

LUMP OF AMBERGRIS

Poor Man Never Suspected It Was of Any Great Value.

Merely to Satisfy Curiosity New Hampshire Man Takes It to State Chemist and Finds It Worth Many Thousand Dollars.

Manchester, N. H.—Adelard Levesque, a young house painter who resides with his wife and two small children in a modest tenement in the rear of 285 Chestnut street and who has struggled each day at his trade in order to provide comfortably for them, is the owner of a large chunk of ambergris valued at thousands of dollars, which he found floating in the St. Lawrence river in Canada more than three years ago.

It was not until a few days ago that he fully began to realize the value of his great find, when he was told that the state chemist at Concord, who had examined the specimen, had declared it, in his belief, to be ambergris.

For three years this gelatin-like mass, which is found in the intestines of the sperm whale and which is much sought by the perfumery manufacturers of the world, has lain around the little tenement of the Levesque family with no member of it giving it particular attention. Now and then Mr. Levesque would show it to friends, but none of them could tell him what it was.

A short time ago Mr. Levesque visited Boston, taking a sample of the precious mass along with him, and finally showed it to a doctor. The doctor offered him \$125 for the piece that he had, which would probably weigh a pound. He refused the offer, for he then for the first time since its discovery began to think that it might be of great value.

Later Mr. Levesque went to Providence, R. I., called on some of the officials at the city hall, showed the specimen to them and also visited several drug stores, where he conferred with the owners in regard to it. One druggist told him that he had better consult C. D. Howard, the New Hampshire state chemist, at Concord and that he would tell him just what the mass was.

Mr. Levesque went to Concord and showed Mr. Howard the sample he had with him. In fact, he left a piece with him with which he might make a deal.

A peculiar and startling result of the discovery in the St. Lawrence river is the fact that about 20 or more pounds of the mass which was taken by Mr. Levesque's brother at the time has been kicking around the family farmhouse in Canada for three years and in hot weather has been used instead of a stone to keep the doors ajar. Mr. Levesque has a piece in his possession which weighs about ten pounds and which he will undoubtedly guard closely until he disposes of it at the market price to some purchaser.

Speaking of his find, Mr. Levesque said that three years ago, while on a visit to his old home in Fraserville, Canada, he and his brother Florence went gunning on the St. Lawrence river in a boat. While floating along he sighted a yellow object and, believing it to be an animal, fired at least three shots at it. He then ran the boat alongside the mass and pulled it in.

The mass was taken home and his brother took the greater part of it, leaving it at the family homestead. No one there has ever believed that it was of value and it has been used to keep the doors open and serve as a weight.

POSSUM KILLS 200 CHICKS

New Jersey Farmer Persevered and Finally Landed Murderer—Human Thieves Suspected.

Bloomfield, N. J.—Walter Hatfield of Brookdale shot a possum which had eaten 200 of his chickens, valued at \$150. It had been preying upon the birds for months, notwithstanding the light and day vigilance of Hatfield and members of his family, who thought human chicken thieves were at work. The police also took a hand in the watching after Hatfield complained to them of his heavy losses. Their work went for nothing.

Hatfield got up before daylight to start to market with a load of vegetables. He was harnessing the horses when he heard a great commotion in the chicken house. Rushing into the dwelling, he got his gun and went to the place of the disturbance. When he opened the chicken house door he found the fowl all awake and uneasy, but there was no sign of a two-legged thief. The farmer, who carried a lantern, was about to leave the henhouse when in a far corner he noticed what looked like a big dark ball. Raising his gun and taking aim, he fired. Holding his lantern high, he went to the corner and found he had killed a possum. The possum weighed 20 pounds and was literally rolling in chicken fat.

Bandages for Lepers.

Bethlehem, Pa.—At a bandage rolling bee here the other day 40 representatives of the 13 cities of King's Daughters connected with the Moravian churches of the Bethlehem rolled 924 bundles, consisting of 178 yards each, making nine and one-third miles of bandages. These will all be sent to the Moravian leper hospital at Saranam, South America.

