

Humorous Department.

Too Much.—The Man of the Future sat back in ease in his luxurious arm-chair, his feet arranged before him along the line of least resistance.

At his elbow was a keyboard that connected with the outer world. He touched a button, and through a gold-mounted transmitter he thrust his morning paper. He touched another, and a tray containing his breakfast rose before him.

It seemed an easy thing to do. He had but to lift his finger. A phonograph began calling out the opening of the stock market. A piano attachment gave out the strains of the latest opera.

Three friends in distant parts of the Empire bade him good morning, and communicated some piece of gossip in response to his inquiry. He talked with the manager of his office, with his tailor, his air-ship maker, his architect.

With him it was indeed a busy day. Finally his head sank back. He was overcome by the unusual exertion. He looked worried.

His wife entered. "What is the matter, dear?" she said. "Isn't everything all right?"

"No," replied the Man of the Future, testily. "I can't stand this pressure. I've simply got to have some one to press these buttons for me."—Life.

THE TIPPING TYRANNY.—Two energetic, hard-working little business women had finished their meagre luncheon at a restaurant. They were figuring out the amount of their checks, and decided that they owed 20 and 25 cents, respectively.

"Are you going to give a tip?" the little one asked. "I'm tempted not to," returned the other. "The nerve and impudence of these horrid men waiters are becoming unbearable."

"I shall never, never, tip again," said the little one grimly. "Yesterday I was not hungry and my check came to 20 cents. I put down an extra nickel. At first Mr. Water seemed not to notice it, but as I was about to leave the table he said, most impudently, 'Do you want this cartage bit? I don't.' I suppose he thought I would not take it back, but I did."

"It was on Monday, I think, that I had my experience," said the other woman. "I asked the waiter to bring me small change for a dollar bill. He brought me four quarters.

"Is that small enough for you?" he sneered. "Yes, it's small enough for me," I snapped back, "but it isn't small enough for you to get a tip, and I sailed out."—New York Tribune.

NOT ON HIS OWN TIME.—Charles M. Schwab, on the day he sailed for Europe on the Kronprinz Wilhelm, said that he believed America offered to workmen more opportunities than any other country.

"The workingman, though," he added, "must be of the right kind. He must not be like the Greek I heard of recently.

"This chap, having come to America, secured a good laboring job at \$11 a week. But he did not get on well. He was continually afraid of doing more than he was paid for.

"They say that a gentleman, passing one day the new building the Greek was working on, saw him lying on his stomach on the sidewalk. His face was pale; a succession of loud groans arose from him.

"What is the matter with that fellow?" the gentleman said. "An Irishman replied that he was sick.

"Well," said the gentleman, "if he is sick why doesn't he go to the hospital and get some relief.

"The Irishman laughed scornfully. "Do you think he'd go to the hospital in his dinner hour?" he said."

SPECULATION.—Baron Moncheur, the Belgian minister, visited Baltimore last month. At a dinner in Baltimore he said: "The spirit of business enterprise and speculation is what impresses me most profoundly in America. For instance, I was riding one day on the outskirts of Washington, and at a certain place I dismounted and got a little boy to hold my horse. I was gone about 10 minutes, and on my return I found the first boy gone, and another, smaller one, standing at the horse's head.

Miscellaneous Reading.

FROM CONTEMPORARIES.

News and Comment That is More or Less Local Interest.

LANCASTER.

Ledger, June 25: During the storm last Saturday night a large dead oak tree near the corner of the barn of Mr. J. C. Nelson, of the Jacksonham section, was struck by lightning and set afire. The tree had to be cut down before the fire could be extinguished and for a while the barn of Mr. Nelson was in imminent danger of catching afire from the flying sparks. It took an hour or more to fell the tree.

Mr. Wm. D. Cook, an aged and respected citizen of the Sincerity neighborhood died yesterday morning after a protracted illness of dropsy. He was a native of North Carolina and came to this county about thirty years ago. He was 52 years of age and leaves a widow and three children surviving him.

CHESTER. Lantern, June 24: At the prayer meeting at the A. R. P. church Wednesday afternoon, the Rev. Jas. G. Dale made an impromptu address which was intensely interesting. The power of the speaker's words came chiefly from the nature of the facts presented and the speaker's manifest zeal in his work as a missionary in Mexico.

