

WEALTH IN PEAT

Ireland Has Abundant Supply in Its Bogs.

Attention Is Turned to It as Result of Coal Strike—May Result in Development of Resources Now Little Used.

Dublin.—The coal strike in Great Britain has sent up the price of coal to such an extent in Ireland that the idea of turning to peat fuel as a substitute for coal is being seriously considered. A considerable quantity of turf is consumed in Dublin at present, not indeed as an alternative to coal, but as an auxiliary to it. The poor use it instead of firewood to light their fires in the morning, and it is also used chiefly by bacon curers, who find that turf smoked bacon has an agreeable flavor. A new aesthetic taste also accounts for the consumption of a further small quantity.

Many Dublin people who have been caught by the glamor of the Irish language movement and have spent holidays in Irish speaking districts in the south or west of Ireland in the summer get a whiff of the countryside in their own drawing rooms in Dublin during the winter by using turf instead of coal in their fires. There are quite a number of houses of which this is true, not only in Dublin, but even in so-called Orange Belfast.

However, all this consumption of peat is a mere trifle compared with the consumption of coal. What is now being discussed is the possibility of using peat as a substitute for coal. Ireland would be the wealthier by thousands of millions of dollars if its peat bogs could be turned to account on a sound commercial basis. The area of bog in Ireland is nearly 1,000,000 acres, or about 5 per cent. of the surface of the country. The bog of Allen stretches across the great central plain, and in the west of Ireland there are districts in which peat covers from 20 to 30 per cent. of the entire surface.

Most of this peat area is at present lying waste. Two or three companies make peat moss litter in comparatively small quantities, and in very remote districts the turf is cut and used as fuel by the farmers. With the exception of the more or less artificial use of turf already referred to, these are the only uses to which peat is applied in Ireland.

The methods of preparing peat for fuel are very primitive and would have to be changed completely to make peat fuel a real competitor with coal. An attempt was made some years ago to make turf briquettes, but the scheme, though it promised well, did not turn out as successfully as was expected and the company, like the turf itself, crumbled to pieces. The moisture was squeezed out of the peat by compression and the briquettes when fresh seemed to be just the thing that was wanted, but whatever defect there was in the preparation of them they were not able to stand the knocking about they got in the railroad wagons and canal boats.

The problem of making peat briquettes that can travel by train without falling to pieces has, however, since been solved in Sweden and in other countries and this fact has given encouragement to Irishmen to take the matter up again. The coal strike has brought the question within the range of practical things as nothing else could have done.

DIES IN ATTEMPT TO SLEEP

Man in Habit of Using Chloroform to Obtain Rest—Wife Finds Him Dead in the Morning.

Chicago.—Delbert H. Woodward, Jr., twenty-three years old, who married four months ago, was found dead from chloroform in his home, 1241 La Salle avenue. He was a salesman for James R. Rhodes & Co., 162 West Kinzie street, manufacturers of chemicals. A coroner's jury returned a verdict that he was accidentally killed by an overdose of chloroform, which he was in the habit of using to produce sleep.

"Since my husband got work as a salesman, he worried a great deal and became nervous," Mrs. Woodward testified. "He used chloroform to produce sleep. I had warned him against it, but he said it was his only relief. When I returned home at 10 o'clock, that night he was in bed with a handkerchief over his face. I had seen him sleep that way before and I did not investigate. When I tried to rouse him this morning he was dead. It was an accident."

111 Starved to Death.

London.—A grim document has been issued from the Royal government board. It recorded the deaths in 1910 in England and Wales of 111 persons from starvation or "accelerated" by privation, and it furnished details of each case. The saddest thing in connection with these tragedies is disclosed by the following sentence: "In 85 out of the 111 cases no application had been made for poor relief or application was only made when deceased was in a dying condition. Most of the poor victims would die rather than beg."

Policeman Believed Thief.

New York.—A New York policeman, John Maroney, was arraigned in court charged with burglary. It was alleged that he broke into a men's furnishing store and stole cuff buttons and a hat. He was held in \$500 bail.

