

BIG FIND OF MEERSCHAUM.

Discovery Does Away With Turkish Government's Monopoly.

Because of the discovery of vast deposits of meerschaum in the mountains of New Mexico it is likely that the monopoly of that mineral heretofore held by the Turkish government will be broken, and pipes of that material will be lessened in cost.

Until recently all the meerschaum used in the commerce of the world was produced from a mine in the plains of Eskischer, Anatoly, Turkey in Asia. In those mines are employed 30,000 men. The output of the mine was owned by the Turkish government and it kept the price up.

It is said that enough meerschaum has been discovered in Grant county, New Mexico, to supply the world's needs. There is a popular belief that meerschaum is petrified sea foam washed up ages ago and solidified by some strange process of nature.

OLIVE OIL OF CALIFORNIA.

Shipped in Great Tanks, Like So Much Petroleum.

The sale of olive oil constitutes one of the largest items of revenue to California. Although olives have been grown there for more than half a century, the quantity of fruit sold outside of the state before 1900 was insignificant.

Forming themselves into an association, a number of the large growers have taken steps since then to compete with Italy and France in selling their product, and have succeeded to such an extent that, according to Moody's Magazine, they manufacture a large proportion of the 250,000 gallons of olive oil at present produced in this country.

One ton of olives usually yields 30 to 35 gallons of oil. For the eastern trade the California association has established an extensive bottling plant in New England to which the oil is actually shipped by the carload in tanks, like so much petroleum. One of the large olive orchards alone contains no less than 120,000 trees, which will give an idea of the magnitude of olive growing.

The Modern Newspaper. "When ex-Gov. Pennypacker was still a judge," said a Philadelphia reporter, "he showed me in his uptown house his superb collection of old newspapers. As he turned those faded pages I said: 'Do you think, sir, that our newspapers have improved?'"

"Laughing, I asked him what he thought of our Sunday papers. 'They are marvelous,' he replied. 'They are encyclopedic, however I take one of them up I am reminded of the old Frenchman of the last century who read his paper with great care and thoroughness, but whose progress was so slow and whose paper was so large that he was always eight months behind the current issue.'"

Peruvians as Engineers.

Next to the Romans, the ancient Peruvians were perhaps the most efficient civil engineers. Their roads were marvelous, and one, the highway from Quito into the Chilian domain, was one of the most remarkable roads the world has ever known. It was 20 feet wide and 2,000 miles in length, passing over snow capped mountains, through canyons cut for miles through the solid rock, and across turbulent mountain streams and rivers.

Hardly Understood.

"Silent Smith," said a broker, "was a good, kind man, but a busy one, a foe to hores and time wasters. He used to fish occasionally at Shawnee and a Shawnee farmer on a junket to the city once made bold to visit him in his New York office. 'Wall, Josh, how'd Silent Smith use ye?' they asked the farmer at the general store on his return.

Royal Family Names.

Savoy is the family name of the king of Italy, the founder of whose house was Humbert of the White Hands, Count of Savoy, who died about the time of the first crusade. The patronymics of the grandduke of Baden is Zochringen. That of the reigning family of Bavaria has for near 1,000 years been Wittelsbach, a name taken from a village in Upper Bavaria; while the king of Sweden is of course a Bernadotte, being the great-grandson of a Pnyean peasant of that name.—Sunday Magazine.

THE STORY OF THE OUTLAW.

Bad Men of the West Classified and Analyzed.

Emerson Hough constitutes himself the historian of the outlaw, believing the truth about "the bad man" of the west is sufficiently thrilling and meaning to present merely truth. There were outlaws of all nationalities, according to Mr. Hough, but the prize-taker among them was the western white bad man, who in a land which the law could not protect, like the great region on the frontier, reverted to the ways of Goth and Teuton forbears.

TURNED OUT BY NATURE.

Many Things of Use That the Old Dame Manufactures.

Nature is something of a manufacturer herself. In the case of a certain cactus marvelous natural pottery is produced. Woodpeckers excavate nests in the trunk and branches, and to protect itself the plant exudes a sticky juice, which hardens, forming a woody lining to the holes made by the birds. Eventually the cactus dies and withers away, but the wooden bowls remain. As a weaver nature also produces fine work. Certain tree barks and leaves furnish excellent cloth, as, for instance, the famous tapa cloth used in the South Sea islands.

Excludes Draughts.

