

Shoveling Gold in a Siberian Mine.



The above picture was made at the Troitzk mines, which are the most important and richest of the whole district. Women are largely employed in the mills and on the surface works. "It was curious to watch them hard at work shoveling up the rich ore as it came from the shaft as though it were so much coal or rubble," writes a correspondent. "Wages are ridiculously low as compared with what is paid in other mining camps. I have visited—2 shillings a day for miners and general laborers, while women and boys get even less. Yet there is always an abundance of labor to be got at these rates. The Troitzk district is nothing more nor less than a huge gold-producing industrial center and presents a startling contrast to the dreary vista of endless forest or steppes one has to traverse to reach it. "The ore is crushed by what is known as Chilean mills." No convicts are employed in these mines.

FARM LAWS ATTRACT

INVESTORS PARTIAL TO AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY.

Life Insurance Companies and Banks Favorable to This Class of Securities—Few Mortgages Foreclosed.

Chicago.—The attractiveness of farm loans in the middle west is having a decided effect on Chicago capital, according to bankers and brokers. Considerable activity is manifesting itself in this direction, and many of the leading life insurance companies are acquiring first mortgages on farms in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, the Dakotas and the country adjacent.

The present holdings of the insurance companies considerably exceed \$200,000,000 in these securities. Farm mortgages in the country mentioned are five, five and one-half and six percent. They are limited, as a rule, to productive farms, and are made on a basis of 40 per cent. of the land value, closely appraised, and not including the value of improvements. Bankers point to the remarkably few foreclosures of farm mortgages in this section. The number scarcely exceeds one-tenth of one per cent.

As compared with other investments based on lands in cities, the bankers of the middle west favor the well-placed farm loans, which, they declare, contain every element of attractiveness. A farm loan is regarded as a quick asset, whereas the contrary was true not much more than a decade ago.

Many trust companies now include a separate department for the purchase and sale of farm loans. Chicago has a number of firms dealing in them, and it is estimated that close to \$15,000,000 in such securities is held by Chicago investors. A large increase in this class of investment is predicted.

Statistics show that the value of Missouri real estate, for example, is \$2,000,000,000, while Kansas has real property worth \$1,000,000,000. Oklahoma real estate is estimated at \$350,000,000.

Missouri has \$204,000,000 invested in live stock, \$32,000,000 in farm implements, \$92,000,000 in manufacturing machinery and \$310,000,000 in railroads.

Oklahoma is a land of homes. Out of 87,000 families in 1900, more than 60,000 owned their homes. The people are engaged chiefly in agriculture. The cash value of the farms is estimated at \$231,000,000. The 1906 corn crop amounted to 125,000,000 bushels, representing \$37,500,000. The cotton crop has a value of \$15,000,000. More than 27,000,000 bushels of wheat was harvested in 1906, and 23,000 tons of broom corn cut. Fruit of all kinds is raised in abundance.

Farm lands in Oklahoma range from \$15 to \$65 an acre, or an average of about \$30.

Gets a Million; Quits School. New Haven, Conn.—Having inherited \$1,000,000, Mariette Crouse, 22 years of age, until recently a Yale student, has founded a corporation to publish a national magazine to be known as the Journal of American History. Crouse was studying mechanical engineering at the Sheffield Scientific school, but, becoming enthusiastic over his work as manager of the Yale Scientific Monthly, he decided to go into the publishing business.

Egg Says Judgment Day is Nigh. Dickson, Tenn.—A citizen of Hohenwald recently found that one of his hens had laid an egg, upon the shell of which was plainly waterlined the words: "Prepare for the judgment, for it is close at hand." The find was made known and the egg immediately became the center of much curiosity. It is now on exhibition at Hohenwald, and has caused conversation among the superstitious. Many believe it a warning of the Judgment Day.

CATTLE RAISING IN MEXICO.

It Has Become a Leading Industry in Last Few Years.

