

GERMANY'S CABLE LINES.

Caroline Island Circuit Completes Non-English System Around the World.

When Cyrus W. Field proposed the first ocean cable his ideas were characterized by doubters all over the world as "Yankee nonsense," but the cable was laid, and its success as a medium of communication between the two worlds was immediate and pronounced.

Of all the nations of the globe Germany is one of the most energetic in the work of sinking electric cables in the depths of the ocean. She has just completed a new line between Shanghai and Yap, in the Caroline islands, which covers the distance of more than 2,000 miles.

The year 1905 was, for the German cable industry, a most significant one. It not only gave the Kaiser's dominion a great many new cables, but it showed that the process of laying these lines had advanced wonderfully in its technique, so that the work can now be done rapidly, in comparison with the records of past achievements in this line of industry.

GAS RATES IN ENGLAND.

Largest Company in the World Charges Only 50 Cents a Thousand Feet.

In view of the agitation which has attended the passage of the 50-cent gas bill by the legislature at Albany, the prices charged consumers of illuminating gas in Great Britain will prove of interest to New York users of gas.

There are 1,351 gas plants in England, 259 in Scotland, 110 in Ireland, 135 in Australia, 42 in Canada and 15 in the other British possessions. All the large Scottish towns own their gasworks, which produce 32.8 per cent. of the total gas made in the country, while in England only 31.3 per cent. is made by municipal plants, and in Ireland 44.9 per cent.

Overdoing Things.

"Why do you object to my eating so much?" asked the gourmand. "You know the old proverb says that in eating well one prevails the food."

JOHN CHINAMAN'S HOUSE.

Must Be Built at a Special Time and in a Special Way to Be Right.

When a Chinaman has decided to build himself a house the first person he consults is not an architect, but a sort of wizard.

This individual examines the site and marks the exact spot for the front door. In China front doors must never face due south, though a partly southern aspect is highly desirable.

The wizard, or geomancer, next prescribes the exact size of the front door. An inch too much or too little might have disastrous consequences.

A screen of wood or of bricks must be erected about three yards in front of the door. This is to keep out any evil breath. Not human breath, nor malaria, nor bad odors; but some mysterious and fatal something which is only to be kept out by that screen.

The wizard next locates the spot for the kitchen fireplace. This also must not face south, because the south represents fire, and the kitchen fire and the south fire, working together, would be so powerful that the house would just naturally burn up.

Having settled the question of place, the wizard figures out a time when work may be begun with some degree of safety. For instance, if the earth god should be at home when the workmen began digging they might stick a spade into his august cranium and then there would be the devil to pay.

The would-be builder must also find out whether it is a year when he may with safety begin anything. There are lots of these unlucky years. A man must not be married, for instance, when his age is 24 or 26, or any even number.

Having picked out a favorable year, John must next consider his two lucky months, for there are only two out of the 12 which are favorable to his undertaking new things. Then his yellow road days or good ones must be determined. There are more black road days than yellow ones, so the auspicious moments for starting his house are finally reduced to a pretty limited number.

THE MOTOR OR THE HORSE

Big Automobiles Are Taking the Place of Animals All Over the World.

It will probably be many, many years in the future, if the time ever comes, before the automobile will put the "laboring" horse out of business. But the motorists declare that the fate of the carriage horse, anyway the city animal, is not so far distant. They maintain, and with some show of reason for the contention, that it is only a matter of a few years until the "smart" carriage horse, with "bob" tail, high head and silver trimmed harness, will have to seek some other means of earning out and hay.

Kansas City, says the Star, is perhaps behind a good many other cities of its class in the motor game. But it is true here as elsewhere that many families which have always maintained a stable of horses are neglecting and then gradually giving up the animals in preference to the automobile. It works out this way:

"My dear," remarks the head of the family, "I am thinking of buying an automobile. It's just an experiment, you know. Of course, we will keep the horses and use them principally."

"Mercy! no, John, we mustn't give up the horses," says the wife. For a week or two they are too busy learning how to drive the new motor to think about the horses. Then some Sunday afternoon a sense of duty, more than anything else, compels them to have the surrey and the pair of bays brought around to the carriage entrance and they go for a drive. But somehow they seem to poke along and there is something lacking about the ride. Neither one mentions it, but before long another and then another motor car finds shelter in the stable and the horses go out through exit No. 23.

