

## VALUABLE POINTERS.

Furnished to Americans by Our Consuls in Foreign Countries.

Keep Merchants and Manufacturers in This Country Informed Regarding Conditions and Needs in Markets Abroad.

Not one of the least of the many duties of the consuls of the United States in foreign countries is to frequently supply through the state department information that will tend to advance the interests of the American manufacturer and merchant abroad. If in his judgment he sees a good opening for the introduction of American made goods in the city or country where he is located he informs the government to that effect. He studies conditions and needs and often makes valuable suggestions for the adoption of American goods to those peculiar needs and conditions, and thus renders readily salable what would otherwise be a drug on the market. The ways in which he can make himself of real service to American interests are almost innumerable. We give below a few reports and suggestions just received by the state department from some of our consuls:

Consul Monaghan at Chemnitz has informed the state department that Germany is steadily increasing her trade with Mexico and that for 1896 it amounted to more than in 1895, when it was 16,300,000 marks. The goods Germany mainly sends to Mexico are textiles, iron wares, china, glassware and machinery. The consul says that now the silver coins have been bridged over successfully all kinds of enterprises are being started in the republic, including mining, railroads, breweries, sugar refineries, etc.

Consul O'Hara at San Juan del Norte has sent to the state department a long report of the sale of bicycles, typewriters and other articles in Nicaragua. He says that no wooden rims are used on bicycles there on account of the weather, also that the roads are not very good for wheeling. Spanish-American women have not as yet taken to the wheel. He thinks with active agents sales of machines could be pushed. Typewriters are not in very general use.

A report has been received at the state department showing to what extent the weaving industry has been followed in Japan. In 1896 there were 949,123 looms with 1,042,866 persons engaged of whom 95% were women and girls. The value of the textile product for the year was \$96,187,235 made up in part as follows: Silk textiles, \$46,431,401; silk and cotton mixed, \$10,281,272; cotton, \$37,083,757, and hemp, \$2,021,467.

Consul Morris at Ghent, Belgium, has reported to the state department that a new system has been discovered for retting flax so as to destroy the microbes which are injurious to the cellulose matter in the flax. It is by a process of heating and further experiments to perfect the system are being made.

Consul Atwell reports to the state department from Roubaix, France, that there is a good market throughout northern France for California dried fruits, particularly prunes, dried peaches, raisins and candied fruit.

## FAMINE THREATENS IRELAND.

Failure of Potato and Other Crops Causes Serious Outlook.

Lamentable reports continue to pour in to London from all parts of Ireland of the havoc already wrought among the crops, and as the weather still is most unpropitious all hope of saving the remnant of the harvest is fast fading away.

The English press is beginning now to realize the situation, though it is maintaining its gravity.

The St. James Gazette says:

"The potato has failed everywhere and there is something to excuse the alarming language of those who are beginning to talk about a great famine, but distress on that scale is no more likely than another invasion by barbarians. Yet there will be a measure of suffering in Ireland, real if less terrible than that which the professional agitator is beginning to predict."

The "professional agitator" has made no prediction in the present instance. The cry has come from the people all over the country. English tourists are writing to the press describing the ruined harvest they have everywhere seen.

## A LUCKY STRIKE.

Parties Boring for Water in New Mexico Find a Gold Mine.

Capt. J. H. Hutchinson has arrived at Santa Fe, N. M., from Golden, South Santa Fe county, and reports a remarkable gold discovery on government land one and a half miles east of that place. Michael Harold, of Pittsburgh, Pa., while sinking a tubular well to supply water for the placer operations of the Monte Cristo Mining company, of Kansas City, struck at a depth of 350 feet a ledge of white quartz 50 feet in thickness that shows free gold in large quantities. Some of the nuggets are as large as grains of wheat. The discovery has created a furor in mining and business circles there. Working shafts will be sunk at once, and other holes will be sunk to ascertain if it is a blanket lead. If such should prove the case, the discovery promises to be one of the most notable gold finds in the history of the west.