San Antonio, Tex.—Mexico is buying more well-bred breeding cattle than any six states in the union. This is the claim made by breeders of good beef stock. From the most miserable specimens of range cattle to the finest grades on the continent is the record of the Diaz republic in the last ten years.

The cattle-raising industry in the republic is now one of the principal sources of prosperity there. The large ranch of Don Luis Terrazas and his son-in-law, Enrique C. Creel, the new ambassador to the United States, which covers many thousands of acres in Chihuahua, is one of the best-stocked cattle ranges in the world.

This ranch has more than a thousand Hereford bulls that are of the blood royal. But there are many other ranches in various parts of the republic where cattle of the best quality have replaced the scrubs of a few years ago.

The dairy-cattle industry is also being pushed to the front in the republic, and all along the line the breed of live stock is being bettered. This is due in chief to the great number of progressive American cattlemen who have removed to the republic to engage in cattle raising. Their lead has proven profitable to the Mexican ranch owners.

At the recent San Antonio International fair a Mexican ranch owner made an order for 500 miles of wire fence for his sheep pasture.

WHIST SINFUL, SAYS CHAMPION.

Woman Stops Sermon to Renounce Game in Which She Excels.

Des Moines, Ia.—Before a congregation of nearly a thousand persons, and while the preacher was in the midst of his sermon, Mrs. A. B. Sims, a society woman and holder of the national woman's whist championship, arose in the University Church of Christ and denounced card playing as a sin.

Mrs. Sims is one of the most prominent women of the city. For many years she has been an active member of women's clubs which affect whist and other card games. Two years ago Mrs. Sims won the first prize for women in the whist tournament held at Cleveland. Last year at St. Louis she won the national woman's championship.

It is said that recent evangelical meetings held in the city are responsible for the change in Mrs. Sims' ideas. She attended all of these meetings, which lasted for three weeks, and since that time has come to the conclusion that all card games are wrong.

During the service Mrs. Sims impulsively stood up and renounced card games forever.

Her friends in the congregation, who knew of her pride in her whist triumphs, gasped in amazement. She had told no one of her intentions.

Never Late in Forty Years.

Chester, Pa.—Samuel A. Crozer, the Upland millionaire philanthropist, known as "the Grand Old Man of Upland," has reached the fortieth year of his career as superintendent of the Upland Baptist Sunday school. A marked feature of the many years the wealthy manufacturer has been at the head of the school has been Mr. Crozer's punctuality in beginning the session. He has never failed to begin the session just as the hour hand on his watch pointed to nine o'clock. The hours for study are regular, and the time for study is as much so, the result being that the young folks who attend the school are drilled to be diligent, punctual and methodical.

Pay Comes for Sobriety.

Amityville, N. Y.—Eugene Anderson has finished a ride of 13 years on the water wagon, the prize of his long abstinence being \$1,000,000 left to him in trust, to be delivered when, in the opinion of the trustees, he showed sufficient control over his appetite for drink. He is now 50 years old. He has not said how he will celebrate coming into possession of the fortune.

COW MOST DANGEROUS

CAUSES MORE DEATHS THAN ANY OTHER BEAST.

Bureau of Animal Industry Issues Bulletin of Warning as to Danger of Tuberculosis from Milk.

Washington.—In a most remarkable report published as a bulletin by the bureau of animal industry of the department of agriculture, warning is sounded as to the danger of tuberculosis being communicated to human beings through cows.

The bulletin embodies a report of experiments that have been conducted by Dr. E. C. Schroeder and W. E. Cotton, of the experiment station of the bureau of animal industry. They have undertaken experiments with hogs and cattle for the main purpose of testing the susceptibility of the lungs to infection from tubercle bacilli regardless of the point at which the material enters the body. Not only was it shown that tuberculosis may readily be caused in the lungs, no matter through what channel the bacilli gain entrance to the body, but various other facts were demonstrated having an important bearing on the communication of this dread disease.