GASTON. Gastonia Gazette, June 24: At the home of Esquire Jacob Kiser last Sunday morning, Mr. Robert Haynes, aged 66, became an ex-widower by taking away as a bride Mrs. Sallie Word, aged 24. Esquire Kiser performed the ceremony and they went rejoicing on their way.

GEN. SAM HOUSTON'S INDIAN WIFE.—General Sam Houston lived at Fort Gibson, where he married his Cherokee wife, Talihna Rogers, said to have been the most beautiful woman in the tribe, whose remains are to be transferred to the United States National cemetery at Fort Gibson.

A FLOURISHING BUSINESS.—A prominent actor tells this story about two brother players and their experiences in a Maine temperance town. Feeling in need of alcoholic refreshment, they made application at the local drug stores, but were told that stimulants were sold only in cases of snake bite.

A GIGANTIC UNDERTAKING.

Survey of Work to be Done on Panama Canal.

Dr. C. A. Stephens, who has been well known for a generation as a writer of stories of adventure for boys, has recently visited Panama, where he has had excellent opportunities for observing the great project the nation has undertaken there.

Americans speak glibly of the possibility of a tide-level canal at Panama. Of this Dr. Stephens says: "It is not all easy matter to estimate the exact amount of earth which would have to be removed to get a clear channel across the Isthmus, thirty-five feet below low tide at Colon and at LaBoca on the Bay of Panama."

The French Canal company is now paying its laborers \$1.08 a day, Colombia silver, worth about 44 cents in United States currency." Dr. Stephens says that it is an error to speak of any locality as in itself "unhealthy."

Dr. Stephens also favors a camp of detention and observation for incoming laborers. In no other way can disease be prevented from gaining access to the labor camps along the line of the canal.

Immense Cost of Tidewater Canal. "As to the cost of a tidewater canal at Panama, reckoning laborers' wages at only a dollar a day, and the salaries of engineers, foremen, etc., at equally reasonable rates; adding present cost, figures for machinery, tools, explosives, transportation, hospital equipment and maintenance, with the thousand other minor expenses, and to this the interest on the money as used for thirty years, at 3 per cent; I am unable to find the amount called for to construct a tidewater canal at less than \$70,000,000, or adding the price of the canal from the French company, \$610,000,000."

Magnitude of the Project. Dr. Stephens in other ways makes more distinct than do the formal reports the size of the project to which we are already committed. The Culebra cut he describes as the greatest thing of its kind ever undertaken by man.

These figures, he says, convey little idea of the tremendous quantity of earth and rock which must be removed. It is not until one descends into this vast trench and marks how tiny the locomotives and great excavators look when seen in the prodigious depth and breadth of the excavation that a conception of the herculean labor dawn on the mind.

The French Canal company has removed much earth here, but vastly more remains to be taken out. With the lights strung along the cutting, the men of the night shift would have by far the easier day's work, for then the terrible sun rays would be absent, and the cooler night wind would be blowing through the trench.

The Sanitary Problem. His account of the sanitary problem is even more impressive: "The French exercised little or no sanitary control over their canal laborers. They built little villages of wood and galvanized iron for the men to live in, but in most cases provided neither water nor drains. If they fell ill in camp and did not die at once, they were transported after a day or two to the hospitals at Colon or Panama."

It is believed to have exceeded seventy million francs! The indirect loss from delay and demoralization can never be determined. "Labor unions in the United States have already debated the regulation of wages and working hours at Panama, and have announced an intention to organize the laborers there to this end."

Scientific Miscellany.

Surprising Effect From Slight Cause—Eye Photography—The Reversed Locomotive—A Coming Harvest of Changes—Nerve Waves and Radiations—Sound Dampening—Korean Science—A Zoological Puzzle—A Jap's Illusion.

About a dozen years ago M. Richter showed that the mysterious fires in benzene cleaning establishments are due to electricity, which produces sparks as pieces of wool are drawn from the combustible fluid on cool or dry days, and he found that the sparks could be prevented by adding magnesium oleate—even as little as 0.02 per cent—to the benzene.

A new camera of great importance, photographing for the first time the interior or back of the eye, is the production of Dr. Walther Thorne of Berlin. A telescope-like focusing glass gives accurate focus under the mild illumination of a kerosene lamp, and a flash-light ignited by an electric spark impresses the image upon the plate.