"DOLLAR CLUB" GETS PENNIES

How New York Street Car Company Beat Yonkers People at Their Own Game.

New York.—It's a stubborn and perverse generation up in Yonkers. That town is only 20 miles distant from this seat of light, but the middle of Africa is no more sunken in mental midnight. Not long ago pay-as-you-enter cars were put on there and although every other community in which they had been tried has hailed them as a distinct step forward Yonkers rose in the air and rebelled.

"They formed dollar bill clubs," said Leslie Sutherland, president of the street railroad. "Every man, woman and child who got on the car handed the conductor a dollar bill and demanded change. Kind helpers used to provide themselves with a pocketful of dollar bills in the morning to give to others in return for small change, so that the company would be bothered as much as possible."

"Of course the conductor would run out of change—and the possessor of the dollar would go and take his seat and sometimes the conductor would get to him later on with the 95 cents for his ducat. And then they howled like a parcel of wolves smelling a chicken roost, and demanded of the public service commission that we be directed to take the ears off. Mind you, the commission had just ordered us to put them on."

"And did you beat the game?"

Mr. Sutherland swelled up in justifiable pride. "Say," said he, "we've got that obstreperous dollar-bill bunch feeding out of our hands. We staked our conductors to sacks containing 95 pennies. They weighed about a pound and a quarter and the conductors kept a peck measure full between their feet on the rear platform. There was about a week when Yonkers was on a copper basis. No one paid a bill with anything but cents. Then the dollar-bill clubs disbanded."

BUILDS MANY BIG AIRSHIPS

Nine Aerial "Dreadnaughts" Being Built by Germany—Two Will Hold Many Persons.

Berlin.—Germany's "supremacy in the air" is graphically revealed in a new book reviewing the "aerial strength" of the various powers.

The author is Lieut. Neumann, superintendent of the aeronautic school maintained by the German Aerial Navy League at Friedrichshafen, the headquarters of Count Zeppelin.

Neumann shows that the German aerial armada at the present time consists of 14 completed vessels, each with records of numerous successful flights.

Only eight of them, two Zeppelins, two Paravesals and four of the Gross type, are actually owned by the war department and are stationed at various strategic points, but the other six are of course at the army's disposal in case of an emergency.

Nine other vessels, "four vastly larger and more powerful than any yet constructed," are approaching completion and will be ready for commission in midsummer. Two Zeppelins are intended for passenger and excursion business.

They accommodate 30 or 40 persons each and are built to travel at nearly 60 miles an hour. Two others nearly as big as the Zeppelin Dreadnaughts are the so-called Schutte and Travas vessels, which are constructed, respectively, of American pine and iron piping, as distinguished from the aluminum and steel hitherto used for the clippers of the clouds.

Germany are still superlatively enthusiastic over their future in the air and are determined to keep the big lead attained over all other nations.

LONG, HOT SUMMER AHEAD

Pennsylvania Prognosticator, With Long and Flawless Record, So Predicts.

Darby, Pa.—After having successfully predicted a long, cold winter, with several blizzards which arrived within a few days of schedule time, John T. Roberts, a Darby carpenter, who has been forecasting the weather for 42 years with such certainty that all Darby swears by him, is the first to come forward and say a long hot summer is ahead of us.

"June will be warm, as a month," said Roberts, "and the early part of July will be slightly cool, but after the first week it will begin to get warm, and will continue all month. August will come in red hot and will stay that way. Crops will be affected by the heat, and many persons will be overcome. There will be severe thunder storms all summer."

Roberts forecasts the weather by taking the direction of the wind for the three days of the equinox, taking the first day, March 20, as an indication for the weather of June; the second day, March 21, for the weather of July, and the third day, March 22, for the month of August.

Ill Luck in Horseshoes.

Burlington, N. J.—Clifford Price, liveryman and boniface, has lost his faith in the horseshoe as an emblem of good luck. While examining the foot of a horse attached to a coal cart the other morning the animal, made restless by a loose nail in its hoof, knocked the liveryman to the ground and dragged the cart, with a ton of coal aboard, over him. Friends thought Price had been killed, and he was taken to his hotel, but, although badly bruised, there were no bones broken, and his physician predicts an early recovery.

