

TURKEY EXPECTANT.

Hopes to Find Great Mineral Wealth in Her Realm.

Geologist of United States Survey to Make Thorough Investigation of the Country's Mineral Resources at Sultan's Request.

Jonah E. Spurr, a geologist of the United States survey, has just left Washington for Turkey, upon a request from the government of the empire, for the purpose of making a thorough investigation of the mineral resources of that great country. Mr. Spurr has not been made acquainted with the details of his work, and will not even equip himself with the implements necessary for his work, but will depend on the Turkish government to supply them.

Some months ago Ali Ferrouh Bey confided to Maj. Powell and Dr. Day, of the survey, the desire of the officials of his country to have a practical American engineer and geologist go over the most promising parts of Turkey, with a view to determining its mineral wealth, and the delay in sending a man was due to the Turkish economical view of the recompense for the services of an American scientist.

It has long been believed by the authorities of the Turkish empire that there is untold mineral wealth in various parts of their country, but beyond a supposition they have no knowledge, having no organized survey and no geologists of note.

Arabia in ancient days was reputed to possess fabulous wealth in gold, silver and precious jewels, but it is now believed that these rare things must have been brought from Yemen, as from a mart or depot, and were not the product of the country. As late as 600 A. D. the exiled monarch of Sanaa, Seyf of Yemen, described southern Arabia as "a land, the hills of which are of gold and its dust of silver." Nowadays nothing is found to justify such gorgeous statements. Agate, onyx, cornelian, and, though seldom, topaz alone are to be met with; of gold mines and precious ores there is not a trace, lead is found, the richest leads coming from the mountains of Oman, and a small quantity of silver is found in the same mines.

There is absolutely no doubt of the mineral wealth of Asia Minor, and Mr. Spurr will be able to give some definite idea of the richness before his return. Up to the present time no work of great value has been done there. Iron ores of good quality are still found, while copper and silver mines, though unworked, promise a great future. Even the marble quarries which attracted so much attention in the time of the Romans and are responsible for the great beauty of the architecture of that day, now lie neglected. A great future is predicted by Turkish officials from the faithful service of American engineers.

RIVAL OF THE X-RAY.

French Chemist Discovers a New Element That Goes a Step Farther Than Röntgen.

Experiments with a new process somewhat similar to the celebrated Röntgen or "X" rays, are being conducted in great secrecy at a Berlin institute, according to a communication received at the state department from Consul General Guenther, at Frankfurt, Germany. The new species of ray are called Baequerel rays, after their discoverer, a French chemist, who first put his discovery before the public in 1895. In the future which the Röntgen rays created in the medical world these Baequerel rays were lost sight of. The experiments are said to have disclosed the fact that an entirely new element is responsible for the Baequerel rays and that they render almost every transparent substance luminous in the darkness.

Consul General Guenther says that the new rays make it possible to tell genuine diamonds from artificial ones in the dark, which fact would prove of great practical importance in testing. The experiments, it is stated, also have demonstrated that rays emanating from a larger quantity of the new element make the air such a conductor of electricity as to promise that the property can be utilized in wireless telegraphy. The results of the experiments, it is stated, will be laid before Emperor William, "which," says the consul general, "seems to indicate that the discovery is regarded as one of great importance."

FORBID KISSING ON PIERS.

New York Custom-House Officials Say That the Custom Fees Are Smuggling.

For a time at least there will be no more kissing and hugging at the foot of the gang plank whenever a steamship arrives at New York from foreign shores. This is a sight that always jars upon the nerves of a customhouse official and of a bystander, particularly if he has no pretty wife, cousin or sweetheart to embrace. Hereafter all kin or friends of arriving passengers will be rigorously excluded from that part of the pier on which the customs inspectors examine baggage.

The customhouse officials are ungalant enough to argue that the kissing and confusion incident to a crowd renders it difficult for them to detect smuggling. The plan has been tried before and it did not work, they say.

Grateful to a Dog.
In a little town in South Dakota they are considering the erection of a monument to a dog which awoke its master and possibly prevented the destruction of the village by fire.

POPULATION OF ALASKA.

The Territory Shows Phenomenal Growth in the Last Ten Years.

