

MAKING MORE ALUMINUM.

United States Leads with Three Out of Nine Works of the World.

It was the United States which began the manufacture of aluminum by the electrolytic process. That was in 1855. In 1859 almost the same process was in use in Switzerland, having been worked out independently.

Since the latter year, says Cassler's Magazine, the production of aluminum has increased enormously, and at the present time the annual output of the metal is estimated to be 8,000,000 tons, as compared with 85 tons in 1859. In England the price has fallen in the same period from ten shillings six pence per pound to one shilling three pence per pound. If a cheaper raw material than refined aluminum could be used in the process a still further reduction in price would be possible.

Nine works are now using this method, three in the United States, two in France, one each in Great Britain, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. The demand for the metal is growing in connection with motor car and railway carriage work, the latest example of this use of the light metal being for the inside of the cars for one of the London underground tube cars.

Very large amounts of the cheaper brands of aluminum are now being employed in the casting of iron and steel. The Goldschmidt's thermite process for welding tramway rails and repairs of castings, etc., is a new use, responsible for the annual consumption of many tons of aluminum in the form of powder.

OLD STONE WELL MOVED.

Slid Down Hill Without Even Making the Water in It Muddy.

The residents of Bainbridge are much excited over a remarkable landslide which took place on the south side of that village recently, for sections of the hill continue to slide away at intervals. The slide, reports the Chicago News-Advertiser, is on a portion of the hill where a granite quarry has been operated for many years.

The hill was over 40 feet high, and a great deal of valuable rock had been removed from it during the last few years, but the greater part of the broken stone and earth has been dumped on the hillside. The recent wet weather caused this to happen, and a portion of the hill commenced to slide on Thursday night, and has been going down ever since.

A mud roadway, which was used by teams to bring down the stone, was entirely obliterated, but the remarkable part of the slide is that an old stone well which was on the top of the hill slid down the embankment for a distance of 22 feet and was not destroyed.

The well, which is 16 feet deep, has always had from 12 to 15 feet of water in it, and there is an old windlass on the top. As has been stated, that well slid down the side of the hill, without stone and water, and it did not even cause turbidity of the water. The windlass, which is nearly worn out, appears as good to-day as it was before the well moved.

WHERE LIGHTNING STRIKES

At Junctions and on Sharp Curves and Bends of Trolley Lines.

H. E. Adams, a Baltimore street railway man, has a clever method of finding out where lightning is likely to strike one of his cars.

According to the Street Railway Journal he keeps in his office a large map of the system, and whenever car crew reports that a car has been damaged by lightning, he sticks a pin in the map at the point where the car was at the time.

It is astonishing how quickly a record of this kind will show up the locations that seem to be especially susceptible to lightning discharges. In the course of the season a few points will have a miniature forest of pins grouped around them, while long stretches of track will show no pins at all.

When a particular location begins to accumulate a collection of these tell-tale pins, a lightning arrester can be installed at this point and the trouble at once eliminated or at least materially reduced. From graphic records kept in this way over a period of years it has been determined that the most vulnerable points are at junctions of lines and at sharp bends and curves.

Kaiser Contributed Soap.

In the course of recent conversation at Potsdam, Princess von Buelow, wife of the German chancellor, remarked to the Kaiser that her maid seemed needed cleaning. The Kaiser was amused. "May I help you to clean it?" he asked, and taking the remark as a joke, she assented. The next day several large crates were delivered at the princess's house, and an autograph letter from the Kaiser saying that he was doing his share in the cleaning by sending her a box of soap.

Fish with a Roll.

While fishing in the lake at Geradon (Vosges) recently a man caught a large pike weighing about 30 pounds, which was subsequently sold to the proprietor of a hotel in preparing the fish for the table the cook found a purse containing \$45 inside and this was afterward identified by one of the guests at the hotel, says the Radical. A few days before had disappeared into the lake.

INDIANS GIG BIG FISH.

Spurn the Use of Rod and Reel, But Land Some Great Bass and Catfish.

The mountain streams of Indian territory, which abound in game fish, principally black bass, have been as clear as crystal of late, and the Indians have been having great sport gigging them.

In a mountain stream in the territory when the water is clear the bottom can be seen through six feet of water, and this makes gigging a great sport for the Indians. They are experts with the canoe and the gig, and spurn the finest fishing tackle in the way of rod and reel, as it is too slow sport for them.

It is interesting to watch a couple of Indians gig fish. With the long, slender reed, tipped and barbed with steel, one Indian leans over the prow of the canoe while the other with his paddle gently and noiselessly lets the canoe glide up to the big rocks and around logs in deep water, where the bass and catfish lie. The Indian carries his gig upright and ready to strike at any time.

