

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA.

The tonnage of the Great Eastern was 10,300 below that of the Celtic, which has just been launched at Belfast. It will be recalled that the Great Eastern failed as a money-maker and was retired as being unwieldy. It was power that the former ship lacked. The latter has it in superabundance, and it is predicted she will be a success.

The work of removing the little white schoolhouses from the Iowa hills is attracting more attention just now than any other educational movement of the new century, states the New England Farmer. Advanced educators of Iowa have come to the realization that the theory of a schoolhouse every two or three miles along the country roads is all wrong. The last legislature recognized the fact that some provision should be made for lessening the cost of maintaining so many schoolhouses, and passed laws making it possible to consolidate schools and to engage in the practice of transporting children from long distances to school at public expense.

Writing in Cassier's Magazine, Alton D. Adams shows that the time is ripe for the advent of a new system of urban and interurban transportation. The object sought in each change thus far appears to have been a reduction in operating expenses as well as an improvement in service. In the opinion of Mr. Adams electric vehicles embrace the necessary elements of the next improvement in street traction. There is no comparison, of course, in the matter of flexibility of operation and freedom from the street structures. It is only a question of comparative cost. Mr. Adams shows that for a given daily output of energy the station to charge storage batteries for electric vehicles need only have one-fourth the capacity in generating machinery that is necessary for the operation of a tram car system, and would require no battery plant whatever. After computing the comparative cost of maintenance and operation Mr. Adams finds an unbalanced advantage of transportation with electromobles, a saving of about one-half of the entire first cost and also of one-half of the annual interest charges of present street car systems.

The increasing number of farms operated by tenants has been pointed out as a sign that the former owners were rapidly sinking into a state of tenancy through the foreclosure of mortgages. This has, however, been shown not to be the case by Mr. L. G. Powers, the chief statistician of the division of agriculture of the census bureau. According to the new census figures, the total number of farms in the United States has increased from 4,500,000 in 1890 to 5,700,000 in 1900, and those operated by tenants have increased between 40 and 45 percent, while those tilled by their owners have increased between 15 and 18 percent. Both classes have increased more rapidly than the agricultural population, which fact disproves the assertion that the owners are being degraded into tenants. Mr. Powers states that it does not indicate the degradation of the rural population, but an uplifting that has raised not less than 100,000 families from the position of wage-earners to that of lessees of small or large tracts of tillable land. When a wage-earner, he states, in a rural community gets a little capital ahead he often begins to look for a farm to rent and operate. Those owners of farms who have laid by a goodly-sized "nest-egg" are often willing to lease their lands and retire to the city to live on their income. The result is an increase in tenant farms, but it is in an economic improvement for all concerned. If the tenant be successful he may be able to buy the farm in a few years.

In report to the State Department, United States Consul-General Mason, at Berlin, estimates that the world's total yield of copper last year amounted to 471,000 tons, of which 268,787 tons (or more than half) was produced in North America. The next largest producers were Germany, with 31,950 tons; Japan, with 27,000 tons, and Chile, with 25,700 tons. Australia, Tasmania and Spain contributed most of the rest of the production. Besides its own production Germany last year imported 83,500 tons of copper, of which 68,204 tons was sent from the United States.

The Irish Court of Appeal has formally decided the exact meaning of the word "humph." The question came up for judicial decision in a case from the King's Bench Division, where four justices had been unable to come to a unanimous decision as to the word's meaning. Two of them held that "humph" as used by Sir Walter Scott and Miss Austen in their novels was an expression of dissent, and the other two held that it meant only a dissatisfied state of mind. The Court of Appeal has decided that it is "an expression of doubt or hesitation" or "a grunt of dissatisfaction."

Long-Distance Prediction Worthless - A Three to Six Days' Wave Means a Crop Loss of 20 Per Cent. and an Incalculable Sacrifice of Life and Property.

This is the season of the year when the weather bureau endeavors to cooperate with the department of agriculture in the effort to furnish the farmer with some intimation of the kind of weather he may expect from day to day, writes the Washington correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser. While this is a matter of dollars and cents with the farmer it is oftentimes a question of life or death with the dweller in cities, and is of equal interest to all. No damage results in town or country from average summer weather, even though it may be considered somewhat torrid. It is the "hot wave" which ruins the farmers' prospects for a bountiful harvest and brings death and suffering to prisoners within the city blocks.