At the census office was made public a bulletin showing the population of Alaska by districts and minor civil divisions. The total population is 43,592, an increase of 31,590, or 98.4 per cent. in ten years. In 1839 an estimate of the population was made, the number being 39,813. Not until 1863 was another estimate made, and it was found the population had decreased considerably according to the previous estimate, the number for the second estimate being 30,434.

The territory of Alaska was acquired by the United States in 1867, but a census was not taken until 1880, when it was found there were 33,426 inhabitants. The following decade there was a decrease in the number, the enumerators finding only 32,052, but owing to the gold craze which broke out during the following ten years the population of the territory almost doubled itself, there being 63,592.

The total land surface of Alaska is approximately 590,884 square miles, the average number of persons to each 100 square miles being 6 in 1880, 5 in 1890 and 11 in 1900. Nome is the largest city in the territory, its population being 12,486. Skagway, with only 3,117, is the next largest city, while Juneau is the third in size, with 1,864 population, and Sitka is the next largest with a population of 1,396. These are the only four cities in Alaska that have a population of 1,000 and above. Of the places named 37 have a population of less than 200, 31 between 200 and 500 persons, and 6 between 500 and 1,000 persons. The cities are sparsely populated as a rule, as naturally would be the result with only 11 persons to every 100 square miles, and there are some which have a population of only 16 persons.

SILK WAISTS FOR SQUAWS.

Indians While on Visit to Washington Purchase Gaudy Articles of Wearing Apparel.

Some of the Arizona braves who have been in Washington looking after the irrigation bill and who waited for the inauguration exercises, wandered into a downtown dry-goods store the other morning, and at once informed the floor walker that they had come to buy silk for waists for their squaws. It seemed but a step from tomahawks to civilized turbans, and not one bit abashed, they looked at and felt of the various pieces of silk, always red in color, until one old warrior who stood apart espied a piece of blue. He immediately pointed it out, and when it was laid before him, showed the most evident delight. When his comrades discovered the color they entered a vigorous protest against anything but red being bought, but, holding firm to his convictions, he cut and measured, saying, "She told me she wanted blue."

From silk waists to garters was a slight change, and as they were of the made-up variety in gorgeous colors, each sturdy brave unfastened the showy buckles and tied them about his arm above the elbow, not looking at all confused as the shop girls shied down behind the counters.

Several of the Indians bought belt buckles built more for show than utility, first trying them on their shawls to get the effect, while others varied the shopping with red cotton handkerchiefs and even a stock and tie. Each Indian perched his bundle on his hip as it was handed to him, and left with a great degree of satisfaction written in his face.

EXCITING AUTOMOBILE TRIP.

Mr. and Mrs. de Garmendia, of Paris, Have Two Thrilling Adventures.

Mr. and Mrs. de Garmendia, great social favorites in the Paris colony, have had two trying adventures within the last week. While going down from Paris to the Riviera in their automobile the vehicle plowed through a drove of sheep and cows which were being driven to market during the night, killing several of them, besides suffering a bad spill themselves.

The peasant owners demanded exorbitant damages. De Garmendia refused to pay, preferring to remain in the neighborhood until the case could be settled by a court. The local justice of the peace, after a delay of four days, rendered a decision which, though still expensive, was satisfactory.

Twenty-four hours after resuming their journey they took into their vehicle an interesting-looking tramp, who appeared to be exhausted. The fellow soon produced a razor and insisted upon cutting his throat right there, as a treat to them, he said. De Garmendia stopped the automobile, overpowered the man, who fought like a wildcat, while Mrs. de Garmendia screamed in terror, and delivered him, gagged and bound, to the police of the next town, where he was recognized as a dangerous escaped lunatic.

Texas Gave Them a Surprise.
The fruit, vegetable and flower exhibit at Houston, Tex., was a revelation to strangers as well as to the people living in the state. It was not expected so fine a display could be made in these lines.

Chance for Tests.
If Tesla wants to do something practical let him invent an electric contrivance for the breaking of deadlocks, suggests the Chicago Record.

Liverpool Ahead of London.
Official returns show that last year Liverpool's imports and exports exceeded London's by \$75,000,000.

