

A LAKE PHENOMENA.

Singular Undulations Perceived in Island Waters.

Something Resembling Secondary Motions of Tidal Waves Perceived of Late in Lake Michigan.

A seiche is merely the secondary undulation of a tidal wave, and as tides and waves are synonymous seiches are as old as the tides.

Prof. Dawson, of the Canada tidal survey, says "science stands in much the same relation to the main tidal wave as a high octave would to a low musical note when their undulations are recorded graphically." This means that seiches are vibrations and that they follow a tidal wave, but Prof. Dawson based his conclusions on data gathered where the waves on the Bay of Fundy may have received the force from the ocean and imparted it to the waters of the harbor of St. John.

Nearly 20 years ago tides were discovered in Lake Michigan and also in Lake Superior. In 1886 what were accepted as secondary undulation or "fluctuations," as they were called, were discovered at Oswego in Lake Ontario. If these three of the chain of fresh-water lakes are subject to tides it would seem to follow that Huron and Erie are also. Then if these lakes have tides they would be pretty sure to have seiches occasionally.

There are also, in Switzerland, and several other lakes of Europe often present the same result of vibrations caused by tides as are frequently witnessed in the Bay of Fundy and in the harbor of St. John. It must be, therefore, that the "great lakes" of America have tides and that seiches are a perfectly natural and harmless consequence. It is to be regretted, as Prof. Duff says, that "not enough time has been given to studying the vibrations of larger bodies of water," but it must be remembered that the discovery of the law of vibration is of very recent date, or rather its rediscovery for it was well understood by the scientists of Asia thousands of years ago.

Prof. Duff says the seiches in the St. John harbor "could not be forced vibrations, and if not they must be free vibrations of some semi-confined body of water." Lake Michigan is a semi-confined body of water, and hence, according to Prof. Duff's theory, the seiches recently observed were intimately connected with the waters of the entire chain of lakes, except perhaps Ontario, though there is no valid reason why that body of water should be excluded. In 1876 Dr. F. A. Ford undertook a scientific investigation of the subject, and after accepting Vaucher's theory that seiches were most common in changeable weather, with low barometer, and due to merely local temperature and barometric changes caused by rifts and variations of sunshine on lakes, he added the theory that "after the disturbance of equilibrium produced by the causes" suggested by Vaucher—"the seiches are simply the subsequent vibrations of the whole lake about its equilibrium position." Dr. Ford demonstrated that "the seiche period on lakes is somewhat variable, but the mean is constant. While the water is falling at one side of the lake it is rising at the opposite side, and vice versa." The continuance of the seiche varies as the width and inversely as the square root of the depth.

The conclusion of the matter, as far as seiches on Lake Michigan are concerned, is that they are due, under the law of vibration, to rifts in the clouds and variations of sunshine on the water, which disturbs the equilibrium and creates secondary undulations. But there could be no secondary undulations without tides, nor would undulations come like measured sound waves if they were not influenced by tides of larger and of equal rhythmic motion, for Prof. Dawson says he finds that seiches come at intervals of about 40 minutes and have an amplitude "which is sometimes over a foot," and they are musical withal, giving out tones that correspond somewhat to the high octave of a pipe organ.

Naturally, the weather bureau at Chicago would make a study of the seiches on Lake Michigan, for if barometric changes caused by rifts in clouds overhanging the lake and variations of sunshine on the water are conducive to conditions favorable to seiches the subsequent effect upon the weather on shore could at least be forecast with some degree of accuracy.

Epitaphic Londoners. A propos of some lectures on London life that will be given in the English metropolis this winter, the London City Press complains: "Londoners are singularly unapologetic as far as the city that gave them birth is concerned. A Liverpudlian or a Manchester man is proud of the fact that he is a citizen of no mean city, whereas a Londoner born and bred is as a rule utterly indifferent to the traditions he inherits and to the glorious past he is able as a citizen to contemplate."—N. Y. Sun.

