

UNIQUE DISCOVERY.

CHANCE FINDING OF POTASSIUM SUBSTANCE ON SEAWEED.

California Chemist Picks Up Kelp Containing Deposits Strong in the Preservative Element.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Upon the chance which led a chemist in an investigative turn of mind almost idly to analyze a small lump of sediment clinging to a floating bit of seaweed cast up by the high tide on the beach at San Diego, may hang the results of the most important of the food supply of the world.

David Moore Balch is the chemist's name, and the discovery through an experiment in his laboratory a few weeks ago may provide a substitute for the failing nitrate supply of the saltpeter beds of Chile.

The aged savant happened to be taking his early constitutional upon the sand, following one of the early equinoctial storms. At his feet he noticed a mass of seaweed torn from its mooring upon the submerged rocks and cast upon the shore.

Balch immediately recognized the weed as a species of kelp, a broad leaf frond seaweed. To it already had clustered and crystallized in the sun deposits of what he naturally supposed to be simple salt from the evaporated sea water.

The deposits insisted on the leaves of the kelp so attracted Balch that he carried the seaweed back with him to his laboratory. There to his utter surprise, he discovered that in place of the simple salt of sodium the substance was in reality rich in potassium.

But it remained for George H. Maynard, first vice president of the American Institute of Mining Engineering, to recognize the full commercial value of the discovery.

Mr. Maynard, who is well known in Los Angeles, learned of Balch's discovery during a visit to Coronado. Necessary steps were immediately taken to protect themselves in the processes for the extraction of the valuable salts and sulphates, and the three associated themselves in a partnership to exploit their valuable discovery.

INDIAN WEDDING IN COURT

Bride Pays the Fee When the Bridegroom Fails to Produce the Cash.

Sioux Falls, S. D.—Capt. Seth Bullock, personal friend of President Roosevelt and United States marshal for South Dakota, acted as master of ceremonies at an Indian wedding.

The principals in the wedding were David Charging, a Sioux warrior belonging on the Pine Ridge reservation, and Nellie Little Bird, a belle of the Pine Ridge reservation tribe of Sioux Indians. The bride is not yet 16 years of age, while the bridegroom has not attained his majority. The ceremony was performed in the federal courtroom in this city at the conclusion of a session of court and is the only instance in the history of South Dakota in which an Indian couple was married in a federal courtroom. The ceremony was performed by Judge Wheelock.

The bridegroom was financially embarrassed and the bride was required to pay the fee charged for a marriage license. The other expenses of the wedding were paid from a fund contributed by witnesses attending United States court.

A large number of the society women of Sioux Falls were interested spectators at the wedding.

VINDICATES SIRE'S NAME.

Last of Banker's \$700,000 Debts Paid Off in Ten Years by Loyal Son.

Des Moines, Ia.—In vindication of his father's name James G. Whitney, of Atlantic, completed liquidating an indebtedness of \$700,000. His had been a labor of love extending over a period of ten years.

During the financial stress of 1893-94 his father, Franklin H. Whitney, became a bankrupt and died, and the Bank of Atlantic, which he owned, went into the hands of a receiver and the \$700,000 which has just been paid to the creditors was realized by his good management of the wrecked estate.

Franklin H. Whitney was the founder of the city of Atlantic. He laid out the town site and established the National Bank of Atlantic, which he subsequently converted into a private institution. He became a millionaire. Eventually he speculated too heavily in Kansas City and Birmingham (Ala.) real estate and his business collapsed. The shock killed him.

It was not believed his estate would pay 50 cents on the dollar, but his son took a solemn vow to see that no creditor lost a cent, and he has kept his word to the letter.

High Up in the Air.

The highest kite ascent was lately made at Lindenborg, Prussia, 21,100 feet being reached, with six attached kites and 16,000 yards of wire. The temperature fell from 51 degrees at the surface to 13 degrees below zero; the wind 18 miles at the surface - was 56 miles an hour at highest point.

Portrait in Print.

A pretty young woman of Boston recently had the honor of seeing her portrait in print in a newspaper. The result of this must have been a source of considerable embarrassment to her, for she had 300 letters offering marriage within a few days. She is still single.