## THE ROUND TABLE A MYTH.

The story of King Arthur and his round table is a myth, although what purports to be the round table is still to be seen in a south of England town.

## French Criminoality.

Crimininity in France has tripled in 20 years, with but slight increase in population.

## PREACHER'S AWFUL SIN.

Galesburg Church Rent in Twain by Minister Who Smokes.

Tobacco has been the cause of a church split in Galesburg, Ill., which has absorbed public interest. The controversy arose in the Presbyterian church of that city, one of the largest, wealthiest and most influential church organizations in the locality.

Last Sunday a candidate for the vacant pastorate in the church appeared in the person of Rev. Hamilton W. Spence, of Grand Forks, N. D. His eloquent discourse pleased many and he was deemed a most likely candidate.

But there were objectors, as there always are. One of these by chance discovered that Rev. Mr. Spence was addicted to the use of tobacco.

Grasping this horrible suspicion, he proceeded to circulate a petition, which was signed by many of the church members, asking the reverend candidate to state his views on the tobacco question, which he frankly did, admitting his love for a social cigar, though disclaiming being a slave to the habit. Triumph was the reward of the enemies of nicotine.

But this was not the end. The session of the church, its governing body, felt that the action of the petitioners had been hasty and that their minister guest had been insulted by the unauthorized investigation into his habits.

They held a meeting and passed vigorous resolutions denouncing the meddling of the petitioners and asking the preacher's pardon of the courtesy.

This has but served to fan the flames of dissension, and the great church body is now divided into two parts on the all-absorbing question of the moral standing of tobacco users.

## GOLD IN SOUTH SEA.

Formidable Expedition Leaves San Francisco for Solomon Group.

A gold-hunting expedition, regarding which considerable secrecy was maintained, left the city on Friday for the South Sea islands, where, in the Solomon group, are said to lie almost inexhaustible mines of gold quartz. The schooner Sophia Sutherland, in charge of the South Sea Commercial company, is the vessel which is to seek the treasure.

Capt. Alexander MacLean, who conducted piratical raids on the Gilbert islands and who was one of the boldest raiders of the Pribilof seal islands several years ago, is in command. He has gathered around him a galaxy of gun fighters who will shoot at the drop of the hat and who, in addition to the arms and ammunition carried in the schooner's outfit, are individually armed to the teeth.

For years the cupidity of traders to the Solomon islands has been excited by the display of crude gold ornaments worn by the natives of these islands. Several expeditions have endeavored to land on the islands to find the source of the gold worn by the natives, but hostile demonstrations have driven the gold seekers away.

The Sophia Sutherland is provisioned for 18 months. While some of the party are engaged in extracting gold from the Solomon island mountains others will devote their attention to fishing for pearl oysters. Two expert divers accompanied the expedition.

## NOT EMPOWERED TO BUY.

Naval Board in Receipt of Many Offers of Armor Plate Plants.

The naval board appointed to inquire into the question of establishing a government factory for the manufacture of armor met at the navy department the other day, and, with reference to the many offers of plants and sites, decided that its orders gave it nothing whatever to do with the selection of a site or the purchase of a plant.

A member of the board said that if the Carnegie company offered its plant for one dollar it would not be within the scope of the board's work to consider the offer. At the same time, all tenders are being courteously acknowledged and all information asked on the matter is furnished. The board will confine its work strictly to the points specified in the instructions from Acting Secretary Roosevelt of ascertaining what steps are necessary to establish a government armor factory of sufficient capacity to meet probable requirements of the land, buildings and machinery necessary, together with the board's opinions on the advisability and cost of establishing a complete plant, and will frame a form of advertisement for proposals for a plant.

## POLECATS INTERRUPT WEDDING.

Unpleasant Little Animals Appear at an Inopportune Time in Alabama.

A wedding ceremony was rudely interrupted near Andalusia, Covington county, Ala., the other night at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Brown, prominent residents of that neighborhood.