Portly Drug Clerk Not Wanted. A druggist of St. Louis advertised for "a thin drug clerk, with a mustache." On being asked why he required these extraordinary qualifications in a clerk the druggist said that a young man thus qualified nearly always proved a hustler in selling soda water and that smooth-faced, complacent clerks did not seem to be able to attract thirsty patrons.—Chicago Chronicle.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

"What is the best thing to put in pie?" "Apples or peaches." "No—your teeth."—St. Louis Republic.

Taking Risks—Townson—"Is your daughter a finished musician?" York-road. "Not yet, but the neighbors are making threats."—Baltimore American.

"If I get the office," says a political aspirant, "I guarantee to perform his duties faithfully, and to stay in it until it pleases Providence to call me higher."—Atlanta Constitution.

Hoax—"Horrover gets a lot of credit for the way he keeps his family dressed." Joax—"Yes; they tell me there's two or three collectors at the house every day."—Philadelphia Record.

"Fine patriotic fellow, that Watkins! When he heard of the Chinese war he cut off the heads of all his prize chickens." "What had they to do with it?" "They were Shauginis."—Buffalo News.

Miss Yellowleaf (con't)—"I never saw anyone so foolish as Mr. Sophie when he's alone with a girl." Miss Peppery—"Alone with a girl. How could you ever see him under such circumstances."—Philadelphia Press.

First Citizen—"Mike 4/Conologue says he has got you fixed sure for Tim Murphy." Second Citizen—"He's a liar. No man can control my vote. Besides, Cony O'Shane's committee have promised me a fine job with no work in it if I vote for Cony."—Boston Transcript.

Coming in on the train the other day was a family with a little, nervous mother and a flock of children. As we neared Boston the mother began to question if everything was all right. "These you got all the umbrellas, Johnny?" "I should say I had. I had four when I started, and now I've got six!"—Boston Beacon.

NEW POSTAL CHECK SYSTEM.

Its Introduction Is Viewed With Favor by Many of the Post Office Attaches.

The proposal to use "post check" money as a convenient method of making payments through the mails is received with much favor by officials of the postal department. The simplicity of the system commends itself to them, and they believe that it would prove popular with the public. Advocates of the post check money declare that it would almost do away with the present money order system. Such a prospect is not viewed with displeasure by officials, for the money order service has not only proven cumbersome, but it has been run at a loss to the government, says the Washington Times.

The post check money plan would involve a reissue of all the paper currency now issued by the government in denominations of ten dollars or less. It would provide for having blanks left on the face of each note, in which the name and the address of the payee could be filled. So long as these blanks were left vacant the bill would be merely an ordinary piece of currency, payable to the bearer. Suppose, however, that a person wished to send five dollars through the mails in payment of some bill. By taking one of the five-dollar notes from his pocket and filling the blanks with the name and address of the payee he would convert it into a check on the treasury of the United States. By way of paying the fee for the service it is proposed that the sender be required to affix to the check a two-cent postage stamp, and cancel it in the same way that internal revenue stamps are canceled. The note, transformed into a check, could then be sent by letter to its destination. The receiver, by taking it to the nearest post office, could get it cashed at par. The check would be payable to no one but the person named on it, or his order, and postmasters would require identification in the same way that they now require it from persons presenting money orders. After having been paid the note would be destroyed by the government, which would be authorized to reissue a new one in the same fashion as is in vogue for reissuing mutilated currency.

The scheme is proposed as a decided convenience to all classes of people. The notes would circulate from hand to hand as freely as they do at present until needed for making a payment by mail. Then, by filling in the name of the addressee, the bill becomes a check payable only to the proper person or his order.

The system was invented by C. W. Post, a Battle Creek (Mich.) man, who has been widely identified with grain foods. He secured the introduction of a bill in congress during the last days of the past session, but it was not put through, and in fact received little attention.

Automobiles for Yellowstone Park.

A Yellowstone park correspondent of the Boston Transcript writes that the owner of a system of permanent camps there is considering a plan for utilizing the automobile in place of the coaches which now make the rounds of the park. He claims that its use would greatly lessen the volume of dust, which in dry weather is a drawback to tourists' enjoyment, and that it will appeal to those who have only time or the money to follow the official schedule of dates, since by permitting greater speed between stations they will have more time to devote to spots of special interest. At one time an electric road through the park was talked of, but as nothing has come of it, and as the automobile can be introduced with less expense and trouble, it is not unlikely the coaches may yet be displaced with, especially as the volume of travel through the park is continually increasing.