WILL FIX BOUNDARY

UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN INVOKE SCIENCE.

Line Between Alaska and Canada to Be Determined by Astronomy and Telegraphy.

Washington.—The check of a telegraph key which will record the instant at which fixed stars cross the meridian, by the terms of a treaty ratified between the United States and Great Britain, will afford the means of fixing the boundary between Alaska and Canada. Dispute over the boundary, as valuable gold deposits on the Yukon are at stake, has been a serious contention between this country and Canada. The two nations, by the treaty now negotiated, have invoked science as arbitrator.

The treaty provides that the boundary shall be defined "by telegraph." This means the method adopted by United States astronomers and which is now recognized the world over as the most exact. The American government will designate a commissioner, who will be O. H. Tittman, superintendent of the coast and geodetic survey. Great Britain, on her side, will choose an eminent scientist.

The two, with necessary assistants, will definitely establish the location of the one hundred and forty-first meridian of west longitude. This done, the rest is a mere matter of surveying and placing objects to mark the dividing line.

Difference in longitude is a difference in time. The longitude of Chicago is figured on the difference in time of Chicago and Greenwich, England, the latter being the basing point preliminary to the final observations. Mr. Tittman already has computed the longitude of Sitka as compared with Seattle, that of Valdez with respect to Sitka, and that of Fort Ekbert with respect to Valdez. Canadian observers have fixed the longitude of points corresponding to the above and gradually are approaching the approximate location of the boundary. The dividing line is located on the one hundred and forty-first meridian by the treaty of Russia with Great Britain in 1825.

Two stations will be selected next summer. The two nations will be connected by telegraph. Each party will have what is known as a "transit," a small telescope equipped for recording the exact instant at which stars cross its face. Twenty stars will have been agreed upon beforehand as those to be observed. At both stations the scientists, aided by "the transit," will record with chronometers the time down to a fraction of a second that each star passes the meridian. The telegraph is used to communicate at each observation the time registered by the chronometer, so that no error can creep in due to difference in the instruments.

The observations are to be repeated in exactly the same way for six nights. Then the observers will be able to compute the exact time. The difference they reduce to distance and by measurement fix a point on the meridian which becomes then a point on the boundary.

WILL HAVE PIKE ROUNDUP.

Minnesota Fish and Game Commission Will Gather Eggs of the Fish.

Tower, Minn.—Executive Agent S. P. Fullerton, of the state fish and game commission, and his crew of 12 men now are in camp at Pike River falls and all preparations have been made for gathering pike eggs. They are camped below the falls of Pike river, which flows into Lake Vermilion, and are about six miles from Tower.

The pike are beginning to run well and the middle of the week will see them running upstream by millions. They are caught in a seine just below the falls and as soon as they are stripped of their eggs they are returned to the water unharmed.

The falls of Pike river form an ideal place for catching pike, as the fish can get no farther up the river and congregate in schools of thousands just below the falls.

In former years the pike-gathering expedition has been greatly hindered from getting upon an account of the large number of logs being driven down the river by the Tower Lumber company, making it impossible to drag the seine through the river, but this year an injunction has been served on the company forbidding it to interfere with the gathering of the eggs.

COXSWAINS ARE COURTEOUS

French and American Man-of-War's Men Bow Politely After Collision.

New York.—There was a slight collision in the fog in the North river the other day between the running boat of the American cruiser Colorado and the steam launch of the French flagship Marsellaise.

Filled with the spirit of courtesy the coxswain of either boat was profuse in his apology for having rubbed the point off the side of the other.

Usually when men-of-war launches hammer into each other the air rings with the thickest of billingsgate, but the other day, following the collision, the coxswain of the French launch took off his sailor cap and bowed to the pilot of the American launch.

Fertilizer from Air.

A new fertilizer made in Norway from the nitrogen in the atmosphere is said to be very nearly of the same value to plants as Chile saltpeter, while its cost is lower.

LAST ROUNDUP OF HORSES

Wild Equines of Washington Plains Will Be Corralled and Branded.