The experts as a result of their investigations conclude that tuberculosis is contracted through the entrance of tubercle bacilli; that the lung is the organ most frequently affected, regardless of where the infectious material enters the body; that tuberculosis infection may pass from one part of the body to another without leaving a chain of lesions to mark its path; that fresh tubercle material has the highest significance, and that dried and pulverized material has a doubtful significance.

These important conclusions in regard to the cattle and dairy products are drawn. "Tuberculosis material from cattle has the highest virulence for all tested species of the mammalian kingdom, to which man anatomically and physically belongs, and tuberculosis material from man has a lower virulence.

Man is constantly exposed to fresh tuberculosis material in a helpless way through his use of dairy products from tuberculous cattle.

While many cases of tuberculosis undoubtedly have their origin through food directly or indirectly infected with fresh tuberculous persons, there is no means to-day by which persons are brought into closer contact with fresh tuberculosis material than milk and dairy products obtained from and in the environment of tuberculous cows. The wide use of milk, its rapid distribution because of its perishable character, the ease with which it may be contaminated, all speak for one conclusion, namely, that we have no more active agent than the tuberculous cow for the increase of tuberculosis among men."

CLEVELAND BOY BAD AGAIN.

Knock on Head Offsets Reformatory Work of Surgeons.

Cleveland, O.—The fates seem to have decided that 15-year-old Leo Dean shall be a bad boy, in spite of juvenile courts, reformatories and surgeons' trepanning.

Leo had quite a record as an incorrigible before it was discovered that his perversity dated from a whack on the head he had received when a child. Cranial surgery for the correction of mental abnormalities was just common talk in vogue and through the instrumentality of the juvenile court Leo became one of the first subjects experimented upon here. Drs. George W. Crile and Harry H. Drysdale relieved the pressure on Leo's brain and Leo got to be a very good boy indeed.

One day he saw some men taking down an awning. The spectacle enchanted him and he stood gazing upward. A hammer slipped, fell and by an almost incredible mischance cracked Leo on the head in the exact spot where fate had buffeted him in childhood.

Now Leo is a bad boy again, a very, very wayward delinquent. Mrs. Callaghan, probation officer, has interested herself in his behalf and hopes to induce the surgeons to repeat their work as the fates did theirs.

NEW POST OFFICE FOR LONDON.

Will Be Finest Building of Kind in World When Completed.

London.—The plans for building a new post office in this city on the site of the ancient Christ hospital in the Strand have just been completed, and the building, which is to be one of the most magnificent in the metropolis, will be made of armored cement, not a brick or a single piece of stone entering in its composition.

The grounds to be utilized cover a surface of two and one-half acres, and the whole of the enterprise is in the direct charge of the treasury. Already workmen have started to excavate the grounds for the foundations, which will be laid at a depth of 30 feet, and which will probably be the cause of many engineering complications because below the level of the Thames river.

When finished the building will be the best specimen of cement construction in the world, even the chimneys, stairways, partitions and light wells having to be cast in moulds.

PREACHES BRAND NEW RELIGION

New Yorker Plans to Establish Comrade Kingdom on Earth.

New York.—John Augustus Wall has promulgated the newest of new religions. Mr. Wall formerly lived in Valley Stream, L. I. His new religion was launched at the Berkeley lyceum amid the applause of 100 enthusiasts.

To prove that his religion is really brand new Mr. Wall sent forth a circular calling the meeting in which the names of Jesus and Moses, Mohammed and Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln, Roosevelt and Emerson, Edwin Markham and Elbert Hubbard, Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Darwin, Huxley and Paine, Ingersoll and Bryan, Hughes, Hearst and Brisbane are coupled. The circular reads in part:

"Do you believe in Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, et al. (as above stated)? Are you an atheist, infidel, moralist, spiritualist, Jew, Christian, or ethical cultist?"

"Are you living in a secluded furnished room, a palace, a tenement, or a brown stone residence?"

"Are you married, single, young or old, rich or poor?"

"Do you believe in the new thought, Christian Science, or just the old way that mother and father taught?"