QUEER LAWYER IN JERSEY.

Man Who Collects from Unyielding Debtors by the Aid of Humble Bees.

Painted on the floor of a room over a blacksmith's shop on a road leading into Jutland, N. J., is this sign:

ZEDIE AMBERG, ESQ.
Bumble-Bee Lawyer.
NO COURTS NEEDED.
ALWAYS GET WHAT I GO FOR.

Mr. Amberg's office is one story above the ground. In lieu of steps there is an incline of planks so steep that one unaccustomed to it must retire about 20 yards, brace himself and run for it. Mr. Amberg is a big man with a mass of bushy white hair and a luxuriant growth of whiskers which reach up to his ears, says an eastern exchange.

Mr. Amberg stroked his beard as he explained his use of the bees as a persuader with delinquent debtors. "I have been doing business as a collector in this region for many years, and have had but little trouble until the mines hereabouts were filled up with foreigners.

"Collections then began to get harder, and I wanted some new method. Most of my collections are among the miners who get ore for the smelters of West Portal, Bloomsburg and Glen Gardner. These people will buy almost anything that's offered if they can only get it on credit, but having secured it they are loath to pay for it. You can see that ordinary legal procedure would have no effect with them.

"About five years ago I observed that these people had an odd superstition about bumble-bees, especially the white-headed female bees, which cannot sting. They believe that these bees are the advance agent of bad luck, and when they enter a dwelling it is the signal for the inmates to depart. One day I gathered a few dozen bees, and putting them in a bottle, went to the mines on my collecting tour. I tried ten or more places, but couldn't collect a cent. So at the next house I took out my bottle and allowed some of the bees to escape. The effect was magical. The old woman became excited and ran to the door, calling out to the men.

"There was a jabbering in queer tongues and their arms swung like the sails of a windmill. I was pointing to a bill for a \$4.50 clock. The men went down into their pockets and the old woman searched in an old stocking, and when I left I was jingling the coin in dimes and pennies in the left-hand pocket of my jeans."

The old man chuckled softly: "And that's the way of it—no trouble to collect with the bees."

POPULATION OF THE CAPITALS

A Decrease, as at Albany, New York, Since the Last Census Not the Rule.

The population of the capital cities of two states, New York and Nebraska, is less at present, according to the census reports, than ten years ago, says the New York Sun. Albany's present population, 94,000, shows a decline of 775 compared with 1890 and Lincoln's present population, 46,000, shows a decline of 14,985. This fact has suggested that state capitals throughout the United States may have declined in population—such is not the case. Thus Providence, the capital of Rhode Island, has gained 33 per cent. in population during the last ten years. Hartford, Conn., has increased from 53,000 to nearly 80,000, or 50 per cent.; Trenton, N. J., has increased from 57,000 to 73,000, a gain of 27 per cent., and Columbus, O., increased from 52,000 to 125,000, a gain of 42 per cent.

In fact, considering that the capitals of American states have been fixed chiefly with reference to their geographical situation and without reference to their facilities for business communication with other places, it is cause for surprise that American capitals should show so large an increase this year. Thus Indianapolis, the capital of Indiana, almost exclusively dependent upon railroad connections, has increased from 163,000 to nearly 170,000 population in ten years, a gain of more than 50 per cent., and 6 per cent. greater than Chicago's increase, 14 per cent. greater than Cleveland's and 50 per cent. greater than Cincinnati's. Des Moines, the capital of Iowa, has increased in ten years 24 per cent. in population. Harrisburg, the capital of Pennsylvania, has increased 50 per cent. Denver, the capital of Colorado, shows a gain of 25 per cent.; St. Paul, Minn., a gain of 23 per cent.; Salt Lake City, Utah, of 19 per cent.; Richmond and Nashville, the capitals of Virginia and Tennessee, show a considerable gain in population, and Topeka, the capital of Kansas, shows eight per cent. increase, though census figures indicate some falling off in the population of that state. Trenton, the capital of New Jersey, has gained more proportionately during the last ten years than Jersey City.

