

FIVE TIMES HIGHER THAN NIAGARA.



The above is a photograph of the Kaieteur fall on the Potaro river, Essequibo, British Guiana. The perpendicular height of the fall is 741 feet, or nearly five times that of Niagara. The width varies from 250 feet in the dry season to 400 feet in the rainy season, and the depth of water passing over similarly ranges from a few feet to 20 feet. Even in very dry seasons, the river has a depth of 35 feet about a quarter of a mile above the fall. The face of the fall is of sandstone with a capping of harder conglomerate. It is suggested that the falls may be used to provide power, and it is pointed out that the chief fall alone would supply 2,125,000 horsepower.

THE COST OF LIVING

Lower in 1908 Than in 1907, Say Government Experts.

Bureau of Labor Bulletin Shows Prices Generally Advanced 36.9 Per Cent. in Last Ten Years—August Cheapest Time.

Washington.—In its annual report on wholesale prices, made public recently, the bureau of labor, taking as a basis 258 representative staple articles, shows that these prices in 1908 receded as a whole from the high level of 1907, the year of highest prices during the period of 19 years, and were only slightly in excess of the prices for 1906.

The average price for 1908, it is stated, was 5.2 per cent. below that for 1907. As compared with 1897, the year of lowest prices during the 19-year period, the advance in 1908 was 36.9 per cent. As compared with the average for the ten years, 1890 to 1899, the advance was 22.8 per cent.

The decline from the prices shown by the October, 1907, data continued without interruption until August, 1908, with the exception of a slight advance in July.

Prices were at their lowest point of the year 1908 during the month of August, when they were 1.1 per cent. below the average for that year, and 7.3 per cent. below the average for October, 1907, the highest point in the 19 years covered. The prices in December, 1908, show an advance of 1.8 over the prices in August.

Of the 258 articles for which wholesale prices were obtained, 162 show a decrease in the average price for 1908 as compared with 1907, 33 showed no change and 63 showed an increase.

Of the nine groups in which the commodities were classified, seven showed a decrease in price in 1908, as compared to 1907. In farm products, taken as a whole, there was a decrease in price of 2.9 in 1908 below the average for 1907, this decrease being the least of any of the seven groups showing a decrease; food increased 2.4 per cent. in price; cloths and clothing decreased 7.7 per cent.

Fuel and lighting decreased 3.1 per cent.; metals and implements decreased 12.3 per cent.—which was the heaviest decline of any of the groups; lumber and building materials decreased 9.4 per cent.; drugs and chemicals increased seven per cent.; house furnishing goods decreased 3.8 per cent. and the miscellaneous group decreased 5.7 per cent.

The average wholesale price of raw commodities for 1908 was 5.9 per cent. below that for 1907, and the average wholesale price of manufactured commodities for 1908 was 5.9 per cent. below that for 1907.

Of the 258 articles included in the report the prices of 107 were at the highest point during the year in January, while only 20 articles attained their highest in December.

NATURAL OIL NEAR SURFACE

Burns Like Kerosene, and Doesn't Have to Be Refined to Be Saleable.

Ithaca, N. Y.—That there is plenty of natural oil not far from the surface of the earth in the town of Groton, Tompkins county, is being demonstrated frequently. A few days ago a number of workmen engaged in erecting a cement wall in a creek on land belonging to A. T. Hoyt discovered a quantity of oil just below the surface of the bed of the creek. As they were removing the concrete from it they noticed that a piece of wood that had been sunk into the ground was saturated with oil. One of the men thereupon drove the handle of his pick several feet below the surface and the natural oil flowed freely.

This spot is an eighth of a mile from the well of Miss Marion Good-year of New York city, which has been filled with oil for several months past. A peculiar feature of the Groton oil is that it burns about as bright as kerosene and does not need to be refined in order to be saleable. A company that was formed to develop the Goodyear property expects to sink a shaft in the near future.

GIRL IS BARBERED REGULARLY

Now Other Co-Eds at University of Missouri Want to Cut Off Their Hair.

Columbia, Mo.—A barber may be added to the faculty of Christian college, a girls' boarding school, next year if the style of trimming the hair started by Miss Mildred Johnson prevails.

Miss Johnson spends her summers on her father's ranch along the Red river in Texas. She is used to the freedom of the outdoors, although she has spent several winters in her winter home in Paris, Tex.