VADIM THE VAMPIRE'S DIARY

Russian Who Calmly Searched in Street for a Girl to Kill Slays One in Hotel.

St. Petersburg.—How a young man, who called himself "Vadim the Vampire," wrote out an account of the crime he intended to commit and then calmly walked into the street in search of a girl victim was told at a remarkable murder trial which has just concluded here.

"I took her to kill her," the prisoner, Nikolai Ratkewitch, told the court. The evidence, says Reuter, showed that the accused strangled the girl in his room at an hotel, and afterwards inflicted thirty-five knife wounds on her body. He wrote in his diary an analysis of his feelings before and after the crime, and he planned to the wall an account of his terrible deed, signed "Vadim, the Vampire," in which he asserted that he was the author of a similar murder at another hotel a year ago.

Inquiries, however, proved that some time back when Ratkewitch had hung a rope round his neck and was about to commit suicide, a passer-by—a man of criminal instincts—saved him, formed a close friendship with him, and inculcated him with his own horrible ideas about murdering women. The teacher committed a murder and escaped, and the pupil committed another and was arrested.

"HONOR MEN" FLEE PRISON

Thirty-Four Have Escaped From Oregon Camps in a Few Months.

Portland, Wash.—Thirty-four "honor men" have escaped from the convict camps of Oregon since Governor West inaugurated his system of sending convicts to camps without guards. Fourteen men have been captured and returned to their cells, but the remainder are still enjoying freedom. Recently six walked away from a stone crusher near Salem, but all were brought back.

The so-called "honor men" are convicts who are sent from the penitentiary to various camps throughout the state. They are left without guards, largely upon their own resources and allowed to work as they see fit. They are under a pledge not to violate orders, but their eagerness for freedom appears to get the best of them after they leave their prison cells.

DOG FIGHTS WITH FIREMEN

Canine Would Not Permit Them to Enter Blazing Tenement to Quench Flames.

Philadelphia.—An old and feeble, but somewhat determined dog created considerable excitement in a three-story tenement house at 623 Washington avenue, first by starting a fire, then giving the alarm, and lastly by beating back the firemen who came to extinguish the blaze. The troublesome animal is the property of Santo Accasito, who occupies the top floor of the house. While the occupants of the house were asleep the dog knocked a lamp from a table, setting fire to the carpet.

With loud barks the dog aroused his master, who quickly gave the alarm, and all in the house fled to the street, except the dog. When the firemen arrived and attempted to enter, they found a very much excited canine standing in the doorway ready to repel boarders. Although somewhat feeble, the dog showed a formidable row of teeth, and the firemen hesitated. Finally one, somewhat bolder than the rest, flung the dog to one side and the fire fighters entered.

CALL LONG HATPIN A CRIME

New Orleans Ordinance Forbids Those Which Protrude More Than One Inch From the Crown.

New Orleans.—Hereafter any woman in New Orleans who wears a hat pin protruding more than one inch from the crown of her hat will be subject to arrest, according to an ordinance which passed the city council last night. The new law is the result of a strenuous war waged on the lengthy hat pins by the members of the Era Club.

Cast-Off Stocking a Bank.

Pittsfield, Mass.—Mrs. Mary Murphy, a rag cutter in the Rising Paper mill, at Housatonic, was cutting up old hosiery for paper stock when, in a silk stocking, she felt a small roll, which proved to be \$50 in \$10 bills.

Some wearers of the silk hose had made the stocking a purse and forgot all about the money when the hose was discarded.

Mrs. Murphy is a widow and the find is to her a big blessing.

German Women Good Rat Killers. Baltimore, Ind.—When customs officers opened a dry goods box of a woman passenger on the steamer Breslau, on its arrival here, a dozen giant rats hopped out. German women on board instead of jumping for high places, joined in the chase and not a rodent escaped. Every article in the box, including several picture hats and shawls, was destroyed by the rats.

Shoe Picks Up Diamond.

Worcester, Mass.—Miss Dorothy B. Durkee, of No. 10 Perkins street, a student at the Normal school, found a diamond in a small hole in her shoe after walking all day. The gem is flawless, admirably cut and of pure color.