REVENUES OF RUSSIA.

Government of the Czar is the Greatest Factor in Eastern Trade and Finance.

Statistics recently published show that the Russian government draws an annual net profit of 45,000,000 rubles from its forests, mines and agricultural property. It receives annually 80,000,000 rubles from its communities of ex-sets for the use of land it ceded to or purchased for them. It is building by far the longest and most costly railway in the world and it owns and works over 20,000 miles of railways, the net revenue of which is equal to one-seventh of the net revenue of all the railways of the United States.

In 1898 it received \$900,000,000 into its coffers, nearly one-half of which sum was not produced by taxation. Its budget is greater than that of France by more than \$200,000,000.

In 1890, when one of the banks of London was unable to meet its obligations, the Russian government had with it on current account a balance of so many millions of pounds that when the Bank of England came to the rescue a request was immediately made to Russia not to dispose of her balance before a certain date, since to do so would be to precipitate a financial crisis of the utmost gravity. Finally, besides being a capitalist and a banker of this magnitude, the Russian state is also a metallurgist and a spirit merchant.

In a word, the proud claim is made for it that it is the greatest land owner, the greatest capitalist, the greatest constructor of railways and carries on the largest business in the world.

ORIGIN OF THE SKIRT DANCE.

According to This Account It Was First Seen in a French Drawing-room in 1787.

The woman who invented the skirt dance seems to have been more famous than anybody supposed. It was no less a person than Emma Hart, of London. Lord Nelson's Lady Hamilton, says the Cincinnati Enquirer. That is the person Francisque Sarcey has selected as the real originator of the dance, which in its somewhat degenerated and present estate is largely a matter of calcium lights and dress goods. A letter which M. Sarcey quoted was written by Goethe, and describes what the French critic takes to be the origin of the dance. The famous German wrote in March, 1787:

"Sir William Hamilton, who is still the British ambassador here, after having studied the works of nature for so long a time, has found a beautiful young woman the most delightful thing in art or nature. She is an English woman, very beautiful in face and figure. She gives an entertainment dressed in a Greek costume. Her hair hangs loose. She takes two shawls in her hands, and she so varies her attitudes, postures and play of features that it is like a dream. Kneeling, standing, sitting, she assumes by turns an expression of exaltation, repentance, anxiety, remorse, affection."

The skirt dance now is so much the work of the electrician and the limelight man that it is agreeable to find the original inventor of its grace and beauty was a woman.

THREAD USED IN SURGERY.

That Made from Kangaroos' Tendons Is the Most Highly Esteemed.

The modern surgeon employs in his work dozens of different kinds of thread for sewing up cuts and wounds. Among them are kangaroo tendons, horsehair, silk and very fine silver wire. Many of these threads are intended to hold for a certain number of days and then naturally break away. The short, tough tendons taken from the kangaroo, which are used for sewing severe wounds, will hold for about four weeks before they break away. Silk thread will remain much longer, sometimes six months, while the fine silver wire is practically indestructible.

With the entire outfit a surgeon is able to select a thread that will last as long as the wound takes to heal and will then disappear completely. To accommodate this assortment of threads special varieties of needles are required. Besides the needle craned in different segments of a circle, surgeons use needles shaped like spears, javelins and bayonet points. Some are as long as bodkins, in a point like a miniature knife blade. Others have the sharp-edged end triangular.

Wheat in China.
The greater part of the wheat grown in China is winter wheat, planted in the fall. It is not sown in large tracts, as in the United States, but planted in small lots of a fraction of an acre. It is in many cases planted by dropping about three grains in a hole and putting a few ashes in each hill. It is hoed and weeds are pulled out by hand. When ripe it is cut close to the ground or pulled out by the roots. The threshing is done by flails on the ground. The grain is gathered up, without a large percentage of dirt, and sold without being cleaned. Another method of threshing is to whip the grain over a row of sticks placed on a box. The wheat is not cleaned before it reaches the mill, and when ground in the native mills much of the dirt is ground into the flour, so that it is gritty.

Violation of a Law of War.
Bombardment of the residence portions of towns, now forbidden by the laws of war, has been repeatedly practiced in spite of this prohibition.

WHO GAVE THE TITLE?