Mr. A. T. Burrows, the weather bureau expert on hot waves, modestly summarizes the results of many years of investigation in this particular direction by saying that the only positive knowledge which has been acquired is that during a hot wave the eastward circulation of the atmosphere, both upper and lower, is for the time being almost totally suspended and that radiation is at that time at a minimum. He takes occasion, however, to puncture the reputation of several well known long-distance weather prophets by declaring that while it is quite practicable to forecast high temperature for a period of from four to five days, predictions for a longer time are the merest guess work, and not entitled to credence.

The hot wave occupies the most important position among all weather phenomena in the destruction of life and property which follows its wake. A summer hailstorm may destroy considerable property over a limited area, a high wind may cause damage of more serious nature and a tornado is still more destructive of property, and usually accompanied by loss of human life, but all these are local in their effect and of short duration. Even a hurricane sweeping up from the West Indies carrying death and devastation in its path affects but a relatively small portion of the United States. A general hot wave, however, with its blighting and death dealing temperatures, leaves a trail of ruin so widespread and so great that it cannot be actually measured. The loss to the farmers of Iowa in the destruction of their crops from a single hot wave which visited that section in 1894, amounted to over \$50,000,000, or nearly twice as much property as was destroyed in the Galveston flood, and several of the adjacent states suffered nearly as much. As for the suffering undergone by the millions of humanity day after day in these hot wave periods there is no record nor is one possible. Statistics may be secured as to the number of sunstrokes, but no data are obtainable regarding the sick whose deaths are hastened by the abnormally heated atmosphere. The weather bureau definition of a hot wave is a period of three or more consecutive days during which the temperature reaches or passes 90 degrees, and with few exceptions they occur during the months of June, July, August and September.

Of the great crops of the country corn and cotton are most liable to injury from overheating. In most cases the mere lack of rain is but partially responsible for the blight, as the cooking and firing effect of the intensely heated atmosphere is the source of most of the damage. Crops can recover from a drought, but the destruction of their life-giving properties by a hot wave is fatal. The farmers of the west estimate that during a summer of average heat the occurrence of a hot wave lasting from three to six days will reduce the harvest yield of the country fully 20 percent. The most dangerous time for these excessive temperatures to occur is during July and August, both in the effect upon the crops and upon the health of dwellers in cities.

A careful study of the records of the weather bureau covering a period of 30 years fails to reveal the regular recurrence of summers of excessive heat or that hot waves occur on the same days in succeeding years. The conclusion is that these visitations may be expected at irregular intervals, the numbers and intensity varying greatly each year. The maximum temperature during a hot wave generally comes within 48 hours after the first 90 degrees is recorded. The number of successive days of abnormal heat varies and may range as high as 16 or 17. Two or more periods may come in close succession, and in the popular mind these are associated as one long spell, as for example, the month of August and the first part of September in 1900.

It is a very exceptional summer when at least one of these hot waves does not sweep the country. Fewer occur in June than in any other summer month. July furnishes the greatest number and August and September are not far behind. In the last two months a hot wave is likely to be longer than in the earlier part of the season. No part of the United States escapes this scourge. At times only one section of the country is affected and at other times half the United States suffers under the same heated term.

On the great plains of the middle west the most severe effects of the hot waves are noted. It is here they frequently have their birth. They are often attended by hot winds which bear a relation to the hot wave not unlike that of the tornado to the general cyclone. The southern states are more free from this visitation than the others, though they do not escape entirely. A hot wave results from a stagnation of the atmosphere, and as the area of high temperature drifts slowly from west to east and is driven off to sea by the advent of an area of high pressure the heated term comes to a close and the normal circulation of the temperature is resumed.

bered on account of its length and intensity. (In the east it was especially severe, although its influence extended westward beyond the Mississippi river. This wave had its inception in northern New York, and made its way south and to the Atlantic coast. Here it apparently met the oceanic high area, which acted as an insurmountable barrier to the eastward flow of the atmosphere, thus closing the outlet for the escape of warm air from the land. The introduction of new and fresh air almost ceased, thus preventing any lowering of the temperature at night.