Fresh-air cranks, who believe in having an abundance of fresh air during the sleeping hours, will find the ventilating canopy of interest. The problem of properly ventilating a room to allow the admission of all the fresh air possible is often hard to solve, as it is invariably impossible to prevent draughts, which naturally must be avoided. By the use of the ventilating canopy, the sleeper is perfectly safe from draughts. It being even possible to place the bed in front of the open window. The framework of the canopy is secured firmly to the head of the bed, the covering being placed over all portions but the front. The head and upper portion of the body are thus protected from all draughts, the fresh air, nevertheless, having full egress in front.

Sunken Funds Recovered.

Some idea of the work done by submarine divers in recovering treasure from sunken ships can be gotten from the following figures just published: From the steamship Malabar was recovered more than \$1,250,000; from the steamship Alphonso XII, \$450,000; from the steamship Hamilla Mitchell, \$250,000, and from the steamship Carnatic, \$200,000. The complete list is long, but these figures from Popular Mechanics give an idea of the enormous value of the treasures which the greedy waves have swallowed and the inducement to invest large capital, construct ingenious and expensive machinery, and run great risks in raising "watered" stock.

Metals in Bad Odor.

A German scientist has just declared that every metal has its characteristic odor. Not every one can detect the odor of cold tin, copper or aluminum, but when pieces of such metals are heated to a moderate degree they give off strong smells, distinguishable by anybody. At higher temperatures metals lose all trace of smell, but again give off an odor on being heated after a lapse of several hours in a cold state. Coined silver and gold often have a suspicious taint.

Microphone as Fire Damp Detector.

The fire damp detector of M. Hardy, a Frenchman, is an ingenious application of the microphone. Two pipes of equal pitch, one in the mine and the other above ground, are sounded simultaneously, and the sound waves impinge on microphones connected in series with a telephone. If both pipes are in pure air a clear note is heard in the telephone. If the pipes are in air of different density beats are heard, and these give warning of the presence of fire damp in the mine.

The Making of Fame.

Norvitt—That's McSluggar, the champion pugilist. He's enjoying his new laurels. Ascum—Woke up one morning and found himself famous, eh? Norvitt—Yes, because he had put his opponent to sleep the night before.

Frequently the Case.

Bowles—Surely no one questions that character covers a multitude of sins. Thomas—I think not; and one might truthfully add that it not infrequently exposes a great number of sinners.—Stuart Sol.

BOSS IN HIS OWN COURT.

Montana Judge Refused to Listen to Point of Law.

At one time, the supreme court issued a supervisory writ directing Judge Clancy, of Montana, to make a certain order in a case, either granting or refusing a right to Amalgamated, so that the matter might be finally determined in the higher tribunal. When this was brought to the judge's attention, he announced that he would take the matter under advisement. The judge had taken other matters under advisement and they had never been heard of afterwards; it was one way of allowing Heinze ample time to extract valuable ore bodies from the disputed ground.

FAITH IN HER NINE LIVES.

Cat Took Chances in Flying Leap From Burning Building.

During a fire in the tenement house at 124 West One Hundred and Second street the other day a large black cat, with shiny yellow eyes, appeared on a window sill of the fifth story. Behind it a dull red glow and an occasional puff of smoke gave warning that the flames were rapidly approaching. Puss understood, and, after a short walk on the sill, launched herself into space. The flight through the air was like that of a squirrel, the pose being perfect and the legs spread out as widely as possible. The cat descended in a long, graceful curve, and when she struck the pavement the feet were quickly bunched together and there was no "dull thud." For a single instant the cat paused, as if to recover from the shock, and then, with a long-drawn meow and every hair on end, dashed along the street and disappeared in the darkness.—N. Y. Sun.

Remarkable Funeral.

A remarkable funeral, among the mourners being 100 of the deceased's descendants, 85 of whom were comparatively small children, many of them babies in arms, recently took place at Adamsville, York county, Pa., when Mrs. Rebecca Godling Gaffelter, of that place, was laid to rest. There were 40 grandchildren and 45 great-grandchildren, besides the sons and daughters of the deceased, of whom there were five, all the offspring of Mrs. Gaffelter's first husband, who died some years ago. The great number of children, all of whom live in York county, attracted the attention of the mourners and friends and made such an impression that the minister, Rev. Adam Stamp, dwelt particularly on their presence and the large family connections of the dead woman.

Rodney's Feathered Ally.

April 12 is the anniversary of Rodney's timely but much controverted victory over De Grasse, in which he received assistance from an unexpected ally. While the new manoeuvre of "breaking up the line"—really invented by Capt. Douglas—was being executed, a shot shattered the hencock and a little bantam cock escaped into the rigging. From this coin of vantage, whenever the Glorious fired her broadside into the formidable, he would hurl back a prolonged crow of defiance at the Frenchman. This "produced mighty merriment among the seamen, and inspired them with a proper spirit for the business." As a reward for his public services, the plucky little bird was reprieved from the cook, and passed the rest of his days ashore as a potted pensioner.

