

ARID HIGH PLAINS.

Section of the West Which May Be Reclaimed for Settlement.

The United States Geological Survey searches for water to make the lands habitable, at least for stock-raising.

The efforts of the hydrographic branch of the United States geological survey are being directed to the discovery of sufficient water to lead to the reclamation and habitation of that area of the great plains lying west of the prairies and east of the Rocky mountains, commonly known as the high plains.

VANDERBILTS HOLD A TRAIN.

Whim of Mrs. Cornelius Compels the Backing of Regular Train 23 Miles to Take Her Abroad.

The Southern Railway's Palm Limited train from New York to St. Augustin was delayed more than an hour near Pineland, Ga., the other day to gratify a wish of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, thereby furnishing an interesting tale of the potency of a name.

REPTILE PUTS OUT FIRES.

The Remarkable Power of a New Inmate to the Zoological Park at London.

A new-like creature of a bright orange and black has just been added to the inhabitants of the reptile house at the London zoo.

The putting out of flames is possibly, no doubt, suggested by the fact that if the creature be warmed it exudes a quantity of liquid from its skin, and becomes, as it were, a kind of temporary fire hose.

OLD MAN AMPUTATES LEG.

Cuts Off Six Inches Additional After the Doctor Had Removed the Foot.

C. W. Seigman, 78 years old, of York, Pa., was not satisfied when his left foot was amputated at the ankle a week ago, and he cut off six inches more himself.

NOT SO REMARKABLE.

An Iowa man thinks he has discovered how to make a palatable food out of cornstalks. That ought to be easy, says the Chicago Record-Herald.

GETTING RID OF A LOVER.

Eighty-Seven Methods Which Prove Effective in the Land of India.

Edmund Russell lectured to the Eclectic club at New York, at its meeting at Delmonico's on "Some Ancient Writings of India." He selected from one of these as his main topic the chapter on "Eighty-seven ways of getting rid of a lover."

HOLDS OIL AT HIGH PRICE.

Pennsylvania Man Keeps 5,500 Barrels Stored for Thirty-Two Years Waiting for Better Prices.

About a mile west of Enterprise, a small town in Warren county, Pa., is an iron oil tank of 7,000 barrels capacity, which at the present time contains about 5,500 barrels of petroleum.

BRIGHT FUTURE FOR INDIA.

Lord Curzon, the Viceroy, Urges the Natives to Use Their Honored Wealth.

FLIRTING A MISDEMEANOR.

Measure Introduced in Missouri Legislature Would Protect Girls and Teachers.

A bill was introduced in the Missouri senate the other day to make it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$50 to flirt with boarding house girls, the spinster principals or the teachers, the last two classifications being added to the bill in order to prevent the charge of special legislation. The bill in full reads:

NEW SHIP DESIGN PATENTED.

Berlin Professor Aims to Improve Vessels by Adopting Shape of a Tetrahedron.

Prof. Kretschmer, of the Berlin technical university, who holds a prominent position in the navy office, has patented a design for the hulls of ships.

NEW FIELD FOR GRAPHOLOGISTS.

A paper has been publishing articles in which a graphologist seeks an affinity for well-known women by examining their autographs and those of prominent men. Thus it transpires that Mile. Brande, late of the Comedie Francaise, would match well with M. Philippe Crozier, the former chief of the protocol and now minister at Copenhagen.

NEW JERSEY TAXATION.

Evangelical school taxes there is no state tax levied in New Jersey other than that derived from corporations.

COAL SUBSTITUTES.

Scarcity of the Natural Product Stirs Ingenuity of Inventors.

Efforts Being Made to Discover Processes of Making Briquettes, Which Will Be a Cheap and Good Fuel.

The use of general waste, in briquette form, is on result of the coal scarcity. Briquettes of coal dust have been turned out for several years, and are now made in larger quantities than ever before.

Vegetables and woody fiber, animal hair and flesh, and coal dust and screenings will burn and produce heat, but in their isolated form not in sufficient quantity to be of much use.