Seattle, Wash.—There is to be a roundup of 10,000 wild horses which roam the plains south of the Great Northern tracks in the Columbia river basin. They will be branded and many of them sold. Between 500 and 600 riders will take part, starting from Ephrata.

This will be the last great roundup in the northwest, for the settlement of eastern Washington has made it impossible for stockmen to raise range horses. The big stockmen will continue in the business with their inclosed pastures, but the majority will gradually go out of business.

Toby Richards, probably the heaviest owner of these horses, claims 4,500 heads. Other growers have hundreds of horses on the range. Some of them have been branded, but most of the horses have never felt the sting of the iron.

As the horses are driven into corrals, located at convenient points on the prairie, each of the owners will have to cut out his own. It is customary in these roundups for the unbranded horses to be sold at auction and the proceeds divided pro rata. This plan will probably be followed in the Ephrata roundup.

There are thousands of well-bred horses running wild in the eastern Washington ranges. The original herds were of common cayuses, but stockmen and settlers have for years been turning loose thoroughbreds and highly-bred farm horses to roam with the wild animals. The result has been that the class of horses has been raised rapidly and it is believed hundreds of horses will be rounded up that will be fit for any work when broken.

A big party of Seattle men will go to Ephrata to take part in the roundup. A party of railroad men is forming, and in addition Dr. Hartman, E. O. Jones, of the Lloyd Transfer company; Arthur Bennett, editor of Speedway and Kennel, and others will make the trip.

HENS WORKING FULL TIME.

Fowls in Eight Counties of Missouri Lay Eggs Enough to Cover the Country.

Jefferson City, Mo.—The state bureau of labor and statistics has completed the compilation of returns from four more counties, showing the shipments of surplus products during 1905, in preparation for the bureau's forthcoming annual report. These four counties are Adair, Andrew, Bates and Benson. They contribute materially toward maintaining the glory of the Missouri hen, showing shipments of 796,900 pounds of dressed poultry, 5,404,628 pounds of live poultry, and 2,311,140 dozens of eggs, or a total of 27,073,680 eggs.

Within the four counties of Adair, Cooper, Callaway and Cole, which had previously been reported, these figures would be changed in this way: Dressed poultry, 5,832,302 pounds; live poultry, 17,741,806 pounds; and a total shipment of poultry from the eight counties of 23,574,108 pounds. Combined, the eight counties shipped 6,963,862 dozens of eggs, or a total of 83,566,344 eggs, which is something like 24 times the population of the state of Missouri, or 7,302,957 more than the population of the United States by the census of 1890, and the excess over that population in itself would give to each man, woman and child in Missouri more than eggs. The Missouri hen evidently is spreading herself. Besides all this poultry and eggs, these eight counties shipped 84,999 pounds of feathers.

The exact date of emergence of the adults from the ground will vary somewhat with the season. The experience of many years, however, indicates that most of the individuals will come out during the last week in May. Very frequently the holes through which they will emerge will appear in the soil some weeks before the insects actually come out. These holes are a little larger around than a lead pencil, and are frequently so numerous as absolutely to cover the surface of the ground.

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FINDS \$50,000 PAINTING.

Bare Work of Art Discovered by New York Woman While Dusting.

New York.—Mrs. Louisa MacNamara, who lives in the Bronx, a few days ago wiped the dust and grease off the picture that had hung over her kitchen range ever since she had possessed one, and found that she had a great masterpiece that has been lost to the art world for many years.

There has been excitement in the MacNamara household ever since the discovery was made. That it is a masterpiece is assured by the decision of an expert named Henzinger, who declares it is worth about \$50,000.

Mrs. MacNamara has thought the matter over and decided that, as she lives in a frame house, and the great work might be lost to the world if a sudden fire should occur, she will accept the price if anyone comes forward to give it.

The painting is supposed to be by Levert, French artist, who painted in the beginning of the seventeenth century. The subject of the painting is "The Fortune Teller."

If cracks and the general appearance of age count for anything, there can be little doubt that the picture that Mrs. MacNamara possesses is old.

Honor to Renan.

The famous French theologian Ernest Renan, is to have his memory preserved by a first-class armored cruiser to be named after him. This cruiser has just been launched at St. Nazaire, and forms one of the group of 12,416 tons displacement, of which the Victor Hugo, the Leon Gambetta, the Jules Ferry and the Michelet are already members.