Controversy in England as to Victoria's Recognition as Empress of India.

An animated discussion is now going on in England as to who first suggested that Queen Victoria be invested with the title of "Empress of India." Thomas Power O'Connor, usually reliable as to his facts, declared that Sir Andrew Clarke, long prominent in Indian affairs, was the originator of the idea; others insist that Dieraeil (Lord Beaconsfield) is entitled to the honor. The latter, however, made no such claim, but frankly gave credit elsewhere. In the debate on the third reading of the royal titles bill in March, 1876, Mr. Dieraeil quoted a letter from a correspondent—"A young lady who is only 12 years of age—so there is nothing compromising to her conduct or my own. Her father was in the house of commons a few days ago listening to our debates and the young lady asked her father what the debate was about, and he told her the house of commons was discussing whether the queen of England should be called empress of India. 'What silly men they must be!' said she; 'I have known that for three years.' 'And how do you know?' she was asked. Whereupon the young lady produced a geography book and pointed to a passage stating that 'British India is under the dominion of Great Britain. Her majesty the queen bears there the title of empress of India.' The geography was, as a matter of fact, a well-known work and, as Dieraeil observed, was 'not to be despised, for it is in its eighty-ninth edition.'"

BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

Great Improvements Have Been Noted Since the Accession of King Edward.

A complete transformation has come over Buckingham palace since the accession of Edward VII. At night it no longer presents a dreary prospect unrelieved by a single gleam of light. The windows are illuminated, the courtyards are bright with incandescent lamps and the whole palace looks cheerful and inhabitable, says a London exchange.

Buckingham palace stands on the site of pleasure grounds known in the days of Evelyn and Pepys and frequently mentioned in their diaries as the Mulberry gardens. The property was eventually bought by the dukes of Buckingham, who erected the first house, which, however, was not very large or handsome, notwithstanding that it was even then called Buckingham palace. George III. purchased it from the dowager duchess of Buckingham as a residence for Queen Charlotte, whose palace, Somerset house, in the Strand, was required for public purposes. After much haggling with his majesty's agents, the duchess parted with it for £50,000. It was not greatly altered till 1824, when it was enlarged and almost rebuilt after designs by Joseph Nash for the London residence of the royal family.

THEY ALL EAT ICE CREAM.

Pages in the United States Senate Have a Weakness for Frozen Sweets.

Among the best patrons of the ice cream booths in the vicinity of the capitol at Washington are the pages employed in the senate chamber. No senator ever eats ice cream in the daytime and the few ladies who take lunch in the restaurant rarely call for it. The chief patrons of the frozen food are the page boys.

The love of the youngsters for ice cream surpasses all understanding. It is a purely juvenile taste and they indulge in it to their hearts' content. The substantial sandwich, the toothsome pie, the ninety and nine other things that a sensible man would select for his lunch have no attractions for the bright little fellows. They want ice cream and plenty of it. At lunch time half a dozen pages can be seen burying their noses into heaped-up plates of ice cream, while their faces are the very mirrors of contentment.

If it wasn't for the pages the ice cream freezer would have to go out of business.

Violated His Own Law.
King Leopold of Belgium was lately fined 500 francs for violating one of his own laws by driving his automobile at a higher rate of speed than permitted by statute. When arrested near Belgium the king was so effectively disguised by his great-coat and leather goggles that the officer did not recognize him. When his majesty removed his riding "spec" and unbuttoned his coat, revealing his famous beard, the consternation of the policeman may be imagined. The officer had presence of mind enough to do his full duty, and was commended for his act.

The Queen's Spelling.
Victoria was a stickler for good spelling. All queens and most untitled members of the sex are believed to be superior to petty considerations of orthography; but in her own case interest in the matter led the queen to rebuke official correspondents for laxity in spelling. Sir Arthur Biggs preserves one of her formal reprimands.

German Emigrants.
In 1881-1885 the annual number of German emigrants averaged 171,363. In 1897 there were only 24,531, and in 1898 only 20,837 emigrants.

Money in Old Uniforms.
The worn-out uniforms of the British army when sold bring back into the war office treasury close upon \$150,000 a year.

WILL MEASURE THE WIND.

