is wanting. The cut of his coat is after the latest mode—has pockets, too—the collar is nicely laundered and the cravat is tied with correct smartness.

The first thing in the morning he must be properly dressed, or else he whines piteously. After he has been clothed according to his usual custom his joy knows no bounds, and he displays his pleasure with much barking and wagging of his tail. He has the utmost contempt for the host of naked dogs who roam about the street and absolutely refuses to associate with them, manifesting a spirit of outraged indignation at their immodesty.

"PAGAN" TOWN IN ENGLAND

Village of 1,700 People Who Seem to Have Gone Spiritually to Sleep.

"Pagan Hook" is the name now enjoyed by the quiet little village of Hook, which is situated some three miles from Kingston-on-Thames.

So lost in indifference is this village that the vicar, the Rev. W. M. Dingwell, has thrown up the sponge of the parish in despair, says a recent London report.

"I have worked hard here for nearly three years," said the vicar in an interview, "and it seems largely in vain. I have spoken to the people personally and have implored them to come to church, but they will not do it. 'No effort, either spiritual or material, no concert, whether high-church or extremely popular, no branch of church activity that I have been able to devise or carry on will induce the people of Hook to come to church.'"

"There is a population of 1,700 people, but many of them absolutely refuse to attend church. In fact, only 200 out of the 1,700 have attended church, and some of these even are not Hook people."

"The fact is that the village is spiritually asleep. They do not go to non-conformist places of worship, nor do they go to public meetings. They have simply gone to sleep and do not give a thought to spiritual things."

The vicar has now departed for the West Indies on a holiday voyage.

Some of the more enlightened manufacturers of "Pagan Hook" are making around a large memorial paper asking Christian and pagan alike to sign a earnest entreaty to the reverend gentleman to return to them.

THE FUR-LINED OVERCOAT.

Dressy Gentleman Will Carry the Garment Inside Out on His Arm.

The precise and high-priced tailor drew a chair picture on the customer who was "trying on," relates the Providence Journal, stuck three pins in his arm and said:

"The most radical change in garments for gentlemen for winter wear this year will come in the fur-lined overcoat. We have been driven to it by a desirable fur collar which has made its appearance and which can be fastened on to the permanent collar of a big ready-made topcoat in a way that will puzzle an expert to detect its origin and its features. Of course, that kills the fur collar for the rich and 'dressy' gentleman who has a genuine fur coat. We shall make the collar of the expensive coat of the same material as the cloth of the coat, or of velvet, but a little wider than the collar of the ordinary coat."

"And muffs will not be sewed on the sleeves of the first-class fur-lined coat this season. They were always suggestive of the crushed tragedian."

"How well people know that 'dressy' and wealthy gentlemen have fur-lined coats?" inquired the custodian, anxiously.

"They will carry them inside out on their arms," replied the precise tailor.

Not the Claim. Clam diggers are predicting a cold winter because the clams are burrowing deep. Just why a clam should be given credit for knowing more about the weather than human beings is not clear. Some animals may be credited with superior instinctive impressions—but not a clam.—Washington Star.

Exchange of Confidence. Husband (during the hen-moon)—I was awfully nervous when I proposed to you. I was afraid you wouldn't accept me.

Wife—And I was awfully nervous for weeks before you proposed. I was afraid you wouldn't.—Sphere.