Japanese Nature.

Capt. Sakamoto, of the Japanese battleship Katori, said at Liverpool the other day that if Englishmen would study the true nature of Japan and learn to understand the Japanese, the alliance would last forever and would insure the peace of the world.

PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS.

WILL VISIT UNITED STATES, SAY SCIENTISTS.

Eastern and Middle States Last Week in May—Seventeen and Thirteen and Thirteen-Year Varieties Expected.

Washington.—The country is this year to have a visit from not only the 17-year locusts, but the 13-year variety as well. This announcement is made by the bureau of entomology of the department of agriculture. The locusts will begin to appear in some of the eastern and middle states about the last week of May. New York, however, according to the entomological sharps, will escape.

The department has sent out for distribution in the localities that will be visited by the locusts a circular which contains a map indicating the various points where the locusts will appear. Accompanying the circular is a reply card, on which may be used any information relating to the locust swarms. The map refers to the 17-year locust, and the circular gives their distribution as follows:

"The region commences in southeastern Massachusetts, extends south across Long Island and along the Atlantic coast of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland as far as Chesapeake bay, then up the Susquehanna river to Pennsylvania to a point a little below Harrisburg, thence westward in Ohio, embracing the southwestern corner of the state and the northwestern portion of Kentucky, and then upward through southwestern Indiana, ending in central Illinois. It is possible, also, that there is an eastward extension of the region from Kentucky into southern West Virginia, and also in the counties of Buncombe and McDowell in North Carolina, but as these appearances were not verified in 1872, it is probable that they belong to the 13-year race."

The 13-year locusts are not so numerous nor so widely distributed as the 17-year brood. The circular says they will appear in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee.

It is stated that the periodical locust, when it appears in great numbers, naturally causes considerable alarm and arouses fears for the safety of shade trees and orchards. The actual damage, however, is usually slight, except in the case of newly planted orchards, and even here, by rigorous pruning back after the locusts has disappeared, much of the injury caused by the egg punctures may be avoided. As a matter of precaution, however, the circular says it might be well not to locate new orchards in this spring in recently cleared ground or in proximity to woods in any of the regions where the locust is scheduled to appear. In many cases, however, the clearing up and cultivation of the ground will have destroyed the larvae and it may not appear.

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BULLET FOR FRENCH DUELS

With Which Parisians Can Shoot at Each Other with Perfect Safety.

Paris.—Parisians have been enabled by the invention of a hollow bullet to "train" for duels under the realistic condition of shooting at and being shot at by a living man instead of practicing at an inanimate target which does not fire back.

Dr. Deirillers is the inventor and he has opened a club called "La Societe l'Assaut au Pistolet." Party of the best "shoots" in Paris fired in pairs at one another one morning recently in the Jardin de Paris.

Of 272 shots fired 202 hits were recorded. Two participants each made full scores and in the final round shot each other over the heart. While all wore goggles and some padded blouses and gloves, one victor shot in his buttock from the ball of the thumb of one of the contestants required surgical treatment.

The training is of unique value for a real duel. Men who never missed a "dead" target were quite disconcerted by the raising of their opponent's arm to fire.

Chance for Cheese Makers.

A revival of America's export trade in cheese is agitating the agricultural leaders of the United States. Consul General Thackeray, of Berlin, indicates, in a letter to the bureau of manufacturers a good opening for American cheese in Germany. The empire bought during 1905 mainly from Holland, Switzerland, Denmark and Canada \$8,500,000 of cheese at good prices, which show a tendency to harden.

Old English Nurse.

The body of Eleanor Perkins, a nurse who has been 64 years in the service of an English family in Lincolnshire, was carried to the grave the other day by four sons of the family, all of whom she had nursed in their infancy.

Vesuvius Outdone.

Vesuvius has paled its ineffential fire before the California calamity.

PHOSPHORESCENT RODENTS

Rats from Cuba Drive Ship's Cat Crazy During an Electric Storm at Night.

