

TO RECLAIM THE LAND.

Work is Proposed in a Plan to Reclaim Submerged California Estates Profitably.

Application of the Dutch method of diking has resulted in the reclamation of about 30,000 acres of low-lying ground in the basin of the Sacramento river, California, below the city of Sacramento, while work is in progress to protect 20,000 more acres from the incursions of the last 15 or 16 years.

IDENTIFICATION OF JEWELRY.

Jewelers Have a Method of Numbering and Registering That Is of Lasting Value.

In these days of frequent robberies it is well to adopt some method of identification more sure than that of a simple recognition of one's own jewels.

The best method is the jeweler's method. Every piece of jewelry they own is marked with an identification number.

Whenever an article of jewelry is repaired this number, with its repair registry number, is entered on the repair book wherever it is left.

RARE OLD PLANTS.

Some That Have Disappeared for Centuries Have Been Revived by Chance.

Some 25 years ago, when the scorice (or slag) produced by the ancient Greeks in working the silver mines of Laurium, near Athens, was removed, in order to be reworked by more efficient modern appliances, the seeds of a kind of poppy of the genus Glanconium, which had lain underneath the slag in a dormant condition for at least 1,500 years, sprang up again all over the uncovered ground.

NUDE TWENTY YEARS.

Awful Penance Self-Inflicted by a Ute Indian Who Killed His Mother.

H. P. Myton, United States Indian agent at White Rocks, Utah, has among the Ute Indians on his reservation a man who for 20 years has done awful penance to atone for the accidental killing of his mother, but who, in spite of what he has passed through, thinks that he has not yet suffered sufficiently for his transgression.

The killing was entirely accidental, and the tribe held the Indian blameless and did not punish him.

When his first burst of grief was over he imposed a harsh sentence upon himself. He made a solemn vow that for the rest of his life he would not wear clothing or enter a house, tepee, or other dwelling.

For more than 20 years the redskin has kept his word. He sleeps in the open air, with a piece of old blanket about three feet square hung over him on some sticks. He is entirely nude.

Herings.

More herings are eaten than any other kind of fish.

THIS CAT REFUSED TO DIE.

How an Intelligent Pussy Put a Stop to a University Professor's Demonstration.

Students of one of the big universities in this city have a cat that has utterly refused to become a martyr to science. Its history is another instance of the refining and elevating influence of science, says the Chicago Times-Herald.

Prof. Blank asked J. P. Morgan, the janitor to get a cat for him, as he wished to illustrate his lecture on "Respiration" by experiments upon the animal. Mr. Morgan succeeded in getting one with the aid of some small boys.

Several subsequent attempts to carry on the experiments were all ineffectual, for as soon as the glass cover was put over her and she felt the removal of the air the cat would put her feet over the pipe and keep them pressed there.

The students, struck by the remarkable intelligence shown by the cat, asked the professor to liberate the animal and loudly cheered her self-possession when the cat, after coolly cleaning herself and smoothing her ruffled fur, jumped down and rubbed against the legs of the students sitting on the front bench.

PLEA FOR THE CODFISH.

A Chief Cook Says This Fish Is Not Appreciated at Its Real Worth.

"If codfish cost a dollar a pound," said the chef, "it would be more universally beloved. I tell you, it is the best dinner fish known. I have tried the whitefish all over the world, but the codfish is king of them all and is not appreciated at his real worth.

"Let me tell you that when you make fishcakes you should not drown out the fish with potato. Put as little potato or other substance in the cakes as possible, and, if you want them as fine as they can be made, wrap them in a blanket of eggs and do not be sparing of the egg.

"If you cannot make out a jewelry description list yourself, your jeweler will fill out the registry for you. Your chances of recovery in case of robbery are greatly increased.

SHEEP FOUND IN ALASKA.

Flesh Said to Be the Most Delicious of All Wild Game and Is Much Sought.

This rare wild white sheep is found nowhere in the world but Alaska, and few specimens for mounting whole have ever been obtained, says a writer in Outing. This species, named ovis dalli by Prof. Dall, differs from its cousin, the Rocky mountain big horn (ovis montana) in color, ovis montana being a dull brown in midsummer, changing to a grayish drab in winter, with a light ash-colored patch over the rump all the year, while the ovis dalli is snow-white at all seasons; in fact, there is not a colored hair on any part of its body.

