

BARREL INDUSTRY.

MILLIONS MANUFACTURED IN AMERICA ANNUALLY.

Largest Consumption Is in the Cement Business—Interesting Facts Concerning Cost, Etc.

The introduction of improved machinery in its manufacture has made the American cooperage business the largest in the world. There are upward of 300,000,000 barrels and circular packages manufactured in this country annually, and the demand increases so that this output must be steadily broadened in order to keep pace with the growth of the business.

While the amount of expenditure for barrels can be closely estimated for a given year, it is not possible to say how many barrels are in actual use. The life of a barrel is put down at one year by the trade, but that is far from true. The great majority of barrels have as many lives as a cat.

Finally, the barrel may serve out its life work as a garbage receptacle and be burned in the end in some tenement house to keep out the winter's chill.

The demand for barrels is steadily increasing because modern machinery has made it possible to make them for the trade cheaper than almost any other form of package.

The modern veneer machines have been instrumental in reducing the cost of barrels. Hand labor is eliminated here to such an extent that the work of feeding the machines constitutes most of the requirements of the operators.

A feature of barrel making in this country is the grading of the circular packages so that all the lumber brought to the factories can be utilized. One class of barrels must be absolutely watertight, without a flaw of any kind in their staves.

Humming Bird Fanning Young.

The way the mother would alight on her nest was a marvel to me. She always stopped on the dead twig of a maple before dropping to her home. I saw her do it several times. She came at the nest like a meteoric streak.

Hard on Prisoners.

She—I see a Russian contemporary says that all the Japanese prisoners in Russia are studying the Russian language.

Coffee and Blindness.

COPPER PRODUCTION.

CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN OUTPUT DURING 1904.

Lead and Spelter Production Also Runs Far Ahead of Last Year's Figures—Interesting Particulars.

Washington.—Mr. Charles Kirchoff, special agent of the United States geological survey, has computed the quantity and value of the copper, lead and spelter produced in the United States during 1904.

A very considerable increase took place in the production of copper during 1904. The production amounted to 812,537,267 pounds, valued at \$105,629,845. The production for 1903 was 698,044,517 pounds.

The imports in ore and matte amounted to 38,947,773 pounds; the imports in bars, ingots and old bars to 142,344,433 pounds. The exports of copper amounted to 564,644,880 pounds, a noticeable increase over the exportation of 1903, which was only 320,322,627 pounds.

Similar to the lumber mule is the railroad mule. Some lighter, but on the good heavy order, and from \$15 to \$20 cheaper. They are used in grading, hauling and all the work that is known in the construction of railroads.

Returns from all the producers of spelter in the United States show that the production for 1904 amounted to 186,702 short tons, valued at \$18,670,200. The production of 1903 was 159,219 short tons.

FINGER-PRINT QUERIES.

Candidates for Police Job Are Puzzled by Examination Technicalities.

Chicago.—"What is an ulnar loop? A wrist? Arch? Tented arches?" One of the 11 men who tried to answer these questions and many others like them is on the way to a fat job in the city police department.

"Maybe Puddin'head Wilson, Mark Twain's famous character, would know," said Secretary Corcoran.

The examination was designed to bring out the qualifications of the applicants as experts in the Bertillon system.

NURSED HER OWN SLAVE.

Her Former Mistress Rescues from Want and Cares for an Aged Negro.

St. Louis.—A bit of sentiment and pathos of the old south found expression when Rachel, an ex-slave, was buried by her former mistress, Mrs. Leroy B. Valliant, wife of an associate justice of the supreme court of Missouri.

As soon as she heard that her former maid was ill and in need of assistance, Mrs. Valliant went to Covington, Ky., where Rachel was supposed to be living.

The Real Want.

Wizard Burbank may be able to produce a tomato that tastes like a fruit, but what the world more particularly desires just now is that he evolve a cantaloupe that will taste like a cantaloupe.

DIFFICULT TO GRADE.

THE MULE IS A DIFFICULT PRODUCT TO CLASSIFY.

Missouri Stock Dealer Gives Some Points of Interest Regarding the Hybrid Output.

Kansas City, Mo.—The classification of Missouri's great product, the mule, is the hardest of all live stock," says John Grant, of the firm of Walcott, Beers & Grant, at the stock yards.

"To most people the animal is simply a mule, with a strong inclination to emphasize his presence with a kick. To most buyers he is a good or bad, large or small, smooth or rough, will probably bring a certain price on the market or will not be wanted at all.

