

MAKING DYNAMITE.

Work Is Safer at the Ardeer Works Than in Most Cotton Mills.

The great dynamite factory at Ardeer, Scotland, better known as the Noble nitroglycerin works, is described by Mr. H. J. W. Dam, one of the few individuals in the world who have been permitted to penetrate the mysteries of this wonderful place.

From the top of one of the nitro-glycerin "hills" the factory looks like an enormous and eccentric landscape garden. In every direction rise green embankments, square, conical or diamond-shaped, from 14 to 70 feet in height and covered with long, rank grass. Many of them are faced with corrugated iron and look like high fences.

From the top of each mound peeps the red canvas roof of a white wooden house—a house within a hill—which is from one to four stories in height. Every explosive structure is surrounded by artificial banks, so that in the event of an accident all the others will be protected from concussion or flying fragments.

There are three nitroglycerin "hills," and on the one before you the nitration houses, two in number, in which the nitroglycerin is made stand out in clear relief at the top. They are frail wooden cabins, which were expected by Mr. Noble when he built them to last six months, but which have not yet been blown to pieces after 25 years of constant use.

Tunnels through the banks open everywhere. Tramways and lines of pipes on trestles cross each other directly. This is the "danger area," the wide expanse in which the explosives are made and moved about. It is surrounded in an irregular semicircle by 14 large groups of structures, from which rise 14 high chimney stacks. There are 450 separate structures, now occupying 400 acres out of the 600 owned by the company.

Girls are employed in various parts of the process—200 of them at Ardeer. It will be news to most people that this is a comparatively safe industry. In fact, Ardeer is declared to be one of the safest of factories.

In the whole period of its existence, about 25 years, the entire loss of life by accidents has been only 21. This, compared with the number of people employed, is lower than the death rate in any cotton mill, woolen mill, foundry, boiler shop, ship yard or other large manufacture.

Every person entering the grounds of Ardeer is searched. The girls, 200 of whom are employed, are not permitted to wear pins, hairpins, shoe buttons or metal pieces in their shoes, or carry knitting, crocheting or other needles. The girls are searched thrice a day by the three matrons who have them in charge.—McClure's Magazine.

CAMPING IN THE ARCTIC CIRCLE.

Winter Quarters of the Eighth Infantry—Gold Hunters of Alaska.

A letter from one of the Eighth infantry officers, detailed by the war department to investigate the affairs of the Upper Yukon country, in Alaska, dated at Fort Yukon, September 13, says:

"We arrived here about six o'clock yesterday evening, two weeks from St. Michaels, and it looks as though we would not get any further till the river freezes, when we may proceed to Circle City, about 90 miles up, by dog teams. The river widens here to several miles, flowing over many small channels over what are known as the Yukon Flats. There is a bar just above over which the water is said to be not over two feet. Our captain has been trying all morning to find a channel, but so far without success. We will probably put off our supplies here and make it headquarters for the winter. It is a few miles within the arctic circle, unsheltered, and said to be the coldest place on the river. There is wood, however, and with food people can get along. Besides our boat, there are three or four others on the river, which were expected to get through with supplies for Dawson. They will probably all have to discharge here. That means a very serious condition, indeed, at Dawson; in fact, nothing less than starvation, unless the people get out or relief gets in to them. Small boats are already coming down the river with parties of two or three, and others are expected. The worst feature of the situation is that the people who are pushing into the country won't believe the bare facts before them and insist on going on if possible. A large number of those coming in now are not miners, but expect in some way to get a part of the money the miners may have. We have doctors, lawyers, state senators, thieves, cut-throats and politicians. This is probably the last mail we will get out during the winter. There is a contract let for carrying it over the pass, but there seems to me much doubt of the success of it. They didn't know here who was elected president until last June."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Physical Degeneracy in Italy.

The widespread misery and want that prevail in Italy appear to be exercising a disastrous and degenerating influence on the physique of the population. According to official statistics just issued by the war department at Rome, out of every 1,000 young men of 20 years of age liable for military service, which is as obligatory in Italy as in Germany and Austria, 520, or more than one-half, were rejected by the medical authorities as physically disqualified for service in the army.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Photography and Shooting.

A miniature photographic camera attached to the barrel of a gun is the invention of Mr. Lerchner, of Vienna. By an automatic shutter, working in unison with the trigger of the gun, the sportsman is able to obtain a perfect photograph of the bird or animal immediately before the shot or bullet has reached it.—Chicago Chronicle.

GOVERNMENT GARDENS.