New York.—The phosphorescent rats of Cuba, well known to science, drove a cat crazy in the little British brigantine Ventura, that arrived at pier No. 3, East river, the other day from Santa Cruz, Cuba.

Two years ago Mr. Chandler the mate, procured a fine big cat named Pedro, as big as a water spaniel, and the vessel was kept free of rats.

After the ship had come through the Straits of Florida on its last trip Capt. Burns found aboard the biggest rats he had ever seen. They paid no attention to anybody and walked right around the cat, which seemed powerless.

At night the rats gave out streaks that looked like green lightning. Their uncanny appearance terrified Pedro, which would run for the galley and jump into the cook's lap for protection. The more sulphur and poison the skipper fed the rats the fatter they seemed to grow, while Pedro daily became thinner.

One night in an electric storm the rats seemed to be greener than ever. Pedro went mad at the sight of the phosphorescent rats and jumped overboard.

Then the skipper and the mate decided it was time to put up a job on the scientific rodents. The crew smoked them all out from below aft and forward, stuffing up every nook and cranny behind them.

As the brigantine was thumping in a seaway the skipper added matters by putting his nose to the wind and then veering so as to catch the swell. Over careened the schooner and over went all the green rats with the wash of the sea.

DOCTOR'S PAINFUL MISHAP

Breaks Vial of Vaccinating Lymph and Inoculates His Own Eye.

London.—By a simple misadventure a doctor practicing in a town near Manchester has become the victim of a peculiar and painful inoculation.

While breaking a tiny vial containing lymph for the purpose of vaccinating an infant a particle of glass flew up and struck him on the pupil of the eye. Adhering to the glass fragment was an almost microscopic quantity of calf's lymph. The doctor realized the danger of vaccination to which he was exposed and immediately bathed his eye. So tender, however, is the skin of the eye that the glass made a minute scratch and a day or so afterward the usual symptoms which follow inoculation gradually appeared.

The pain and discomfort which ordinarily arise from the operation in this instance are acutely aggravated and he is going through exactly the same process as if he had been vaccinated on the arm. The patient cannot sleep and in consequence the eye is never at rest. The eye is banded up and the doctor is forbidden to read. When it dark he walks abroad under the shade of the trees and away from the gas lamps.

The accident occurred a few weeks ago and it is the first of its kind in England, though it is said two such cases have happened in Germany. It is not likely that the eye of the unfortunate doctor will be impaired.

CANINE CARRIES MAILS.

St. Bernard in Idaho Makes Daily Trip of Twenty-Eight Miles.

Hoise, Idaho.—Lucifer, a big St. Bernard employed in carrying mail from Hailty, Idaho, to Corral, an inland town is six years old, and it seems likely that he will have a "steady job" in coming winters. During a recent trip he is making daily between the points mentioned.

The white mantle is very deep in midwinter in that section, more than two feet now remaining on the ground. It will probably be some weeks before the roads are open for travel, and Lucifer will continue to assist his master, C. A. Floyd, official carrier for Uncle Sam, until the snows are gone.

Mr. Floyd's contract provides penalty in case mails are not delivered on time each day. Lucifer has saved many dollars by aiding his master in transportation of mails on a sled fitted with suitable harness. The faithful St. Bernard has had no difficulty in drawing the sled, and often has more than 100 pounds of mail on the load.

NEW KIND OF DIVERSION.

Snake Shooting Is Now in Vogue in the River Lowlands of Illinois.

Alton, Ill.—Residents of Calhoun county, Ill., have found a new diversion to entertain travelers in the form of snake shooting. Since the Illinois river flooded the lowlands it has driven from their homes rattlesnakes, black snakes, water moccasins, and bull snakes, and the reptiles have taken lodging in trees. Between Kampsville and Eldred the route of the old stage coach is now covered by a man in a skiff, who carries a ruse with which his passengers are allowed to shoot the snakes from the boat. The snakes are found coiled up in the branches of the trees, sunning themselves and waiting for the water to go down.

Charles B. Johnson, of Alton, claims to have shot 15 snakes in a ride of four miles, not one of which was under five feet long.

House of the Palm.

Malaga exports 4,000,000 palm leaf hats to New York annually.

GROTESQUE OLD POTTERY.