Satisfying Congregation's Curiosity.

Rev. C. N. Wright, Wardle Vicarage, Rochdale, for a personal reminiscence, writes: "In my third living there was a very crowded congregation the first morning I officiated. The parishioners were evidently curious as to the build, color of hair, etc., of their new vicar. As a matter of fact I was, though a young man, very bald. A little thought would have caused me to make my first appearance on any morning but the eighth, but it was the eighth, and in the Psalms, which were read and not sung, I had to say: 'My sins are more in number than the hairs of my head.'—London Globe.

In a German Law Court.

A German law court was the scene lately of an amusing incident. The magistrate, a tiresome and long-winded person, was deciding a small case in which the plaintiff claimed damages for abuse. "To call a man a pig or a dog," ruled the judge, "is certainly an insult, but to say that he is a pig-dog is not an insult, for no such animal exists." The plaintiff glared at the bench. "Schweinehund!" he remarked with bitter emphasis.—T. P.'s Weekly.

More Than One.

"The average woman," said Grumbell, "has but one idea, and that's dress." "Hub!" snorted Marryat. "My wife usually has at least a dozen ideas, and they're dresses."—The Catholic Standard and Times.

HOW SOME MEN SUCCEED.

Remarkable Case of Penuriousness Told by Florist.

A florist in the outskirts of the city has come across what he considers the meanest man in all New York. "He recently bought a fine summer home and estate about a half mile from my nursery," said the florist. "A few weeks ago he was entertaining some old friends, and showing them around the neighborhood. In the course of their peregrinations, he brought them to my flower patch, on which I have a number of large glass-houses. Wishing to display his wealth by purchasing something, he stopped at a cucumber frame and asked me the price of various specimens of that vegetable. I pointed a large one out to him at 25 cents, another at 15 cents, and so on," but Mr. Suddenwealth would have none of them. His eye fell on a particularly tiny specimen. "How much?" he asked, pointing to it. I told him five cents. Mr. Croesus brought out a \$50 bill. I couldn't change it just then, so I told him he could pay later. That suited him fine. Just as I was about to pull the cucumber he requested me to leave it where it was, as he would send his man for it in the evening. He went away smiling, and sent his coachman to the nursery at the end of a week, by which time, of course, the tiny cucumber had lengthened into a large and brilliant vegetable! What's more he's forgotten to divvy up the nickel!"

LOOKING FOR FREE ADVICE.

People of Both Sexes Seek to Evade Payment of Doctors' Bills.

Every doctor has had unpleasant experiences of the economical minded person who takes advantage of a casual meeting at the dinner table or elsewhere to importune him for counsel as to his ailments. It is not always easy to get rid of these pests. Abernathy was, as we know, equal to the occasion when a wealthy alderman whom he met at a friend's house recited his catalogue of woes, ending up with the question: "What should I take?" The reply was: "Take advice." A French doctor recently rid himself in an equally ingenious manner of a patient who sought to impose on his good nature. He was costed one afternoon on a crowded boulevard by a lady notorious for her ailments, making particular complaint of pain in her hypogastric region. To which the doctor gravely replied: "My dear madam, I must examine you. Be good enough to take off your things."

The Queerest Policemen.

"The strangest policemen in the world are in Cape Town, South Africa," said a man who had traveled in the Dark Continent. "They are the Kaffir negroes. They wear a uniform similar to that of an English soldier, but instead of a club and a revolver they carry a long spear with a red tassel near the point and a short stick which has a heavy brass ball on the end and is attached to the policeman's belt by a cord some 60 feet long. They throw the ball and stick and the cord winds around the prisoner like a yachman's lariat and prevents him from walking. They are not allowed to carry firearms, and only make an arrest when ordered by their white officers to do so, but if they are ever sent for a man he had better go without question, for he either goes to jail or the hospital if he resists."

Dogs and Their Treatment.

Columbus has a new dog catcher. It is hoped that he is a humane man and does not enter upon his duties with a hatred of dogs. Some people have an idea that a dog is always to be assailed like a snake. It is in that spirit that a boy throws a stone at a dog going down the street, and harrumphing nobody. "A dog's life" is a common phrase, which indicates that every man's hand is against it. This is the fate of man's most faithful companion, the most intelligent animal outside of the pale of humanity. Let us always remember that sympathy for a brute accompanies sympathy for a fellow mortal. You can't get your fortune on that proposition. — Ohio State Journal.

The Art of Walking.

