

OLD STEAMBOAT DAYS.

When it Was the Custom to Race with Every Boat That Came Along.

When one steamboat comes alongside another on the Mississippi each tries to pass the other.

It is as much a rule on the river as it is in driving. A man is out in a light rig and has before him, as far as he can see, a smooth, wide, unobstructed dirt roadway.

Another outfit, under precisely similar conditions, comes up alongside and tries to whisk by.

The man is not living who will keep his pull on the lines and let the other outfit throw the dust in his face.

Neither driver will have started out with the intention of racing. He may have made up his mind to eat dust sooner than race, but let the other rig whisk by and he's after it "halfhot," as the saying is.

It is the same way in steamboating. No water of another boat, especially if the other boat is slower or more heavily loaded.

It is in the human blood, and no amount of danger from overtaxed boilers, narrowness of channel, sandbars, shoals or snags will deter the fast boat from showing its heels to the slower boat.

I have seen passengers in the olden time, when everybody knew a good deal about the river and its dangers, come up to the captain of the boat they had taken passage of and say to him, solicitously:

"Now, captain, I want you to assure me of one thing—that you are not going to race. I've got my wife and children on board, and I don't want to expose them to needless danger."

"Of course, we won't race," the captain would answer, and he would mean it when he said it.

In a little while along would come a slow, heavily-laden scow of a boat and try to pass us. The captain would get busy, and so would the pilot, the engineer and the fireman.

And, as the competing boat would wade down to a small speck on the rear horizon, the passenger who was so anxious to keep his family out of needless danger would come up from below, wiping a pair of bruised and dirty hands, and, inflating his chest proudly, say to the captain: "She never touched us!"

That passenger had been down on the boiler deck during the race, passing oarwood to the stokers to put under the boilers.

That's how it is with steamboat racing—St. Louis Republic.

YOUNGER ENGLISH SONS.

Even Those of Titled Families Have to Go Out into the World and Work.

The younger sons of high birth in England have to make their way in the world and to show what stuff there is in them. The oldest son inherits the title and the bulk of the estate, and his future is secure; but his younger brothers and English families are large—enter either the army or the navy, or take orders in the church, or read for the bar, or find work to do in some other profession.

Lord Salisbury was a younger son, and was dependent upon his own resources until the death of an older brother brought him within line of a rich inheritance. His five sons have been trained to win success for themselves in various professions. The oldest, who will inherit the estate, has entered public life and busied himself with the management of his father's property and investments. The second is a clergyman, another is a lawyer, another is a soldier and the youngest is one of the rising men in the commons.

There are idlers and ne'er-do-wells among the titled classes in England, but most of the younger sons of the great houses have to make their fortunes and win their way in professional life. They have the advantage of a university education at Oxford or Cambridge, but they are forced to choose their careers and to try to make something of themselves. In the army in South Africa there has been a grand muster of younger sons of the nobility. Dukes, marquises, earls and baronets have had sons and nephews under fire. Even royalty was represented at the seat of war, for the queen had a grandson in Natal, and the duchess of York two brothers. There was hardly a house of noble lineage in England without its younger sons and grandsons under marching orders for the post of danger. They were not shirking their duty, but doing it bravely. Many heirs to great estates and titles were also there to share the perils and burdens of the campaign.—Youth's Companion.

Reflections of a Bachelor.

No man can set a proper example to his wife and to the children at the same time.

It never makes an old bachelor any more miserable because he knows what makes all the married women hate him so.

No woman who chooses to go round with a man's shirt, collar and necktie on has any business to expect a man to take off his hat to her.—N. Y. Press.

Exactness of Medical Science.

First Physician—What's the matter with Jones?

Second Physician—It's either got an everyday cold or a severe complication of grippe. I can't tell till I look him up in Bradstreet's.—N. Y. World.

Merely a Theory.

Smith—Jones fell asleep in a car and awoke to find his pockets rifled.

Brown—He must have been loaded.—Chicago Evening News.

PENALTIES IN KIMBERLEY.

Imposed Upon Thieves and Other Criminals Who Violate the Laws.

Kimberley proper is built around a hole big enough to hold the entire white population of South Africa. This is the excavation above the Kimberley mine, made when diamonds were mined from the surface.