The flesh is the most delicious of all wild game. In the summer this sheep lives chiefly on the rich, succulent growth of the asplenium septentrionale, which grows in the crevices of the rock on the sunny slopes of this rugged range. This beautiful animal must endure great hardships to survive the winters of this icy north.

In Old Madrid.

A correspondent in the Frankfurter Zeitung draws a lurid picture of the interesting demoralization of Madrid. The present population includes, he says, 20,000 professional beggars, the same number of abandoned women, 5,000 thieves, and there are hundreds of gambling houses.

Charitable People.

The Spanish are among the most charitable people on earth. Without a poor tax Spanish communities of 50,000 self-supporters feed a pauper population of 5,000 or more.

A Harem Car.

Central Asian railroad managers try to meet the desires of their public. A harem car with latticed windows has been constructed for the emir of Bokhara.

WOMEN'S CLUBS' ODD NAMES.

A Number of Titles Which Are Rather Enigmatis and Difficult to Pronounce.

The woman's club movement has assumed such an extent that it has attracted the attention of the United States department of labor, which has recently issued an elaborate report on the attitude of women's clubs toward social economics, says the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

There are a number of titles which are rather enigmatis. What, for instance, is the meaning of "the Leshche," the name of a club at Dalton, Ga.?

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HONOR DUE TO CANADA.

The First Vessel to Cross the Ocean by Steam Power Sailed from Quebec.

An interesting but little known bit of history in connection with early steam navigation on the ocean was brought to public attention in the recent address of the venerable Kivas Tully on his election to the presidency of the recently organized Engineers' club of Toronto, says the Engineering News.

This was to the effect that to the province of Quebec belongs the credit of having built the first steamship that crossed the Atlantic from either side. The steamship was called the Royal William, commanded by Capt. McDougall, and sailed from Quebec on August 5, 1833, arriving at Gravesend on September 11, having steamed the whole distance.

This seems at first sight to contradict the well-known claim to priority made for the Savannah as the first steamship to cross the Atlantic. The Savannah, however, on her memorable voyage from Savannah to Liverpool (May 26, 1819, to June 20, 1819) used her engines during 18 days and progressed under sail the remainder of the time, the paddlewheels being hoisted on board when not in use.

The Royal William, therefore, appears to have been the first vessel to make the voyage using steam for the whole distance.

CAR-RIDING MAKES HER SAD.

It Is Because Mothers Ill-Treat Their Small Boys by Pulling Them About.

"I am always made sorry when I ride in the cars, through the shopping districts particularly," says the Chicago Chronicle of a woman, "to see the way mothers ill-treat small boys. It is an ethical cruelty, but quite as disastrous as physical ill-treatment might be, it seems to me. I see poor little fellows of seven and eight, nice little men, who would be mainly if they were allowed to be, pulled around in the cars, out of their seats, pushed into that seat and out of it into another as if they were so many little dummies.

"They usually are very nearly that, for seven or eight years of such pushing and pulling are enough to take all the spirit out of a small boy unless he has unusual vigor of character. A boy of that age ought to be beginning to look out for his mother and finding seats for her. Occasionally a sensible mother, who treats her boy like a human being, is to be found, and it is a pleasure to see the two together. The boy who is dragged around like a little muff during the early part of his life is apt to come to himself after a time if he is not entirely ruined and then he goes to an opposite extreme, is rude and self-asserting while he is trying to establish an equilibrium, and the mother can't imagine what the trouble is."

Permanency of Profession.

Col. Bell, the United States consul at Sydney, recently appeared as a witness in the divorce court in that city on the point whether a certain certificate would be accepted in the American courts as formal proof of marriage. "You are a lawyer, I think, Col. Bell," remarked the judge. "Well, no, sir," replied the colonel, with a Mark Twain-like drawl; "I was once, but I have reformd." When the laughter had subsided the bench settled the matter with the dictum: "Once a lawyer, always a lawyer." The colonel then pronounced the certificates valid from the legal American standpoint.

The Carp a Wonder.