The utilizing of the city's waste material for briquetting is dependent largely upon the cost of the work and the binder. Pitch is the most expensive part of the briquettes, even when coal dust is used as the raw material, but experiments have lately enabled manufacturers to produce an excellent binder at very little cost.

DIGS FOR BIG TREASURE.

Muskegon Man Making Excavation for Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars in Coin.

James Anderson, of Muskegon, Mich., is now excavating under an old building in that city in search of \$200,000 in Norwegian coin. The riches were supposed to have been buried under the shanty of Ole Larson, who told of it on his death bed in October, 1901, to Adolph Miller.

ARTIST'S CANAL-BOAT HOME.

W. O. Nieuwenkamp, one of the most famous artists of Holland, has taken to a canalboat, a big boat with all modern comforts and filled up within to resemble an old Dutch interior.

IMPROVING THE BREED OF CATS.

The very latest wrinkle in the cat world is the breeding of short-haired cats, just the common or garden variety of cats. It is marvelous what a few short generations of care and breeding will do for poor pussy, who takes her outing on the alley wall or meows about the door of some deserted house.

CAN'T KILL HER OFF.

Now comes news that the Chinese dowager empress has started a paper in Peking, says the Chicago Record-Herald. It's hard to keep a dowager like that in her coffin.

BLANDFORD MANSION.

W. K. Vanderbilt's Gift to Duchess Consuelo Will Not Be Ready for a Year.

Although some 150 workmen are doing their best behind the scaffold-enclosed walls of the new Blandford house, in London, the gift of W. K. Vanderbilt to his daughter, the duchess of Marlborough, it will be at least 12 months yet before the mansion is ready for occupation.

The house front measures 63 feet, and the length 100 feet, along which runs the picture gallery. The ballroom is lighted by 11 high, stained-glass windows, and marble columns support the richly carved ceiling.

WOLVES KILL A BIG STEER.

Havenous Pack of Beasts Break into a Montana Rancher's Feeding Pens.

County Commissioner William Montgomery, who has just arrived at Dillon, Mont., says the Big Hole basin, reports a bold act by gray wolves a few days ago. On the Kramer place, in the basin near Jackson, "Jack" Moran is feeding a number of steers for market.

BIRTH RATE ON INCREASE.

This Result is Shown by an Analysis of Census Figures for the Last Decade.

Analysis of the statistics on births compiled by the twelfth census does not bear out the contention that the birth rate in the United States is decreasing. At least the figures based on what the compilers of the vital statistics say are imperfect data.

SELLING KING'S OLD CLOTHES.

London Second-Hand Dealer Secures the Stock at Recent Guild Sale.

NEW SHIP DESIGN PATENTED.

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Prof. Kretschmer, of the Berlin technical university, who holds a prominent position in the navy office, has patented a design for the hulls of ships.

He was convinced that it is a mistake to imitate the shape of a fish, so he studied aquatic birds, with the result that he decided the most efficient shape was that of a tetrahedron.

He claims that vessels of this shape will be 50 per cent. more efficient than the existing types, and as there would be no wash this would be an immense advantage in internal navigation.

Great Feat of Engraving. A marvel of engraving has just been accomplished by a youth of Odessa who is known throughout southern Russia for the extraordinary precision of his work.

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THE CHILDLESS HOME.

President Roosevelt Condemns It as a Menace to the Nation.

Declares That the Man or Woman Who "Dislikes Having Children, is in Effect a Criminal Against the Race."

President Roosevelt is an emphatic believer in the Biblical precept: "Increase and multiply." Himself the father of six children, he looks with alarm upon the tendency among American men and women to shirk the duties of marriage, and especially of parenthood.

The paragraph which especially attracted the president's attention was one in which Mrs. Van Vorst deplored the voluntary sterility of the American-born women of this country.