The ceremony was to have been performed in a large parlor, back of which was a dining-room, where huge tables were loaded with good things to eat. On account of the mild weather all doors and windows were open. Most of the guests had assembled and the preacher had just arrived when the party became conscious of a very pungent odor issuing from the dining-room. A moment later two polecats, which had been secreted under the festal board, becoming frightened by the entrance of servants, dashed into the parlor among the guests, scattering the odor as they came.

War was declared on them and they were promptly dispatched, but the house had meanwhile become untenable and the guests went to the village church, where Dr. Brown's daughter became the wife of Thomas Meadows, a young farmer.

The feast was postponed to some future day.

## AFTER TWENTY-ONE YEARS.

Woman Waits That Length of Time for the Man She Loved.

F. P. Nice, a merchant of Arcata, Calif., just married an Ohio girl to whom he has been engaged for 21 years. Nearly a quarter of a century ago Mr. Nice went east. Returning through the village of Lancaster, he alighted from the train to converse with acquaintances on the station platform. His friends introduced him to Miss Rancke, then school girl. A mutual attachment was formed and correspondence resulted from the few minutes of conversation at the station.

The two became engaged, but adverse circumstances kept them thousands of miles apart until a few days ago.

## ANDORRA.

In Sweden, if you address the poorest person on the street, you must tip your hat. The same courtesy is insisted upon if you pass a lady on the stairway. To enter a reading-room or a bank with one's hat on is regarded as impolite.

## ANCIENT ROMAN WOMEN.

A Roman woman in full dress in A. D. 300 wore bracelets from wrist to shoulder, gold bands on her ankles, and a ring on every finger and on every toe.

## BRIER ROOT.

The best briar root, from which pipes are made, comes from France and Italy.

## ATTACKED BY A CATAMOUNT.

Animal Killed Just in Time to Save a Boy's Life.

Tom Morris and Fred Allen, while hunting in the Bee creek bottoms, three miles northwest of Carey, Kan., killed the first catamount which has been seen in Montgomery county for ten years. The adventure came near costing Allen his life.

The boys left the city early in the morning in search of squirrels which abound in great numbers in the heavy timber skirting Bee creek. Morris was armed with a 32-caliber rifle, while Allen carried a No. 16 shotgun. They reached Bee creek about one o'clock and immediately separated, Morris going on one side and Allen the other. They had gone but a short distance when Allen came upon the catamount stretched out at full length on the limb of a tree, and, calling Morris to his assistance, Allen pulled up his gun (which was loaded with small-sized squirrel shot), and blazed away at the sleeping animal. The big cat, which was hurt enough by the shot to be thoroughly enraged, sprang upon Allen with a savage growl and pinned him to the ground. After tearing nearly all the clothes from Allen's body the cat picked him up and shook him as a terrier would a rat. It was at this time that Morris, who had been attracted thither by Allen's screams, appeared on the scene. Dropping to his knees, he took aim at a spot over the catamount's heart and fired. The animal loosened his hold on Allen, leaped into the air and fell back dead. It was the largest cat ever killed in that section. Allen, although badly lacerated about the shoulders and arms, will probably recover.

## MARCHÉ MONÉTAIRE.

Monnaie des Etats-Unis de l'Amérique du Nord.

Papier exceptionnel..... 795

do. A1..... 98

Prix des papier monétaires..... 795

do. 1/2..... 98

Papier hypothécaire..... 795

Monnaie américaine et étrangère..... 795

do. billets de Banque..... 795

MONNAIE FRANÇAISE.

Souveraine Victoria..... 83 500 90

do. 2 francs..... 83 500 90

Doublon espagnol..... 83 500 15 00

do. 1 franc..... 83 500 15 00

Argent américain, piastre..... 97 097 40

do. 1/2..... 98

do. 1/4..... 98

do. 1/10..... 98

do. 1/20..... 98

do. 1/50..... 98

do. 1/100..... 98

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