The speed craze in automobiles has about died out. What the purchasers are giving attention to now is the reliability of a car and what will be the minimum cost of repairs. Formerly the first question asked was: "How fast can it go?" Now the inquiry is: "How far and how cheap will it go?" This is especially true in this vicinity, where the roads are narrow and there are many turns. Twenty miles an hour is as fast as anybody cares to go, and almost any car will do that.

Expensive Transaction.

Fifty years after the Bodleian Library at Oxford had received a copy of the first folio Shakespeare—that is to say, in 1661—the librarian of that institution, clearing out some "superfluous books," dumped the first folio in the lot and accepted \$120 for the parcel. Now the Bodleian has a chance of buying it back again—for \$15,000.

Easy Way Out.

"Nellie—Are you married?" "Galle—Yes, to a conductor, but I think he doesn't love me." "Well, get a transfer!"—N. Y. Times.

OUR TEETH POPULAR

AMERICAN MADE GRINDERS SENT ALL OVER WORLD.

Largest Plant Manufacturing Them Is in Philadelphia—Interesting Details of the Business.

"If there is any gnashing of teeth going on at this present writing," remarked the facetious drummer, "you can be safe in betting the teeth are American made."

Just as America has taken the commercial lead in many other articles of manufacture that no one dreamed Uncle Sam would ever control, says the New York Tribune, so gradually teeth has forced all nations to come to this country for their dental supplies, until to-day it is no exaggeration to say that at this moment millions of jaws in Europe and Asia and Africa are masticating with the aid of the product of United States tooth factories.

In other days every dentist made his teeth in a little laboratory attached to his office. Now they are made in gigantic factories where hundreds of hands are employed. The labor is of the most skilled order, and the fine hand of woman is employed with satisfaction in shaping and finishing the gleaming dental supplies. In one of the big factories there is a capacious fireproof room in which are kept the moulds of hundreds of different kinds of teeth. Should there be a call for a particular pattern supplied by the factory years ago the mould could be got in a few minutes and the order filled with much greater celerity than if a new style were required.

When new teeth are ordered—and there are fashions in teeth, it seems—it is necessary to make a mould first. The greatest care is taken by hand workers in the preparation of these moulds, which must be shaped and tooled with the utmost precision in order that the teeth may conform to the shape and style ordered. When the mould is made it is filled with the soft composition in the mould it is placed press it into the shape of the mould. The nature of this composition, which resembles in appearance plaster of paris, is a factory secret. When the composition is in the mould it is placed in an oven to be hardened. From the oven it travels to another operator, who trims off the rough edges and shapes it into the finished tooth. Then it goes to the furnace to receive the final baking at a tremendous heat. After that the girls get in their fine work, polishing and finishing and examining for defects, for the smallest flaw in the tooth will cause discomfort when in the mouth. Some of the girls, skilled in the work, sit all day long critically examining the cards of shining teeth and discarding those that are imperfect and need further touching up.

There are faddists in teeth as in everything else. Sometimes a toothless person will order a set of teeth of the kind she has seen some one else flashing on an admiring audience. If these are artificial and the covetous one will pay the price, the dentist will make a point of basking in the gleaming smile of the possessor of the fine set of teeth, and will then order a set expressly made to match it. The task of supplying such an order is often easy, as long years of experience in moulding teeth has secured moulds of almost every kind of genuine teeth, but occasionally there are ordered what is known as "freak teeth"—teeth which have a peculiar color and a shape so different from any teeth before manufactured that it takes days of experiment with chemicals and moulds to produce anything that approaches the original.

On the other hand, men frequently want teeth to match their own tobacco stained ones. Then the coloring process has to be of the expert order so that no one may detect the presence of a false tooth in the dental display of the nicotine user. A large business is done in these tinted teeth and the art of coloring to match sample is as important in its way as the making of the teeth to match the shape of the genuine ones.

Mirrors to Help the Driver.

Drivers who are obliged to run through heavy traffic to any extent find it of considerable advantage to affix a small bit of mirror plate to the right stanchion of the canopy just above the dash so that the following traffic may be observed without turning the head. Such a device may be very simple and easily contrived, and serves to relieve the driver of considerable anxiety and twisting about in his seat when working through closely crowded streets.—Motor World.

Wireless in Germany.