With his face not six inches above the water, his keen eyes scan the bottom, and he will locate a bass or catfish lying partly under a rock or log that would never be seen by the average fisherman. The stroke of the dexterous arm is like lightning, and in a flash the fish is speared through and lifted in the boat.

There is no struggling to land him, no excitement of winding in the line, for the Indian hunts for game, and not for sport. An Indian seldom misses his fish when he throws the gig. And his motion is so perfect and his balance so even that there is scarcely a tremor in the boat, while the amateur is more likely to not only miss his fish two feet, but stand on his head in the water besides.

PLAYERS FROM COUNTRY.

Boys from Small Towns Have Become Great Baseball Artists.

"If it were not for the small country towns baseball would soon be a thing of history," said Bradley Waters, of Sterling, Ill. "The really great baseball players who were developed in big cities can be counted on the fingers of one hand, I believe. It is the prairie player of the small town who stands at the head of the profession."

"The reason for this is easy to find. The city boy has so many restrictions thrown around him by the police that he cannot acquire any great ability. The urban is not even permitted to play in the streets or alleys. If he does he must station a few boys around to watch the 'copper.' The boy in the small town can play where he likes. Then outdoor exercise has made his muscles stronger and his arm stronger qualities which are in great demand in baseball."

"The quick eye develops judgment in distance, another quality needed by the baseball player. I find more enjoyment in watching these prairie youngsters play than in seeing a league game. There is one thing about these kids—they are dead in earnest and out for blood. They are your true amateurs, even if they play for a mask, a ball or even 50 cents a game at times."

POINTS ABOUT THE MAYPOP

Little Known Southern Fruit Possesses Medical Virtues Recently Discovered.

A new fruit that seems likely to prove of considerable value has been developed by the cultivation of the common "maypop," a plant which is quite familiar in the southern states, very ornamental, easily grown from seeds, and affords a handsome cover for arbors and verandas. It is known to botanists as *Passiflora incarnata*. The fruit in its improved form is somewhat bigger than a hen's egg and decidedly palatable. It looks like a May apple.

More important, however, is the recognition which the plant has recently obtained as the source of a harmless drug which is utilized by physicians as a sleep producer and nerve soother. Unfortunately, most nerve soother and sleep producing drugs create habits which are difficult to throw off and in their after effects they are liable to be injurious. But the fluid extract of the maypop, which is obtained from the leaves and flowers, while wonderfully effective as a soporific, has no Nemesis. The improved fruit of the maypop is available for use both fresh and preserved. In all likelihood it will make its appearance before long in our markets.

Keep to the Left

A Chicagoan when in London recently noticed the signs "keep to the left" on street corners and as his attention was exactly opposite to the rule generally observed here he was naturally interested. He accosted a policeman on crossing duty, saying, "Officer, may I ask why in London everything goes to the left?" The bobby stared at him for a moment, raised his hand to stop a cab and said, "Why the dickens shouldn't it?" Mr. Lakostic grinned his approval of the remark as he handed over "the price" and walked away.

How Could He Help It?

She innocently said—Did you think of me at lunch time, darling? He: Yes, darling, I found a hole in the soup exactly the size of you.

PRINCE RUNS COBBLER

NICHOLAS OF MONTENEGRO IN THE "BOUNCER" ROLE.

Son of Crispin Appalled at Size of Royal "Trotters" Puts on the Price and Is Put to Rout.

Carlsbad, Bohemia.—A cobbler has dared to brave the dread anger of Prince Nicholas of Montenegro, who, despite his 65 years, is one of the strongest as he is one of the bravest men in Europe.

Luckily for the rash shoemaker, the prince can move scarcely a step to wreak his rage. For his royal feet are gouty and immensely swollen. That is why he is at the baths here.

Prince Nicholas is no Croesus, although he has more money to spend since his splendid, vigorous daughter, have married well—one to the king of Italy, one to a Russian grand duke, another to the duke of Leuchtenberg, a fourth to a prince of Battenberg.

Practicing economy, as always, Prince Nicholas sent his court chamberlain and two adjutants to a shoemaker here to order a special pair of shoes made. "And pay no more than two dollars," was his royal highness' final order.

When the son of Crispin learned the size of the gouty feet he was to cover, he exclaimed, scornfully: "Two dollars! And for a prince with feet like an elephant. My price is nine dollars. Then I will profit no more than one dollar."

The courtiers, unwilling to take the responsibility of ordering shoes so expensive, induced the cobbler to accompany them to the prince's hotel, where he was introduced into the presence of the ruler of the Black mountains, the personification of stout courage.