HELP MAN TO DRESS

When It Becomes Necessary There Will Be Fewer Divorces.

So Declares Dr. Luther H. Gulick, Director of Child Hygiene Department of Russell Sage Foundation, New York.

Chicago.—If man had the lapels of his coat and his collar and necktie in the middle of his back, so his wife would be called upon to assist him in dressing, even as he is called upon to fasten her buttons and eyes, there would be fewer divorces, because conditions would be less one-sided. Anyway, this is the belief of Dr. Luther H. Gulick, director of the child hygiene department of the Russell Sage Foundation, New York, who spoke on "The New Attitude Toward Health" before the Cook County Teachers' association.

"What is needed for the harmony of the homes is more co-operation between man and wife," he said. "A man can dress himself, but a woman has to have assistance."

"We men like to laugh at you women at every chance we get," said the speaker. "We note with interest how the fashion people get together every year in Paris and decide what you shall wear, and then we see you come out with your high hats and your wide hats, and your high hats with nothing in front."

"But after all this has been observed, I look at myself and I see this fapel on my coat, and in the lapel I see a buttonhole, but on the other side there is no button for it, and I wonder what the buttonhole is for. I see no use for it, and yet I would not buy a coat that does not have one there. That buttonhole must have a function, and I suspect it is a social function."

"And then I notice this piece of starched linen around the neck. And here is a piece of colored silk that goes with it, and a pin, of the color related to the color of the tie, stuck in it, and all this just for ornament in a place where the lapels are turned down, exposing a part of the body generally conceded to be most in need of protection. And I ask myself 'Just why?'"

"Well, let's say there are 60 million coats, and then compute how much might be saved if all the work on those lapels were not performed. Then let us ask ourselves if it would not be just as well if the lapel were located here" (indicating his aide) "or here" (indicating the middle of his back).

"Why if the men had their lapels in the middle of the back, making it necessary for their wives to help them dress themselves, we would have fewer divorces in this world. Things would not be so one-sided as they are at present, with the woman a helpless creature and the man able to take care of himself."

"Fashion is just a little ripple on the surface that carries beneath it the things of the world that make life worth while."

ENGLISH "AD." COPY IS DULL

Writers Look to American Papers to Make Publications Attractive—Cost is Great.

London.—Remarkable testimony to the value of advertising was paid by leading British advertisers at the dinner of the Thirty club.

"There is more money spent on advertising than on any other single commodity, not excluding food, clothing or anything else in the use of mankind," said H. Gordon Selfridge, managing director of Selfridge's, who was one of the guests.

No advertising was perfect and he did not think anyone could indicate what perfect advertising was.

"And yet," continued Mr. Selfridge, "certain lines of advertising were done in London better than they are done anywhere in the world."

If businesses like this had been a little more progressive, a little more forceful, London would absolutely beat the world in the matter of the disposition of general merchandise. Newspaper advertising was so much simpler than other forms of advertising, and press advertising did its work quicker than these other forms. He complained, however, that the English papers did not emphasize their advertising enough; they did not make it sufficiently attractive to the feminine end of the public.

It would take time to teach the public in England to look for certain advertisements day after day, as they do in America.

Longlived Family.

Moline, Kan.—Mrs. Anna Bolcourt is dead at the age of 106 years. Her family is believed to hold all records for longevity.

William Hamilton, a brother, is 99; a sister, Mrs. Sarah Byrne of Rushville, Ill., is 102, and another brother, James Hamilton, is 108.

A nephew, Zacharias Hamilton, is 73. He expects to live to be at least 100.

Torn Nose Sewed On.

Kenny, Ind.—A large shepherd dog, while at play with a five-year-old son of Stanford McClone, snapped at the child's nose and tore it from his face. Physicians who were called sewed it back in position and the child will recover unless blood poisoning develops.

REUNITED AFTER MANY YEARS

Three Brothers Separated for 49 Years Meet in Chicago Through Emblem.