Nowadays shafts are sunk and levels formed, whence the blue ground is blasted out and hauled to the surface in elevators. The diamond is different from other precious stones in that it is found in soft clay, while the amethyst, ruby and emerald are imbedded in quartz. This makes the diamond easy to conceal in the mouth, nose and by swallowing.

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The De Beers company gets from the workmen \$2,000,000 worth of stolen goods.

The inclination to pilfer these precious stones is so intense that the crime is severely punished. In South Africa the first commandment is: "Thou shalt not steal diamonds." What rape is to Georgia is I. D. B. (illicit diamond brigand) to South Africa. For murder a man may get ten years; for having a diamond found on his person that is not registered, 20 years. At Cape Town is a great convict station called the "Breakwater," where sons of prominent American families and English aristocrats join in lockstep with Lesangs and Kaffirs. They have all violated the first commandment. In Kimberley 1,000 negro convicts sort the diamonds under the muzzle of martini rifles. They are kept in a separate place. The other black boys live in a five-acre inclosure known as the "Compound."

The De Beers company controls the diamond market of the world. Of the five mines, Kimberley, De Beers, Du Tors, Pan, Bullfontein and Premier, the first two are situated in Kimberley and are the only ones worked now. The diamonds produced in other parts of the world would not supply the city of Philadelphia. The value of the South African product thus far has been \$600,000,000. The supply seems inexhaustible.

Two other localities are rich in diamonds—Joergersfontein and Koffyfontein—both in Orange Free State. At the former the famous Joergersfontein Excelsior, weighing 900 carats, was found in May, 1893, and the output of that field last January was 15,159 carats, valued at \$15,000. The corresponding output at Koffyfontein was \$11,000 worth. The proportion of diamonds to earth extracted is greater at Joergersfontein than at Kimberley.—Allen Sargre, in Ainslie's.

TRANSVAAL SPIDERS.

Extremely Poisonous Species That Threaten the British Soldiers in the Boer War.

Government officials in England have just learned that British soldiers in the Transvaal are exposed in a measure to another danger besides the bullets of the Boers. This information has come to them from Mr. Distant, a well-known naturalist, who recently returned to England after spending several months in the Transvaal, whither he went for the purpose of collecting strange insects. His mission was successful, and among the insects which he brought home were specimens of a murderous spider.

The scientific name of this spider is Harpactira gigas, and according to Mr. Distant is a most dangerous insect, both to man and beast, for the reason that it can inject poison into any animal that it touches. A frog bitten by one of these spiders dies at once, and larger animals suffer excruciating pain for awhile, and are even in danger of death. Even a dead spider is dangerous. Mr. Distant saw a kitten eat a spider which had just been killed, and at once the animal manifested signs of great agony. Her whole body became cramped; her breath came and went in gasps, and at one time she seemed to be at the point of death. For several hours she endured this horrible pain, and then the effects of the venom ceased and she gradually recovered.

It is supposed that this poison consists of a pungent fluid and that it is exuded from the hairs with which the spider's body is covered. Similar poisonous hairs are to be found on the bird spider of South America, and, according to travelers, they never fail to produce a great irritation on the human skin whenever they come in contact with it.

There is another wonderful spider in the Transvaal, which has apparently been discovered for the first time by Mr. Distant. It lives, we are told, in large communities and builds itself a nest like a bird's. The nest is of irregular form, and in the interior are several artistically constructed galleries, which serve as homes for all the spiders of that particular family. One of these nests may be seen in the London zoological garden. It is very large and is deftly covered with dry leaves. The spider in constructing a nest takes the utmost pains to make it of such a color that it will escape the eyes of its enemies, and in this laudable task the ingenious little creature almost always succeeds.—N. Y. Herald.

A Severe Remedy.

A little boy came home after the children had had their eyes examined, with the following note, duly signed by the principal:

"Mr. Judkins—Dear Sir: Your son shows decided indications of astigmatism and his case is one that should be attended to without delay."

The father sent the following answer: "Mr. Kershaw—Dear Sir—Whip it out of him. Yours truly, Hiram Judkins."—Detroit Free Press.

Coal.

Mrs. Furnish—My husband is always making plans to save up money.

Mrs. Platte—What becomes of them? "Oh, they go up in smoke."—N. Y. Journal.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

About \$150,000,000 in American capital is invested in the republic of Mexico.