People marvel at the mechanism of the human body, with its 492 bones and 60 arteries. But man is simple in this respect, compared with the carp. That remarkable fish moves no fewer than 4,383 bones and muscles every time it breathes. It has 4,320 veins, to say nothing of its 99 muscles.

Gloves for German Army Officers.

German army officers are ordered by imperial decree to wear reddish-brown dogskin gloves during the maneuvers.

RATTLESNAKE EATER.

A Georgia Negro Who Captures and Sells the Reptiles Sometimes Makes a Meal of Them.

Moses Henderson is a sabbie son of Africa and lives two miles from Americus in a rocky field where rattlesnakes are most plentiful, says the Savannah News. Moses makes a living by capturing snakes and selling them. This is the truth, strange as it may seem. One day lately he killed a large one with 11 rattles on it. This was a fat snake and Moses ate it. The other day he brought a very large snake to the city, trying to sell it. There were 23 rattles on it. The snake was very poor, and Moses said it would not do for a good price. Every year Moses makes a good deal of money selling snake oil. He says right down the vertebrae of a rattlesnake is a fatty streak of flesh that makes an oil, when fried, that will cure any case of rheumatism. It is strange to how many people he sells this rheumatic snake oil. He has a long list of certificates from people he has cured. Some of them are from intelligent whites, who declare that the oil has cured them when all other remedies have failed. He sells a vial of the oil for one dollar and guarantees a lasting cure.

Moses says his father was an African voodoo doctor and taught him how to cure all aches and pains with snake oil. The negroes of Sumter county venerate and fear him as a mysterious doctor who can cure when all else fails, and look upon his snake oil as something enchanted.

THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

A Missouri Woman Suggests That When It Becomes a State It Shall Be Called Jefferson.

Mrs. Robert H. True, of Clinton, Mo., writes to the St. Louis Republic suggesting that when the Indian territory shall become a state it be admitted to the union under the name of Jefferson. She says:

"I have made the suggestion to several prominent citizens of the territory in my recent trip through that important section, and they view the proposed name of Jefferson with enthusiasm. They think it would be acceptable to the entire territory, thus to honor the memory of Thomas Jefferson, under whose direction the Louisiana purchase was made. Jefferson's name is forever associated with the history of the central state.

"Since the purchase of the original territory of Louisiana in 1803, many states have been formed, numbers of which have been named for individuals who have achieved greatness. No state has been named in honor of Jefferson, who opened and closed the negotiations for the purchase. The only remaining portion of the purchase in the union is the part known as the Indian territory. Progress will demand that a state be formed of this territory.

"The only opportunity of honoring Jefferson by naming a part of the original purchase for him is in naming Indian territory 'Jefferson' when it is made a state."

ROCKING BEAUTIFIES WOMEN.

How an English Scientist Accounts for the Symmetry of American Limbs.

The rocking chair, according to an English scientist over here for the purpose of writing a book of travels, deserves even a higher place in American esteem than it now holds, for it is responsible, this eagle-eyed observer claims, for one of the greatest beauties of the American women, the beauty of her lower limbs, says the Philadelphia Record. "If you will think of the exercise one gets on a rocking chair, you will see that I am right. How many times, on these broad, wind-blown piazzas, does a young woman rock herself in her chair in the course of a morning? In fancy it would take a calculating barber to tell you that. At any rate, the exercise she gets is excellent and ample. That push which the toes give to keep the chair in motion, repeated and repeated, makes the instep high, the calf round and full, and it keeps misshapening flesh off the ankle, keeping the ankle delicate and slender. Such delicate ankles under such robust calves make her fear, when I first came down and saw your women in their bathing dresses that the pneumatic stockings, so popular in my own land, had gotten a foothold here. I am convinced now that it is not so."

Where It Rains Forever.

You can expect a shower at Panama, says a correspondent in the Chicago Record, about three o'clock every afternoon during the rainy season. The rest of the day and evening after six o'clock is delightful, and no one thinks of carrying an umbrella, but at Colon it rains all the time, and according to the old proverb, it never rains but it pours. It is the real thing by the bucketful. It seems as if the bottom had dropped out of the sky. Colon and Panama are 47 miles apart. The rainfall at Panama is about 92 inches annually, or about eight feet. The rainfall at Colon is 250 inches annually, or about 21 feet, and the people get it all in five months, an average of four feet a month precipitation, while in Arizona they only have a few inches. It takes all the rest of the year for the people to get dry.