Chicago.—After a separation of almost half a century, three brothers were reunited in Chicago the other day through an emblem which they all agreed to wear on their coats through life when they parted 49 years ago. Two of the brothers subsequently met in Chicago, both being prominent business men, but the third remained unheard from, and he was believed to have been killed in the Civil war.

Cyrus H. Howell, sixty-two years old, president of the Illinois Improvement & Ballast company, David Howell, fifty-four years old, also connected with the improvement company, and James Howell, seventy years old, now a prosperous merchant of Wheeling, W. Va., were born and reared on a farm near Chillicothe, Ill.

When the Civil war broke out the eldest brother joined the Union army and never was heard from again by his relatives. The other two brothers, after a long separation, finally met in Chicago and entered business here.

When they separated in 1861 the three brothers agreed to wear on the lapels of their coats an emblem by which they could recognize each other in after life. This was a gold button, similar to the button worn by members of the Grand Army of the Republic, inclosed in a maroon enameled circle.

James Howell came to Chicago on a business trip a few days ago. A business acquaintance observed the emblem on his coat lapel.

"I know a man in South Chicago who wears a button like that," he said to Mr. Howell.

"What is his name?" Mr. Howell asked.

"His name is Cyrus H. Howell."

"Why, I had a brother of that name, but I was told he died 40 years ago."

Within an hour the three long-separated brothers stood clasping each other's hand. An automobile took them to the home of Cyrus Howell, where a celebration by the three brothers and the families of the two younger ones took place.

GARDEN COMES FROM JAPAN

Plants Fifty Years Old to Be Shown at Exhibition to Be Given at Shepherd's Bush.

London.—There is quite an advance in the preparations which are being made for the Japan-British exhibition which is to be held this year at Shepherd's Bush, especially in the Japanese garden.

Up the mountain side, which will be clothed with juniper, now climb trees of a wide variety, among them being a weeping elm, an elder bush, and a maple on the summit. An old Japanese house, half of it built on piles rooted in the lake, is almost finished and the framework of a persuasive bridge is arched over the water.

The principal attraction of the garden will probably be the wonderful collection of wisterias, said to be between 40 and 50 years old, with twisted trunks about a span and a half in girth, which have been safely brought over from Japan and are already planted along a pergola or "wisteria shade." Much anxiety, however, is felt concerning the blossom after the long journey of the beautiful plant.

This forward one of the two gardens at Shepherd's Bush has been designed, according to the style of the Sindo school, which has been established in Japan for 500 years.

It will be "the eye of the exhibition" and will show something entirely new in "compressed beauty" in Europe. Within an acre will be seen cascades, streams, lakes, bridges, hills, rough garden patches, pergolas, groves, lawns, and a variety of strange, beautiful landscape effects.

MAKE QUICK TRIP TO VENUS

William Sidis, Harvard Prodigy, Says His Airship Will Do It in Twenty Minutes.

Boston.—William Sidis, the 11-year-old mathematics prodigy at Harvard, has not been confining his attentions solely to the problems of the fourth dimension and other equally simple matters. He has been delving into the mysteries of aerial navigation.

From one of the instructors of the physics department it is learned that young Sidis believes he has solved the problem of navigating the air and that by the evolution of his theory it will be possible to travel from the earth to the planet Venus in 20 minutes. His plan has to do with the alpha rays that are given off from radium. These rays are small particles of matter which leave the radium with great force and at the same time do not lessen the quantity of their force.

Working upon this basis, Sidis believes that by attaching a block of radium to the stern of his airship the propelling power will be derived from the force with which the alpha rays leave the radium in the same manner that a skyrocket is propelled through space.

Welcome to Cuba.

Havana.—The Spanish war veterans have resolved to invite Col. Roosevelt to visit Cuba. The resolution says "that it is our purpose to demonstrate to the illustrious statesman, our comrade in the war for the independence and always our great and good friend, the gratitude the veterans feel for the best friend of our liberties."

GREAT FISH MARKET

Boston Handles 150,000,000 Pounds of Sea Food Annually.

Ranks Second Only to Grimsby in England—Money Value Ranges From \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000 Annually—Halibut Supply.