She does not like the trouble of combing her long, flowing locks and doing up her hair with pins.

Miss Johnson trimmed her hair. She was not able to do a first-class job. This made a visit to the barber necessary.

For the last few weeks of school she made regular trips to the barber shop visited by men and had her hair trimmed and combed with a part on the left side, exactly as the boys in the University of Missouri do.

Other girls have written her for permission to wear short hair.

PHONE POPULAR WITH INDIAN

Red Men Fond of Long Distance Talks with Any One Who Happens to Be at the Other End.

Dallas, Tex.—The Indians are great on using the telephone. They have little or no use for the local boards, their calls being over the long distance. They do not put in a call for the individual. They do not ask for White Eagle at Canton or Flying Cloud at Darlington. The call is for "Any Cheyenne." The same is true as to the Arapahoes. Any member of the tribe serves.

An Indian puts in a call for any member of his tribe at Canton, Darlington, Colony, Lawton or any point. It is "up to" the manager to go out in the street and pick up an Indian. Any one will do, so he is of the tribe asked for. He is put up to the telephone and the talk proceeds. The talk being in Indian, no one knows what it is about.

If an Indian, say in Clinton, wants to reach one of his people, say forty miles from Canton, or any other given point, he calls for one of his tribesmen, tells him the message he desires delivered, and it is his business to deliver it, even though it requires a night trip and in a storm.

A little Indian baby died near Clinton last year and its mother desired that her relatives attend the funeral services. They lived out on the prairie northwest from Canton. The telephone was used and a member of the tribe directed to deliver the message to the mother's relatives. It was delivered by a courier across the prairies and canyons, and the relatives came in over the Orient next day.

Last summer a call came to Clinton for a Kiowa, that was a poser for the manager. However, he found, upon inquiry among the Cheyennes, that there was one who had lived among the Kiowas and spoke the dialect. He was put up to the telephone and received the talk.

CARNEGIE'S RIVAL IN LOVE.

Light Shed on Early Romance of the Famous Steel Master and Millionaire.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Andrew Carnegie's former rival in love, a poor man, has died here. He was "Squire" Edward Cox Negley, alderman in the east end and husband of the girl who threw over the steel master for the poor but gallant soldier just returned from the civil war.

During the closing days of the war Carnegie, who was not then a rich steel master, was devoted to his attendance at Central Presbyterian church. He was a struggling man with bright prospects, well known and well liked. His attentions to one of the choir singers, Miss Crawford, grew marked.

Matters were progressing finely until word came that the war was over. Soon after there appeared at an evening service at Central church a handsome young fellow who wore a colonel's uniform. Miss Crawford noted his gallant bearing. There followed an introduction and soon Carnegie had a rival in Colonel Negley.

Good-naturedly the battle was waged until the crisis came and each of the lovers decided to learn his fate. Negley was the favored one and was accepted. The wedding followed soon.

Carnegie never again appeared at the Central church. It was said at the time that he gave up for years attendance at any religious services. It also has been said that the loss of Miss Crawford had much to do with the steel master's remaining single until late in life.

HONEST MAN FINDS \$120.

Laborer at Des Moines, Ia., Turns Over Contents of Tin Can to County.

Des Moines, Ia.—William Wilson, a laboring man of this city, is Iowa's original honest man. If Diogenes were alive he would end his search here.

While hunting mushrooms near Beaver creek, just outside the city limits, Wilson, becoming thirsty, picked up a tin can with which to make a sanitary cup. To his amazement, he found \$120 in greenbacks carefully stowed in it.

What would most men have done under the circumstances? Well, that is just what Wilson didn't do. He took the can and the greenbacks straight to the office of Justice of the Peace Zell G. Roe. Before the magistrate he made an affidavit as to how, when and where he found the money. Then he turned it over to Polk county. "It wasn't my money," he said to Justice Roe. "It was just lying there, where somebody had placed it. It wasn't mine; so I brought it down to you."

Since then Justice Roe has had a score of claimants for that \$120. One man even had his roommate arrested, charging him with stealing \$120 from him and hiding it in the can. But Justice Roe says the money must be fully identified before he gives it up. And if he finds the owner he will ask that Wilson be rewarded.

France's Birth Rate Grows.