To walk gracefully is an art, one which is seldom the accomplishment of the American woman. The head should be kept well back, and the whole weight of the body should rest on each foot in turn. Set the foot down squarely, striking the ball of the foot first. Keep the chin drawn back well horizontally, which will cause the chest to be lifted, and thus insure deep breathing. Practice walking indoors with a book on the head and the instructions will be easily understood.

Tactful.

"How was it Dr. Knowit got such a big fee from Talkative?" "Because when he was called to attend Mrs. Talkative for a slight nervous trouble he told her she had an acute attack of inflammatory verbosity." "Well," "And recommended absolute quiet as the only means of averting prolixities of cacathous loquendi. She's scared dumb."

"Frightened by False Fire."

"I'm afraid to take fencing lessons, for it's such an exhausting exercise." "Not a bit of it. Who told you so?" "Maizie is taking them, and she always is talking about how she faints so often while she's practicing."

BISHOP HAD READY EXCUSE.

At Least as Good as Many Made for Divorce Laws.

Dr. Edward Everett Hale, at the divorce reform congress in Washington, said of certain divorce laws: "The apologies put forward for these laws remind me of the apology that a gourmet bishop once made during Lent. The bishop happened to sit at dinner beside an irreverent young woman. He ate his oysters, and then, with flashing eyes, a heightened color and every indication of enjoyment, he fell to upon a plate of 15th turtle soup. The young woman, watching the bishop swallow this costly food, could not restrain a sneer. 'I thought,' she said, 'that you fasted during Lent, bishop?' The bishop put down his spoon and allowed his face to become pensive. 'Ah, I do fast in Lent,' he said, 'subsist chiefly on fish.' He swallowed a lump of meat worth about half a dollar. 'Turtle,' he added, 'is a kind of fish.'

ANIMALS FIGHT IN SHACK.

Connecticut Man and His Watchdog Had Lively Session.

From Bristol's woods, in Southern Prospect, a village near Waterbury, Conn., a wildcat pursued a big deer until from exhaustion it fell through the roof of the side hill hen shack of Edson Black. Guinea fowls set up a great commotion, and with the deer's desperate struggles for liberty, cooped up in a shack 15x12, with nearly 80 fowls, there was such a racket that a trusty watchdog awoke Black. He went to the henhouse to find 32 fowls trampled to death, every pane of glass and all the roosts broken and the deer dying of a broken neck. Its flanks were lacerated from the claws of the wildcat, tracks of which were in the coop, where it remained until frightened away by the approach of Black.

Deserts of Asia.

Just north of the Himalaya mountain range in Chinese Turkestan lies a belt of land which is watered by north flowing rivers. These, however, do not flow anywhere, but lose themselves in the sand of the desert. The worst deserts of America are mere child's play to the desert conditions in this part of Asia. In many places there were formerly one thousand or two thousand years ago, a condition of soil and climate so that they could support a considerable population. There are the remains of villages and even cities, which must have had water in large quantities in places now far distant from any reliable source of supply. So dry is the country that ruins of wooden houses which have been exposed to the weather for ten centuries or more have hardly the beginning of decay.

Jap Turkeys.

The wife of one of the early missionaries to Japan, wishing to entertain some friends, sent out an old domestic to hunt up a turkey. After a whole day's inquiry he found one, and in due time a large and beautiful rooster was served up, glorious, perfect—ah yes, perfect; so much so that the knife utterly refused to pierce its perfection. The old serving man was summoned. "Where did you buy that turkey?" "At the Temple of Kinkakuji." "Why, what was it doing there?" "It was the sacred Tin Wara." "Did they say it was a good bird?" "Oh, yes, honorable presence, they recommended it highly. They've had it 15 years and two moons themselves."

Use of Rubber Restricted.

Probably no substance is adapted to a greater variety of uses than rubber, but its applications are restricted by the limited supply and high cost. Among the purposes for which it has great advantages but is not likely to be extensively employed is that of paving roadways. A rubber pavement laid at a London railway station in 1881 was in 1902 worn down to five-eighths of an inch in its thinnest place. Notwithstanding the scarcity of the material, the cost was less than three times as great as that of wood, and its life has been more than 20 years instead of the four years which the wood or asphalt would have endured.

Bill Nye and Maartens.

The presence in this country of the distinguished Dutch novelist, Maarten Maartens, recalls the story of his election in the spring of 1895 as an honorary member of the Author's club of New York. When the name Joost Marius M. Van der Poorten-Schwartz came to the attention of the membership committee there was a gasp of astonishment. Finally the late Bill Nye came to the rescue with the suggestion that the first half of the name should be acted on at once, but that the last half should be held over until the autumn, when the weather would be cool.—The Bookman.