"I will pay no more than two dollars," quoth the prince.

"I will take no less than nine dollars," retorted the cobbler, a man of equal will.

Their voices raised their knees, and the trembling landlord and servants, alarmed by the noise, hurried outside the closed door.

Finally the door opened and the cobbler was hurled as from a catapult into the frightened group.

Forgetting his pains, Prince Nicholas had struggled to his feet and kicked the cobbler out of the room.

But the shoemaker sticks dire revenge. He has brought suit for \$60 for time lost while taking his meals off the mantelpiece. And \$60 is much money to the prince of Montenegro.

MAY STEAL ANCIENT CITY.

Colorado Men Transfer It Across the Border from Utah for Show Purposes.

Salt Lake City.—Southeastern Utah is very remote from Salt Lake on account of transportation facilities, and those who know the country have known for a long time that caravans of loot have been exported out in Colorado and thence on east to the museums and curio stores of the big eastern cities. Only capitalists, backed by Colorado Springs capitalists, want a prehistoric collection at some spot near Colorado Springs, where people can come easily and see the ruins at so much per

All they lack is the ruins. To procure these the plan is to have parties come over the Colorado border into neglected and unguarded southeastern Utah, and there photograph and tear down all the wretched towers, cliff dwellings, places of worship, forts, ladders and pottery. All of these are then to be carried to the mountains, four miles west of Colorado Springs, and re-erected, according to the specifications originally used. It is all, and as the Colorado site is in a canyon, the walls of which conform to the Utah canyons, where the ruins now exist, the effect, it is estimated, will be eminently and financially satisfactory.

"UNSYNKABLE" SHIP BUILT.

Test of German Boat Proves Safety of Passengers in Case of Leak.

Berlin.—An interesting experiment has just been made at Kiel with a new steamship built for the Kiel Steamship company. After the disaster in the Elbe the company decided that the five new steamers to be built should be unsinkable, if possible. In order to prove the conditions of the building contract, loads approximating the weight of 200 passengers and the full equipment of the steamer was put on board. The machine-rooms, holds, and all other compartments were then pumped full of water, as if the ship had sprung a leak after a collision. The boat sank, but there was enough freeboard at its lowest place to insure the safety of passengers. The test is regarded as satisfactory in every particular.

New Potato in France.

The cultivation in France of a new potato, brought from Uruguay, has, the British consul general for Havre writes, been observed for some time with great interest. A variety of this potato, called the "solonum" commercial violet, is said to possess excellence of taste as well as nutritive value, and is equal to the best table potato known in France. The variety is distinguished by its resistance to frost, as also to disease, and its one great advantage is that it prospers most in a damp or swampy soil, where no other kind of potato would grow.

FACE SPRUCE-GUM FAMINE.

Open Winter Prevents Vermont Gummars from Gathering Usual Supply.

Bonnington, Vt.—Vermont is facing a spruce-gum famine, and consequently the Vermonters, who takes his gum water means with as much regularity as the New York clubman takes his cocktail before dinner, is sad. Already the retail price is two dollars a pound for the best grade of crystal lump and molded sticks (made from boiled pitch) has taken its place in many of the poorer families.

The supply of gum has been failing off steadily ever since paper makers began using spruce wood for pulp, and it is only a matter of time when there will be none at all. This year the exceptional decrease is due to the inability of the gatherers to get about readily in the woods.

The gum is crystallized pitch which exudes from the seams of the trees during the hot summer months. As the weather cools the pitch forms in crystals, and this is picked by the gatherers or gummars after the snow comes. As the gum gum trees grow on exposed cliffs and rocky, uneven ground, the gummars take advantage of deep snows and snowshoes to gather the supply. When there is little snow it is impossible to get about in the best reaches of forest timber and the supply dwindles.

Last winter there was little snow until March, and by that time the season had passed. Lon Bishop, of Glastonbury, who has spent 50 of his 51 years in the woods, shooting, trapping fishing and gumming, recently brought his winter gum haul here to be marketed. He bears out the other gummars in saying that the season is the worst in his experience.

CAT MOTHERS SQUIRREL.

Little Stranger Is Taken by Tabby Into Her Little Family of Four.

Eldorado, Ia.—An Angora cat playing the role of mother to four kittens and a frisky bushy-tailed squirrel, is the sight that has interested visitors at the home of Mrs. Addie A. Lewis, No. 1235 East Fifteenth street, Davenport, the past few days.