The wireless methods of communication are making more rapid progress in Germany than elsewhere. A new station has been established at Oberschonweide which will place Berlin and Dresden in communication over a distance of 111 miles. Several other stations already exist. There are reports of a project for installing at Nordreich a wireless system of long distance telephoning.

Dogs Lost in London.

There were 3,464 dogs received at the Home for Lost Dogs, Battersea Park road, S. W. during the last month. The total admissions during 1906 were 26,047, as compared with 25,197 during 1904.—London Express.

LARGE CHUNKS OF COPPER

Remarkable Discoveries of Great Masses of Rich Ore Recently Made.

An enormous mass of pure native copper is being uncovered at a mine in Ontonagon county. The big chunk lies in the tenth level at a point about 1,000 feet from one of the principal shafts. Several large pieces have already been cut from it, and these, with the remainder of the mass so exposed, weigh fully 30 tons.

How much more there is of the big chunk is a matter of conjecture, says the St. Paul Dispatch, but from all indications the aggregate weight of the mass will be found to run 50 or even more tons. Masses of copper are encountered so regularly that one of several tons excites no comment. It is only when one of unusual size is located that it is deemed worthy of notice.

Large as this mass will doubtless prove, however, it will be a pigmy compared with the famous mass found in the Michigan, then known as the Minnesota, in 1865. This was 12 1/2 by 18 1/2 by 45 feet in size and weighed 527 tons. It required 20 men working 15 months with long-handled chisels to cut this mass into pieces small enough for hoisting, and 27 tons of copper chips were made in doing this work.

Countless small masses, some of which, however, weighed several hundred tons, were taken from this mine, and there is no question that it deserves the title of the richest copper mine ever opened. The Calumet and Hecla is a far more valuable mine, but no other mine opened has ever yielded such enormous quantities of copper from such small openings as were furnished by the best slopes of the old Minnesota. It is interesting to note that the Minnesota mine was discovered in 1847, through finding an Indian pit in which was a six ton mass of native copper that had been broken from its matrix of rock and raised on skids.

The skills had rotted centuries before and on the soil that covered the nugget grew a hemlock tree showing nearly 400 rings of annual growth. The old company suspended operations in 1870—why, has never been satisfactorily explained—and since its reorganization in Detroit in 1899 the present company, operating under the title of the Michigan, has been engaged in developing the mine anew.

The biggest mass of copper ever discovered in the world was a 600-ton chunk found in the old Phoenix mine in Keweenaw county, the Minnesota mass ranking second. The Phoenix mass, with copper at the time selling at 30 cents per pound, was worth about \$350,000, yet it is chronicled that so inefficient were the people in control of the property that little, if any, profit was made from the magnificent find.

SALTON DESERT TALES.

The Formerly Saline and Barren Region Was Not Unproductive of Yarns.

"Wierd and wonderful are the stories which have come out of the great Salton desert in California," writes Edgar F. Howe in Technical World Magazine. "It was there, on the lower Colorado river, that 'Capt. Smith' found the lame turtle, and so won its gratitude by heating it that it returned in later years and offered its services as an animated ferry when the captain was on an island threatened with a rising flood.

"On yonder mesa, sloping upward from Volcano Springs, is the 'invisible city,' where the clangor of street car bells and all the hubbub of a metropolis can be heard, but where only the gravelly soil, the dreary mountains, and the scant, dwarfed vegetation can be seen.

"Near Superstition mountains is the spring of natural gin, where the coyote, the gray wolf, the fox and the wild fowl are on perpetual debauch; and near by is the hill from which flows natural ink. In the same vicinity is the mine of crystals which make perfect pens, and the deposit of asbestos where one can tear off sheets of blotting paper ready made.

"It was in the Superstition mountains, that Otto Schmidt, found the invisible serpents with glass cups on the tails that revolved and produced beautiful music. It was in this desert, too, that an ingenious Yankee found a group of camels, abandoned in early days by the army, and by sponging the water from their sacks, was able to irrigate a farm, while the animals piled back and forth between the river and the farm, ever keeping up the water supply.

"Now the grim valley, rendered wonderfully fertile by irrigation, is the home of 3,000 thriving people. Recently the Colorado river, breaking through its old bounds, began again to run into the valley, which it formerly occupied, but now great steel and concrete dams are being built and by May 1 the river will be forever shut out, except as it is needed for irrigation purposes."

Hydrophobia in Europe.