Meaning of Babylon.

Babylon was great. She used science and she used art, but she abused humanity. She invented sundials, but forgot to regulate with justice the hours of labor. She could calculate a star's eclipse, but not her own. No state has been more guilty of the waste of human life. And when we see her ruins lying like a vast, mysterious autograph scrawled over the desert her history appears to be full of warning.—From W. R. Paterson's "Nemesis of Nations."

Cinchona Bark from Java.

Java produces about 90 per cent of the world's supply of cinchona bark.

SEA OF ELECTRICITY

MEANS BEING SOUGHT TO CURB STRAY WIRELESS VOLTS.

Fears That Telegraph Station at Brooklyn Navy Yard Will Make Trouble in a Variety of Ways for Neighbors.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—A vast electrical sea will be formed in the environs of the new wireless telegraph station at the Brooklyn navy yard, when the apparatus is put into operation, receiving and transmitting messages. Anywhere from half a million to a million volts of electrical fluid will be let loose in the atmosphere and everything in the vicinity of the new electrical station that has any electrical affinity whatever for electricity will be recharged.

When the old station was in operation, M. L. Newman, in charge of the electrical department of the local bureau of yards and docks, had a hard time keeping the electric lighting system in the neighborhood of the station in working order. The capriciousness of the electrical fluid often baffled his plans and many of the arc lights near the Sands street gates were burned out by the energy from the telegraph station. Now that this energy is being doubled, Mr. Newman, and, in fact, the electricians of the department at Washington, are racking their brains in search of some means of curbing and confining the great refractory sea of electrical waves that will be formed when the new station is put into operation.

The Flushing avenue trolley line of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit company skirts that corner of the navy yard in which is located the wireless station and Mr. Newman fears that unless some method of proper insulation is devised, the energy from the station will seriously affect the operation of trolley cars. When the thousands of volts are released upon the wings of the air, many of them are expected to rush straightway to the trolley wires and trolley poles, to the old canon decorations of the gate, and even to the bayonets and metallic insignia on the hats of the marine guard stationed at the gate. These volts will hover about those attractive cents like bees in a swarm. Each and every minute electron will be striving to reach the earth and to return to the generators in the power house by the path of least resistance, such as a metallic gas pipe, or a conduit or a trolley wire.

Last summer at times when atmosphere was surcharged with natural electricity, as well as with manufactured energy from the wireless station, the marine guard at the Sands street gate were perceptibly affected by the fluid. They absorbed it into their systems so that their hair stood out on end. The metallic insignia on their caps was tarnished and whenever they came in contact with or even near an old cannon or a trolley pole there was a snapping sound as of electricity rushing from their sheathed bayonets to the trolley pole or cannon.

The trolley wire on Navy street will be freighted with the electrical fluid this summer. And when a trolley car comes along there may be brilliant displays of electrical flame. The switch in the top of the forward platform of the car may slam back; there may be disturbances in the car motors. It is to ward off contingencies of this kind that Newman and the other electricians of the department are adding their pates for ideas.

SELLS HERITAGE FOR A SONG.

Youth Accepts \$80,000 for \$1,500,000 in Two Years.

Santa Monica, Cal.—A stake of \$30,000 played against a fortune of nearly \$1,500,000, with a human life as the final determining factor, are features of an unusual transaction entered into here between Henry C. Keating on one side and a syndicate of four men on the other. The syndicate is composed of J. C. Steele, former postmaster of Santa Monica; Benjamin Hunter, until recently city attorney; Robert W. Miller, secretary of the board of education, and A. W. McPherson, manager of the Edison Gas & Electric company.

Keating is one of the heirs to the Keating estate, worth about \$5,000,000. His share is about \$1,500,000, but he can not get it until a division of the entire estate is made possible by the coming of age of the younger heir. This will be in two and a half years. In order to convert his prospective \$1,500,000 into actual cash Keating has signed over to the syndicate all his rights in the inheritance for \$80,000, the syndicate running the risk that he may die, in which case all his interest in the Keating fortune will pass over to the other heirs. Should he live he will come into his part of the estate and the syndicate will then be entitled to enforce its claims.

Baden's Physique on Wane.

Berlin—Curious statistics were gleaned in southern Baden in the recent enrollment of recruits. In the Lindau and Altkan districts out of 604 young men liable to service only 20 were found to be up to the physical standard of the military authorities. The peasantry of those districts were at one time among the most robust in the empire, but owing to the dearth of meat and milk their physique has sunk to a dangerously low level. Their principal food for years has been potatoes and skimmed milk.