Why Moths Fly Into Flames.

Moths fly against a flame because their eyes can bear only a small amount of light. When, therefore, they come near a flame their sight is overpowered and their vision confused, and as they cannot distinguish objects they pursue the light itself and fly against the flame.

SIXTY-FIVE SNAKES.

That Number of Young Ones Swallowed by a Thirty-inch Mother Wrangler.

Prof. W. H. Gaar, superintendent of the schools at New Lisbon, a small town in Indiana, made a remarkable discovery in natural history a few days ago. Prof. Gaar is a naturalist of recognized standing and has many specimens of rare animals and plants preserved in his museum, but the specimen snake just secured is the most interesting and curious of all this collection, reports a local exchange.

Prof. Gaar tells the story of his capture and his statement is corroborated by Frederick Dryer and John Beyer, farmers, who witnessed the capture. Following is Prof. Gaar's story: "The other day at my nursery I killed a slate-colored snake about 30 inches long, of a variety unknown to me. Near the neck of the snake the skin was apparently broken, and through this aperture, which was a natural orifice, I was surprised to see four others. I enlarged the orifice and discovered a duct or canal extending the entire length of the snake. In this duct were 65 more little snakes, making in all 65 snakes that were contained in the duct or canal. The sun was shining hot and the little fellows snapped and bit viciously, but they all died in a short time.

"The canal which contained the snakes must have been the regular alimentary canal, as there was no other canal or passage in the body to serve the purposes of assimilation. This canal was full of little snakes its entire length, and each little wrangler was enclosed in an individual filmy sack."

BOSTON FOR A PATTERN.

Courtesy Shown Absent-Minded Passengers at a Railroad Station.

A man sat in the Reading terminal the other day, says the Philadelphia Record, so wrapped up in a Boston newspaper that he let his train slip without him. When he found that he would have to wait two more hours he seemed annoyed, but notwithstanding his annoyance, he was kind enough to explain in a loud voice to a couple of uniformed officials how they ought to run things at the terminal.

"You ought to do as we do in Boston," he said. At the stations there the names of the cities and towns all over the country that the trains run to are printed in big letters on the wall, and the seats for the waiting passengers are grouped around these names. Suppose I was sitting on the train, and I saw my eye over the walls, and when I find the name I'm after I sit down near it in a Washington seat. Then when a train is ready to start, as we call them in Boston, I don't know what you call him here, goes quietly to the people who are in that train's seat, together on the shoulder and murmurs in a polite way: 'Your train, sir; your train, madam, take it. Now, that's the way to do it. No shouting, no confusion, no trains coupling without their passengers. That's how we manage things in Boston.'"

DOG IN A DIVORCE COURT.

A Sharp-Toothed Bloodhound at Bucharest Picks Up a Bit of Damaging Evidence.

A certain well-known inhabitant of Bucharest is the director of a manufacturing plant, being situated on the outskirts of the city, he goes to early each morning, returning late in the afternoon. The director was some few years ago married to the daughter of a rich merchant. He also possesses a splendid bloodhound, which had become very clever in finding and bringing any lost object of his master or mistress.

NEED CATTLE INSPECTION.

Discased Animals Found in Manila Where Cattle Are Butchered for Use of Inhabitants.

Army surgeons have discovered a serious condition of affairs at Manila in the neighborhood where cattle are butchered and served to the inhabitants and the troops for food. Many animals have been condemned as diseased, although the owners of the cattle protested against the killing of the beasts. The reports just received at Washington of the result of the first examination held shows one animal was suffering from acute catarrh and fever; seven had been made unfit for food by starvation and neglect; one was half dead from blood poison, and two were badly injured and in a bad condition.

Five animals were rejected because of the presence of tuberculosis. Subsequent examinations disclosed much in the same line.

A large number of leprosy hogs were discovered and killed.

THE DOUBLE EAGLE.

As It Appears in the Arms of Russia and Austria Is of Ancient Origin.