It was about two months ago that Tabby presented the Lewis household with four fluffy little kittens, which for a fortnight contentedly enjoyed life in the comfortable basket prepared for them. Then one day a red squirrel, about as old as the kittens, and too young to take care of itself, fell out of a tall oak tree on Mrs. Lewis' lawn.

With no means of getting it back into its nest, it was taken into the house and fed on milk for a day or two, when it occurred to Mrs. Lewis to see if the mamma cat would adopt the stranger. So a little milk was rubbed on the baby squirrel and it was gently laid down beside the tabby. She looked at it speculatively for a moment or two, and then began licking the milk off, as curiously as she licked her own kittens in giving them their feline bath.

Bunny was soon snug with the kittens and nursing with them, and he has since had no other mother than tabby.

INVITATIONS WERE MIXED.

Result Was Confusion Among Ministers and Dairymen Who Received Them.

New York.—Somebody mixed up the circular letters prepared by the German-American association, relating to the coming saengerfest. This is what the pastors of the German churches and the representatives of Sunday schools in Newark received:

"Dear Sir: The committee of the German-American association having the matter in its care, desires to secure your services as a bartender during the meeting of the Northeastern Saengerfest of American in Newark the first week of July next."

On the other hand, a large number of distinguished Newark bartenders received this:

SHIRTS CAMPAIGN FACTOR.

Farmers' Paper Makes Length of Garment a Kansas Issue.

Topeka, Kan.—The length of a shirt is to be an issue in the Kansas campaign this year. A farm paper is leading a movement to organize farmers into unions. The argument advanced is that if every shirt was made one inch longer the added cloth would consume the entire surplus of cotton. Farmers are urged to organize and stand for this demand.

Chairmen of the Democratic and Republican state committees declared that if this remedy was reversed to equalize matters in case of an extreme shortage in the cotton crop it might become very embarrassing.

Old Songs Played Often.

It is estimated that during the five days of the Kentucky homecoming exercises at Louisville recently Foster's "Old Kentucky Home" and "Swanee River" were probably played and sung no less than 6,732 times.

Diamond Trade.

Imports of diamonds, jewelry and precious stones in the ten months ending April, 1906, were valued at \$31,780,274, comparing with \$28,336,531 in 1905, and \$20,625,722 in 1904.

Mysterious Dog Poisoning.

More than 100 dogs have recently been poisoned in the district of Kilkenny, Ireland, from some cause which remains a mystery.

SLAKE IN DRUG STORE.

Temperance Town Has a Visitor That Creates Some Excitement.

Central Village, Conn.—A large black snake has been in the cellar of Druggist Lewis for several days, and all efforts to kill it have been futile. There are some crack shots here, but before any of them can get a bead on the snake it disappears behind the numerous boxes with which the cellar is stocked.

Several schemes have been tried to kill the snake, but they don't work. It is now proposed to put a pan of milk, with a proper mixture of poison in it, on the cellar bottom and tempt the snake to eat. It is difficult to know in what proportions to mix food and poison so that it will be effective. The British government was 39 years experimenting with sugar and plaster of paris before it got the right mixture that cockroaches would eat enough of to kill them.

There are so many reports about this snake that it is not known just what its story is. Although the black snake is known to be harmless, there have not been many volunteers to go into the cellar.

The young women in town are not afraid of the snake, but since it has become known that the snake is there the young men who are accustomed to treating them to soda water in the store have put up the bluff that they were afraid to run the risk of taking them into the place. Unless something is done soon the young women propose to offer a reward for a professional snake catcher.

CORD MAY COST \$100,000.

Will Determine the Duty William B. Leeds Must Pay on Jewels.

New York—If the United States treasury department wins a case which is in preparation a certain big silk string, just about 14 inches long, will cost William B. Leeds, a wealthy railroad man of New York City and Chicago, \$100,000 or more in customs duty. The string contains a number of pearls bought by Mr. Leeds in Paris. They were brought to New York by the Paris dealer and declared as unsorted pearls.

On unsorted pearls the duty is ten per cent, but those same pearls being string in the length of a necklace or set and the duty is 60 per cent.

The customs officials learned of the size of the necklace and determined that these were the pearls that had composed it. The appraisers therefore put the duty at 60 per cent of their valuation, which was placed at \$200,000, that is to say the tariff would be \$120,000.

Under the law, however, the Paris dealer was entitled to take the goods out of the government's custody by the payment of the ten per cent duty, which he asserted was the just one and now the government must take to the federal courts to recover the other \$100,000.

FIRE JUMPING-MARRIAGE.

Hawaiian Government Trying to Prove It Holds Good in China.

Honolulu.—The imperial Chinese consul general at this place was called as an expert witness in the United States court the other day regarding marriage and other customs affecting the relations of men and women in China.

