

DUTCH IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Are Better as Farmers and Politicians Than the English, Says an English Writer.

The Dutch are better men on the land than the English. Mr. Rhodes affirmed it as strongly as Benjamin Kidd. Not only are they better men but they are much cleverer politicians, writes W. T. Stead in Booklovers Magazine.

Not only are they better men all round on land, not only are they able politicians all round in the houses of parliament, but, what is far more important, they are better breeders of men.

ASSESSING A BRONX LOTLET.

Forty-Four Square Inches of Ground in New York Valued at Two Hundred Dollars.

The assessors have been called upon to assess what is relatively the most valuable piece of real estate in the entire city, says the New York Commercial Advertiser, and have appraised it at \$200.

Last May it sold for \$200, or \$5 a square inch. That would be \$720 a square foot, or at the rate of \$1,500,000 for a full lot of 2,500 square feet, a price unequalled even in the financial section of Manhattan.

A CHILL FRANCHISE.

Regular Qualifications Required of Voters in a Certain Illinois Town.

What constitutes a legal residence and entitles one to vote has been often a matter of dispute. In his "Recollections" John M. Palmer tells an amusing story of the peculiar credentials accepted by a certain town in Illinois.

The town was in Illinois. One of the qualifications required of a voter was residence in the state for six months previous to the election.

"Put him down," said the clerk to his assistant. "The chills are as good as a six months' residence!"

Mr. Hoskins's name was thereupon placed on the list.

Treasures of the Sea.

Divers recently raised from the Mediterranean, off Sicily, about thirty old guns which, they say, belonged to the Dutch and Spanish ships sunk by the French in 1678.

International Telephones.

Great activity is now being displayed in the extension of international telephones. Brussels and London and Paris and Rome are already connected.

Handkerchiefs for Soldiers.

The Russian government has decreed that in future all soldiers of the empire must use handkerchiefs—heretofore not one soldier out of a thousand had indulged in this luxury and that all the handkerchiefs must contain pictures emblematic of a soldier's life, both in battle and in time of peace.

ROBINS EARN THEIR CHERRIES

Destroy Insect Pests and Save Far More Fruit Than They Can Possibly Consume.

An orchardist at Fulton makes complaint against the robins or "Jack robins" as he calls them. He says they are nipping all the blossoms off his cherry trees. They just strip the trees, and the ground beneath them is white with blossoms.

NEGRO A SMALL EATER.

When Well and Regularly Fed the Black Man Eats Less Than the White Man.

"There is a very popular, but very erroneous belief that the negro is a heartier eater than the white man," said an observant citizen, according to the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

VENTILATION IN THE HAT.

Good for the Hair and Aids Not a Little to the Comfort of the Head.

"Some customers have nonsensical notions about the proper way to ventilate a hat," said a fashionable hatter, to a New York Times man. "In fact, they are so whimsical about it that we make the hats without a ventilator and try to suit the wishes of the customer after he has handed his money to the salesman."

Gunboat on the Ohio.

Gunboats were common on the Mississippi river forty years ago. In recent years the river has seldom floated ships of the navy.

Willie Was Evicted.

The following note was recently received by a Hagerstown (Kan.) school teacher: "Respected Miss: please excuse Willie for absents. He fell downstairs just before school time and we feared his internal injuries were hurt at first, but they ain't."

Still Deficient.

A new burglar alarm has been invented which photographs the burglar, accuses the family and calls the police. If it had an attachment which would handcuff the burglar and hitch him to one of the legs of the grand piano in the parlor the machine would be complete.

HATS MADE OF RICE STRAW.

A New Industry About to Be Established by Japanese in the Southern States.

According to Col. S. F. B. Morse, general traffic manager of the Southern Pacific railroad, the Japanese colony at Port Lavaca will establish a plant for the manufacture of matting and hats from rice straw, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

STOLEN CAMERA LENSES.

New Branch of Trade That Comes to the Pawnbroker in Which There is Great Profit.

"The sale of camera lenses is a comparatively new branch of the pawnbroker's trade," said a dealer in photographic supplies, according to the New York Times, "but a large number from that source come to the trade to be refitted with shutters and flanges. A good lens costs anywhere from \$50 to \$150, and is as easy to raise money on as a good watch. But you will notice that lenses you see in pawnbrokers' windows are without flanges. That is a sure sign they have been stolen. Very few sneak thieves know enough to lift out the shutters and all, but they can get the lens and make away with it by a simple turn of the wrist."