Hydrophobia, which has practically been stamped out in England, still flourishes in most continental countries. Germany tops the list with an annual average of 2,822 dogs and cats destroyed for this reason, while the figures of France are 2,263. In Belgium, Switzerland and Holland cases of hydrophobia are rare, the total for all three countries combined being under 50.

Extremes.

"Woman's taste runs to small shoes and large hats," remarked the observer of events and things.—Yonkers Statesman.

WELL-BORN PAUPERS

LAST OF MANY ENGLISH HOUSES IN POOR CIRCUMSTANCES.

But Few of the Present Peers Can Trace Their Descent from the Nobles of the Days of Chivalry.

It is a fact well known to all students of family history, said a genealogical expert to a writer for London Tit-Bits, that, if you want to find the "bluest blood" and the longest pedigree, you must go, not to the peerage, but to the great middle classes, and even lower, and that many a proud wearer of a duke's or an earl's coronet to-day has a pedigree which will not compare for distinction with that of some of his tradesmen or tenants. Yes, I know this is a surprising statement, but it is a sober statement of the truth.

There are very few of our present peers who can trace their descent from the great nobles of the days of chivalry or earlier. The founder of one line of marquesses was an innkeeper, of a line of earls a grazier, and so on; and many of the greatest aristocrats of our time owe their rank and wealth to the enterprise and luck of city apprentices. To quote Burke:

"Let us look back only as far as the year 1637, and we shall find the great-grandson of Margaret Plantagenet, herself the daughter and heiress of George, Duke of Clarence, following the cobbler's craft at Newport, a little town in Saropshire. Now is this the only branch from the tree of royalty that has dwarfed and withered?"

"If we were closely to investigate the fortunes of the many inheritors of the royal arms, it would soon be shown that 'the repining blood of Lancaster' flows through very humble veins. Among the lineal descendants of Edward of Woodstock, earl of Kent, sixth son of Edward I., king of England, entitled to quarter the royal arms, occur a butcher and a toll gatherer—the first a Mr. Joseph Smart of Hale-town, the latter a Mr. George Wilmot, keeper of the turnpike gate at Cooper's Bank, near Ludlow.

"Then again, among the descendants of Thomas Plantagenet, duke of Gloucester, fifth son of Edward III., we discover Mr. Stephen James Penny, the late sexton at St. George's, Hanover square—a strange descent from the sword and scepter to the spade and pickaxe."

The last head of the great Scottish house of Lindsay, and de jure earl of Crawford, died in 1744 in the capacity of ostler in an inn at Kirkwall in the Orkneys; and in four generations the descendants of Sir Richard Knaiques of Fawley (the head of one of the oldest and most distinguished families in England) and his wife, daughter of the great protector Somerset, ended as obscure London tradesmen—drapers and oil merchants—the city gait.

Sir Thomas Conyers, the head of a family which had held vast estates, owned castles and enjoyed high rank in the north of England almost from the days of the conquest, died a pauper in a Durham workhouse. A grandson of Oliver Cromwell and a kinsman of Thomas Cromwell, earl of Essex, served behind the counter in a Snow Hill shop, while one of his nieces ended her days in a workhouse, and of his great-nieces one married a butcher's son and the other a Cambridgehire shoemaker.

Among peasants and laborers, farmers and small tradesmen are many descendants of the great feudal houses of Scroppe and Grey-stoke, Neville and D'Arcy, and many another noble stock who can claim kinship with our bluest blooded peers and royal descendants, a fact, while in the pedigree of the duke of Northumberland figure farmers and haberdashers, husbandmen and paper-stainers.

Chinese Humility.

A Chinaman, wearing his finest gown of silk, called at a house where he happened to disturb a rat, which was regarding itself out of a jar of oil standing on a beam over the door. In its sudden flight the rat upset the oil over the luckless visitor, ruining his fine raiment. While the man was still pale with rage his host appeared, and after the customary greetings the visitor accounted for his appearance in this wise: "As I was entering your honorable dwelling I frightened your honorable rat; while it was trying to escape it upset your honorable jar of oil over my poor and insignificant clothing. This explains the contemptible condition in which I find myself in your honorable presence."—Chinese at Home.

Denmark's Dead Kings.

