

RIVER TRAFFIC IN RUSSIA.

Its Volume Is Enormous and Much of It Centers at Nijni Novgorod.

Up the Volga and its hundred tributaries ascend the iron barges of the Caspian sea oil fleet, while through the canals to St. Petersburg alone pass annually, during the 215 days of free navigation, thousands of steamers and barges bearing millions of tons of freight.

From the greater streams immense craft nearly 400 feet long, 15 feet in depth, carrying 6,000 tons of freight, drift down to the Caspian, where they are broken to pieces to be used as firewood on the steamers going up stream.

Fifty thousand rafts are floated down the Volga annually, many of them 100 feet long by seven thick, and this gives but a faint idea of the real traffic of the river; for in addition there are 10,000,000 tons of produce passing up and down the river during the open season.

GROWING FASTER THAN EVER

The Mormon Church and Its Shrewd Policy of Colonization and Method of Cooperation.

The Mormon church is growing faster to-day than ever before in its history. It is building more churches, planting more settlements, maintaining more missionaries all over the earth.

The Mormon policy is colonization. The Mormon method is cooperation. Fifty years of expanding prosperity have shown that this is a winning combination.

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The comparative, one might almost say absolute, security of ocean travel could not be better illustrated than in the latest trips of the Atlantic liners.

Accidents Rendered Monthly. Hilton—There isn't, eh? Well, you just marry a woman with expensive tastes, and see.—Brooklyn Life.

A Conundrum. The average woman is a conundrum that keeps men guessing.—Chicago Daily News.

WILLING HORSES.

Drudges in Harness Have Examples of Their Kind in the Human Race.

One of the judges at a horse show in New York last fall made a shrewd criticism which has a broader application than he gave it, says Youth's Companion.

"I see no difference between them," said an unskilled looker-on. "They seem to me to be equals in blood, beauty and training."

"No," said the judge. "This horse," touching one of them, "is incomparably the finest. He is of a better breed than the others, his temper is good, and he is stronger than any of them. But I would not buy him. He will be short-lived. The others will outlive him by years."

"Why? What is wrong?" "He is too willing a horse. Look! He pulls for both himself and his mate. He shoulders the whole weight, and the other simply trots alongside. There are many such horses. They use up their vitality before middle age."

It occurred to one of the bystanders that there were also many such men and women.

In almost every family there is some unselfish energetic draft horse who draws the load of the others. It may be the old father, plodding at his desk the year round, while his wife and daughters are idling in Europe; or it may be the lean, fast-aging farmer's wife who keeps house and cooks and irons and sews while the girls are busy in their clubs or entertaining their friends.

As a rule, nobody notices these willing drudges until they drop suddenly in the harness, worn out by pulling the load which belonged to those who were dear to them—son, wife or brother.

If, as is usually the case, they have made those about them idle, incompetent and selfish, have they done well? Are they, in fact, good and faithful servants?

LAW'S LONG ARM.

Few Refuges for Criminals at Present Day—Turkey Safest Country for Lawbreakers.

In 1800 if a criminal could fly to another country he was practically safe, for he could not be brought back without endless trouble. At that time there were no extradition treaties between England and France, Russia, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Holland, Austria or America, and so if a lawbreaker could reach any of those countries he had a very fair chance of evading punishment altogether.

At the present day there are very few refuges for criminals, and the arm of the law extends to the end of the longest telegraph cables. The safest country for the law-breaker is Turkey, because there are few among the minor officials who are above bribery.

Three Hundred Kinds of Washing Contrivances Are Now on the Market.

"Some idea of the variety in which laundry machinery is now made," said a New York dealer, according to the Sun, "may be gained from the fact that in one catalogue of such appliances there are to be found about 300 numbers. One maker produces washing machines in 80 varieties. These include machines of different sizes, materials and weights, adapted to all manner of uses."

"Of ironing machines there are nowadays many, including machines specially designed for ironing particular parts, as bands, collars and so on; and then there are mangles in great variety, some of them big machines weighing many tons, made for the ironing of flat goods only, as tablecloths, napkins, sheets, towels and so on. There is more or less hand laundry work in one branch or another, but there is now no work done in laundries for which machines cannot be had."