Englishman's New Instrument for Recording Velocity and Direction of Currents.

An ingenious instrument has been invented by Mr. R. M. Lowe, of Catford, whereby the velocity and direction of the wind may be accurately registered by means of electricity. The instrument is an adaptation of vane and anemometer combined, and the record is automatically made on a paper ribbon—the indicating instrument being connected by electric wires with the vane and anemometer. The direction of the wind is continuously shown by a well-defined single pencil line, and the changes to eight points on the compass and their duration are also recorded in the same way, says the London Chronicle.

Another pencil line indicates tenths of miles and miles of velocity, and the maximum velocity (and when it occurred) can also be seen at a glance. Mr. Lowe claims that the apparatus, which he has kept working for over a year, is most successful in every way and withstands all changes of weather. Everything is perfectly automatic in action and the battery power required is very small. The records shown by means of Mr. Lowe's instruments cannot, he states, be obtained by means of any other apparatus in existence.

Mr. Lowe told a newspaper representative that it will be quite possible to get, by means of his invention, accurate records at a central station of the direction and velocity of the wind from any part of Great Britain by means of electric wires connecting the recording instrument with the vanes and anemometers wherever they may happen to be stationed.

FARM NAMES HAVE VALUE.]

In Many Instances They Are a Satisfactory Guarantee of a Product's Quality.

"It is a wonder to me," remarked the dairymen as he sold a lot of eggs that came from a farm whose name is known all about this section for the excellence of its products, says the New York Times, "that farmers do not name their farms more frequently and so establish a sort of trade-mark for their produce. They would do it, I am sure, if they only knew how much it adds to the value of the stuff they send to the markets. I have scores of customers who will buy only milk, eggs, chickens or other produce they want that comes from a certain farm and is so stamped.

"There are a score or more of gentlemen farmers who appreciate this and who have given fanciful names to their places and so at once added to the value of their produce. It also adds at once to the value of their property, for the name very quickly becomes known and people who are looting to buy country places are willing to pay more for one that has an established name and reputation. Now, Jones' farm or Smith's farm does not mean anything to the average buyer, but call it 'Edgewood,' 'Ivanhoe,' 'Lookout' or any other fanciful name and it at once obtains a market value it never had before and without the expenditure of a penny. It is a queer short-sightedness that has led farmers to overlook this, for they are usually shrewd enough in other respects. If they would name their farms and furnish good stuff from it for a couple of years they would find that the value of their property had doubled in that period."

STEAM TO PUMP MOLASSES.

How the Sweet Liquid is Loaded from a Ship's Tanks at Philadelphia.

The children of Philadelphia take a great interest in watching the unloading of molasses from the holds of the vessels lying at the wharves of that city. The other day a vessel arrived from Cuba with 900,000 gallons of the sweet stuff in bulk—that is, it was not in casks or barrels, but in tanks in the hold of the ship. The molasses was pumped out of these tanks through a six-inch pipe to a large tank on the wharf. Another engine forced the thick liquid from this tank into a big sugar refinery, where it will be boiled in caldrons the size of a small house. From these caldrons the fluid will be put through a process which extracts the sugar. This sugar, which is of good quality, will later be served on city tables, while the residue will be used for making whisky and various other things.

Thousands of gallons of this sirup are shipped from Havana daily. It is the product of the sugar cane of that country, which is crushed by machinery until every vestige of the juice is squeezed out of it. The greater part of the sugar is recovered from the juice there, while the rest is extracted in the refineries of this country.

Workmen are obliged to remove the sirup in the bottom of the tanks by means of buckets, to which are attached long ropes.

Norsemen in Massachusetts.
In the current American ethnologist is an account of certain stone remains as found in Massachusetts. From their lack of resemblance to any work of Indians and from their similarity to kindred remains found in Norway the author is inclined to consider them of pre-Columbian Scandinavian origin. To be sure, the evidence is mostly negative, but in many respects it seems plausible that these old sea rovers founded in ancient times quite a flourishing colony in what is now New England.

THIS MAN INHALES WHISKY.

Ruiner Way in Which Reformed Temper Gratifies His Appetite for Alcohol.