CRATERS ARE QUIET

Violent Eruptions in Islands of Samoa at End.

Scientists Say Centuries Are Likely to Pass Before There Will Be Another Flow of Lava From Volcano.

San Francisco.—The volcanic outbursts that for over six years have terrorized the island of Savaii, in the Samoan group, have ceased at last. These eruptions have been almost incessant, and there is no record of any other volcanic center that has been so violently active for so long a time.

All the terrific energy of the Matavanu volcano seems now to have been expended. Dr. K. Sapper, Dr. W. Grevel and other students of volcanic phenomena express the opinion that there probably will be no other eruption of Matavanu for another century and perhaps never.

The ground for their belief that the volcanic energy has been entirely exhausted is that since the first month of 1911 there has been a gradual and uninterrupted decline of energy, until every trace of it finally disappeared in October last.

In August last the lake of molten lava was covered with a hard crust, but cracks in its surface still revealed the rosy light of the superheated matter below, and through one or another volcanic vent a little smoke was still rising. Three months later a cold surface covered everything. There was not a trace of smoke, not a sulphurous odor, not a sign of fluid lava, nothing except a little steam here and there.

So this is the end, perhaps for generations, of the remarkable phenomena that specialists have traveled from Europe to study. The trouble has been that they have found little volcanic ground from which to pursue their work. The eruptions have been so continuous that it has been impossible to witness the phenomena and their results except at long range.

There was no volcano where these eruptions, beginning in August, 1905, were centered. All the many volcanoes in the island had been quiet for over a century. Suddenly volcanic vents were opened on the floor of a deep valley about eight miles from the northeast coast of Savaii. The whole valley was soon filled with lava. The ejecta built up a ridge of lava, about 1,000 feet thick, where the valley had been; and above the ridge arose a mountain of pourings 2,000 feet high, to which the name of Matavanu was given. Over 30 square miles of the island were finally covered to various depths with the fluid lava, destroying many native houses with their areas of cultivation.

It has been estimated that at the time of eruption amounted to from 2,000 to 3,000 tons a minute. The coral reef, about five miles from the shore, is the outer boundary of the lagoon between the coast and the reef. The lagoon has been entirely filled with lava for a distance of about five miles along the coast and a long lava ridge was built up in the sea beyond the coral reef. The neighboring salt waters became a superheated caldron, killing millions of corals and fish; and many fish, thus cooked, were collected and eaten by the natives.

JUNK SHOPS TO HAVE CRAFT

Nipic, of Civil War Fame, Outlives Her Usefulness Even as a Naval Prison Vessel.

Seattle.—The old war vessel Nipic, for many years the prison ship of the Puget Sound navy yard, has been condemned as unsanitary and will be sold at auction and broken up. She will be succeeded as a prison vessel by the cruiser Philadelphia, built in 1888.

The Nipic has a historic record. The side-wheeler was built in 1863 and was in the South Atlantic blockade squadron during the Civil war. In July, 1862, the Nipic, in company with the Lancaster, Quinnebaug and Galena, was present at the bombardment of Alexandria, Egypt, by the British fleet.

The old timer's career was nearly ended during the two days' hurricane at Apla, Samoa, in March, 1899. The war craft was driven ashore and seven of her men lost in the tempest. A week later she was floated and headed for Honolulu for repairs. The passage to the Hawaiian port was made with jury rudder, deformed screw and with all the outside keel gone and the hull leaking badly. The Nipic is built of wood and contains much valuable oak and walnut as well as copper and brass trimmings.

Corpse Hails Funeral.

Paris.—A case of supposed premature burial is reported from Medec, near Toulouse. M. Gaston, a small farmer, was supposed to have died suddenly and after the death certificate had been given the funeral took place.

When earth was being shoveled on the coffin one of the grave diggers thought he heard groans coming from the open grave. The men stopped work and as they heard sounds they sent for a doctor and raised the coffin. The lid was wrenched off and the shroud torn aside. The grave diggers say it was evident that the body, which was still warm, had moved.

When the doctor arrived he tried artificial respiration, but he was too late.