The eagle, as an emblem of authority, is so old that it would be impossible to clearly trace its origin. It is found upon the most ancient sculptures that have yet been discovered, and was no doubt one of the very oldest of the totems, or tribe signs. The early Persian empire appears to be the first which adopted it as an imperial emblem. Among the Greeks the eagle was the emblem of Jove. The Romans also adopted the eagle as their standard, and so it became the token of Roman dominion. When Constantine became emperor he adopted the double-headed eagle as the insignia of his authority over east and west. When the German empire came into being in the twelfth century this emblem was revived as being that of the Holy Roman empire, and Rudolph of Hapsburg adopted it as his imperial arms. It appeared the Russian imperial arms in the sixteenth century, when Czar Ivan Basilovitch married Princess Sophia, niece of the eleventh Constantine, and the last of the Byzantine emperors.

TRANSMITTING WAR NEWS.

Secretary Root Issues New Regulations Regarding the Sending of Dispatches Over Military Lines.

Secretary Root has issued orders governing the transmission of dispatches over military telegraph lines under military control. These orders are subject to modification by the commanding general in the field. It is believed this is the outgrowth of the round robin of the Manila correspondents, and a number of valuable privileges are given newspaper men in the field. Dispatches relating to the movement or administration of the army in the field and of the navy are given preference. Those relating to the army, navy and governmental departments or bureau of the United States come next; then dispatches of state, territorial or other civil officials; dispatches from diplomatic agents of neutral governments, press dispatches and miscellaneous business relating to death or serious illness.

Dispatches containing matter deemed injurious to the interests of the army must be submitted to the commanding general of the army in the field for his orders relative to their transmission. Personal and press messages may, under conditions not interfering with military business, be transmitted free of charge over field military telegraph lines that are closed to the general public. The use of any cipher is forbidden except by army officers, but press code books may be used when a copy of the code is filed at the telegraph office. Messages relating to military operations will be received and transmitted over the flying telegraph lines when filed by a correspondent in the field who is furnished with a written permit to serve in such capacity. Naval officers are instructed to afford newspaper correspondents in the field the fullest telegraphic facilities consistent with the public interests.

CUSTOMS PATROL.

Extensive Smuggling into Cuba to Be Stopped by Energetic Government Action.

Smuggling is being carried on in Cuba on an extensive scale and the government is now taking steps to check it. It is said these operations are being conducted at nearly every port in the island of Cuba and the division of the war department for aid in suppressing it. As a result of this appeal a customs secret service will be organized and vigorous measures will be taken to stamp out the lawless industry.

The island having both import and export duties it makes smuggling profitable, and it is comparatively easy for both the natives and the citizens of this country to evade the customs officers, as the coast line of Cuba is long and practically unprotected.

The first step to be taken by the war department toward the organization of this secret customs service for Cuba will be the purchase of fast seaworthy launches, which will patrol the coast. These boats will be bought at once and dispatched to Cuba and continued in that service incessantly.

As the revenue cutter service is short of vessels it will be impossible to detail any of the regular revenue cutters for this service. Congress is responsible for the lack of revenue cutters, as it failed to act upon the recommendations of Capt. Shoemaker, chief of the revenue cutter service, and did not make any provision for the growing demand upon this important service.

SKELTON OF A MASTODON.

Bones of Gigantic Animal That Lived Centuries Ago Are Unearthed Near Newburg, N. Y.

The skeleton of a mastodon has been found on the farm of Frederick W. Schaefer, about 1 1/2 miles west of Newburg, N. Y. Workmen digging a trench first unearthed a rib 49 inches in length. A search for the remainder of the skeleton was then begun. A portion of the vertebrae found measured 13 inches in diameter. The jawbone, which is almost intact, at the base measured 23 inches and is 37 inches long. The back teeth are eight inches long by four in diameter. Toward the point of the jaw are two smaller teeth, one of which was removed and weighs two pounds and four ounces. The tusks are 25 inches in diameter and eight feet long.

Daylight in London and Glasgow.

London in midsummer experiences an hour less of daylight than does Glasgow.

Wireless Telegraphy.

The greatest distance to which wireless messages have been sent is 43 miles.