AUSTRALIAN TEA DRINKERS.

Drink the Brew All Day Long and at a Strength That Would Seem to Be Poisonous.

In the interior of Australia all the men drink tea. They drink it all day long, and in quantities and at a strength that would seem to be poisonous. On Sunday morning the teamaker starts with a clean pot and a clean record. The pot is hung over the fire with a sufficiency of water in it for the day's brew, and when this has been boiled he pours into it enough of the fragrant herb to produce a deep, coffee-colored liquid.

SINGERS AND CROAKERS.

An Indiana Farmer Who Could Scarcely Basso Singers by the Dozens.

The extent to which the agricultural portions of the middle west are now supplied with modern conveniences may be inferred from the story which follows: There came a ring at the telephone in a farmhouse in northern Indiana one day last summer, and the farmer himself responded, relates Youth's Companion.

"Hello!" said the voice at the other end of the wire. "Can you furnish me a bass singer for to-morrow night?"

"A bass singer? Why, yes, I reckon so," answered the farmer, laughing. "What do you want one for?"

"Because the one we've had up to now is sick. What would be your terms?"

"Well, I usually furnish 'em by the dozen. I won't charge you anything for one. How do you want him sent?"

"What are you talking about?"

"Who do you think you're talkin' to?"

"Isn't this the Indianapolis opera house?"

"No. This is the Barataria frog farm."

Can't Stop Tongues.

A man in Cincinnati applied to the courts for an injunction to restrain the tongues of the gossips of the neighborhood. He learned from judicial sources that there are some things beyond the control of the highest human power.

DIDN'T LIKE THE EAST ROOM.

Woman Visitor at the White House Was Not Favorably Impressed with Furnishings.

"Is it solid gold?" The eager questioner was a country woman, a member of a large party which a railroad agent was piloting through the East room at the white house. She pointed to the piano with the gold-leaf coating as she asked the question.

The guide attempted to evade the woman's question by referring to the seals of the 13 original states which adorn the sides of the instrument, and explained that it is the one hundred thousandth piano manufactured by a prominent American firm, says the Washington Times.

"Is it solid gold?" the woman interposed.

Still the guide did not answer. "You will notice that there are 13 letters in this room, one for each of the original states," he continued.

"But I want to know whether the piano is solid gold," the woman insisted.

"No, madam, it is not solid gold," she guide remarked, with a slight display of temper.

"Huh!" the woman retorted. "I've seen callopes that looked better and I'd hoped that it had value to recommend it. When there's only one real piece of furniture in a room of this size a person sort of expects that it'll be worth while coming to see. I can't find anything fine about this room but the view you get from the south windows."

MINING AT GREAT DEPTHS.

Copper Shaft in Lake Superior Region Extends Nearly a Mile Under Ground.

In no other district in the world are active mining operations carried on at such depth as in the Lake Superior copper region, says the Chicago Chronicle. The No. 5 shaft of the Tamarack mine is the deepest in the world, having attained a vertical depth of 4,940 feet, nearly a mile. Not far behind it is the Red Jacket shaft of the Calumet & Hecla, which is down 4,920 feet. Another deep shaft of the Calumet & Hecla is the No. 4 of the Calumet branch of the property. This is down 7,800 feet on an incline of a mile and a half.

The greatest obstacle to deep mining is the proportionate increase in temperature. In the Lake Superior copper district, says the Geologist, Lake has ascertained that the temperature in the mine varies one degree for every 110 feet. The temperature in the deepest shafts at the Tamarack and Calumet & Hecla varies between 55 and 90 degrees, and in view of these conditions it is evident that considerable depths can yet be attained in this section.

ARTIFICIAL AIR.

A New and Ingenious Process for Producing Oxygen from Solid Substance.

The progress of invention in submarine navigation has stimulated efforts to produce oxygen by cheaper and easier methods. If oxygen, the vital element in air, can be supplied as wanted, the length of time that men can remain under water may be indefinitely prolonged. A process of making oxygen, invented by George F. Jambert, a French scientist, promises to answer the requirement, says Science. His object was to find a solid substance which would produce oxygen as calcium carbide produces acetylene gas.