"All this great variety of modern laundry machinery may be found in actual operation in and about New York, in one establishment or another. It would be possible, of course, to show it all in operation in showrooms, but it can be shown to better advantage and more satisfactorily in every way in actual work."

The Pugnacious English Sparrow. Residents of Shreveport, La., complain that while in former years many varieties of American birds made their homes in that vicinity a great change has been brought about by the English sparrow. This pugnacious little creature first appeared there about ten years ago and soon changed from an unobtrusive twitterer to a savage fighter with a raucous voice and a disposition to fly at every feathered thing not three times its size.

Red Wood for Pavement. Red gun wood is being used extensively in London for paving purposes.

RUIN TRADE IN MEXICO.

Consul Thompson at Progresso Complains Against Certain Fraudulent Oyster Packers of United States.

Some oyster packers in this country have been defrauding the Mexicans in a way which will not help trade with the neighboring republic. Consul Thompson at Progresso, in reporting the facts to the state department, says: "Various complaints have lately been made to me that certain brands of canned oysters sent here for sale contained almost no oysters. In investigating this matter, I purchased in open market two cans wrapped with the labels of a certain oyster canner of the United States."

"One of these tins was half filled with juice and held nine small oysters; the other contained seven. These facts are regrettable, inasmuch as our canned goods trade is increasing fast in this district. I have spent much time and trouble in promoting its growth."

"A few examples of bad faith such as this will undo the work faster than I can hope to remedy the evil. In the purchase of canned goods a certain amount of confidence has to be placed in the good faith of the canners, as the buyer has no opportunity before purchasing of judging for himself as to the excellence of the article."

"The people of this district are not overconfident in outsiders at best, and until recently the trade in canned goods has increased slowly. It is now fast becoming a factor in the import trade, however, and should be protected as far as possible from such flagrant frauds as the above."

STRUCK BY TIDAL WAVE.

Rough and Thrilling Experience of Passengers on the Ocean Liner Teutonic.

The White Star line steamer Teutonic, which has just reached New York, had a lively experience on Sunday. While the ship was riding in fair weather and going at her usual speed she was struck by a tidal wave. The ship went down in the hollow of the sea, and immediately there was a crushing of ironwork and a mass of water boarded her on the starboard side, thundering down on hatches and deckhouse. The ship recovered suddenly, throwing more water aboard. The wave broke high up, throwing down the men in the crew's nest, and rushed on, leaving them bruised and badly shaken.

John Michaelson, a steerage passenger, was hurled down and caught his foot in such a way that it was almost completely torn off at the ankle. The passengers generally became so frightened that they were on the verge of a panic, so that Capt. McKinstrey was obliged to go into the saloon and assure them that there was no danger.

WILDMAN'S LAST REPORT.

Consul at Hong-Kong Indulges in a Little Joke on American Carriage Manufacturers.

The last mail report of the late United States Consul General Wildman received by the bureau of foreign commerce, state department, has just been made public. The report is dated at Hong-Kong, December 27, and is taken up chiefly with statements to show that American agricultural machinery is not wanted among the farmers of China. He also calls attention to the utter uselessness of mailing trade papers devoted to the carriage and harness industry to the consulate, saying wittily that he already had mentioned the fact that "we have but three carriages and a horse here, all of which are in a fair state of preservation."

NOT OUR BEST CUSTOMER.

Hicks-Beach Denies England Buys Most of United States' Exports of Iron and Steel.

In reply to a speech by Sir Charles Howard Vincent, conservative and fair trader for the Central division of Sheffield, in the house of commons the other evening Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, chancellor of the exchequer, said he was aware of the fact that the United States had exported \$145,000,000 worth of iron and steel in the year 1900.

He demurred, however, to Mr. Vincent's statement that the greater proportion of this export had been sent from the United States to the United Kingdom.

He stated that for the year ending on June 13, 1900, the proportion of iron and steel sent from the United States to Great Britain was only \$20,000,000, out of a total export in the same time of the value of \$106,000,000.

Seeking Light. "Will some one tell us why half the male population of this town runs to the depot every time they see or hear a train coming?" asks the Elmora (Kan.) Enterprise. And the Chicago Record says: "We are unable to tell you. None of the standard reference books at hand seems to shed any light on the subject."