SCHWAB PLANS BIG DOCK

May Construct World's Largest Ship Plant in San Francisco.

San Francisco.—One possible reason why Charles M. Schwab of the Bethlehem Steel company and the Union works has decided to build the most capacious dry dock in the world at Hunters Point, San Francisco, was made known by Edward C. Holmes of this city, who prepared tentative plans for Mr. Schwab's inspection.

In anticipation of the new business that will be brought to the Pacific coast by the opening of the Panama canal private capital, aided by a subsidy of 1-1/2 per cent from the Dominion government to run for 35 years, will build a dry dock 928 feet long at Esquimalt, R. C., on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Holmes drew the plans.

"So far as I know," he said "the largest docks in the world now complete are those at Glasgow, 880 feet size; Southampton, 830, and Bremerhaven, 755. The new dock at Esquimalt will outmeasure them all, and Mr. Schwab is planning to outmeasure Esquimalt."

"I am not in his confidence and do not know what his final decision will be, but when I drew tentative plans for him they contemplated a dock 1,050 feet long."

"In return for aid from the Dominion government the company at Esquimalt will give government business the right of way, but it is to be paid for at commercial rates."

No American shipbuilding company enjoys a government subsidy, but the biggest dry dock in the world could bid for navy business, and shipping men here pointed out today that the presence of such a dock would remove one of the objections heretofore raised against the policy of maintaining a battleship fleet on the Pacific coast.

FINDS COIN BEARING POTATO

Chicago Man Has Experience That Recalls Burbank at His Seat.

Chicago.—Burbank's best experiments with nature were rivaled with the discovery of a dollar bearing potato, a specimen of which was found at the home of Edgar Baumann, 2741 West Division street, so he says. "Yes, sir, there was a silver dollar in the potato," said Mr. Baumann. "Perhaps it had been grafted on the young potato when it was only a time and the potato and coin grew up together."

"It was this way. 'Tee, we get our potatoes from a farm near LaGrange, Ill. Today we got a new mess of them. Our cook started to cut up enough for lunch. On one potato the knife stuck. My wife was passing. She investigated. It was tougher than a green potato. My wife and the cook broke the potato open and there was a silver dollar. There was some excitement around here for a while. We opened all the other potatoes. But they were just ordinary, everyday potatoes and not a cent in the lot of them."

DYING, GALLOPS TO BLAZE

Hoof Pulled Off by Railroad Truck, Horse Makes Last Run on Three Legs.

New York.—In running to a fire Ben, the off horse of the fine team pulling hook and ladder No. 21, caught a hoof of his forefoot in the tracks of the New York Central railroad at Tenth avenue and West Thirtieth street. The hoof was torn off, but the big horse galloped at full speed on the stump to the fire at 545 West Twenty-eighth street, and as the truck pulled up fell moaning with pain.

The blaze amounting to nothing, the firemen sympathetically grouped around the horse and its driver, Charlie Smith, who made no attempt to hide his tears. A veterinarian was sent for, and after a careful examination announced that Ben would have to be destroyed. Smith refused to drive the truck to the engine house and stayed by the injured horse until a bullet had put it out of its misery.

Garnets in Antarctic.

Wellington, New Zealand.—Garnets in immense quantities are to be found in the south pole region, according to Griffith Taylor, geologist, who is with the Scott expedition.

Taylor, in a report brought back here by the Terra Nova, says: "On Jan. 27, 1911, we landed below the Ferrer glacier. An extinct crater was found 2,400 feet above the glacier. The glacier was of late age. We also discovered a fresh water lake frozen only on its surface. The lake was full of algae."

"There was an abundance of gravel. Below this point we found an area of limestones which we discovered to be rich with garnets. Our party watched for gold, but found none. They were rewarded by magnetite."

Scurvy added to the hardship of the expedition. Lieutenant Evans was the sufferer and had to be moved for miles wrapped in furs, the party traveling night and day to save his life.

Acquitted for Kissing Neighbor.