Switzerland exports regularly to other countries 17 different kinds of cheese.

Jamaica is a famous tourist resort because of its rivers, waterfalls, woods and mountains.

Storms of great severity are common on the Caspian sea, owing to its great size and the fact that its coasts are peculiarly favorable to sudden and violent atmospheric changes.

The washing in Egypt is usually done by the men. The Egyptian washermen stand on the banks of the Nile and slap the wet clothes on the smooth stones at the edge of the running water.

Baku has the best harbor on the Caspian, and is the outlet for the trade of central Asia. Its naphtha industry gives it wealth out of all proportion to its population, which is hardly 100,000.

The Belgian electoral reform bill which has been passed recently by the chamber at Brussels for the first time in parliamentary history introduces the system of proportional representation.

The imperial pawnshop in Vienna has just been reopened to the public after a considerable enlargement. Besides advancing loans on pledged articles the managers undertake the sale by auction of any goods or stock of merchandise submitted.

The Austrian emperor's crown was recently photographed in order to correct imperfect representations of it on coins and official documents. The crown is regarded as one of the finest works of European goldsmiths. The material alone is worth \$500,000.

THE DEMOCRATIC "V. C."

A Famous War Decoration Open to Everybody—Its Effect on the Men.

To Americans the greatest merit of the famous British decoration of the Victoria Cross must be the entirely democratic character of its regulations. Among its first recipients was a negro, William Hall, of the Naval brigade, which cut such a heroic figure in the Indian mutiny. Since that time it has been won by two other colored men, William Hodge, of the First West India regiment, and William J. Gordon, of the Fourth. Of these three colored "V. C.'s," the oldest, William Hall, is, if he is still living, a very old man. A photograph of him taken in 1895 shows him as a venerable, white-headed, but still erect and vigorous man. It is curious that all three of these colored heroes have the same first name, William. Perhaps because of its being thus open to anyone, of however lowly estate, the Victoria Cross is not included in the list of "Orders" given in the works on heraldry.

Among the regiments of the British and Indian armies, the Ninth lancers, otherwise called the Queen's Royals, and of distinguished fame in connection with the present war, stands first on the list of distinction as regards the Victoria Cross. Of the South Wales Borderers, formerly the Twenty-fourth Infantry, being second, and the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) third. In point of actual numbers, the Borderers reckon 16 crosses to the 13 of the Queen's Royals, but the former being an infantry regiment, with two battalions, has more than twice as many men on its regimental books as the latter, which gives the Queen's Royals the first place, after the allowance. The Black Watch numbers ten crosses, of the 13 V. C.'s in the Queen's Royals, all were won in the Indian mutiny, except that of Lord William Berosford, a brother of Lord Charles.

As long ago as the days of Arabi Pasha and the first British-Egyptian war there were loud complaints that the ambition to gain this most envied of military distinctions was occasioning much reckless and unprofitable exposure of life. An old British horse artillery noncommissioned officer, now living in New York, who was asked what he thought of this view of the Victoria Cross, simply pushed the idea that a commissioned officer in the British army would be so foolish as to gamble his life away for a decoration. "Our officers know their duty better than that," he said. "And the men, they have to obey orders, and they know it. Why so many officers have been killed in South Africa is because they know the men are all the time looking for them to lead them. A British soldier will go through hell if his officer tells him to, and the officers don't want to leave it to anybody to say they themselves won't face the danger they order their men into."—N. Y. Tribune.

Apprehensive.

"It's no use trying to get ahead of 'em," said Mr. Blykins. "Capital is bound to take advantage of us. It can figure it out and make it all seem plain and plausible, and before we know it, we're being oppressed."

"What are you talking about?" asked his wife.

"The twentieth century." "Oh, that's easy. You just make up your mind when you think it ought to begin and then say the other thing." Mr. Blykins looked at her wistfully and then exclaimed: "Did you know that the twentieth century will be shy on Mondays? Of course, you didn't. You don't know any mathematics or chronology outside the grocery book. Scientists have lifted their minds higher and shown conclusively that while there will be plenty of Tuesdays and other days, we won't get the Mondays that are coming to us. I don't want to be violent, but I will say that when we consider that Monday is pay day with the concern I work for, the whole thing looks mighty suspicious."—Washington Star.

