

OIL WELLS IN THE APENNINES.

French Concessions Obtain Valuable Concessions From Italy.

Rome.—The existence of deposits of petroleum of considerable importance is not generally known even to the Italians.

As early as 1893 a French company obtained a concession from the Italian government to explore a certain tract in the Apennines, near Piacenza, and to find any deposits of petroleum found there.

The success of this company was sufficient to cause the formation of another French syndicate four years ago and last July these two were absorbed by a Genoese company with a capital of \$3,000,000.

\$2,000,000 TO REMOVE A LAKE.

Steel Trust Will Drain It Because It Floods a Minnesota Mine.

Duluth, Minn.—The United States Steel corporation is preparing to spend nearly \$2,000,000 in draining Trout lake, seven miles from Grand Rapids, Minn., and reducing what is now a beautiful body of water four miles long and a mile wide, to a mere mud hole.

Trout lake is near the Canisteo mine, which has been opened by the steel trust. Into the deep shafts that have been sunk water from the lake pours constantly, making it necessary to work the pumps day and night.

With the enlarging of the underground workings, the expense from the excessive moisture in the soil will increase. So the trust decided to get rid of the lake.

REFUSES TO BURY DEAD.

Richmond (Va.) Clergyman Does Not Believe in Funeral Services.

Richmond, Va.—The people of Richmond were much surprised when it became known abroad that Rev. John W. Dougherty, pastor of the Apostolic church, had refused to conduct the funeral services over the remains of Joseph Heywood, who was killed by falling from a smokestack.

"My authority is the word of God. To my ministrations as pastor I have devoted 18 years, and my present convictions are the logical consequence of long periods of devotional thought."

Will Keep Eyes on Men.

Superior, Wis.—Several girls of this city have formed a girls' protective association. It is a sort of love trust. Its purpose is to keep tabs on young men of the city. They will keep each other informed as to actions of the men and protect members of the society from attentions of any youth against whom there is the slightest breath of suspicion.

TITLES TO ARCTIC LANDS.

Lands Hitherto Unknown Discovered and Named by Explorers.

The voyage of the Canadian government cruiser Arctic to the far north suggests for consideration the question of the ownership of some far northern lands.

But there has been little thought in the minds of the adventurers or in that of the public of the delimitation of international boundaries in the realms of paleocryclic ice and eternal snow.

NEW IDEA FOR INVENTORS.

Something the World Needs and Would Pay Well For.

Inventors would get untold gifts of free advertising if they would give to their inventions names ryming with some one or other of our 5,000 rhymeless words, an editor said.

Alligator's Affection.

It seems that if you only begin early enough, it is possible to tame even the fiercest animals. A baby alligator, caught in a swamp, was taken to the home of his captor in New York, and in the course of time it would follow him about like a dog.

President Ob What?

President Roosevelt likes to leave the White house at times and make informal calls on his friends. One night last winter he strolled up to Attorney General Moody's house and rang the bell.

Black Teeth and Fidelity.

The Japs are a fine race," said the sailor, "but there's one thing about them I don't like. The married women all blacken their teeth with a paste made out of sweet oil and soot.

Brave Man.

"Henry" whispered Mrs. Subbub, shaking her sleepy husband. "I'm sure there are burglars downstairs."

CLEOPATRA AS SHE WAS.

Historians and Poets Have Given Us Diverse Characters.

On the pages of Plutarch and Dion Cassius—as far as we are concerned—exists the one and only Cleopatra of history, writes S. R. Littlewood, in London Chronicle.

In the Cleopatra of the unadorned story there is remarkably little hunger and thirst after unrighteousness for its own sake.

As for her suggested decadence, it is significant that she was a most excellent mother to her children—not only to Caesarion, but to the three she had by Antony, of whom the two eldest sons were twins.

TONIC IN A SUN BATH.

In Most Cases Better Than Any Medicine Taken Internally.

Some one called the sun God's anti-septic and sterilizer, and certain it is that not half the people on the earth realize how large a part sunshine can play in cleansing, purifying and making whole.

No one can overestimate the value of a sun bath, and each year you see an increased number of children, wrapped up from the cold and comfortably tucked into the perambulators, on the sunny end of the piazza, getting the benefit of this greatest of nature's tonics.

Sun baths that are taken as a remedy for rheumatism, or to ward against sleeplessness, have better effect if they are followed by a warm sponge.

Even when there is no special disease to fight, but just a sense of languor and fatigue, and a run-down nervous system, the sun bath will do good work—better than medicine.—Boston Herald.

How Porlock Got His Name.

In North Somerset, England, said Henry Bradley, one might be told that once upon a time the devil and a giant laid a wager, the latter staking his soul, as to which could throw a stone furthest.

Mr. Bradley then instanced the corruption of the word Cantion (whose British name was Canton) from a Welsh word meaning open country. It was possible that the word Cantion was derived from an old British word meaning promontory.