PARIS.—The vital statistics of France, which in 1907 showed an excess of 79,893 deaths over the births for that year, a fact that led to the most pessimistic predictions for the future of the French race, have now been published for 1908. Their study brings to light more reassuring official figures, and shows an excess of 46,441 births over deaths for that year. The total of deaths decreased 48,286 in 1908, while the births increased 18,047.

HID BAD TEETH OF EMPRESS

Origin of the Lace Handkerchief Ascribed to Vanity of First Napoleon's Consort.

One of the strangest facts illustrating the vanity of woman is that the lace handkerchief owed its introduction to the Empress Josephine's bad teeth. Josephine's vanity is no new subject with historians, who as a group, however, neglect the care with which she kept the world from observing that her teeth were neither ornamental nor useful. It is with Josephine's vanity as it was manifested toward Napoleon that historians are concerned, not with her instinctive care for her own appearance. She never laughed except from behind the cover of a lace handkerchief. It was a trick the meaning of which was known to every woman in France, yet so contradictory is feminine nature that it took short time for women of all degrees to give themselves to imitation. Whether possessed of good teeth or bad, the French woman in Josephine's golden days always pressed a handkerchief to her lips when she laughed, and because lace handkerchiefs were Josephine's pride they came into general use. There has been a change since Josephine's time, however, for now the rule is to show a handkerchief as little as possible. Even the daintiest linen and lace specimens are to be held from view.

It is a simple melody in the minor key, suggestive, like most Slav music, of sorrow and unrest, and it is called "Matushka," or "Mother, Volga," as for some cryptic reason every Russian, be he noble or peasant, is taught from childhood to regard this great river in the light of a maternal relative. Yet the river is full of sad associations, for convicts formerly traveled a portion of the journey to Siberia along its broad, sluggish stream.

I can never forget the haunting sweetness of "Matushka Volga" as I heard it sung on a prison barge one quiet summer evening by a party of fettered political banished to the great lone land of exile. For "Mother Volga" was their last link with home and the loved ones they might never meet again.

Fortunately the condemned are now sent into Asia by the Trans-Siberian railroad and the unhappy exile is spared at least one bitter parting—that from his well beloved "Mother Volga."

PENS VALUED BY COLLECTORS

Those Used by Great Writers and Statesmen Bring High Prices at Public Sales.

The pen used by Charles Dickens just before his death, which has been sold at Messrs. Sothby's rooms for £19 10s, must yield the palm of costliness to the well-worn gold pen used by "Box" for many years, which found a purchaser some time ago for over £40.

At the sale of the Dalhousie collection a quill pen used by Wellington when writing to Queen Victoria in 1844 brought only 5s; guineas; while one of Sir Walter Scott's pens, selected by Lord Dalhousie in 1889 from Scott's writing table at Abbotsford, only realized three guineas more.

Among the most valuable pens in the world are one owned by Mr. Isaac Reed of New York, carved from a portion of George Washington's toothbox, and used by Lincoln when president, and the quill of a golden-eagle's wing, the property of the Empress Eugenie, with which the treaty of Paris was signed in 1856.—London Tit-Bits.

Ending a Letter.

The simplicity of "yours" as a letter ending would have astounded Jeremy Taylor, whose letters to John Evelyn often wind up with perfect triumphs of complexity in this respect. His best is, "Believe me that I am, in great heartiness and dearness of affection, Dear Sir, your obliged and most affectionate friend and servant, J. Taylor." On other occasions he was "Your most affectionate and endeared friend and servant, Your very affectionate friend and hearty servant." Even in his shortest perorations of the kind the "affectionate" and the "servant" are always the two indispensable words. Probably no man, woman or child would combine these two at the end of a letter today.

May Cure Snoring, Too.

"I've found a cure for snoring," said the man who will eat despite his subsequent sufferings. "When I go to bed at night I slip a string through an empty spool, secure the spool firmly so it will not slide, and then tie the string around my waist in such a way that the spool comes in the middle of my back. The result is that if I try to turn on my back in my sleep I lie on the spool, and I can assure you it wakens me promptly. "No, it isn't pleasant to be awakened in that way, but it is better than having to go through one of the diabolical nightmares from which I have suffered for several years."

Let Him Stay a Man.