"In the first place, green, unbroken mules are never wanted. Once in awhile we receive a few and generally have to sell them at a sacrifice. The principal classes of mules known to the market are: Cotton mules, lumber mules, railroad mules, sugar mules, farm mules, levee mules, city mules and miners. Miners are classed as surface and pit mules.

"Cotton mules are the commonest kind in regard to numbers. They range from 13 to 16 hands, and from 4 to 7 years old are the best ages. Their build makes little difference so long as they are smooth.

"Similar to the lumber mule is the railroad mule. Some lighter, but on the good heavy order, and from \$15 to \$20 cheaper. They are used in grading, hauling and all the work that is known in the construction of railroads.

"The miners are the hardest class to supply. They must be either dark bay or black in color. White and sorrel mules are never used. When the mines have long shifts in the Pennsylvania coal regions especially, they say a white mule resembles a ghost and frightens the other mules beyond control.

ALL ONE PIECE OF WOOD.

Remarkable Feature of the Washington Exhibit at the Portland Exposition.

Portland, Ore.—A cross section cut from a fir tree 13 feet in diameter forms the floor of an office of tree furniture which has attracted a great deal of attention in the Washington state building at the Lewis and Clark exposition.

The cross section is about a foot thick, with the upper surface polished, so that it makes an excellent floor. On it are several other cross sections of smaller trees, which do service as chairs.

The oddest feature of this exhibit is a typewriter desk made of a single fir log standing on end. The log forms a cylinder about four feet high and three feet thick, with a polished top.

Club of Deaf Persons.

One of the most curious clubs on record has recently been formed by society ladies in Berlin. The principal condition for membership is that the applicant must be deaf.

Earthquake Refugees.

Escaping from the recent great earthquake, a number of refugees built themselves huts at Mandi, India. A few days later the huts were struck by lightning and 23 of the occupants were killed.

Fantastic Fish.

About 40 varieties of fantastic fish from the Bermudas are to be sent to the New York aquarium. Over 1,000 specimens will be included in one shipment.

LANDS FISH WITH LASSO.

Sturgeon Weighing 104 Pounds. Fights for Over an Hour Before He Is Finally Caught.

Watertown, N. Y.—The most exciting fish story that is well authenticated, heard so far this season, comes from Massena, where Orville A. Babcock, a famous fisherman of that section, had a battle royal the other night with a monster sturgeon. A few nights ago Orville, who was passing near the racks of one of the Massena canal power houses, saw a sturgeon of gigantic proportions in the foaming waters near the racks.

For another half hour he fought to tire the fish out, and finally, when it lay quiet against the racks, he got down, rested one knee on the girt of the gatehouse wall, and, with his shoulder against the racks, reached down into the water to pull the sturgeon out. After hauling the fish well up out of the water, he found that he was unable to secure a hold lower down on the slimy monster, on account of having to cling to the girt with one hand. He got a firm grip with his teeth on the tail of the fish, but the denizen of the deep gave a flop and tore loose, leaving a hunk of the tail between Orville's jaws.

LEGACY FOR HERMIT BARON

Gleaner of Garbage Dumps in Arizona Town Comes Into Comfortable Sum.

Phoenix, Ariz.—A legacy of \$9,000, a first installment on inheritance that amounts to much more, has been received by Philip E. Neville, of Phoenix, who now appears as one of the nobility of England, though for three years past a gleaner in the garbage dumps of Phoenix.

Neville's home is on the river bank below the city, where he has gleaned tin cans from which to melt solder. He is about 50 years old. Though letters have come addressing him as Lord Neville, and imploring him to return to his old family home in Herefordshire, he says he has cast off his family and will remain free in America.

SILVER FOR THE FISHES.

Fine Service Intended for Yacht Club at Sea Gate Dropped Overboard.

New York.—The normality that depicted Sea Gate has been presented with a silver service worth \$300. The knife, forks and spoons were intended originally for the Atlantic Yacht club, whose house is at Sea Gate. Faced in a fine case, the silver was put on board the steamboat Atlantic, which plies between the Battery and Sea Gate.

When the Atlantic reached the yacht club's landing the man put the case on his shoulder and started to go ashore before the gangway was run out. He stumbled, and the silver went overboard.