PITH AND POINT.

In the alphabet of egotism there is but one letter.—Chicago Daily News.

If time was money the idle boy would be a millionaire.—Golden Days.

Enthusiasm is often bought, as labor is bought, at so much a day.—Atechison Globe.

Spunge—"Talk is cheap." Kostick—"You seem to think so, from the way you use my telephone."—Baltimore American.

"They say music will cure the blues." "That's so; when I hear some kinds of music I quit feeling sad and get mad."—N. O. Times-Democrat.

B'Jove—"Did I understand you to say that Willie Goodleigh had an awful load last night?" B'Jinks—"Yes; he was trying to teach Miss Heavyweight to skate."—Town Topics.

"Intellect doesn't amount to anything." "What do you mean, Minerva?" "The most intellectual woman in the world can be squelched in three seconds by a dressmaker."—Indianapolis Journal.

Mrs. Lash—"What did you get baby for a birthday present?" Mrs. Lash—"I took four dollars and ninety-nine cents out of the little darling's bank and bought him this lovely lamp for the drawing-room."—Boston Beacon.

Edith—"I know he has lots of money; but for all that I don't see how Blanche could marry him." Bertha—"Perhaps you have not heard that he has been refused by no less than three life insurance companies."—Boston Transcript.

THE FINISHING TOUCH.

Chicago Dude Who Completed His Toilet on an "L" Train Not Equal to an Emergency.

Some wise person has said somewhere that if a woman does up her vanity face to face let her look in her mirror. That is all very well; but now and then you run across a man who can ring in new charges on the feminine fully.

On one of the "L" trains one afternoon recently a young woman got on at Thirty-ninth street. She was a quiet, ladylike girl, dressed in a well-fitting gray-trimmed suit, and settled herself back for a good read on the way to the city, when she got on at the next station and seated herself opposite. He was "got up" regardless.

One of those new sunning suits in brown and tan checked, that are all the go, white felt hat, well-paired blue band, and a silk umbrella.

As soon as the train was well under way again he drew out a penknife and worked industriously at his finger nails for several minutes. This finished, he produced a pearl toothpick and labored at his white, even teeth for awhile. After this operation was over he gazed thoughtfully out of the window at the glimmer of the lake in the distance, and with a sigh of contentment tumbled in his vest pocket until he found a small mirror. Having studied the effect of his new red and purple tie in this, he started in to adjust his mustache, a pale, feathery suggestion for what might be in days to come.

This latter was combed and twirled and patted until it stood out at the proper angle with a well-defined curl at either end. The comb was pushed farther back to set the part of the hair was O. K., and at last, with another sigh of relief, he replaced the mirror and leaned back contentedly.

But the girl in gray had been watching him over the top of her book, watching each new touch of the business with increasing interest, and, finally, when she saw the mirror go back in its leather case, she laid aside her book and, opening her chatelaine bag, drew out a chamois skin well powdered and proffered it with a smile to her traveling companion, while the people around enjoyed the little comedy.

"Wouldn't you like to put on the finishing touch?" she asked, sweetly, and he stiffly arose and went into the smoker.—Chicago Tribune.

NEVER ATE FOREIGN MEAT.

But He Found Out It Doesn't Pay to Be Too Sure Until One Knows All the Facts.

A certain Maj. Brow Jones, who made it his boast that he never allowed American or colonial meat to be served at his table, recently visited an old comrade in Liverpool. One night at dinner a most delicious saddle of (apparently) Welsh mutton appeared, to which the major did ample justice.

"Ah," he observed, "I wish that my butcher in London would send me stuff like that; and yet he deals only in the best British meat."

"Well," said his friend, "as a matter of fact, you have been eating New Zealand mutton; but it's only fair to say that I got it from a friend who is a large wholesale importer."

"By Jove, you don't say so!" exclaimed the guest; "I wish he'd tell me where I can get the like in town."

"We'll go and see him to-morrow," said the host. The visit was duly paid to the meat-monger, who smiled when he heard the Londoner's eulogy and explanation.

"Tell me," he returned, after listening to the epicure's remarks, "in what part of London you reside, and I dare say I can give you the address of a retail butcher who will supply you with exactly the same sort of mutton as that which you like so much." The major handed him his card.