Mr. Wall explained to his audience that the church is to be known as the National church, and that through it he hopes to establish a comrade kingdom.

A branch of the church will be established in every assembly district. Among things the new prophet hopes to accomplish is the establishment of department stores, hotels, bowling alleys, laundries, insurance companies, and skating rinks in connection with each branch.

POPE RECEIVES COSTLY BOOK.

Volume Literally of Gold and Studded With Diamonds.

Paris.—The costliest volume in the world—literally a golden book—has been received by the pope as an offering from the republic of Brazil, in gratitude to his holiness for having given the first South American cardinal to Brazil. This wonderful book is made entirely of Brazilian gold, encrusted with diamonds and other gems. On the cover appears the monogram of Pius X., formed of emeralds and diamonds, and the arms of Brazil, with Latin mottoes.

The first page bears the papal arms and a miniature bust of Pius X. Ninety diamonds of the first water surround these, with a large brilliant above, representing the sun, shedding its rays made by tiny diamonds, upon the pope's head.

The book contains a map of Brazil, in which the various states are marked by gems of different colors, and a huge blue diamond of eight carats stands for Rio de Janeiro, the federal capital.

Dr. Calvacanti d'Albuquerque, a nephew of the new Brazilian cardinal, designed this gorgeous album, which was subscribed for by the members of the old faith in Brazil.

2,160 PERISH BY VIOLENCE.

New York Reports a Remarkable Year of Accident and Crime.

New York.—The report of the board of coroners for 1906, just published, shows a remarkable year of accident and crime. In all there were 5,890 deaths reported to the coroner's office, of which 2,160 were by violence. For Manhattan alone, and excluding the casualties reported in New Jersey, Long Island City and Brooklyn, the total number of deaths was 549. Of these 549 deaths, 216 were by violence. Surface cars caused 97 deaths, elevated train 14 and tunnel trains 17. Automobiles killed 24 people in Manhattan during the year.

The 398 suicides were brought about as follows: By shooting, 110; by throat-cutting, 21; by poison, 51; by gas, 124; by hanging, 27; by jumping from windows of roofs, 27; by jumping in front of trains, 4, and 34 by drowning.

The total number of deaths by casualties, including falls, explosions, collapse of buildings, premature blasts, falling of rock, timber and stone were 684. Alcoholism caused the death of 115 persons.

Blind Man Becomes an Inventor.

Iowa Falls, Ia.—Charles Abbott, the blind piano tuner of this city, has turned inventor, and is exhibiting the working model of a heat regulator for a chicken incubator on which he has applied for patent. The regulator gives the alarm when the heat in the incubator becomes too high or too low. The regulator is set for 103 degrees, and when the heat varies a few degrees above or below this mark the regulator rises or falls, and, breaking a circuit, rings an electric bell until the owner regulates the heat to the proper temperature. Mr. Abbott has been blind all his life.

Eat Sand for Dyspepsia.

West Chester, Pa.—A number of people in this place who are suffering with stomach trouble have taken to "the sand cure" and are taking it every day. The sand comes from Mississippi and is packed in bags containing a couple of quarts. It is taken in doses of a spoonful, and as often as the patient has an attack of the trouble. "When any animal has an attack of stomach trouble," argues a patient, "it goes at once to the ground for some clay or sand for a cure, and why should not a man?"

STORIES OF SCOTCH JUDGES.

Indulged in Levity When Human Life Was at Stake.

Lord Salvesen in an address at Edinburgh recalled the old days when human life was held very cheap and judges frequently indulged in levity when life was at stake.

On one occasion Sir Francis Bacon was "mightily importuned" by a malefactor to save his life. All appeals failed and the culprit at length pleaded for mercy on account of his kindred. "Your name," said he, "is Bacon and my name is Hog, and in all ages Hog and Bacon are so nearly kindred that they are not to be separated." "Aye, but," replied the judge, "you and I cannot be kindred except you be hanged, for Hog is not Bacon until it be well hanged."