Revival of the Stock.

The early Victorian dandy has reappeared in Piccadilly, London, heralding a revival of the stock as the fashionable neckwear for men.

Walking down the classic avenue, a rising young author, tall and of distinguished appearance, attracted attention by wearing a faithful reproduction of the stock of the 1830 period.

To be a strict devotee of the new cut the modern dandy must wear a stock of black English silk, wrapped round the front of the throat, fastened at the back and tied under the chin in a large bow.

Has the Earth.

Some months ago excavation were being made on new tracks on the line of a certain famous railway. At one point a nearby resident obtained permission to remove a quantity of turf to resod his premises, the section boss being instructed to notify the excavating "gang" when the resident should have secured all he desired.

After Business.

"My dear sir," began the stranger, "I would very much like to marry your daughter."

GOLD IN PHILIPPINES

AURIFEROUS DISTRICTS FOUND IN TWO OF ISLANDS.

Ore is Low-Grade but Can Be Mined With Profit—Bullion Bars Are Sent to Manila For Shipment.

Manila.—The chief subject of interest in the islands at this time is gold mining. After two or three years of pioneer work on the part of enterprising prospectors results are beginning to appear and even those who were most skeptical are no longer sitting in the scorpion's chair.

Meanwhile nearly every day sees a bar of bullion come into Manila from one or other of the various claims, bearing rich and eloquent testimony to the fact that there is gold here and that it is being extracted.

DRIFTS FROM SOUTH POLE.

Antarctic Ice Found Much Farther North Than Ever Before.

Washington.—Reports received by the hydrographic office of the navy for several weeks indicate that the range of the floating ice and icebergs from the south pole is unusually great.

Meteor from the Heavens Just Misses the Ocean Liner.

New York.—The narrow escape of a liner from destruction by a meteor is related by Capt. Anderson, of the African Prince, one of the vessels of the Prince Line.

SHIP HAS A NARROW ESCAPE.

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Keeps Currents 26 Years.

Hagerstown, Md.—Mr. and Mrs. Levin D. Speasard, of Chewsville, Washington county, gave a reception at their home in honor of Victor D. Hartle and his bride, the latter being a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Spessard.

Has 17 Babies in 17 Years.

Des Moines, Ia.—Mrs. Mary McIntyre of Grimes, Iowa, gave birth, the other day, to her seventeenth child. She is the mother of two pairs of twins. She has been married 17 years and all her children are living.

Hard to Remember.

"She's pretty, but she doesn't look as if she had sense enough to know her own name."

CHICAGO OF 1846 IN OLD BOOK.

Directory Published When Metropolis was a Small Town.

Chicago.—What is believed to be the oldest city directory in existence is arousing great interest among members of the Chicago Historical society.

"A business advertisement and general directory of the city of Chicago for the year 1846-1846, together with a historical and statistical account," is the title given the book by its compiler, J. Wellington Norris.

At the time of the appearance of the book the population claimed for Chicago was 10,864. This total, however, was accomplished by much careful padding of the informal census, most of which is admitted by the author in his preface or elsewhere.

COTTON CROP OF OKLAHOMA.

New State Will Raise 1,000,000 Bales the Present Year.

Kansas City, Mo.—Some cotton brokers estimate that Oklahoma and Indian territory will raise 1,000,000 bales this year. This means \$50,000,000 paid in cash in about one-half the geographical area of the state, or at most \$50 per capita to every man, woman and child.

Blunders in Memorials.

Some remarkable mistakes in memorials have totally escaped notice until it was too late to rectify them. The spurs on the boots of Cromwell's statue at Westminster abbey, London are the most interesting feature of the monument, although they generally get no attention at all from sight-seers.

Strong.

"Do you see that man walking slowly, his eyes scanning the ground, or glancing at every woman as she steps out or into her carriage?" queried a Fifth avenue habitude of the transient Bostonian.

Neither Time Nor Money to Waste.

An undressed son of Erin got into a wordy argument with a cullud gemmer of herculian stature on the rear platform of a street car. Blows followed. Meanwhile, the car arrived at the negro's street, and as he got off he yelled, "Git off'n dat kyar, you mick, on show whut's yo' maddy up on de groun'!"

Hard to Remember.

"She's pretty, but she doesn't look as if she had sense enough to know her own name."

Wise Ranchman Averted a War in the Hole-in-the-Wall.

Near the Hole-in-the-Wall country in Wyoming there is a peppery cattleman whose range is as big as to him as his life, and from a post of view a sheepman in a pair of his nearest neighbor is a sly and belligerent widow with sheep. In consequence the two men were at the ranch, denied as was the rancher's prison.

Knew Who Used It.

Charles H. Hoyt, New England's great playwright, once visited a small town in Pennsylvania, where there is a hotel they say George Washington, the father of his country, used to stop at when he passed through.

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