The new four-cylinder compound locomotive of the Adriatic railway, Italy, is claimed to yield 9 pounds of steam per pound of coal, an increase of 2 pounds over the old style of engine. The cab is in front of the boiler, the smoke-stack at the rear, the low front truck admitting a furnace of unusual width and depth. Remarkable power results.

The 300 aerolites of the nineteenth century furnished nine instances of the fall of two stones on the same day in two successive years. This suggests steams of stones in space. "Electrochemistry," says a practical worker in this new field, "is a virgin continent of undeveloped possibilities."

Waves in nerve responses were shown some years ago by Dr. Charpentier, the French physiologist, by the fading away of luminous impressions in flashes. In his later experiments he has proven that radiations from nervous tissue increase the brightness of phosphorescent calcium sulphide, and that nervous energy having the same effect can be transmitted to the screen of calcium sulphide over a wire.

The nerve-oscillations are found to number from 750 to 800 per second, with a wave-length of an inch and a half; and with two wires the effect can be made to vanish in a way that demonstrates wave interference. The sound-deadening arrangements tried on the Berlin elevated railway include felt under and at the sides of the rails, wood-filled car wheels, steel and wood ties resting on sand, and cork-lined floor planks. Low rails on deep wooden stringers proved the most effective.

The distinct compounds from coaltar have increased from 454 in 1894 to 685, not less than 300 of the present products being dyes. The system of identification by finger prints proves to be not so new as we have supposed. A London clergyman, Rev. Mr. Collyer, was missionary in Korea for some years, and he reports that a Korean—a sharp-witted people, by the way—had long made use of finger prints in the deeds for sale of slaves.

The reappearance of sharks in the Baltic sea, after an absence of one hundred and fifty years, is causing much speculation among naturalists. One explanation is that the fishes have been led to return by the recent unusual climatic conditions. Another guess is that the configuration of the bottom of the sea has been changed by earthquakes; and that this may have forced the sharks to abandon their later haunts and take refuge in their earlier homes.

Protect the mimicry in insects takes many curious forms. One of the most striking, lately shown at a meeting of the Selborne society in London, is that of a tiny insect from Costa Rica, which is a perfect model of a rose thorn, and which escapes its natural enemies by ranging itself in perfect sympathy with the real thorns on the bush. An interesting optical illusion has been brought to notice by T. Terada, of Tokyo. Lycoperdium powder on the surface of water is made to gyrate by a jet of air, and after this has been regarded steadily and the eyes have been turned toward a table near, the surface of the table appears to move in a direction contrary to that of the lycoperdium.

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY SCHEDULES.

Table with columns for train number, route, and arrival/departure times. Includes No. 114, Southbound—Blackburg to Charleston—Daily.

No. 113, Northbound—Charleston to Blackburg—Daily.

Table with columns for train number, route, and arrival/departure times. Includes Lv. Charleston, Lv. Columbia, Lv. Kingville, etc.

No. 115, Southbound—Blackburg to Marion to Rock Hill—Daily.

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No. 116, Southbound—Marion to Rock Hill—Daily.

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No. 117, Northbound—Rock Hill to Marion—Daily.

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GOLD NUGGET.

Discovered in New South Wales Holds the Record With 640 Pounds.

"I have just been reading an account in a newspaper about the finding of a large nugget of gold in an Australian mine, and the writer calls it the largest nugget of this metal ever unearthed. It weighed 152 pounds and sold for a trifle over \$35,000, and this shows that the writer was mistaken in his assertion, for many larger nuggets have been found."

The largest nugget ever discovered was found by the Byer & Holt, claim, Hill End, New South Wales, on May 10, 1872. That single piece of gold weighed 640 pounds and was about 4 inches thick, 4 feet 9 inches long and 3 feet 2 inches wide. Its total value, after the baser metals had been extracted, was \$148,000, and it still holds the world's record, unless the information I have on the subject is deficient, and I don't think it is. As a rule, large gold nuggets are very, very seldom found, and generally about one is all that has ever figured in the history of a single mine, with the exception of the Canadian Gully, Ballarat.

There is no comfort where no comparison is. We Are Selling Austin, Nichols & Co.'s Morning Glory Roasted Coffee (The Housekeepers Standard).

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