He selected for the purpose a peroxide of sodium, or of potassium, which can be cheaply manufactured by electrochemical means. It is called "oxy-lithe," and is made in little cubes and pellets, some only half an inch in diameter. When decomposed with water it gives off oxygen. Two or three ounces of this substance supply enough oxygen to enable a diver to remain under water for an hour. By suitable apparatus the carbonic oxide produced by respiration is withdrawn into the oxygen generator, and fresh oxygen takes its place.

CANOPIED FIELDS.

Many Acres of Tobacco in the Connecticut Valley Covered with Big Teas.

Travelers in the Connecticut valley may sometimes see many acres covered with white cheesecloth supported, at a height of nine feet from the ground, on a framework of posts and wires. Under these vast tents Sumatra tobacco is grown. Experiments conducted by the department of agriculture led to the use of this system of protecting the tobacco plants, and the results have been found excellent. The light, sandy soil along the Connecticut river is well suited for the growth of Sumatra tobacco. The United States government furnishes the seed and supervises the cultivation, preparation and sale of the product, the farmers paying the cost and receiving the profit. That the great cloth canopies can withstand storms was proved a year ago last July, when a hail-storm caused much damage to crops in open fields, but the acres of covered tobacco escaped injury. The cost of the shade is from \$250 to \$350 per acre.

Wants to Beat the Rabbit.

An engineer on a Kansas railway has made a request to be allowed to run faster than sixty-five miles an hour, because a jack rabbit has been making fun of him on his run.

THE UNGUIDED BRIDEGROOM.

There is Room for Instructions for Him on How to Look Properly Happy.

A thoughtful young man of Washington was heard to say the fact of the other day that while there is a deluge of don'ts and do's for the bride to follow—how to enter the church, how to behave during the ceremony, what to wear, and so on—the bridegroom must shift for himself, says the Post of that city.

"There is absolutely nothing to guide a man but his own awkward self, and it isn't fair," he said. "From the time a girl is old enough to hear, she understands the importance of having things done properly at a wedding, while the prospective groom is something necessary to complete the picture, but a secondary consideration, and nothing short of inspiration can get a man through a marriage ceremony gracefully."

"In order to impress the bride and spectators that he is enthusiastic about it, he appears with a sort of frozen grin on his face that you expect to melt at any moment and run down his collar. If he is too frightened to respond in a loud voice some of the bride's girl friends will whisper that he was unwilling from the first."

"Huh!" the woman retorted. "I've seen callopes that looked better and I'd hoped that it had value to recommend it. When there's only one real piece of furniture in a room of this size a person sort of expects that it'll be worth while coming to see. I can't find anything fine about this room but the view you get from the south windows."

MADE DEAL ON DEATH BED.

Strange Transaction Between William Rockefeller and the Late Marcus Daly.

A peculiar business transaction in which William Rockefeller and the late Marcus Daly were concerned has just come to light. It seems that when the Montana copper king was lying at the point of death he had on deposit in the National City bank one account amounting to \$197,995, and a special account of \$1,300,518.

A singular thing in connection with the special deposit of \$1,300,518 in the National City bank is that it was opened only a few days before Mr. Daly's death in the form of a check of William Rockefeller for money which he owed to Mr. Daly as a result of transactions in which both men were interested, but the nature of which is not disclosed, says a New York report.

It is understood that it was Mr. Daly's intention to use this money in the purchase of the Amalgamated Copper company, of which he owned the estate for \$1,965,000 for trespass on government lands and the conversion of timber removed from it. P. J. Shields also has a claim against the estate for \$25,000. He claimed to have been a partner with Mr. Daly in a coal mine and some other enterprises. John H. Maloney and others have an action pending in the Montana courts to recover \$50,000.

THE AMATEUR GARDENER.

An Illustrative Example of What He Does Not Know About Gardening.

One of the recently married couples rented a house in the suburbs and started to housekeeping on their own account, relates the Memphis Scimitar. They planted a garden. Recently the husband was looking over the new vegetables as they were bursting through the ground, and with his wife was discussing the appearance of the different plants as they appeared above the ground, most of which were new to them.

They came to the row of beans which were just shooting their heads into the air and marveled that the seed should be thus thrust up. It appeared to the husband that the order of their appearance was reversed. He pondered the matter over and, after giving it due consideration, decided that it would be a pity to have the beans ruined through their ignorance of the proper manner of coming through the ground.