"Ah!" observed the importer, "there's the very man within two streets of your house. We supply him with all his meat. Here's his address," he added, handing a slip of paper to the seeker after succulent joints.

The major read, the major started, the major frowned—the major, truth to say, cried vengeance; and no wonder, for the address was that of his own butcher, who dealt only in home produce.—London Sketch.

OFFER UP HUMAN SACRIFICE.

Religious Sect in Holland Looks On While Four Women Are Slain.

The New York Journal correspondent at Amsterdam cables: There was a terrible tragedy yesterday at Apeldoorn as a result of religious fanaticism. At Apeldoorn there is a peculiar sect which decided to offer a human sacrifice to God.

The elder in charge of the congregation, who suggested the sacrifice, also selected two young girls as the victims. Their parents approved and the girls, arrayed in costumes of white, were made ready for the sacrifice. The elder, who is a peasant farmer, decided as his frenzy grew that four victims, not two, should be offered up on the altar, but said nothing of who the other two should be.

A service of praise and prayer preceded the sacrifice. Suddenly, while the services were going on, the elder seized his woman servant, threw her across the altar and nearly decapitated her with a single stroke of a sharp knife. Then he seized the two girls and they were slaughtered in the same way. In the meantime the elder's wife had stood near, praying and crying, unconscious that she, too, had been selected as a victim. The rest of the congregation gazed calmly on.

When the girls were dead the elder said that yet another victim was demanded, and seized his wife. She struggled, but only for a moment. She was slowly dragged backward across the altar and the knife did its work.

Then the murderer, as a part of the rite, dipped his hands in the blood of his victims and the congregation dispersed. The police have arrested the murderer and several members of the sect who witnessed and encouraged the sacrifice.

NEW MAIL ROUTE.

Post Office Department Is Preparing to Survey a Line to the Cape Nome District.

A new route for the mails to the Cape Nome region in Alaska will be surveyed by an inspector of the post office department this spring. Edwin Engelstad, of St. Michael's, one of the old residents of Alaska, was recently in consultation with Second Assistant Postmaster General Shaubergner at Washington, who delegated him to visit the inspector over the route. Mr. Engelstad said:

The route we will pursue is as follows: From Sitka to Kodiak a month, by mail steamer runs, and from Kodiak across Shelikoff straits is another 40 miles to be covered by water. We will land at Khatmal, and thence proceed to Bristol Bay. The next point is Fort Alexander, on the Anadyrsk river, and after that Kuskokwim Bay, on the Kuskokwim river. From there are the Russian mission, on the Yakona, Andreofsky, Kutik and St. Michael's in the order named. A circuit of Norton sound, a distance of 200 miles, will be made and Cape Nome reached. The total distance is 1,200 miles, and I have agreed to have the inspector there by May 1. Nearly all of the distance must be covered by dog sleds.

"By this route, starting carriers from the opposite ends of the line in November and having them meet at a half way point, I figure four round trips, on an average. A system of relays should be established and local mail taken up along the route."

A CONNECTING LINK.

Commander Booth-Tucker Says That God Is Using Salvation Army as Mighty Peace-Power.

"I believe that God is using us as the connecting link between the nations of the world; that the Salvation Army is the largest and most practical peace organization in the universe, and our hope is that it will be our province to establish peace between all countries." This from Commander Booth-Tucker, head of the Salvation Army in America, who on Saturday returned to this country after a five weeks' trip to Europe. "We went to England," said he, "Mrs. Booth-Tucker to counsel, and I to obtain the attendance in America of Gen. William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, and his son, Bramwell Booth, who is the international chief of staff and second in command. Gen. Booth will visit America some time in the coming fall, and Bramwell Booth will probably come here at a time similar, tenuous with our approaching exhibition of Salvation Army work."

SERVANT GIRL QUESTION.

Cabinet Officers and Their Families Not Exempt from the Usual Trials and Tribulations.

Cabinet officers and their families are not exempt from the usual trials and tribulations over the servant girl question. The other night when Mrs. Smith, wife of the postmaster general, wished to dress for the congressional reception, she had to call in the cook and laundress, as her maid had taken a sudden departure, finding it impossible to agree with the other servants. Negro "help" in Washington have a way of leaving, not only without notice, but often so quietly their absence is not even known for some time. Some of the mistresses of houses in the resident society have made formal contracts which involve a loss of pay where a servant leaves without notice. The negroes, however, well understand that no political official could afford to defend a suit for wages.