Allentown, Pa.—Mrs. Hattie Wert, dashing, dressed, appeared in court, as prosecutor of David Llewellyn, who, she said, on coming to her house to borrow a clothesline, took advantage of her being alone and kissed her. Llewellyn admitted the charge and said she was so pretty he could not help it. The jury concluded the kiss did not hurt her, and acquitted Llewellyn.

WOES OF SAILORS

Grievances of British Tars Weakening the Navy.

Condition of Men on Lower Decks of More Importance Than Building New Ships—Reforms Are Demanded.

London.—First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill is never long out of hot water. This time he has roused the indignation of the radical extremists of his own party because the reduction on the naval estimates for the current year did not go far enough in the direction of retrenchment to please them.

Whereas the "Little Englanders," as they are called, hoped that a saving of at least \$5,000,000 would be effected, Churchill only found it possible to reduce the naval estimates by just over \$1,500,000. But if he has not pleased some of his own parliamentary supporters, Winston Churchill has been subjected to little but friendly criticism by the opposition, who are bent on accelerating the building program rather than retarding it.

While there has been the usual amount of talk about new ships and armaments, not much attention has been paid to the factor without which England's vaunted navy is useless—the man behind the gun. From time to time it has been whispered that there is considerable unrest in the lower deck rating, where, says Lionel Xesley, one of the service critics, many grievances exist, which, unless rectified, will one day shock John Bull out of his complacency.

As the jacksies are forbidden by their terms of service to form a trade union, the general public knows little about their wrongs, and half an hour's talk with some of the men at a naval station is required to show that it is high time some reforms were introduced on the lower deck.

All the trouble has arisen through the conversion of the warship from a stately sailing vessel into a floating gunnery platform. Much of the work and discipline necessary to the early form of fighting ship has been retained on the latest type, where cleanliness is still the fetish. Most of the unrest is undoubtedly due to the way punishment is meted out for minor offenses entirely void of criminality. All the disciplinary regulations, Lionel Xesley points out, were framed "when the seaman's main duty was to pull on ropes and to punish him if he did not get from one to another quick enough, but you cannot drive men to shoot straight with modern ordnance."

"The state employs the sailor during the day at work which calls for the full use of cultivated intelligence, and then it will take him and stand him in a dark corner for two hours each night because he did not have his cap on straight or dared to wear a waist belt to keep his trousers up."

Another of the seaman's grievances relates to the decreased chance of promotion owing to the increase in the number of stokers in the personnel. The leading seaman complains that he has less chance than ever of becoming a petty officer. Increased pay is also another demand of the lower deck. An experienced able seaman, if married, is expected to support a home on just under \$3 a week; less the cost of his uniform.

It is not suggested by any one that the English jacksies are on the brink of mutiny, but it is known in the best informed circles that a large proportion of them are discontented, and as the first line of defense is not the ships, but the men, pressure is being brought to bear on the admiralty to hold an impartial inquiry into the facts of the case.

THRILLING RIDE ON AUTO

Leaping for Life as Machine Suddenly Starts, Autoist Survives Two Smash-Ups.

Atlantic City, N. J.—Taken off his guard by the rush of an automobile which he had just finished cranking and with no other alternative than to climb upon the hood of the car as it started running amuck on Pacific avenue, John Worthington, proprietor of the Hotel Worthington, Pacific and Missouri avenues, had a thrilling experience within a short distance of that hostelry.

Mr. Worthington had brought his car to a halt outside a garage located near his hotel, and after chatting for a few minutes with a friend, alighted for the purpose of cranking up the auto for a spin about the city, overlooking the fact that the gear of the car had been "left in," he turned the crank for the purpose of starting the engine. The next moment the car, started from the high speed, lurched forward, almost sweeping Mr. Worthington from his feet. He clutched wildly for the hood and as the car gained speed he climbed partly up the front axle.

The machine finally hit a lamp post and its victim was taken to the hospital.

Boy Has 24 Fingers.

Bilbao, Spain.—A woman called at the hospital here, bringing her son, who has enormous hands and twelve fingers on each. The most curious part of the case is that all her sons possess similar hands. One has twenty-one fingers, another twenty-three and the other five children twenty-four fingers each. All are living and enjoying good health. Many doctors are studying these cases.