Dai Fook Tai Is Charged with Bigamy, and the government is trying to prove that when the woman jumped over a fire and pulled some eggs out of a bowl of water with chopsticks, in August, 1905, she contracted a marriage with a countryman and when she subsequently took another husband she committed bigamy.

The Chinese consul general, said Chinese marriage customs differed in various provinces and he did not know whether the egg and jumping over the fire ceremonies made a woman a wife in the province of Haka.

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LANTERNS KEEP OFF BEARS.

West Virginia Stock Raisers Have Novel Way of Protecting Sheep.

In the Williams river country of West Virginia the bears are greatly on the increase, and there is a blue grass settlement about the extreme head of the river called Beaver Dam which has all but been driven out of the sheep business by bears says Recreation. This is a hardship to small landowners whose farms lie at too great an elevation to raise grain.

On the Black mountain run one man claimed to have identified the signs of 117 bears in one day's hunt. That seems a good many bears, but I have hunted and fished so long and told about my adventures at so many camps, that I cannot consistently deny anything. Nevertheless, every now and then a hunter runs on to a bear and kills it. Premeditated killing of bears is rarely known, as this wisest of the forest animals knows well how to avoid men. A rabbit is courageous compared to a black bear. This shows the superior intelligence of bruln.

About 30 years ago, an unarmed shepherdman killed a bear with a large stone at the Red Hole. He was resting at the top of a precipitous bank of Mauch Chunk shale when a bear, chased by dogs, came into the river and passed at the foot of the bank. The man cast a large stone down upon it and stunned it so that he was able to kill it. It was a two-year-old. The occurrence is well authenticated.

The sheepkillers are generally the biggest bears of them all, and are very wild. They never enter a field without first making a complete circuit to see if a man has crossed the fence. If he has they "withdraw." One sheep raiser found that hanging half a dozen lighted lanterns about his farm scared the bears to leave his flock severely alone.

NOT ABOVE WHEELING BABY.

Young Lawyer's Wife Mrs Reason to Change Views on Family Dignity.

A certain young lawyer whose business connections bring him much in touch with some corporation interests has not had his hat soiled by his rapid rise in the last few years, and has never had some of his wife's ambitions to climb the social ladder, says the Washington Star. He has a baby daughter to whom he is very much devoted, and occasionally on a Sunday afternoon, will take the youngster out for an airing in her perambulator.

A few Sundays ago the lawyer and his wife went out with the baby carriage when they met the head of one of the big corporations for which the lawyer holds a retainer, walking with a friend.

"I never was so mortified in my life," exclaimed the wife, after the magnate had passed.

"You must not wheel the baby carriage in public again!"

"Nonsense!" replied her husband. His further remarks were interrupted by his brother, who had been hurrying to overtake him.

"I heard a compliment to you just now, Jim," said the brother. "You know what the traction man?"

"I do not," said the lawyer.

"Get out!" said his brother. "He was talking with his friend about you. I heard him say: 'A very promising young lawyer must be a decent sort of chap too. He's making a lot of money, but he isn't too proud to push his own baby carriage. I'll have to keep an eye on him.' Pretty good, wasn't it?"

MANY VARIETIES OF DATES.

Arabian Experts Can Distinguish Between Them, at a Moment's Notice.

"There are date experts in the Sahara," said a sailor, according to the New York Press, "men that can distinguish varieties of the date as easily and accurately as you or I can distinguish the various vegetables."

"As I went from Biskra to Touggourt last winter I learned a lot about dates. I'd thought, the same as you, that there was only one kind. I found there were 79 kinds. And the Arab expert, the date merchant, could tell those 79 kinds apart with ease."

"All the world's dates comes from the Sahara. They grow in the oases. The date palms need just a little water, along with the hottest kind of a hot sun—a desert sun. The variety of the date is amazing. I know myself now nine kinds."

"It's the same with rice in Burma. The best rice comes from there, and there are 102 kinds of it, which the Burmese rice grower has no difficulty in differentiating."

Dream of Wealth.

The master plumber had become rich and was going abroad for his health. On the voyage a school of whales was sighted, and the plumber was seen to rub his hands in ecstasies.

"Why is he so happy?" asked a curious passenger.

"He can't help it," whispered the captain. "He imagines each spout is a burst water pipe, to be repaired by him at his old rates."—Chicago Journal.

One of the Wonders.

"What interested me most in my travels," said Henckel, "was the mummy of a queen I saw in Egypt."

"Wonderful, eh?" asked his friend.

"Yes, it's wonderful how they could make a woman dry up and stay that long!"—Catholic Commercial.