Germany's Big Boats.

Germany has 23 boats of over 17,000 tons' capacity.

SMALL CASE, BIG COST.

An Incident Which Illustrates the Expensive Procedure of Matters Brought Before Government.

Formalities of the government and the cost involved in doing nothing is illustrated by some official correspondence which has just been forwarded to the house by Secretary Root. An officer of a Massachusetts volunteer regiment lost a gold watch and \$87 in money while at Montauk Point, N. Y., on his return from Cuba. The inquiry extends over the period from October, 1898, to July, 1900, and has just reached congress.

It is accompanied by a letter of Secretary Root, saying the claim for reimbursement "appears to be meritorious, but as there is no fund at the disposal of the war department which could lawfully be used to reimburse the officer for his loss, and inasmuch as the auditor for the war department could discover no law to authorize the settlement of such claims the whole matter was sent to congress and will repose in the committee on war claims. The reports show the officer was rebuffed by a nurse, to whom the property was entrusted. The inquiry, the rest of printing the reports as a public document and the other expenses will amount to over \$200, and yet the officer is not a penny richer.

WANTS THEM PROTECTED.

Bill Introduced into Congress Providing for Preservation of Prehistoric Monuments, Etc.

Representative Hoar wants congress to enact a law providing for the preservation of prehistoric monuments, ruins and objects of land owned by the government. The measure provides that for the purpose of protecting from wanton destruction monuments, ruins, buildings, cemeteries, graves, habitations, mines, workshops and other objects the work of prehistoric or primitive man on the public domain of this government they are placed in the custody of the secretary of the interior. He is granted authority to permit the examination, excavation, or the gathering of such objects, provided they are undertaken for the benefit of some reputable museum, university, college or other educational institution, with a view to increasing the knowledge of such objects, and aiding in the general advancement of archeological science. Any person who willfully destroys, alters, injures, defaces, mutilates or carries away without authority any abnormal antiquity found on the public lands is deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be punished by a fine of \$1,000 and by imprisonment not exceeding 90 days.

WHITE MAN'S SKIN CHANGES.

A Most Remarkable Transformation Undergone by Resident of Kenosha.

August Westraun, a Finnlander employed at a tannery at Kenosha, Wis., changed the color of his skin the other day. He went to work in the morning after a short illness and had scarcely begun when his companions saw that his skin was growing black. They called his attention to it and he tried to wash off the seeming discoloration, but uselessly. In an hour he had become black as a negro.

He left his work and went home, but up to a late hour he had not resumed his original color. No explanation has as yet been given of this sudden change of complexion. Medical men say that cases have been known in which men have undergone such metamorphosis, but these have been gradual and explainable by scientific causes, whereas this change in Westraun was sudden.

For many years prior to his coming here Westraun says he worked in the copper mines of upper Michigan. He thinks the underground work had something to do with his present condition. He is about 36 years of age and unmarried.

WHAT WILL DEWEY DO?

Talk of the Creation of a Special Board to Consider Construction of New Battle Ships.

There is considerable gossip in naval circles as to the duty to which Admiral George Dewey will be assigned, now that he has practically completed his work as a member of the Philippine commission.

There has been talk in the navy of the creation of a special board to consider matters relating to the preparation of plans for new ships, the president of which should be the admiral. Secretary Long, however, says he is not considering the organization of such a board.

There is reason to believe a detail of this character would not be disagreeable to Admiral Dewey. He has very decided views on the question of ship construction, and is especially opposed to the use of covered turrets for armored cruisers. The experience of the battle of Manila bay demonstrated the admiral's opinion, that covered turrets are a hardship, and it is his belief that battleships which would provide protection for the gun crews would give much greater satisfaction.

Care in Selecting Proof Readers.

It is to be hoped, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer, that Rev. Sheldon will be particular to surround himself with a corps of truly conscientious and not too intelligent proof readers.

Oldest English Clergyman.

Rev. Dr. George D. Grundy, aged 93, is the oldest clergyman in England, and is still active in the performance of the duties of his pulpit and parish.

Liquid Fuel for Engines.

Liquid fuel for steam engines is being made the subject of trial by the London fire brigade.