"Give me a pony of brandy, quick!" exclaimed a nervous-looking man as he rushed up to the bar in a Chicago hotel the other afternoon. The liquor was at once forthcoming, but instead of gulping it down, as the man's manner naturally suggested that he would do, he poured a little into the palm of his hands, rubbed them together, and buried his nose in his hands, says the Inter-Ocean. He gave long-drawn sniffs of inhalation until the liquor had evaporated, and then poured more from the glass into his hands. This operation he repeated until the glass was empty. Then he paid for his drink and went out with a look of contentment on his face.

"What's the answer?" asked an interested spectator.

"It simply means that there are more ways than one of beating the devil around the stump," said the bartender. "That man swore off drinking the first of the year, and I don't believe he has swallowed a drop of liquor since. He inhales it now—always brandy. I've known him to come in here as often as five or six times in one day and go through the performance you have just seen. These swear-off fellows are queer fish. I know another man who stopped drinking whisky and took to bitters—the kind you put a dash of into cocktails. He traveled with a drinking crowd, and every time the others took whisky he would pour out a drink of bitters. No, it didn't make him drunk, but it nearly ruined his stomach. He spent a month in the hospital, and then went back to the real stuff."

SAVED CONGRESSMAN'S LIFE.

Statesman Tells How Grateful He Felt to the Doctor Who Could Not Attend Him.

At a recent dinner party in Washington a good story was told at the expense of Representative Norton, of Ohio, commonly known to his colleagues as "doctor." It seems that early in his career Norton graduated in medicine and took up the practice, later giving it up for the more enticing "practice of politics." The story in question was told by one of Dr. Norton's colleagues from Ohio and was as follows:

"Back in the '70s I lived near Dr. Norton, then a practicing physician. While in that neighborhood I was taken seriously ill and required the services of two physicians for days and days. I knew I was a pretty sick man, and, consequently, when the doctors failed to put in an appearance on a certain day I asked my wife what had become of them. She held back for a minute, but finally confessed, with tears in her eyes, that they had given me up, that they were convinced they could do nothing more for me. Well, I was determined not to die, and happened to think of Dr. Norton. And I want to say to you now that Dr. Norton saved my life. I have always been grateful to him for this great service, although I have never been able to repay him. 'Send for Dr. Norton,' said I. 'He will be able to save me.' My wife acted on my suggestion, and, calling a messenger, sent for the doctor. Pretty soon the messenger returned with a reply to my wife's message, and this is what she read: 'Sorry, but I cannot come.'"

PIUS IX. AND THE PRINCE.

Words of Great Britain's Present Ruler on His First Visit to the Vatican.

The first visit made by the prince of Wales, now King Edward VII. of Great Britain, to Rome was made in 1859, when he was only 18 years old, and the second and last in 1862, not long before his marriage. On his first he was attended by Col. Bruce, his tutor. Carnival was going on, and a balcony on the Corso was taken for the young heir to the throne, who, however, soon tired of being an onlooker and wished to join the "madding crowd." The Roman princess, Borgheise and Sciarra, the latter now passed away, and Prince Massimo, who is still alive, and then was a young man of 23, undertook to show him the way, says a London exchange.

"How gay and unpretentious he was!" says Prince Massimo. "His bright and heartfelt laugh still echoes in my ears, as we maneuvered our candles in the mocoletto, blowing out those of other people, relighting our own and gallantly helping a pretty girl here and there to protect hers. Prince Albert Edward was the life of the party, though he was the youngest of us all, merely because he enjoyed every moment of time." In Lent he threw himself with the same vigor into the church services. When detained in a particularly long audience by the pope, Pius IX., he exclaimed to him: "Your holiness reigns over a magic city, which can turn from the mad, if innocent, fun of Tuesday to the devout penitence of Ash Wednesday. We northerners could not leave our enjoyments so suddenly."

A Cat's Execution.
Jerry, the fighting black cat of the fish commission steamer Albatross, after 16 years of service, recently met another black cat and died as a result of the encounter. The ship's crew buried the mascot, wrapped in the flag, with martial honors, and held a court-martial over his slayer. The latter was sentenced to walk the plank, and after he had been weighted with iron the sentence was carried into execution.