Furnish Free Flowers All the Year Round.

A Custom Against Which Washington Flower Dealers Are Waging War—Beautiful Free Floral Exhibits.

One of the most pleasing features in official-life in Washington is the constant receipt, without cost, of cut flowers from the government gardens. These flowers are furnished at the white house and in all the executive departments almost every day the year round, and not only are the desks of the higher officials made beautiful with the gifts of nature, but they are passed around to the residence not only of the administration, but of congressmen and even of subordinates. The understanding everywhere is that as the flower dealers are grown in the botanical gardens and conservatories, they simply are saved from going to waste by being cut and distributed where they will be most appreciated. This is a pretty custom, and has become so general that no one ever thought of complaining about it.

But the florists of the city find themselves unable to compete with the government property for private purposes. They do not care about a vase of fresh flowers being kept on an official's desk, but they do find fault with the propagation of flowers in hot houses and in the parks and gardens by a special force of men to keep the whole of official Washington supplied with bouquets and table ornaments. They also protest against the loan of potted plants for receptions, unless at the departments where they belong.

The superintendent of public buildings and grounds is at a loss to know how to meet the issue presented by the local flower dealers. If he lets the flowers in the parks and gardens go to waste he does not believe that anyone will be compelled to purchase more flowers than they now find it necessary to buy. The government gardens continue to make these beautiful natural exhibits, and it would seem a shame to let them rot on their stems when they can give so much pleasure by being judiciously scattered. Not only do the officials in the departments and the legislators have the benefit of the government's interest in horticulture, but the money as well as strength, while the animal's paw is strength, then held the animal's paw while Dr. Haughton cut away the ingrowing claw.

OPERATING ON A TIGER.
Entangled in a Net and Its Ingrowing Claw Cut Out.

An interesting operation was performed in Dublin some time ago by Dr. Samuel Haughton. A magnificent tiger, one of the finest in the Dublin zoological, was threatened with gangrene in the paw.

One of its claws becoming distorted, said Tid-Bits, had grown into the foot, and to save the tiger's life it was necessary to cut away the diseased portion. The operation was, to put it mildly, an exciting one. An immensely strong net was in the first place thrown over the tiger, and in the net he was drawn, struggling desperately, to the door of his cage. Four keepers, each of whom must have been endowed with uncommon courage as well as strength, then held the animal's paw while Dr. Haughton cut away the ingrowing claw.

NEW WAY TO WEALTH.
With Power as a Means of Winning Riches.

According to theosophy, said Dr. A. W. Coryn, the human will is a definite force, and when strongly moved by desire it was able to accomplish visible results, although no apparent action had been taken. The desires of men were constantly affecting their outward circumstances, and even if, in the case of a man wishing for wealth, no immediate result is seen, the ultimate effect will be that in another earth life he would be born amid wealthy surroundings. It always happened, however, that when the coveted boon was obtained some unwelcome and unexpected circumstance accompanied it, and so the wise man avoids definite wishes about his future, recognizing his ignorance of what is really best for him, and patiently accepting the destiny meted out to him by the just law. George Muller, of Bristol, supports a large institution for orphans by prayer. The venerable founder relates his wish for a definite sum of money to meet a pressing engagement. Thoughts were things, and once the idea, strongly vitalized by his will, passed out into the ether, it floated about until attracted to the congenial soil of the brain of some wealthy philanthropist, who, "struck by the thought," sends his check for the required amount.—Essex Times.

Who They Wanted a Drink.

Five men at an Atlantic liner were thirsty. They ambled up to the bar. One wanted a drink because he was sick; another wanted a drink because he was sleepy; another wanted one because he couldn't sleep; another could not eat unless he had an appetite. Finally an old soak demanded a drink because he liked it.

All Royalty Related.

Nearly all the royal personages of Europe are cousins, and not very far removed, as it has been laid down by a German genealogist that every crowned head of Europe, excepting Turkey, is descended from one or other of two sisters, who lived about 150 years ago.

American Lobsters Abroad.

Attempts have recently been made in several parts of France and Germany to introduce the American lobster. It has been found that it escapes diseases that destroy the European varieties.

N. Y. Sun.

CANADA AND UNITED STATES.

A Story They Are Telling the Other Side of the Line.

A writer in the Toronto Printer and Publisher, commenting on the tendency of some of our United States cousins to indulge in "tall talk," recalls an incident that occurred in Montreal at the time that the press of the United States was threatening that the \$5,500,000 awarded to Canada by the Halifax arbitration would not be paid.

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