BOYS FIND EIGHTY DIAMONDS

Costly Gems Had Been Swept Out With the Rubbish When Jewelry Store Was Cleaned.

Philadelphia.—The discovery of diamonds in an ash barrel in front of Charles Kranich's jewelry store, 2466 Kensington avenue, raised a disturbance that suggested the scene of a "lucky strike" in the gold fields of Alaska.

Mrs. Kranich saw a number of boys struggling around the barrel, each endeavoring to dig his hands into the contents. These were joined presently by a dozen men, who also entered the strange scramble. Alarmed, Mrs. Kranich called her daughter, Mrs. Lloyd Brooks, and her sister-in-law, Miss Beattie Kranich, who learned that the men and boys were digging for gems in the ash barrel. Mrs. Kranich went into the street, and on looking closer discovered that the boys had found diamonds that her husband had procured for his Christmas stock.

Soon afterward the boys went into the store and asked Mrs. Kranich whether the crystals were valuable. She shrewdly replied that they were only cheap stones, but if they cared to go to the trouble of looking for more she would pay them a moderate reward for each one. The ruse was effective. One by one boys went to her and returned the stones, some of them not asking anything in return.

Meanwhile the Eighteenth district police heard of the unusual occurrence, and Lieutenant Keith dispatched six policemen in civilian's clothes to endeavor to recover the diamonds. The result of this was that before night fifty-four of the missing stones had been found and returned to their owner; about twenty were still missing.

When Mr. Kranich learned of the incident he said that he and two young men were gathering up rubbish in the store in the morning, and it was into this that the diamonds must have accidentally dropped. Shortly before cleaning the store, he said, he had taken from his safe a leather case containing a number of diamonds, which, he said, he either examined or else showed to a customer. The stones were sorted, those of each kind being wrapped separately in tissue paper. Thus the diamonds were probably not noticeable and dropped into the rubbish that was being swept from the store and later dumped into the ash barrel.

PARTY WILL EXPLORE CAVE

Expect to Clean Up Mystery Placed About Wonderful Natural Curiosity.

Meeker, Colo.—An exploring party will soon leave Meeker in search of the "disappearing cave," somewhere up Flag Creek, about twenty miles from here. This cave, of legendary fame, while easily visible from the open plains several miles away, is enclosed on three sides by a dense growth of cedars about a mile in width, which only one white man penetrated.

This white man, years ago, made his way through the dense undergrowth that guards the entrance, and told a weird story of the trip. The cave, mammoth in proportions and wonderful in formation, he said, seems to have been used as an Indian rendezvous when the red men controlled this country. Relics and evidences of pre-wisdom were visible on every hand, and numerous human bones were lying about. In one chamber an iron stake imbedded in the ground, surrounded by burnt ends of crumbling fagots, told a silent story of gruesome tragedies enacted there.

YALE OARSMAN TO BE ENVOY

Chung Mun Yew Appointed Minister of New Republic at Washington.

New York.—Chung Mun Yew, the old Yale oarsman, has been appointed minister of the Chinese republic to the United States, according to a Shanghai dispatch to the Herald.

Chung entered Yale in 1883 after preliminary studies in the Hartford, Conn. public school, and made the crew in the freshman year, steering the Yale shell to victory against Harvard. He was elected to the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, the only one of his race to be so honored.

He was called back to China before completing his studies, but returned to this country some years later and acted as an interpreter at the legation in Washington when Dr. Wu Ting-fang was minister.

Predigy at Eight.

London.—Barely eight years old, a boy named Solomon, son of a poor East end tailor, made his public debut in the Albert hall before an immense audience and proved himself a wonderful pianist.

It was only a few weeks ago that the boy was discovered, and he had never played on a grand piano before. So marvellous is his talent that a few days ago he played privately before the king and queen at Buckingham palace.

Land Office 100 Years Old.

Washington.—Commissioner of the General Land Office Fred Daneset is planning a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the office. The first commissioner was appointed May 7, 1812.