Sponge Fishing in New Fashion. The art of sponge fishing is likely to be revolutionized by the introduction of submarine electric arc lamps. At present the fishing apparatus is limited to a long pole for spearing and a water glass. If the lamps prove successful greater depths may be reached and larger and finer sponges secured.

Red Wood for Pavement. Red gun wood is being used extensively in London for paving purposes.

MONTEVIDEO'S HARBOR.

Millions Being Spent in Rivalry with Buenos Ayres—President Cuestas' Great Work.

When President Cuestas was inaugurated, his first work was to call for designs by which the harbor of Montevideo might be transformed from a wind-swept roadstead into a safe anchorage, writes Douglas White, in *Ainslee's*. He knew this to be possible, for the water is shallow and its area is ample to furnish shelter for innumerable ships if protection could be arranged. With the designs in hand, Cuestas proceeded to find a way for the financing of this important project. He called for a bill unalterably setting aside a portion of the country's customs duties for the purpose. The bill became a law, and already there are upward of \$2,000,000 in gold ready for the beginning of the work. Cuestas will see its commencement, and for Uruguay's benefit it is to be hoped that his successor will carry on the improvement.

For one who has never visited the city by the mouth of the Rio de la Plata it is hard to realize the importance of the move which President Cuestas has inaugurated in connection with the improvement of Montevideo's harbor. Time was when this embarcadero was the most important of any port south of the Brazils. Behind the bay, which is formed by the peninsula upon which the capital is located, stretch the millions upon millions of acres which form Uruguay and the Argentine, to say nothing of the lands inclosed within the boundaries of Paraguay. In the old days all the commerce which came and went between the outside world and these broad pampas passed through Uruguay's port. Shipmasters ended their voyages there because there was no other place to disembark their cargoes. And when the howling pampas lashed the shallow waters of Montevideo's anchorage into a foam, rendering communication with the shore impossible for days, these same skipper swore great oaths and vowed never to come again to drop their ground tackle in such a desperate anchorage. Over and over were the people of Montevideo warned that sooner or later their supremacy would be jeopardized by the construction of a safe harbor from which the broad areas of the southern republics might send out their products and exchange them for the output of manufacturing nations. But the Uruguayan authorities only smiled and in their present prosperity forgot the future. "What use," said they, "of improving the harbor when the commerce must come here, perforce?" Then, too, an appropriation for the improvement meant certainly that much less money would be left for the greedy politicians.

All this while, little more than 100 miles up the Rio de la Plata, a city was growing, destined to overshadow the old capital by the sea. Gradually Buenos Ayres advanced until she equaled Montevideo in population.

Then she determined to have the commerce which for generations had been stopping at the Plata's mouth. The river at the Argentine capital was shallow, but modern ideas furnished by modern engineers solved the problem of making deep water for a new and great port on the Rio de la Plata. Still the Uruguayans doubted, and when told of the work being done and the commercial intentions of their neighbors, they puffed their cigars and replied: "Es no posible, señor." Then the lawmakers went into executive session, and with a laugh at the Argentine's audacity, passed a new army bill by means of which sundry political pickings might be established.

Montevideo's repose was not, however, for long. Presently her people saw the great Atlantic steamers, which had formerly discharged their goods at the city's wharves, steam up the Plata toward where the Argentines had spent millions upon their port and a system of wharves large enough to handle the commerce of the entire southern continent.

But even this loss of trade and power did not serve to awake the Uruguayans to the necessity of action. They dreamed and figured, while their Argentine neighbor climbed up to thrice the population of Montevideo. First they had asserted the impossibility of constructing a port at Buenos Ayres. Then when the port was a fact they placed their faith in a doubt about its maintenance. It was the people of Uruguay rather than the authorities who first reached a sense of their country's weakness, and demanded that some of the millions which were being spent in useless ways should go to the partial, if not thorough, restoration of Montevideo's commercial supremacy. Presidents came and went, each crying out to be shown a way by which the result might be accomplished. Then came Cuestas. He asked no advice or assistance. For years he had studied the question and knew that the protection of Montevideo's harbor was a matter of good engineering. His first move was to establish the fund for the harbor's improvement. This fund was founded by a system which he himself suggested, and was rendered a certainty by the passage of a measure drawn and originated by the president himself. At the same time he called for plans, and now he has before him at least half a dozen, any one of which, faithfully carried out, would render Montevideo an ideal port.