The crew of the Atlantic and employees of the clubhouse started grappling for the precious case, but the sand there is somewhat like quicksand, and the waves quickly bury anything that goes down.

Some of the yachtsmen put on bathing suits and dived for the service, but the mermaids were stirring their cold tea with the spoons.

ONLY TWO BILLS EXIST.

Sixty-Dollar Banknotes Issued in 1812 Are Worth One Thousand Dollars Each.

St. Louis.—The only two \$60 bills in existence have been found. One belongs to an eastern collector and the other to Mrs. Julia Turton, this city. They are worth \$1,000 each.

"My mother was a Bryant," said Mrs. Turton, "and the bill was one of several paid my grandfather, Col. John N. Bryant, who fought in the war of 1812, by the father of Mark Twain. The payment was made in connection with a land deal in Tennessee, the details of which I have never been able to learn. The bill, was an inheritance of mine, but I never realized its value until I saw it mentioned in a dispatch. I value it as a family heirloom."

Something Doing.

Additional interest would attach to the sporting pages if records were printed daily of the work done by college athletes in the Kansas wheat fields.

LOVE IS ENFORCED.

LAW OF FRANCE WILL ORDER HAPPY MARRIAGES.

The Revision of the Napoleonic Code Will Contain Most Explicit Instructions to That End.

Paris.—Love is henceforth to be legally recognized in French marriages! That is one of the great reforms determined on by the committee now revising the Napoleonic code.

Perhaps that explains many plots of plays and novels. But these in a few weeks' time will be hopelessly out of date. In future French husbands and wives will be legally bound to love one another, which is not the case at present, and, as there is no country where the public has so great a respect for law as France, happy marriages are soon to be the rule.

Art. 212, chap. 6, sec. 5, book 1, of the civil code says: "Husband and wife owe to one another mutual faithfulness, help, assistance." The next article adds: "The husband owes to his wife protection, the wife owes obedience to her husband." But affection finds no place in the code, which affords no counterpoint to the "love, honor and obey" of the religious marriage service.

A particularly enlightened commission, however, is now revising the Napoleonic code. In spite of the protests of agnostic lawyers, such rank outsiders who know naught of law, but only know life, as MM. Paul Hervieu and Marcel Prevost, were appointed among the commissioners.

The former M. Hervieu, is the brave man who has ventured to introduce the word "love" into the law. He defended his motion with some heat and carried the day. The commission decided that article 212, aforesaid shall read: "Husband and wife owe to one another mutual love, faithfulness, help and assistance."

Thus the law will now actually lay it down that the first duty of man and wife is to love one another. This revolutionary committee of reformers has further brought its ax down on the following article (213), half of the text of which given above, has been clean cut away, which is to read: "The husband owes protection to his wife. The rights of husband and wife are equal." This is tantamount to deleting the obnoxious "obey" from the lady's promise—a tremendous triumph for her.

JAGUAR HOLDS UP TRAINS.

Escaped Circus Animal in Colorado Tunnel Releases a Disturbance.

Colorado Springs, Col.—More than 2,000 persons and four passenger trains on the Colorado Midland railroad were held up today at tunnel No. 6, two miles west of Manitou, by a fierce South American jaguar. Before he was captured the animal clawed Joseph Bennett, of this city, cutting a severe gash a foot long, breaking a high cut for 20 feet, breaking her left leg.

The jaguar and a polar bear occupied compartments in a large passenger car of the train belonging to a circus. The bear was the first to enter the mouth of the tunnel and it was torn off. The keeper threw on the air brakes, stopping the train. He threw rocks at the bear and fired blank cartridges at the jaguar to keep them from escaping.

The animal crawled under the car and during the efforts to drive it into another passenger Bennett received his injuries. The animal was finally driven into a small cage, but before the door could be closed the train started and the jaguar again leaped for liberty.

It dashed through the tunnel, but on emerging at the other end found itself in a narrow cut. After some effort the animal was again captured and placed in his cage.

WED AT PIKE'S PEAK.

Daughter of Indiana Judge Runs Away to Marry a Full-Blooded Armenian.

Denver, Col.—A pretty romance reached its climax at Manitou the other evening when Miss Emma C. Bender, daughter of Federal Judge Bender, of Indianapolis, became the bride of Salem Wahbe El Kaffoury, a wealthy Armenian importer of San Francisco. The ceremony was performed in the Iron Springs hotel, at the foot of Pike's peak, by Rev. J. W. Neeley, of the First Congregational church, Manitou.