Signs of an Industrial Crisis.

United States Consul, Hanauer writes from Frankfurt, Germany: "All signs point toward a crisis in industrial and financial lines, which may occur before two years have passed. Any political disturbance of note may bring on the crisis suddenly and without warning. Failures have already begun in the building trade. The German papers speak in alarming tones of the sad position of the textile industry. Late statistics of the Gera district show 6,022 looms idle out of a total of 11,825. The weavers still employed there earn but eight to ten marks (\$1.90 to \$2.13) per week. Shares of industrial companies have already commenced to decline, though the reports of their operations promise for this year large dividends."

MINERS' BOLD DASH.

Nervy Exploit of Two Black Hills Gold Diggers.

By an Exceedingly Risky Recourse to Save the Fruits of Their Toil from Robbers Who Had the Drop on Them.

It was talk of the lone highwayman and the Burlington hold-up that started a group of men in one of the downtown hotels one night to telling stories where nerve and fearlessness had won out in many a scrimmage for life. An old, grizzled, yet still sturdy man, who had been sitting back in his chair, tipped at a perilous angle, brought down his flat with a bang that startled the crowd. No one had noticed him particularly, but he had apparently been listening with much interest to all that was being said, says the Kansas City Journal.

His clothes were rough, but he had an air of honesty and good will about him that was rather prepossessing, in spite of eyes which glowed in rekindled interest from the depths of overshadowing bushy eyebrows.

When he saw that he was the object of observation he began in a drawing reminiscent voice, as if he had a night in which to tell his story of some of his own experiences in hold-ups. He said he had only been in Denver a few days, and had come down from the Black Hills, and among other things he told something of the McCurdy brothers of Pactola, two wealthy bachelors who own acres of very rich placer ground up in that country.

Not long ago an attempt was made to kill and rob them. It was generally known that they had quantities of gold dust hidden away in their cabin, and it naturally excited the cupidity of the rough element of the country.

"One night," said the old man, "two men called at the cabin and were admitted by the two brothers, who are great entertainers at all times. After sitting awhile, at a signal each visitor drew a revolver and covered the brothers. Very coolly James, the elder, asked what was wanted. He was told that they would have to give up their gold, which the visitors knew was hidden in the house. James said he would be glad to oblige them, and that if they would come with him he would find it."

James started downstairs through a back way, one of the robbers following him with a cocked revolver close to his back.

"The brothers had been building a new addition to the cabin, which was not yet completed. With one bound James cleared a window in the new part, and gaining the outside, made a dash for the cabin again. Bursting in, with a great noise, he grabbed his trusty rifle, and at the same instant his brother got his weapon, and the tables were immediately turned. The robber who had followed James downstairs escaped, but was afterward captured. The brothers soon had the other robber bound, and the next day he was taken to Hill City, where he was put in jail. He was tried and sentenced to a long term in the state penitentiary. He turned state's evidence and gave away the name of his partner, who was also sent to the pen."

"At the time of the robbery it is said that the brothers had as much as \$10,000 in gold hidden away in their cabin. The brothers say that they have enough gold in their placer to pay the national debt."

GOT SOME ENGLISH TRADE.

During the South African War the United States Have Profited Considerably.

In this practical world there is nothing quite so great as a great opportunity, says the Saturday Evening Post.

During the past 12 months much has occurred in England. More than 200,000 troops, the flower of British manhood, have been chasing Boers in South Africa and have been causing the government to spend millions of dollars a day and to lay the hand of taxation heavily upon the people. With the absence of part of England's working force and with the presence of the financial problem the sharp-witted American saw his chance. This has happened not only in regard to the transportation problem in London, not only in respect to the charters for trolley lines in the other cities of England, Scotland and Wales, but also in respect to the building of large industries on American plans and the profitable employment of American capital.

England made millions out of our civil war and did not lose anything in our war with Spain. Now it is the turn of the United States.

In round numbers, we are now sending from our shores \$4,000,000 worth of exports every day. Of this over \$1,000,000 per day is in manufacturing goods.

THE COST OF WAR.

Enormous Sums for England to Pay for the South African Campaign.