Similar callousness was evinced by Scottish judges even as late as the 18th century. Lord Braxfield seemed to have taken a positive pleasure in obtaining convictions in cases and it was he who told an unfortunate culprit that he was a very clever fellow but that he would be "nane the waur o' a hanking."

On another occasion, when this judge noticed a jurymen who was a personal friend entering the court he exclaimed: "Come awa' Mister, come awa' and help me to hang a few o' they damned scoundrels."

In 1870 Lord Kames presided at the trial of a man named Matthew Hay, with whom he had been in the habit of playing at chess. He summed up against the prisoner and when he was concluded exclaimed: "That's checkmate to you, Matthew."

CLOCK ALL OF GLASS.

Bohemian Workman Produces Working Model After Six Years of Labor.

A somewhat futile feat of painstaking ingenuity has been accomplished after six years of continuous work in the construction of a working clock, every part of which except the springs is made of glass. The constructor is a Bohemian glass polisher named Joseph Bager, who lives in the Bohemian town of Kamenitz.

The plates and pillars which form the framework are of glass and are bolted together with glass screws. The dial plate, hands, shafts and wheels are of glass, and glass wheels and pins are used for fastening the various parts of the running gear together.

All these parts are ground to the average proportions of the metal parts of other clocks of the same size. The teeth of the cogwheels are cut with minute exactness. Only the balance wheel is heavier and thicker than it would be in an ordinary clock, but it is fashioned so as to properly control the movement of the mechanism.

Like the clock itself, the key with which it is wound is of glass. The completion of the work was a matter of infinite pains. Some of the parts had to be made over and over again as often as 40 times before a clock that would go and keep time was produced. The builder sets a price on the finished model of 2,500 marks, or about \$625. Labor is cheap in Bohemia.

Real and Bogus Relics.

A tooth alleged to have been drawn from Napoleon's head at St. Helena was sold for \$75.00. For Kates' wig only \$40 could be obtained, but Sterne's wig was valued at \$1,000.

Two hundred dollars is said to have been given for Desart's skull, whereas \$3,400 was given for one of Sir Isaac Newton's teeth, and \$20,000 was offered for one of the teeth of Heloise at the time when her body was exhumed. The waistcoat worn by Rousseau has been priced at \$100, his watch at \$100. Not all the relics, however, in which there has been traffic have been genuine. Voltaire cannot have owned more than a fraction of the walking sticks that have been sold as his and a tradesman in France used to boast that he had disposed of 132 "last walking sticks" carried by Jean Jacques Rousseau. A Paris tradesman for a long time did an equally lucrative business in "the last pair of trousers worn by Victor Hugo."

Battles in the Blood.

An interesting record of what may be called the battles that occur in the blood of a fever patient between noxious and benign microorganisms was presented at a recent meeting of the Royal Microscopical society.

The patient in this case was suffering from malarial fever. The observations were made at intervals of a few minutes during a period of five hours. The defenders of the patient's life were a kind of leucocytes, which destroyed the malarial parasites. A leucocyte would engulf a parasite, which would then be seen undergoing a process of disintegration inside the leucocyte, and only the pigment granules were left. Afterward other leucocytes would approach and absorb even these granules.—Exchange.

An Easy Matter.

The man was playing euchre with the latest belle of the Mountain house, while his bride of three months was trying to busy her mind as well as her fingers with a piece of embroidery.

Suddenly the husband turned toward the wife with a patronizing air. "Pardon me," he exclaimed, "I hadn't noticed that I was between you and the light!"

"Oh, pray don't move!" the little woman replied, "I can see through you perfectly well!"—Lippincott's.

WANTED TO KNOW HIS DOOM.

"Rambunctious Brudder" Began to Get Slightly Uneasy.

During the recent revival in Ebenezer chapel, a certain somberly-inclined member of the congregation fell into a doze while earnest but long-winded Brother Quackenboss was leading in prayer, and upon being rudely aroused by the vicious bite of a horsefly on his bald head and forgetting for the moment the solemnity of his surroundings, audibly ejaculated, as he resolutely slapped the offender, "Ding-dust de flies!" whereupon Brother Quackenboss, who had nearly run down, gladly grasped the situation, and without appreciable hesitation dived on.