Buffalo at High Altitude. Buffalo are found at the height of 12,000 feet on the African mountain of Kilima Njaro.—N. Y. Times.

FOR PORTIONLESS GIRLS.

Old Bachelor Who Left a Fund for Dowering Deserving Damels.

Trustees of an old bachelor's fund for dowless girls in New Orleans, who recently decided to change the spirit, if not the letter, of the testator's provisions had a precedent in the case of John Anderson, citizen of Glasgow and Manchester. Like the New Orleans donor, he was a bachelor, commonly reputed to have been "crossed in love." He left \$15,000 and his blessing for "a fund to be formed, having for its object the dowering of deserving damsels." Candidates must be able to read and write, to sew and cook and to sing and dance well. Having proved themselves proficient in these attributes, candidates were to receive \$110 on their wedding days. Circumstances were found to necessitate placing some restrictions about this bounty, for unscrupulous individuals schemed to secure the dower more than once.

The corporation of the city of London is intrusted with the administration of Signor Pasquale Favoli's bequest for portionless girls. "Three poor but honest girls" are endowed annually in sums according to their merits, as the "worshipful gentlemen may think fit."

Chance decides who are the recipients, the fortunate trio being selected by lot. Any girl over 16 and under 25 may become a candidate, and may repeat again till the age limit disqualifies her, but the young women have to submit duly certified birth certificates, so as to obviate any charge of "intent to defraud."

DISTEMPER IN DOGS.

A Prof. Copeland Has Discovered That It Is Caused by the Microbe.

The last number of the Proceedings of the Royal Society contains a description of Prof. Copeland's successful investigation as to the cause of distemper in dogs. As a result of his efforts, he has isolated a specific micro-organism to which the disease is due. This micro-organism, a small coccus-bacillus, grows readily in all common culture-media at the temperature of the body, and is obtained from the exudations from the lungs, the tracheal mucus, and the nasal secretions of dogs suffering from the disease. A cubic centimeter of a broth-culture of these microbes, injected beneath the skin of the abdomen in a dog weighing 15 pounds, induces an attack of distemper, which terminates fatally in a week from the date of inoculation. A vaccine necessary to protect dogs from the disease has also been prepared, and is said to be efficacious. This vaccine is obtained by heating a broth-culture of the bacillus at a temperature of 60 degrees Cent. for 30 minutes, with the subsequent addition of a small quantity of carbolic acid. Two cubic centimeters of this vaccine have been found sufficient, when injected, to ward off the disease from fox-terrier pups weighing five pounds which had been exposed to infection. The length of time vaccinated dogs remain immune has still to be ascertained. Tests on a large scale are at present being conducted.

REMARKABLE MARKSMAN.

Young Apache of Arizona Who Accomplishes Wonderful Feats with a Gatling Gun.

Everyone who goes to the Arizona penitentiary is interested in the Gatling guns which are placed on the guard stands arranged at intervals along the top of the walls. The largest and principal gun is in charge of a young Mexican who boasts of his Apache blood. He is rated as the best marksman with a Gatling gun in the United States, says the Yuma correspondent of the Chicago Record. Gen. McCook, of the United States army, says that his manipulation of the complicated weapon and his accuracy of aim are simply marvelous. The young Mexican has an excellent field for target practice over the Gila mud flats just above the prison. A tin can six inches in diameter placed at a distance of 700 yards he will hit four times out of five with the Gatling gun. When it is remembered that he can fire 500 shots a minute the possibility of a convict's escape is too small to calculate. A recent test of the marksmanship of this young Apache gunner was made. From behind a stone wall 100 tin cans of the size of common fruit cans were thrown one at a time haphazard in the air, just as clay pigeons are automatically thrown at shooting matches. The Apache had his gun ready and had to aim as quick as a flash at each can at a distance of 250 yards. He pierced 37 out of the 100 before they fell behind the stone inclosure.

An Odd English Custom. At Guildford, England, the quaint custom of throwing dice for the "maid's money" was observed recently. A sum was invested by a mayor of the borough in the seventeenth century, from which 12 guineas are given annually to a servant girl of good repute who has been in the same service for over two years. There were two applicants. The prize was won by Martha Shingler, who threw seven. The same dice box has been used for 60 years.