The early kings of Denmark are pillars of the church in an unusual sense. They were entombed in the Cathedral of Roskilde, which may be called the Danish Westminster Abbey, where the late King Christian was buried last month. The roof is supported by large masonry pillars, and nearly every column is the tomb of a king. The dead monarchs were walled up in them in a standing posture, and they may figuratively be said to have been holding up the church itself for centuries.—Youth's Companion.

German Staying at Home.

During the eighties of the last century Germany sent as many as 200,000 emigrants to the United States in a single year. That is ten times as many as she is sending to-day. The healthy development of German industries at home turned the tide of emigration from America to the cities, and the marvelous growth of such places as Berlin, Chemnitz, Nuremberg and others, has been the result.

AMBITION THAT COLLAPSED

Man Who Became Famous Lost All Interest in the Place of His Birth.

There was once a young man who came from a wee bit of a town, and whenever he would talk folks where he was raised they would ask him where that was, relates the Cleveland Leader. It irked the young man so that he decided his native town was such an inconspicuous place, and he said to himself:

"I will hustle around and make myself famous, and then Blink Center will get some notice, for after I have become a celebrity everybody will learn that I was born and raised there."

So for years and years he climbed the path of fame until at last his name was known in every house in the land.

And then he died, and folks talked a good deal about him, and his life was cited to the young people as an example of what persistence and industry accomplish.

At last his fame grew so lusty that it was necessary to organize a society bearing his name.

Then the society got to work and looked up his birthplace.

Did the society locate it at Blink Center?

No; for nobody at Blink Center could remember anything of such a family as his. So the brass tablet in memory of his birth was affixed to a tumble-down house in the outskirts of a city 100 miles from Blink Center.

However, it was easier for excursionists to get there than to go to Blink Center on a Jerkwater Railway.

Yet this teaches us that all is vanity and that we often cut a good deal of ice without first building an ice-house.

MINIATURE AUTOMOBILES.

Some of Bronze Designed for Ornamental Pieces Are Costly.

The automobile has been reproduced in miniature in almost innumerable forms and sizes, made of metal and of basket work and of cardboard, and designed for various uses, as for toys, for candy boxes, for flower holders and so on, or it may be solely for ornament. Many of these miniature reproductions have been accurate and elaborate in design and finish and some of them have been pretty costly.

Among reproductions of the last named sort, designed for ornamental pieces, are miniature automobiles in bronze, which may be perhaps a foot in length over all and are in appearance very realistic and striking. One, for example, shows a touring car, correct in design and proportion and worked out true in detail, supported on a low pedestal representing a bit of roadway. It is a very handsome and natural appearing little bronze auto, looking fit to step into and start up.

Another miniature auto of this sort in bronze represents a runabout moving at great speed along a road. It contains figures of two men bounding forward against the rushing wind and driving the machine for all they know how—an impressionist piece this.

Some of these miniature autos in bronze come from Paris, some from Vienna, and some of them sell for \$100 and more.

POINTING OUT DISTINCTION

Statement of Former Slave Woman Which Meant No Disrespect.

The following anecdote recently brought to Richmond by a Georgia woman is a true story, says the Baltimore Sun.

A Boston couple were recreating near Augusta and met an old negro woman to whom they took a fancy. They invited her to pay them a visit and the black woman accepted, especially as her expenses were paid. In due time she arrived in Boston and was installed in the house of the white folks. She occupied one of the best rooms and ate at the same table with her host and hostess. At one of the meals the hostess said:

"Mrs. Jones, you were a slave, weren't you?"

"Yes, marm," replied Mrs. Jones. "I belonged to Mr. Robert Howell."

"I suppose he never invited you to eat at his table," remarked the Boston woman.

"No, honey, dat he ain't," replied Mrs. Jones. "My master was a gentleman. He ain't never let no nigger set at de table long or him."

And in making this speech she meant no disrespect to her hostess. She meant merely to point out a natural distinction.

Book Not Yet Written.

No sooner does a writer deliver himself of some study of abnormal social conditions or make some pathetic exhibit of a cancerous growth on the business body of the country than he is hailed as the true interpreter of the American spirit and the most accurate photographer of American qualities. The great American novel is discovered by these critics a dozen times a year.—Cleveland Leader.

More Like History.

An enthusiastic citizen of Chicago was one day showing a visitor the wonders of the lake front. "A few years ago," said he, "the lake extended inland far beyond where we are standing. I tell you there isn't a town in the world that's making history as fast as Chicago is." "It looks to me more like making geography," replied the unemotional stranger.