"And, fudermo' Lawd-uh, we would pray thee to forgive our well-meanin' but rambunctious brudder for his odoriferous remark! puhvide him wid de eye of de eagle-uh, dat he may spy his sin afar off, give him de legs-uh of de kangaroo-uh, dat he may 'scape at de 'proach of temptation-uh; nail his yearns-uh to de trunk of de gospel tree-uh, dat he may listen to nuthin' but de whisperin' of trouf-uh, glue his tongue-uh to de roof of his mouf-uh, dat he may say only de 'Year' year' and 'Nay' nay' of de Scrip-ters-uh, noat him, Lawd-uh, wid de kur'seen He o' salvation-uh, and sot him uh-flah wid lightning-uh fum on high-uh, and—"

"Well-uh, dees lookin' yub a minute, Brudder Quackenboss!" a bit grimly interrupted the victim of the tirade, who had begun to squirm under the castigation. "I don't want to be ambiguous, or nothin' dat-uh way, but I'd dees like to see apitiously ax, sah, in view of de exterminatin' cress-stances dat de flies shully is bad, deem what sawt of heenyus clamity yod uhfelt called to ax de Lawd to po' down upon me if I-uh happened to say 'dam' insidder 'dink' as I come, pawful high doin'?"—Judge.

GAS MANTLES ONLY ASHES.

Invention Due to the Experiments of a Vienna Chemist.

The gas mantle is nothing but ashes and it is wonderful how science makes its particles cling together as long as they do. The gas mantle was invented by a chemist of Vienna. He noticed the intense light given out by a small quantity of thorium thrown into a stove in his laboratory. He realized the importance of the discovery and in 1889 began a series of experiments to utilize this remarkable quality of the element in intensifying light. He found that pure thorium would not adhere well enough to be of use, and as this began searching for a combination of elements that would answer.

In 1887 he produced his first mantles but they were so delicate that they could not be transported, and were delivered by hand. A boy was trusted to carry two, one in each hand for delivery about the streets of Vienna. In the early '90s he found that a good mantle could be made from a combination of the two substances, thorium oxide and cerium oxide, and that a coating of colodion would give a sufficient firmness to allow it to be transported. Since then gas mantles have gone into general use in nearly all parts of the world, and thousands of factories are producing them.

Safes for Wales.

The number of combination safes in use in Wales is limited. Many causes have contributed to this result. In the first place burglary is not common, and "cracksmen" are practically unknown. Then, the danger from fires cannot be great when practically all the buildings are built of stone or brick. Police protection and fire prevention leave little to be desired along that line. Lastly, the conservative methods and the economical bent of business men of all classes make them satisfied with lock and key safes, some of very ancient patterns. Notwithstanding these facts, there is an opening for combination safes on account of the number of new enterprises established annually, for safe dealers report that they frequently take orders for such safes. Ordinarily such safes are made to order, and the cheaper price of American safes should give them an advantage with such purchasers.

November Nomenclature.

November was called by the ancient Saxons the wint monath, or wind month, on account of the gales then prevalent. It was also named the blot monath, or blood month, from the ancient practice of then slaughtering cattle for the winter provisions. It is said that the Roman senators wished to name the month after Tibertus, as months had already been named after Julius Caesar and Augustus, but the emperor, like Cæsar, felt that it was possible to have too much flattery and refused, remarking: "What will you do, conscript fathers, if you have 13 Cæsars?"

Up Against It.

"Here's a story," said Mrs. Nagret, looking up from her paper, "of a man who begged the judge to send him to jail in place of his wife."

"Hat!" exclaimed Mr. Nagret, "and yet you say we men never sacrifice ourselves for—"

"Wait a minute. This woman stole some clothes she was given to wash. You see, she couldn't take in washing while she was in jail, and so he would have had to work."