"White House, Washington, Oct. 18, 1902.—My Dear Mrs. Van Vorst: I must write you a line to say how much I have appreciated your article, 'The Woman Who Tolls.' But to me there is a most melancholy side to it when you touch upon what is fundamentally infinite more important than any other question in this country—that is, the question of race suicide.

"An easy, good-natured" kindness and a desire to be independent—that is, to live one's life purely according to one's own desires—are in no sense substitutes for the fundamental virtues, for the practice of the strong racial qualities without which there can be no strong race—the qualities of courage and resolution in both men and women, of sternness of what is mean, base and selfish, of eager desire to work or fight or suffer as the case may be, provided the end to be gained is great enough, and the contemptuous putting aside of mere ease, mere rapid pleasure, mere avoidance of toil and worry.

TOWN RULED BY HEWBES.

Woodbine in New Jersey Founded in 1801 is the Only Place of Its Kind in the World.

The colony of Russian Hebrews at Woodbine, N. J., which owes its existence to the liberality of the late Baron Maurice de Hirsch, was incorporated as a borough in a few days. The governing body of the new municipality will be composed entirely of Hebrews.

CARNEGIE'S NEW ESTATE.

American Millionaire Buys Pittencrief in Scotland for \$225,000.

The country round about Andrew Carnegie's new estate of Pittencrief, which the American millionaire has just bought, has been the scene of about as much history making as any region in Scotland.

DIAMOND IMBEDDED IN METEORITE.

In the private collection of George Frederick Kunz, now on exhibition at the Museum of Natural History, at New York, is a diamond imbedded in the center of a 40-pound meteorite.

JUST LIKE ANY COMMON KID.

When little Prince George of Wales was baptized the other day he yelled like a young wild cat and seemed to be half scared to death.

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HAS A TUNEFUL PHOTOGRAPH.

A distinguished audience, including the Crown prince, attended a lecture at the university by Prof. Cervanka, of Prague, who demonstrated his new photograph by which music can be reproduced without metallic notes.

ALPINE CLIMBING IN WINTER.

Alpine climbing in winter by the aid of skis opens up a new field for daring mountaineers. The Henderson brothers, of London, accompanied by three guides, crossed the Col du Theodol on skis and arrived at Zermatt safely the same day.

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RUSSIAN PRESS CELEBRATES.

The First Paper in the Czar's Dominion Was Published Two Hundred Years Ago.

The Russian press has just celebrated the two hundredth anniversary of its existence. The first Russian newspaper was the Moscow Vvedomosti, or, to give it its full title, 'The newspaper of military and other noteworthy matters which occur in the dominion of Moscow and the neighboring countries.'

The czar issued a ukase authorizing the foundation of the paper in the middle of December, 1792; the first number appeared on January 15, 1793, and 1,000 copies were printed. The paper was practically the creation of Peter the Great, who occasionally contributed to it.

The number dated August 25, 1793, contains the earliest news about the new buildings of St. Petersburg. The second oldest paper in Russia is the German St. Petersburg Zeitung, of which the first number appeared in January, 1727.

For the current year licenses are in existence for the publication of 1,076 newspapers. Of these, 868 are in Russian, 109 in Polish, 47 in German, eight in French, one in English, and the rest in various Russian dialects.

Nearly all of these papers are of very recent date. Three-fifths of them are not ten years old. In St. Petersburg 40 have not reached their fifth year. The mortality among Russian newspapers is very high.

HISTORIC SHOW FOR VISITORS.

Interest in the Proposed Revival of Old Scenes and Customs at Shrewsbury.

This year's attraction for American visitors in England will be the week's revival of old scenes, games and customs at Shrewsbury, which will celebrate the five hundredth anniversary of the battle of Shrewsbury. This will be given in July with great color and entire fidelity to historic detail.

Shrewsbury claims to have more old houses and great memories than any other town of its size in the country. The half-timbered, top-heavy dwellings date from the time of the battle. In one of them, now a fishmonger's shop, Henry VII. slept during the march to Bosworth field.

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