Boston.—From smelts to whales, from herrings to halibut, New England must ever have a lively interest in the denizens of the deep and their translation to the uses of man. In a state which glorifies the codfish by hanging it, a symbol of plenty, in its legislative halls; where the whole fishery once was richer than a gold mine and has left annals of adventure and of effort which have an epic quality and are part of the record of the nation's growth; where the fisheries have schooled sailors and have graduated captains courageous for fighting ships, it is fitting that the whole community should view with intelligent interest whatever pertains to the garnering of the riches of the seas.

Herring made Holland what it is; codfish made New England. Today the business of catching, curing or selling for immediate consumption a great part of the country's supply of food fish devolves upon Boston, the greatest fish market in the new world and ranking second only to Grimsby, in England.

Since Grimsby is merely a railroad terminal, a shipping point for the North sea fisheries to the markets of the English cities, Boston may be called the greatest fish dealing city on the globe. Its fish dealers are as much merchant princes in a way as were the old traders of Salem. To be sure, there is not in their business so much of romance, but there are nearly as many dollars.

In Boston today Hamlet would have to think of some term more fitting than fishmonger to apply to Polonius. Here there are degrees in fishmongery and the highest degree held by the wholesale fish dealer is one of honor in the land. If any incredulous person asks you why, take them aside and make clear to them that the Boston fish dealer is as important in his field as the beef packer of the middle west is in his and, what is more, he has not permitted himself to be encompassed in a trust. He is independent amid the trusts that hedge about the nation's food supply.

The person inclined to figures may find there is wealth, visible and vital, in Boston's fish business. The city handles every year between 125,000,000 and 150,000,000 pounds of fish, exclusive of the epicurean lobster and other shellfish. These fish sell in money a sum between \$6,000,000 and \$7,000,000.

There are 325 craft in the fleet that lands fish at Boston, worth \$10,000 each, or something more than \$3,000,000 in the aggregate. Each of these vessels has an annual expense account of about \$14,000, for repairs, sails, rigging, gear, bait, ice, supplies and the like, and this means business to New England of \$4,500,000 strong. The fleet employs between 6,000 and 7,000 men directly and many others get work because of it, bringing the total of men looking to the business for a living up to near 10,000. Counting three persons as dependent on each of these men, it will be seen that a total of 40,000 persons get their bread and butter from Boston's fishing fleet.

Neither in the gathering of its supply nor in its distribution of the same can Boston's fish business be considered merely local. The fisherman goes far afield to cast a line for the Boston market. The greater part of the country's halibut supply, for example, comes to Boston from Alaskan waters, where Boston capital and energy maintain a fleet of five steamers to prosecute the fishery and a large and modern freezing plant, recently established on American soil at Metichikan, to prepare the halibut for shipment east by fast trains, via Vancouver. Fully 90 per cent. of the Boston market's halibut comes from this source.

The salmon fisherman on the Columbia river sets his nets for the Boston market. The Chesapeake bay and Savannah river shad fishermen and the Newfoundland herring seiner do the same. Fish come from every point of the compass to Boston and from here are distributed to points as far west as the Rockies and as far south as New Orleans.

Albatross in Indiana.

Hagerstown, Ind.—A wandering albatross, measuring five feet from tip to tip of wings, was captured on a small pond on the Elvin Oler farm, three miles north of here. It is a fine specimen. The breast is pure white, the wings and back sky blue, the tip of each wing and the tip of the tail black, with a yellowish-brown stripe about its neck. The albatross is the largest of the sea birds. What influenced this one to drift so far inland can only be conjectured.

French Have New Rifle.

Paris.—Eight specimens of an improved magazine rifle, enabling a soldier to fire from 200 to 800 shots a minute, have just been forwarded to the French minister of war. The new rifle, of which the construction has been kept a secret, was made at the state arms factory at St. Etienne from plans and designs by Major Chaudat of Puteaux. It weighs 17 pounds and is much admired by the officers to whom it has been submitted.

ALL FOR A SINGLE BALLOON

Goldbeaters' Skin from Six Hundred Thousand Animals is Necessary, Says Spencer.