Cooked Under Water. An Englishman made a wager that he could cook a plum pudding ten feet beneath the surface of the Thames, and won the bet by placing the pudding in a tin case and putting the whole in a sack of lime. The heat of the lime, slaking when it came in contact with the water, was sufficient to cook the pudding in two hours.

COMPELLED BY CONSCIENCE.

Employee of the Chicago Post Office Confesses to Having Been Guilty of Untruth.

"Only God and myself know it, and it has been preying on my mind and I feel that I should resign." A letter to the postmaster general in Washington from an employe in the Chicago post office brought both a resignation and a confession. The man's name is withheld, but the story is that recently he obtained a place under Postmaster Gordon. He passed the examination and obtained a high marking.

Among the questions he answered was one relating to previous service in the government. He said he had never been employed by the government before. Now he writes that this was an untruth and that he is conscience-stricken. Though, as he writes, only Providence and himself know of the untruth, he could not obtain his place under false pretences. So he decided to resign.

It appears that this man was once in the revenue cutter service, but left his ship at Portland, Me., and did not return. Naturally he would keep the story of this desertion a secret, and when the question faced him in the recent postal examination he wrote down a false answer.

The entire incident is one of the most peculiar that has come under the attention of the postmaster general since he has been in office. The offense in itself is trivial, but inasmuch as the writer of the note appeared to be penitent and wished to confess, nothing remains to be done but to accept his resignation.

ONE CENT POSTAGE.

Postmaster Merritt at Washington Thinks Reduction of Letter Postage Still Remote.

"One-cent letter postage will come, but not for a few years," said Postmaster Merritt, of Washington. "For the last few years," he added, "the deficiency in postal receipts has gradually been growing less until the fiscal year just closed, when the deficiency was a little over \$5,000,000. The year before the deficiency was something over \$7,000,000. At this ratio of decrease the postal service ought to be self-sustaining in about three years, and when it becomes self-sustaining, in my opinion, congress will give the people the one-cent letter postage."

"The postal service was self-sustaining when the reduction from three to two cents was made in letter postage. I look for a reduction in foreign postage from five cents to two cents before domestic postage is reduced to one cent. While I was third assistant postmaster general I recommended to the postmaster general that this reduction be made."

"A reduction in the foreign postage instead of impairing the revenue would, I believe, act as a stimulus, and the result would be an immense increase in our foreign mail. The cheaper postage would be taken advantage of by our business men, who would at once start in to build up a foreign mail order business. The reduction in the foreign postage rate, I think, will be a reality within the next year or two."

PUTS BLAME ON MOSQUITOES.

The United States Government Says They Transmit Yellow Fever.

The United States government has formally recognized the responsibility of the mosquito for the transmission of yellow fever and malarial diseases. This fact is indicated by the issuance of a general order by Maj. Gen. Wood at Havana, directed to his post commanders, reciting that the chief surgeon of the department of Cuba has reported that it is now well established that malaria, yellow fever and filarial infection are transmitted by the bites of mosquitoes. Therefore the troops are enjoined to observe carefully two precautions. First, they are to use mosquito bars in all barracks, hospitals and field service whenever practicable. Second, they are to destroy the "wrigglers" or young mosquitoes by the use of petroleum on the waters where they breed. Permanent pools or puddles are to be filled up. To the others are to be applied one ounce of kerosene to each 15 square feet of water twice a month, which will destroy not only the young but the old mosquitoes.

PAYS OLD DEBTS.

Former New Yorker Rebuilds His Fortune in South America and Then Settles Up Old Scores.

Ex-Congressman David R. Paige, who has been in exile in South America for nearly ten years, recently returned to New York and wiped out a debt of \$720,000 which had kept him out of the country since 1890.

Paige was a member of the contracting firm of Paige, Carey & Co., which built several sections of the new Croton aqueduct. He left because of charges that the firm had put out notes for immense sums bearing the forged indorsement of John Huntington, a millionaire of Cleveland, O., and Paige's brother-in-law.

Paige went to South America and made winning ventures in Brazil, Uruguay and other countries. Three years ago Paige wrote home that he was building up a new fortune and that when he got enough he would wipe out all of his old debts and return to New York.

Abundant Apple Crop. "The apple crop in Baden, Germany, was so abundant that the assistance of soldiers had to be asked for its harvesting."