Recently some interesting data have been published regarding the transportation of troops, horses and material to South Africa, based on official reports, says the New York Sun.

Between October 20 and June 9 274 transports left England for the seat of war, carrying on board 188,141 men, 36,332 horses, 409 guns and 1,951 wagons. Moreover, about 34,000 horses came from Australia, Argentina and New Orleans, and 10,000 were brought by the colonial troops. Finally, some 75,000 mules were shipped from the United States, Italy, India and Spain, making a total of 150,000 animals. The average price of those purchased abroad was \$77 for horses and \$67 for mules. The cost of transporting the troops was about \$70,000,000.

For the hospital service there were 11 general hospitals, five permanent hospitals and 27 field hospitals, besides 18 bearer companies, with a personnel of 470 military surgeons, 360 civil surgeons, 539 nurses, 3,500 men of the hospital corps, 500 volunteers, 1,200 men of the St. John ambulance corps, and 130 men of the militia ambulance corps. Finally, two hospital trains and four hospital ships were sent out from England.

Between October 6 and April 28, 779 ships, of a total tonnage capacity of 293,744 tons, were chartered for carrying ammunition and supplies, and about 150,000 tons of meat, coal, fodder, etc., were shipped from England and foreign ports.

For the postal service 579 telegraphers and 3,300 postal officials were required for the enormous mail, which, for example, on one day (May 19) amounted to 313,461 letters and 131,508 newspaper packages. Finally, up to the end of May, the transports had brought back to England 11,343 sick officers and men.

TREASURES OF THE SEA.

A Class of Fishermen Who Make Valuable Hauls from Wrecked Vessels.

There still exists on our coasts a class of men known as "hottellers," or swipers—a modernized survival of the old wrecker fraternity—that earns a livelihood by the recovery of wreckage. During the summer months of last year upward of 140 tons of anchors and chains were dragged from the bed of the sea in the Downs and Yarmouth roads alone. The hardy fishermen of the North sea frequently make valuable hauls in the shape of derelict or distressed vessels, or of sunken goods that become entangled in their fishing gear, says the London Express.

A few months ago a large vessel carrying a general cargo grounded and became waterlogged on a sand bank off the east coast. In a few hours a host of fishing boats of various nationalities gathered, vulture-like, from a previously deserted sea. Feeling ran so high over the looting that followed that a gunboat had to be dispatched to the scene to preserve order.

Tons of fish were returned to the sea and replaced by pianos, cases of candles, toys and ironware and the varied collection of goods that constitute a ship's cargo and outfit, until the Trinity house authorities, recognizing that the wreck was dangerous to navigation, exercised their prerogative by warning off the spotters and themselves taking charge.

WILL NOT KNOW THE BRAND.

Champagne Drinkers at New York Gatherings to Be Kept in Ignorance.

A fashion that is finding greater acceptance every day in New York is likely to be the despair of the champagne agents, reports the New York Sun. Many of the hostesses who entertain more frequently and elaborately now see that the labels are washed from the champagne bottles. This leaves the guests in ignorance of the kind of champagne they are drinking. As a champagne bottle is very likely at a private dinner to be wrapped in a napkin the necessity of this precaution to conceal the brand is not always apparent. It is imitation of a habit that has prevailed abroad for some time, and probably derives the vogue from that fact. In houses of the London nobility and at all the court functions at Windsor or any of the palaces the labels of the champagne bottles are removed in order that this person may be able to say that this brand of wine or the other is drunk there. Champagne agents may well fear the introduction of such a fashion on here, although some of them are so frequently in the houses of their clients that they can explain what the brand is if other means of discovery be lacking.

Growth of the Oyster.

It requires a great deal of patience to cultivate the oyster, says the New York Sun. It takes about five years being necessary for them to reach maturity. The oyster deposits its eggs in the open sea, thousands and thousands of them in a season. Only about one out of 1,000,000 ever reaches maturity, and these have to be carefully watched during the first stages or they will be lost.

She Wanted Proof of Valor.

An English woman said the other day to her sewing woman, whose husband is in the South African army: "Well, darling, you must be glad to think your husband will soon be with you again." "I don't know," said the woman. "I don't want him back yet. I don't want him back till he's covered with glory—an eye out, or something like that."