St. Louis, Mo.—"Building balloons from dead cattle!" Startling isn't it? Yet, as Percival Spencer, the hero of 1,250 balloon ascents and 250 parachute descents, explained a few days ago, it is none the less justified.

"In the first place," said the world-famous aeronaut, "goldbeaters' skin is a wonderful gas holder. It is far better, as well as lighter, than varnished fabric, India rubber covered silk, cotton or any other of the usual balloon fabrics. Every war balloon ordered by Great Britain is made of this material, while the material itself is made from a certain portion of the intestinal membrane of an ox or cow, which would otherwise be wasted. Thus you have the curious fact that balloons are built from the waste material of dead cattle."

"A great many cattle have to be killed to make one balloon," said the aeronaut. "Six hundred thousand oxen, for instance, had to die before the balloons which my brothers and myself are making for Count Zeppelin's new airship could be proceeded with. I do not mean to say that we had to pay for the slaughter of over half a million cattle, but we had to place orders for what is known as the peritoneal membranes of that number of animals in order to secure what we wanted."

And then Mr. Spencer took the interviewer across the lawn at the back of his Highbury residence into the balloon hall, where dozens of men and girls were engaged in the evolution of the balloon for the Zeppelin airship. The skins reach Mr. Spencer direct from the slaughter houses in a crude form. They are carefully sorted and examined and those regarded as sufficiently good for ballooning purposes are preserved in salt and stored in casks, which each hold 500 skins.

These, as required, are spread out on boards and by an ingenious and marvelous process are welded together in one homogeneous fabric. "It is thus," said Mr. Spencer, "that we construct an untearable, airtight vessel without seam or scar, to hold the hydrogen gas within its confined area, with no possibility of leakage or escape. We provide an impervious envelope which contains within it the very lifeblood of the air motor, without which it could not be steered and could not even keep itself afloat. The process is costly, and that is why goldbeaters' skin is not used for ordinary balloons. I might mention, however, that we in this country are far ahead of other nationalities in the manufacture of goldbeaters' skin for aerial purposes and that is why Count Zeppelin asked us to make the balloon for his new airship."

SCHOOL IN THE TRANSVAAL

Government Appropriates Half Million Dollars as Initial Contribution at Pretoria.

Cape Town.—An important indication of the prosperity of the Transvaal is to hand in a communication explaining the purpose of the government of that colony to set about forthwith the establishment of a university with the view of promoting scientific agriculture among the Boer farmers.

Already the Transvaal government has devoted much attention to the development of farming on modern lines. A school for teaching agricultural subjects exclusively has been maintained and 16 agricultural annual scholarships of \$1,000 have been instituted by the government, the students holding these being the sons of farmers in the Transvaal. They are attending the best agricultural colleges in Great Britain, the United States and Canada.

The new university for agriculture towards the creation of which the government in the colony has made a first contribution of \$500,000, will be located at Pretoria, and will supply higher instruction in agriculture to young farmers within the colony and prevent the necessity on their part of traveling to Europe and North America in search of a competent agricultural education. This university will be controlled by the Transvaal and the colony becomes one of the four provinces comprehended in the Union of South Africa.

THIS "ROOSTER" LAYS EGG

Hen With Comb and Spurs of Cocker Causes Agitation Among Poultry Experts.

Ithaca, N. Y.—When the poultry experts at the State College of Agriculture at Cornell got word the other day from F. R. Glover of Lisle, N. Y., that he had a rooster that laid eggs, they told him to hurry the bird here, or would have to show them.

Glover said that he was so sure the bird was a rooster that he had cut the comb and wattles and prepared to put spurs on it when it laid an egg. On the way here another egg was laid. The experts said the fowl was a hen but they had never seen one with such masculine markings.

Boys in "Briekbat" Club.

Colwyn, Pa.—Residents of Spruce street, between Second and Third, organizing a novel association of boys to be known as the "Briekbat club" to clean the rubbish from an adjacent lot. It is the intention to get boys to pick up a certain number of stones daily and throw them toward a corner, from where they are carted away and disposed of.