A man soon gets mighty tired of treating his wife like a goddess. If he cannot be at ease with her, and smoke when he pleases, and take off his coat if he wants to, and throw ashes on the floor and cigar stubs all over the house, he is going to be mighty uncomfortable, and long to go where he can. For it is born in a man to like to do these things, just as it is born in a girl to like to do her own pet things. Moreover, if a girl has once known a man in a perfectly comfortable chummy way, she will find him worth twice as much as before he dropped his awe of her. Men are pretty nice as they are, but for awesake, don't try to make a man ladylike. He isn't and won't be if he is even half a man.—Aitchison Globe.

Back to the Farm.

There is just one way for the people of the city to find it possible to buy eggs, chickens, meat and flour for less money—that is for some of them to leave the city and go back to raising more hens, more cattle, and growing more wheat. The fact is that the country is getting too heavy. The cities are calling too heavily on the producing areas. Farming is getting to be one of the most profitable businesses of the country because the proportion of non-producers is getting so large. It is all a matter of supply and demand; just now the demand for foodstuffs is larger than it has ever been in proportion to the supply.—Denver Republican.

TRIBUTE TO "MOTHER VOLGA"

Haunting Melody of Sorrow and Unrest Heard in Prison and Palace in Russia.

There is an air so popular in Russia that it is even more familiar than their national anthem to the people of that great mysterious empire, says a writer in the Travel Magazine. I have heard it in all part of the czar's dominions, from the Baltic sea to Bering Strait and from Archangel to the Caspian. In the glittering palaces of Petersburg and in foul prison dens of Siberia.

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NOT MUCH TROUBLE TO WRITE

Some Proper Names That at Least Have the Distinguishing Merit of Novelty.

In the Zuyder Zee there is a bay called Y, and Amsterdam has a river Y, while, strange to say, in quite another part of the earth, in China, the same brief name is given to a town.

Elsewhere in the flowery kingdom, in the province of Honan, there is a city called U, and in France there is a river and in Sweden a town rejoicing in the name of A.

Proper names of this brief nature are not, however, monopolized by places; instances are on record where individuals have been similarly named. Some years ago there was a shop kept on the Rue de Louvain, Brussels, by Theresa O, and there is a Mine O in Paris, who is well-known as the proprietor of a popular cafe.

An amusing incident is recounted in connection with the impressment into the military service of the son of one of the members of the O family. The young man could not write, and so signed his name on the military papers with a cross, it not occurring to him or to any of the officials how easily he could have written his name.

Those Frail Boats.

"In an account of a wreck on the Long Island coast that I read the other day," the retired yachtsman, "I was called to notice in one paper that the crew left the schooner in a 'frail boat,' the said craft being properly described in the Press as the ship's long boat. I know that is the conventional phrase to describe a vessel's smallest boat, but as I read it I wondered if the 'frail boat' writer ever had seen one of those ponderous fabrics of oak called the ship's long boat? Or if he ever had tried to haul a 14-foot yawl off a beach after it had been left high and dry by the tide? Such a job on a hot July day probably would cure him forever describing even such a boat as frail."

Just an Ordinary Kansas Man.

A Kansas woman, while in New York last summer with her husband, visited Lake Chautauqua. She wanted a veil, and held out her hand to her husband for money. He just laid his pocketbook in her hand and walked unconcerned around the store. "My," ejaculated the clerk, "and he never asked you how much you wanted nor what you were going to do with it. You ought to hear the arguments that they got into right here some times when a woman asks a man for money. My, but you ought to be thankful to have a husband like that."

Fad for Clean Money.

There is a fad at present for disinfecting dirty money and seeing to it that one's purse contains only bills and coins that are immaculate. Fresh, clean bills can be procured from the bank, where soiled ones will be taken in exchange, but clean silver is another matter, and those who follow fads must either accomplish it themselves or by instructing their maids to do it for them. The silver is washed in a strong solution of soap suds and ammonia, scrubbed with a brush and polished with a chamote, the result being glistening coins in the cleanest condition to suit the most fastidious.

A Failure.

"Has your son had any success as a lawyer?" "Well, no, to tell the truth, he hasn't. He has been practicing now for nearly eleven years and he has never been elected to the legislature or been appointed receiver for anything or even become president of any railroad company. It begins to look as if he may have to seek out a living just practicing law."

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

... de la Nouvelle-Orleans ...