"MOSQUITO MALARIA"

Investigations Completed in London Reveal Danger.

Parasite of the Fever Transmitted by a Particular Species of Mosquito—Healthy Persons After Being Bitten Stricken Ill.

"Mosquito malaria" is now monopolizing the attention of British medical men. Investigations completed in London, in which healthy persons allowed themselves to be bitten by insects shipped from Rome, and were promptly stricken with malaria in its most violent form, have demonstrated that a malarial parasite is transmitted by a particular species of mosquito.

Dr. Patrick Manson, the medical adviser of the colonial office, who was the projector of the theory, pointed out in an interview that America has an immediate and vital interest in the mosquito problem. He asserts that in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, as well as in many of the southern states, there exist tropical conditions peculiarly conducive to the inception and growth of malarial diseases. He adds that unless the American government employ heroic measures the danger will become as infectious as in its native regions in Africa.

"In fact," he said, "America has now to grapple with an evil which has baffled the authorities in England's tropical possessions. The evil cannot be eradicated by radical measures. There must be a positive campaign against malaria-breeding conditions, and fame and fortune awaits the man who will devise either machinery or a system of disinfection which will spell death for the mosquitoes."

Dr. Manson suggests that America's educational system, which is in some respects in advance of British ideas, ought properly to include a course in elementary hygiene. He says students should be taught the rudimentary principle that parasites flourish wherever stagnant water is permitted to accumulate, and thus children would grow up with the knowledge firmly rooted in their minds that dangerous consequences are sure to follow the neglect of such simple conditions of health.

LEITER WINS FROM SHEEDY.

Chicagoan Is Said to Be \$25,000 Ahead After a Poker Game in Paris.

Joe Leiter, of Chicago, and Pat Sheedy, formerly of Chicago, met in a game of poker a day or two ago at Paris. A mutual friend introduced them on the boulevard. There was some talk of cards and a recital of how young Mr. Leiter won \$90,000 on a pair of sevens last winter in New York at the Waldorf-Astoria. "I guess I can do you," remarked Sheedy. The pair agreed to meet for blood in the evening. "Say, Pat," said young Leiter, "I'm going to bring \$50,000."

"All right," laughed Sheedy, "I'm only going to draw \$25,000—that's enough to bring your \$50,000 my way."

The play lasted for eight hours. For three hours everything came Sheedy's way. At midnight he was \$12,000 ahead. In the small hours luck changed and he lost so rapidly that his nerve went all to pieces. When they quit Leiter had won all of Sheedy's \$25,000.

COURTS BRIDE SIXTY YEARS.

An Aged Tennessee Couple Conclude to Wed Before They Die.

After a courtship of 60 years, which both the wooing record of Tennessee, Elijah Hatcher, 82 years old, and Miss Mary McAtney, two years his junior, were quietly married near Maryland the other day. The bride and groom declined any elaborate preparations, although their friends and relatives desired to make the occasion a festive one. Why the courtship, which was commenced before the Mexican war, was of such duration both Mr. and Mrs. Hatcher declined to state. They simply remarked that they were growing old and thought they had better marry before they died.

Prince on a Locomotive.

On a recent journey from Salzburg to Munich the prince of Bulgaria took his stand on the footplate of the engine and drove the train himself. He made the engine driver a present of 60 francs and the fireman one of 30 francs. In a letter from the administration of the Bavarian railways to the Bulgarian court it was pointed out that the acceptance of these gifts was against the rules of the service and that, further, the engine driver had no right to permit a stranger on the train. It was added, was also to blame for not having drawn the attention of the prince to this regulation.

Chasing Dull Care Away.

The New York man who experimented on his face with a chemical preparation warranted to remove the beard without a razor has acquired some information of the action of certain acids on the human cuticle which will be of advantage to other adventurers as well as himself. This would be a dull world, indeed, says the Chicago Chronicle, if nobody had any curiosity and everybody had sense.

A Thinner Shot.

A man was killed in a French duel a few days ago, and the Chicago Times-Herald thinks the other fellow's gun probably went off half-cocked.