Queer Black Vessels Dug Up by Workmen in South American Mines.

Beneath the soil of the South American republic of Colombia there has just been brought to light some remarkable buried treasures in the line of curious animal-shaped pottery, each incised and made of black clay. These specimens are perhaps the only vestiges left of the vanished empire of the Cauchoas, which flourished in this region in pre-Spanish times. The American Museum of Natural History has acquired these discoveries, and Curator Charles Doolittle Mearns is arranging them for exhibition. The find consists of nearly 200 black pottery vessels, with deep incisions, fantastically molded to represent animals common to that region and some mythological ones, with a few human portrait pieces. This unique collection of black ware, the first to be seen in this country, is said to be the finest extant.

These grotesque pottery vessels, many of which contained fine golden ornaments, were votive and mortuary offerings placed in the graves along with the bodies of the dead. The collection was found in the Caucho river valley, Colombia, about 150 miles from the Pacific ocean. This stream is one of the tributaries of the Magdalena. The pottery was unearthed by some of the Indian placer miners who now carry on the business of sluice washing the ancient burial grounds of their ancestors to obtain gold objects, which are sold only for their metal.

The Caucho valley in pre-Spanish times was the domain of the Chibcha nation, which for hundreds of miles along both banks of the river had established a fairly advanced and flourishing civilization. A remnant of chiefs, with one leader, administered the government. Next to the Mexicans and ancient Peruvians, or Incas, they are classed as third in the list of aboriginal races as to culture. The rest of Colombia was inhabited by other independent tribes living in lower stages of enlightenment. The Chibchas and their neighboring tribes have disappeared entirely. Between 1536 and 1540 the Spaniards conquered the Chibchas and took possession of their territory.

The Chibchas left no written language, and the Spanish manuscripts which have been preserved give only fragmentary information so that nearly all knowledge of this people is due to their handicraftmen. The great abundance of gold and the lavishness of display which flourished among the people and their skill in fashioning this metal into striking shapes are clearly shown by the numerous personal ornaments, statuettes and ceremonial objects rescued from their burial places. Instead of sacrificing the vivax animals, in some occasions figures of solid gold representing them were buried as offerings. Most of the gold specimens are handsome and massive, and were used largely as ear, lip, nose and breast ornaments.

PUT ANIMALS TOGETHER.

Their Effort to Keep Warm Would Prevent Hostilities Among Them.

Men are sometimes advised to take a lesson from the animals, and a story told by H. Hughes le Roux would seem to indicate that they are at least quite capable of intelligent reasoning, says the London Globe.

M. le Roux has traveled extensively, and at his place, not far from Paris, he likes to study the animals he has brought back from his wanderings. He has at present in his menagerie a Saharan gazelle, a young Italian wolf, two fox terriers and a mare and her foal. At first all these animals were on the very worst of terms with one another. The wolf had his shoulder put out of joint by the gazelle in an encounter in which he was given to understand that the gazelle did not care to be disturbed in her daily promenades. The mare could not bear the fox terriers, and if they ever ventured near her box when she was suckling her foal she was ready to make a meal of them.

The various members of the menagerie would probably have continued to maintain toward one another an attitude of enmity and defiance had not an accidental circumstance put an end to their mutual hostility. At the commencement of winter workmen began to demolish the kennel and take the roof off the stable. All the animals were exposed to cold and rain.

How to keep them comfortable was at length solved by an Ethiopian soldier whom M. le Roux had brought back with him from France. "All these animals are cold," he argued, "because they are separate. I'll put them together." He consulted his master before doing so, he could certainly not have obtained permission, for M. le Roux (knowing their hostility toward one another, would have forbidden such a plan for fear of the consequences.

But when he went into the garden one day to give his pets a carrot he found them all collected together. The millstone had arrived—the gazelle and the wolf were lying down together, the mare and the fox terriers had become reconciled, and in the common warmth and comfort which they jointly shared, all thought of hatred had vanished.

An Illusion.

"It's love that makes the world go round," said the old-fashioned sentimentalist.

"No," answered Miss Cayenne. "It merely makes some people so dizzy that they think the world is going round"—Washington Star.