This atmosphere condition was so powerful that it acted as a barrier to the northward progress of a hurricane about September 1. This hurricane was deflected into the Gulf of Mexico, and finally reached Galveston, bringing with it death to thousands of people and destruction to millions of property. The storm traveled from Texas into Iowa, and thence to the St. Lawrence valley. It carried with it the stagnant heated air which had accumulated in the eastern states and brought to mankind the insufferably hot weather of the preceding six weeks. Thus Galveston owes to New York the storm which wrecked the city, and the eastern states owe to that visitation the termination of a heated term which was killing people by the hundreds in the large eastern cities.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

The "arsenical walk" is due to the use of impure beverages. The arsenic accumulates in the system, hardens the muscles and causes a stride as if both legs were of wood. The victim falls if he tries to run.

An English paper not long ago told of a most accomplished physician who lost a good part of his practice because it was his invariable custom to enter a sickroom rubbing his hands and exclaiming: "And how are we today? Better, I am sure."

Jesse Powell of Emporia, Kan., says his wife has figured it out recently that during the past 35 years she had baked 191,625 hot biscuits, more than half of which he had eaten. They have hot biscuits at one meal every day. Mr. Powell weighs more than 200 pounds and attributes his fine health to the hot biscuit cure.

Snake structure is enormously curious. The vertebrae range in number from 300 to 30, but are invariable in each species. That is to say, a snake of a certain sort six feet long has exactly the same number of ribs as a snake of similar species only one foot long. Snakes crawl by moving forward each pair of ribs which is attached to a powerful cross-scale on the belly.

A species of marine plant, called grasscrack, has been found in the Kenulun mountains, in Asia, 15,500 feet above sea-level. The plants were not growing, but were found, with their leaves and fruit, deposited in a bed 10 or 12 feet in thickness, which was covered and interspersed with strata of blue clay. It is believed that the deposit once formed part of the bottom of a salt lake.

Colonel Elijah Je Beard of Gilmer county, Ga., lives in a one-room stone structure built over his wife's grave. The structure is small but substantially octagonal in shape, and on the iron opening into the single room is the inscription: "One in life and one in death." In the right-hand corner is the grave of his wife; a secondary space near by has been reserved for himself. Around the windows flowers have been planted, and the venerable patriarch spends the days in beautifying the surroundings. On the anniversary of her death, with the assistance of the local pastor, the funeral ceremony is repeated.

How He Remembered.

Remembering names is one of the hardest tasks of a public man. Speaker Henderson tells a story of his going to Washington on a visit many years ago, when he had a few minutes' conversation one morning with Mr. Blaine, who was the speaker of the house. Six years later he again visited the capital on business, and after staying in the hotel several days met Mr. Blaine, who promptly called him by name. Before accepting this as a miraculous feat of memory, Mr. Henderson questioned one of the waiters, who said:

"Yes, sir, Mr. Blaine asked who you were, and I told him, 'Mr. Henderson of Iowa.'"

Many are the devices that most public men are compelled to employ to bring back to memory a name which they think they ought to remember. The late Congressman Brosius of Pennsylvania told of talking with a constituent for nearly an hour without being able to think of his name, when suddenly the man lifted his foot enough to show the tacks "quilted" on the sole of his shoe, which, according to the fashion of that time, bore his initials. Then the name came to him.—Youth's Companion.

A Don's Sad Affliction.

A well known Oxford don has, says "The University Correspondent," a reputation for mixing up the initial consonants of his words with results that often prove startling to his hearers. In a sermon he once said: "I have in my heart a half-warmed fish." Again, at a meeting he alluded in a speech to "our queer dean," but he meant an affectionate reference to the royal visitor of the university, not a criticism of any hard worked college official. "Mrs. Blank told me yesterday she had left off stealing at the doors" is another instance which needs no explanation.—London Telegraph.

Electricity for Frost Bite.

Electricity is reported to have proven an effective remedy for frost bite. Circulation is set up and continues for a considerable time after current has been passed between poles applied to opposite sides of the affected member, but several applications may be necessary to complete the restorative process.

GOLD HOARDED BY FISHER FOLK.

\$2,000,000 of American Gold Hidden in Newfoundland Coast Villages.

It is estimated that fully \$2,000,000 in American gold is hoarded up in Placentia and Fortune bays on the south coast of Newfoundland. This money has been saved by the fisher folk and is hidden in the most unlikely places.