To save them all up, and reset them with the seed underneath, where he thought a good seed should be.

A Sealskin Church.

The Eskimos possessed the most remarkable place of worship in the world. It was a seal-skin church. Forty seal-skins were stretched over a light framework and in this tent, 18 feet by 12 feet, services were held every Sunday. But the church came to an untimely end. One hard winter the Eskimos' dogs, being half-finished, dined on the seal-skins, and only the frame was left. The Eskimos have now erected a dog-proof tabernacle.

The Composite Filipino.

Ethnologists of the Smithsonian institution have investigated the Filipinos, with results that are of rare interest to science, says the Scientific American. They have called attention to the fact that in the veins of the tribes of the archipelago flows the blood of all the races and varieties of mankind.

SOME SOLDIERS TOO YOUNG.

Great Precautions Taken in War Department to Keep Minors Out of the Army.

The war department is determined that the recruiting officers shall reject all applications for enlistment from minors. Instructions given to that end several months ago, however, have been found not to serve the purpose desired. There are still numerous enlistments of young men who prove to be under 21 years of age, though said to be older, leading to applications to the war department from parents and friends for their discharge on the ground of minority, says a Washington report.

It is therefore desired that every possible precaution be taken to avoid the improper enlistment of persons under the age of 21 years. To this end young men who meet other requirements, but whose age is not over a few years over that age, should not only be carefully interrogated and their antecedents be carefully investigated, but the written consent of the parents to the enlistment must also be obtained if the recruit appears to be under 21 years of age. In case such a recruit fails to obtain this consent he will be required to furnish his own sworn statement in writing regarding his age, supported by the sworn statement of two other persons, and these must be satisfactory to the recruiting officer, otherwise the applicant will be rejected. When the written consent of parents or the sworn statements indicated are furnished and accepted in such cases they will be attached to the enlistment papers.

NAPOLEON AMONG ANIMALS.

Commander of 20,000 Men Who Daily Put to Death Thousands of Food Animals.

Imagine a procession of 10,000 cattle, marching two by two, in a line 15 miles long; let 20,000 sheep follow them, bleating along 12 miles of road; after them drive 16 miles of hogs, 27,000 strong; then let 30,000 fowls bring up the rear, clucking and quacking and gobbling, over a space of six miles; and in this whole caravan, stretching for nearly 50 miles and requiring two days to pass a given point, you will see the animals devoted to death in the packing houses of Swift & Co. in a single day, says the Commonwealth.

HIS FACE SPOILS RAZORS.

Philadelphia Barber Has a Customer Whose Skin is Always Full of Grit.

"Did you see the man who just went out?" asked an uptown barber of a customer, as a swartly individual left the shop, according to the Philadelphia Telegraph. "Yes? Well, he spoils a razor every time I shave him, and he comes here twice a week regularly. He is a stonecutter, and the grit and dust is so imbedded in the pores of his face that it is like drawing a razor over the side of a stone. I always use the best took I have upon him, but they are not stone-proof, and a dull razor is the result when his beard is removed."

"He is a customer upon whom I lose money, and I am glad to say that he is the only stonecutter who favors me with his patronage. I often wonder how it is that he doesn't wince when the razor strikes a section of stone that is imbedded in his face and bounds off, but it is probably because his skin is so hardened that he feels no ill effects."

Football Haec.

The Maryland Medical Journal produces figures which show that returns from 60 colleges covering ten years of time and including 1,271 separate teams prove the dangerous character of football. Of the 22,795 men in these teams 654 received injuries serious enough to prevent college work, the ratio being one for every 2,946 players. The deaths were too numerous, but the figure is not given. The number playing decreases, but the injuries increase in an ominous manner. Beginning with 1893 and ending with 1902, the injuries ran thus: 40, 46, 50, 48, 52, 52, 67, 90, 76, 143.

Legislation on Kissing.

A kissing certificate may be one of the luxuries of life if a certain American physician has his way. The senate of the state of Minnesota is considering a bill for the prohibition of kissing unless the people wishing to salute each other thus possess health certificates stating that they are fit subjects. The bill has a clause forbidding such health certificates being given to people with weak hearts, as this is declared an obstacle to the emotion aroused by kissing.

Tommy Atkins' Tight Togs.

The tight-fitting British uniform is alleged to be the cause of so much heart-disease among soldiers.