Kaffoury is a full-blooded Armenian and typical of his race. He is about 40 years old. His bride is a beautiful blonde of scarcely 24 summers. The wedding took place in Colorado because Judge Bender was opposed to his daughter marrying the Armenian, and forbade him to come to the Bender home in Indianapolis.

Miss Bender recently completed an eight-years' course in an eastern convent. How and when she first met Kaffoury is not known, but it is said that the bride ran away from home in the Hoosier state to be married.

She confided in a sister who sympathized with her and assisted in a bold plan of an elopement. Mr. and Mrs. Kaffoury will make their home in San Francisco.

Electricity in Lumbering.

"CHILDREN NOT WANTED."

Property Owners in Boston Cause Thinning Out of Little Ones in That City.

The migration to the suburbs of their families with children is growing. In natural consequence the number of children to be found within the limits of the city proper is decreasing, says the Boston Advertiser. Any sociologist tenement-house commissioner, census-taker or real estate agent will tell you this. The child is no longer admitted to many of our most desirable apartment-houses, private dwellings, or exclusive hotels. It was about 15 years ago, so real estate men say, that people in the apartment-house district began to regard children as obnoxious because of their noise and games. Property owners took their cue from this and objected to children because they tear a house to pieces, so that now the paternalistic, with a lot of "hopefuls" yet in their leading-strings, is compelled either to content himself with a tenement in the most congested quarters of the city or go far out in the suburban towns, where children are not under the ban. It is a bold statement to make, that our people of the middle class are forced into the suburbs or into the tenement district because of their children, yet there is evidence of it in nearly every residential quarter of the city.

Boston would like to say that this truth does not apply here. But our tenement-house commission, which has been investigating the situation less than a year, has already received an inkling of it, and is prepared to have its worst fears confirmed. When the restrictions against the letting of apartments, suites, rooms in hotels or private residences to families with children are so inflexible, it must be inevitable that the rearing of children will be vitally affected sooner or later.

As President Roosevelt and President Eliot have agreed that the decrease in the birth rate among the Americans is lamentable in that it makes race suicide a national policy, there has been a disposition to cast the entire blame upon American parents. But when these parents, provided they are burdened with children, cannot secure decent homes in some of the most respectable parts of the city, should all the blame be cast upon them? Does not the property owner, who wants to save the cost of repairs through the exclusion of the little barbarians, share in the responsibility?

There is one good result. Our suburbs are being rapidly built up, and when this is done our children are given the advantages of country life, which would be lost to them if they could have lived within the city limits. They have the fresh air, the trees, the brooks, and the fields to bring them health and strength. The children who do come into the world are undoubtedly benefited by this banishment from the city. Is this sufficient, though, to make up for the decrease in the birth rate which must be traced in a greater or less degree to the landlord's dislike of the child?

AMERICA'S EQUAL CHANCES

Illustrated in the Strange Story of Two Clerks in Pension Office at Washington.

That no form of government yet adopted by civilized man is more beneficial to those who live under it than that of the United States is instanced in the daily life of everyone, says the Washington Star. The opportunities for every man to make of himself what he will, providing nature has endowed him with the brain element of success, are greater in this country than anywhere else on earth. It has never been questioned by students of the constitution, yet seldom is such a striking case discovered as one in the pension bureau.

Some 80 years ago a French refugee landed on one of the islands of the West Indies, where he set himself up in business as a small planter. Success attended his diligence, and he acquired a competence and a number of slaves. A few years prior to the civil war he sold out his business and came to the United States to make his home.

One slave whom he brought with him he freed in Baltimore, securing for him an occupation. After the death of the Frenchman, who left a small family, the negro continued to prosper along the lines he had set for himself, rearing a family and sending one son to the war for the union. Two of the sons of his old master also fought for the flag in a Maryland regiment.

After the war these young soldiers settled down to retrieve their fortunes, reduced by the conflict and enforced neglect. It was a hard struggle, but they did fairly well. The sequel of the story is this. To-day at the same work, in the same office, a grandson of the French refugee and a grandson of the slave whom he freed in Baltimore years ago are employed by the government; they helped to save, and the story of their lives is known to few, even of their clerks who work with them. They are both rated as good clerks, and the fact of their both being equal opportunities for all men under the banner of the great republic.

Electricity in Lumbering.