Except the very poor, there are few among the inhabitants of the little hamlets who have not a nest egg of bright, yellow American coins set aside for some emergency. Before the disastrous bank failures in the colony in the autumn of 1894 many of the coasters lodged their savings in the three banks in the city, when they met their semi-annual visits to St. John's in the spring and fall; but so heavy were the losses by the collapse, and so bitter was the lesson taught, that since then wild horses could not drag them to a bank. Every man into whose possession a bank note, check or government order comes hurries at once to exchange it for a Yankee eagle, and this is as hurriedly put away into the secret hoard, which in some cases amounts to thousands of dollars.

In Placentia bay most of this money is obtained through the frozen-herring fishery, which is prosecuted during January, February and March. In a good season, with the herring abundant and the weather frosty enough for congealing purposes, about 80 schooners from New England will load with the frozen fish, 100 barrels being an average load, and from \$2 to \$2.50 a barrel being paid therefor. In a bad year like that which has just ended, when the herring are scarce and the weather mild, the price runs up to \$5 some times. Every American captain brings from \$2000 to \$3000 in gold with him when he comes after frozen herring.

Of all this stream of gold comparatively little finds its way out of the district. The herring fishery in mid-winter has only been in existence in that bay for 15 years. Prior to that the people were idle during these months and they now regard this venture as a personal and private one, not to be confounded with their regular vocation as cod catchers or their dealings with the St. John's merchants, by whom they are fitted out for the latter enterprise. Accordingly, all the gold gained in the herring fishery is set aside and the wedding dowries of the girls of the district are almost invariably furnished out of these hoards. In many cases, too, men, seemingly but ill-supplied with the world's goods, have been known to produce \$2000 and \$2500 for the purchase of a schooner or fishing property, paying down the money in every instance in United States coins.

In Fortune bay the gold is obtained by the sale of herring for bait during the summer months. All the American vessels frequenting the Grand Banks in quest of cod have to come into the shore for this bait, without which it is impossible to secure the cod. Herring and ice in which to keep it fresh are chief items of outlay by the fishing vessels, and probably \$100,000 is spent in this way during the summer.

This baiting business forms the mainstay of hundreds of the coasters, and the prices sometimes run to an extravagant figure, when the herring are scarce and many vessels have to be supplied. For half a century the American vessels have been taking this herring bait, and all this time their gold has been piling up in Fortune bay, one generation after another availing itself of the profits of the industry and having a goodly proportion thereof.—New York Sun.

Thomas Jefferson as a Letter-Writer.

Mr. Jefferson probably wrote more letters with his own hand than any other public man that ever lived. The extent of his correspondence may be inferred from the fact that 25,000 letters neatly folded and briefed, were preserved by him and found carefully filed away at the time of his death, with copies of the replies sent to more than 16,000. These, however, were only a small portion of his correspondence, as he retained only those he considered of future usefulness or importance. Stenography was not invented at that time. Every one of his letters was written with his own hand, and with great care, although after breaking his wrist while minister of France, it became a great labor to him. His penmanship was small, plain and legible, every letter being perfectly formed, and his account books are kept in so small a hand that many of the pages cannot be read without a magnifying glass. Jefferson was ambidextrous. He could write equally well with either hand. When his wrist was broken he learned to write with his left hand, which became as skillful as the other. It would have been impossible for him to have carried on his extensive correspondence without being able to relieve his right hand at intervals.—Chicago Record.

Big Draught of Fishes.

One autumn day in the early '60s my father, then living at Mackinac Island, received a letter from his partner, who had gone to get some pounds at Cross Village, 20 or 40 miles away to the southwest. "Send us some more barrels and salt," it said. "We're catching fish like thunder, and the fishermen are all crazy." The tug was hastily loaded with salt and empty half barrels, and was hurried away to Cross Village, to find the fishermen not quite crazy, but almost worn out with working night and day to care for the most wonderful run of fish that had been known for years—perhaps the greatest in the history of the fisheries.

"They're so thick in my pot," said one man, "that you can lay a plank down on them and walk on it."

It is related as an actual fact that six nets took, in 24 hours, an average of 20,000 pounds each. Every barrel and box was full, and fish were being salted down in skiffs and row-boats when the tug arrived. Of course it did not last long. A violent blow from the west drove the fish off shore but the next morning the beach was covered with the spawn thrown up by the waves, in some places a foot deep.—Leslie's Popular Monthly.

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